

Cambridge City Council Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 1 October 2026

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ

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

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of Cambridge City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ on Thursday, 1 October 2026 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 23 September 2026

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2026 (Pages 19 - 72)
- 4 Mayor's announcements
- 5 Petition - Greater Cambridge Partnership
The Issue
Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council

Born in Cambridge and having lived here all my life, I've watched our city change enormously. Change is inevitable, and many improvements have benefited Cambridge. But many residents now feel that the overall direction of transport, planning and development is making the city harder to access, harder to move around and less practical for the people who live, work and visit here.

Cambridge is one of the world's leading centres for education, science and innovation, and that success should be celebrated. But Cambridge is not London. We do not have an Underground network or the transport infrastructure of a major capital city. Many residents, carers, tradespeople, workers, families and visitors still rely on roads for everyday life.

The question is whether Cambridge's growth is being managed in a way that properly considers all the people who depend on the city every day.

This petition is about the bigger picture

This petition calls for a full independent review of the overall impact of transport policies, planning decisions and major developments on the future of Cambridge.

Many individual schemes and developments have been considered separately over the years. But many residents are asking a much bigger question:

Has anyone independently looked at the combined effect of all these changes on Cambridge?

The impact on congestion, accessibility, local businesses, parking, roads and pavements, public services, housing, community life and the character of the city should not simply be looked at one scheme at a time.

This petition is about looking at the bigger picture.

Who are the people signing?

One thing that has struck me while speaking to people who have signed this petition is the wide range of ordinary local people behind it.

There are shop workers, NHS staff, retired people, parents, tradespeople, office workers and people in professional and well-paid jobs. They have different backgrounds, different priorities and different

political views.

Some may have voted Green, Liberal Democrat, Conservative, Reform or Labour. Some may not have voted at all.

This is not about party politics.

These are people living and working in Cambridge who are seeing the changes around them first-hand and have genuine concerns about the future of their city.

Most have busy lives, families and other commitments. They are not transport planners or council experts, and they should not need to spend hours trying to understand complicated council processes simply to have their concerns heard.

Their everyday experience of Cambridge matters too.

What are people concerned about?

Many residents are concerned about:

Increasing congestion and ongoing changes to the road network.

The loss of affordable and accessible shops, forcing more local people to travel to surrounding towns for everyday shopping.

Independent retailers struggling while the city centre offers fewer reasons for local people to shop there.

Increasing numbers of retail premises being replaced by offices and laboratories, changing the balance and purpose of the city centre.

Large-scale housing developments placing additional pressure on roads, healthcare, schools, parking and other essential services.

Rising housing costs making it increasingly difficult for younger people and families to remain close to their relatives and the communities they grew up in.

Parking and accessibility becoming increasingly difficult for people who need to drive into the city.

The combined impact these changes are having on residents, businesses, visitors and the long-term character of Cambridge.

People tell me they want Cambridge to remain affordable, accessible and welcoming.

They want places where families can buy reasonably priced clothes and everyday goods. They want independent shops to have a future. They want to be able to visit the city centre without feeling that parking and access make it unnecessarily difficult.

These may sound like simple things, but they are part of what makes a city work for the people who live here.

What happened to our city centre?

Having lived here all my life, I have seen many parts of Cambridge change.

When I walk through places such as Fitzroy Street, I sometimes find it genuinely sad to see how different parts of the city centre now feel compared with the Cambridge I remember.

If residents can see these changes, surely the people making decisions about the future of Cambridge can see them too.

That is why many residents feel they need to be listened to — not just through formal consultation processes, but by considering the real experiences of the people who live here every day.

Growth needs to be balanced

Cambridge's science and technology sector is one of the city's greatest strengths and should continue to thrive.

This petition is not against growth, science, technology or development.

But many residents believe there needs to be a better balance between commercial development and the everyday needs of local communities.

Offices and laboratories are essential to Cambridge's success, but future growth should also consider suitable locations outside the historic city centre, allowing the centre to continue providing the shops, services and facilities that local residents depend on.

A vibrant city centre should remain a place where people can shop, meet friends, access services and enjoy their city.

Supporting independent businesses, encouraging affordable shopping and improving accessibility are all important if Cambridge is to remain a city that works for the people who live here.

Get the basics right

Many residents believe Cambridge should focus on getting the basics

right first — maintaining roads and pavements, supporting local businesses, protecting accessible shopping, providing adequate infrastructure and ensuring public services keep pace with growth.

There is a growing feeling that we cannot keep introducing major schemes and large-scale development without properly understanding whether the city's infrastructure and services can cope.

This is not about stopping progress.

It is about asking whether progress is being managed in the right way and at the right pace.

We need to look at the combined effect
Transport schemes, road changes, housing developments, laboratories, offices and changes to the city centre may each have their own justification.

But when they are all added together, what does Cambridge look like and how does it work for the people who live here?

Many residents believe that question has never been properly and independently answered.

That is why this petition calls for a full independent review of the overall impact of transport policies, planning decisions and major developments on the future of Cambridge.

The review should look at the evidence, the real-world impact and the cumulative effect of these decisions — not simply whether individual projects meet their own targets.

Local voices should not be difficult to hear
If councils genuinely want to understand what local people are concerned about, they should make it easier for people to have their say, not harder.

People should not feel that their concerns matter less simply because they do not know how to navigate a complicated council system or because they expressed their views through a community petition rather than a particular official website.

1,902 people have now signed this petition, and many have taken the additional time to explain in their own words why they signed.

For me, the important thing is not which website they used.

It is that 1,902 local people have taken the time to come together and speak about the future of their city.

Those voices deserve to be heard and properly considered.

This petition is not against progress

It supports sustainable growth, better public transport, safer cycling, cleaner air and continued investment in Cambridge's world-leading economy.

But progress should also be balanced, practical and supported by the infrastructure and services needed for a growing city.

Cambridge should not have to choose between economic success and being a good place to live.

We should be able to have both.

Local residents deserve meaningful consultation, transparent decision-making and confidence that the overall impact of major changes is being properly considered before further schemes and developments are introduced.

1,902 people have signed this petition because they believe Cambridge deserves a future that is accessible, balanced, prosperous and works for everyone.

If you share these concerns, please sign and share this petition.

Together, we can help shape a Cambridge that remains a thriving city — not just for businesses and developers, but for the residents, families, workers and future generations who call it home.

6 Public questions time

7 To deal with oral questions

8 To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption

8a River Cam, Chalk Streams and Tributaries – (Pages 73 - Strategic Review and Environmental Projects 112)

Final recommendations to be tabled following Cabinet on 23

September.

Full Cabinet report attached.

- 8b Budget Outturn 2025-26 (Pages 113 - 140)

Final recommendations to be tabled following Cabinet on 23 September.

Cabinet report attached.

- 8c Development Loan to Cambridge Investment Partnership (Pages 141 - 148)

Final recommendations to be tabled following Cabinet on 23 September.

Cabinet report attached.

- 9 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:

- 9a Councillor Flaubert: From Commitment to Action on Racial Equality

Council notes

That Cambridge is a diverse city and that Black, Asian and other ethnic-minority communities make a significant contribution to the life, culture and economy of Cambridge.

That the Council supported the Black Lives Matter motion in July 2020 and recognises the significant work undertaken since then to address racial inequality, including workforce equality monitoring, engagement with staff and communities, and the development of the Race Equality Toolkit.

That the Council endorsed the UNISON Anti-Racism Charter in October 2025 and signed the Charter in January 2026, building on work already undertaken by the Council to promote racial equality within its workforce. The Charter includes commitments relating to workforce and ethnicity pay-gap reporting, anti-racism training, recruitment and promotion, and monitoring disciplinary and grievance outcomes.

That the Council's 2024/25 Equality in Employment Workforce Report demonstrates progress in some areas, including increased ethnic-

minority representation among employees, apprentices and those receiving promotions. It also shows that ethnic-minority representation changes at different stages of the recruitment process.

That differences in representation at different stages of recruitment do not, by themselves, demonstrate discrimination. However, significant or persistent disparities should prompt the Council to understand whether barriers exist and whether existing measures are effective.

That legitimate scrutiny, political debate, journalism and freedom of expression are fundamental to a democratic society, while bullying, harassment, discriminatory abuse, intimidation and threats should not be confused with legitimate scrutiny.

Council believes

That the progress made since 2020 should be recognised and welcomed.

That commitments to racial equality are most meaningful when they result in measurable improvements in people's experiences and opportunities.

That the next stage should therefore be to move from commitment and representation towards measurable outcomes, action and accountability, building on the work already being undertaken by the Council.

That equality of opportunity does not mean lowering standards. It means ensuring that everyone has a fair opportunity to demonstrate their skills, experience and ability, with consistent and proportionate standards applied fairly.

That tackling racial inequality requires both good quality data and meaningful engagement with the people affected by inequality.

Council resolves

1. Strengthen accountability for existing commitments

To build on the Council's Anti-Racism Charter, Equality in Employment reporting and Inclusion and Equity Panel work by introducing a clearer annual assessment of progress on racial equality.

Using existing data wherever possible, and subject to legal

requirements and appropriate statistical safeguards, the assessment should identify significant or persistent disparities across the employment journey, including:

- recruitment and appointment;
- progression and promotion;
- training and development;
- representation at senior levels;
- pay;
- disciplinary and grievance outcomes; and
- retention and departures.

2. Turn evidence into action

Where significant or persistent disparities are identified, the Council should adopt an "identify, analyse, act and evaluate" approach:

Identify the disparity -> Analyse possible causes -> Act to address potential barriers -> Evaluate whether the action worked.

Where appropriate and proportionate to the issue identified, the annual assessment should identify:

- the issue or disparity identified;
- the evidence considered;
- the action proposed or taken;
- the service or team responsible;
- the timescale for action; and
- the outcome or measurable change.

Progress should be reported to the Inclusion and Equity Panel and made publicly available.

3. Strengthen safeguards against harassment

To review existing arrangements for employees and elected Members to raise concerns about bullying, harassment, discriminatory abuse, intimidation or threats.

The review should consider whether reporting routes are clear, accessible and trusted, and whether staff and Members understand how concerns will be dealt with.

In doing so, the Council should expressly protect legitimate journalism, political debate, criticism, peaceful protest and democratic scrutiny.

The review should report its findings and any recommendations to the Inclusion and Equity Panel within six months of this motion being agreed.

4. Strengthen training and leadership

To build on existing anti-racism and equality commitments by ensuring that elected Members, managers and staff have appropriate opportunities to understand racial inequality, discrimination and harassment, and their responsibilities in addressing them.

Training should be practical, proportionate and relevant to people's roles, with particular attention where appropriate to recruitment, promotion, management, complaints and responding to concerns about discrimination or harassment.

The Council should periodically assess the effectiveness of this training and use feedback from staff and Members to improve future provision.

5. Widen opportunities for young people

To build on existing Council youth, skills and careers programmes by working with schools, colleges, young people, employers and community organisations to widen access to:

- mentoring;
- diverse role models;
- workplace visits;
- meaningful work experience;
- apprenticeships; and
- careers opportunities.

Particular attention should be given to young people who may have less access to professional networks and opportunities.

Young people should be involved in designing and evaluating this work.

The Council should identify potential funding sources, including external grant funding and partner contributions, to support the scale and pace of delivery, and report on funding secured as part of the annual update under resolve 7.

6. Work with Cambridge employers and business partners

To use the Council's civic, convening and partnership role to encourage employers, business partners, suppliers and organisations working with the Council to improve transparency around racial equality in employment.

Where appropriate and lawful, the Council should encourage organisations to publish or share anonymised equality data, including workforce representation, recruitment, progression, pay and retention, and to consider what action is being taken where significant disparities are identified.

The Council should promote the sharing of good practice and encourage organisations it works with to consider how their recruitment, work experience, apprenticeship, mentoring and progression opportunities can be made accessible to a wider range of people.

The Council should also consider, within the requirements of procurement law and its existing procurement policies, whether appropriate equality and transparency considerations can be incorporated into future commissioning and partnership arrangements.

The Council should report annually on the steps it has taken to engage with employers and business partners and, where possible, the progress achieved.

7. Make racial equality a continuing priority

To ensure that the work set out in this motion becomes part of the Council's continuing approach to equality rather than a one-off programme.

The Council should provide an annual update on progress against this motion and its existing Anti-Racism Charter commitments.

The update should clearly distinguish between:

- actions completed;
- actions underway;
- actions that have not delivered the intended outcome; and
- areas requiring further action.

The Council should continue to engage staff, residents, young people and community organisations in shaping and evaluating its approach, including people with relevant lived experience.

The Council should use the evidence from this annual review to inform future equality objectives, workforce planning and policy development.

8. Council notes that the majority of actions in this motion build on existing commitments, structures and programmes, and resolves that implementation of these actions should proceed within existing resources where possible and should not be made contingent on the outcome or timing of Local Government Reorganisation.

9b Councillor Payne: Herbicide-Free Weed Management

Herbicide-Free Weed Management

Council notes:

- That Cambridge Liberal Democrats called for the Council to adopt and trial herbicide-free weed management, both through the declaration of a Biodiversity Emergency in 2019 and through a motion proposing trials in two wards in 2021.
- That the Liberal Democrat motion received unanimous Council support and was welcomed by local environmental organisations and community groups.
- The important contribution made by Pesticide Free Cambridge and others in developing and supporting Cambridge's herbicide-free ambition.
- That the trials demonstrated the environmental benefits of reducing herbicide use, but also identified significant operational challenges associated with replacing chemical treatment with mechanical and manual methods.
- That mechanical and manual weed removal is more labour-intensive, is affected by weather, seasonal growth, parked vehicles and accumulated detritus, and requires repeat visits because it does not prevent regrowth.
- That, following the trials and investment in specialist equipment, the Council moved to extend herbicide-free weed management across the city.

- That, since then, implementation has been slow, reflecting the difficult and time-consuming nature of herbicide-free weed removal and the need to tackle years of accumulated detritus alongside the visible growth. Consequently, a substantial number of areas are still awaiting treatment, and residents are understandably concerned about the condition of streets and public spaces.
- That responsibility for weed management is divided between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and other landowners, requiring stronger coordination and clearer information for residents.

Council believes:

- That the Council-led ambition to end the routine use of herbicides remains the right approach for Cambridge and should not be abandoned because its implementation has proved more difficult than anticipated.
- That herbicide-free weed management supports the Council's commitments to biodiversity, environmental protection and more sustainable management of public spaces.
- That environmental ambition must be matched by effective implementation, sufficient resources, suitable equipment and an honest assessment of what is required to deliver the service successfully.
- That Cambridge residents are entitled to streets and public spaces that are safe, accessible, properly maintained and attractive.
- That priority must be given to weed growth that obstructs footways, affects accessibility, restricts drainage, creates a safety concern or risks damage to highways and other infrastructure.
- That some vegetation can be tolerated where it does not affect safety, accessibility, drainage, infrastructure or the reasonable enjoyment of public space.

- That residents should be given clear information about the standards they can expect from an herbicide-free service, including the greater likelihood of seasonal growth and regrowth between treatments.
- That the present difficulties require decisive corrective action and additional support for the service, rather than any retreat from the Council's herbicide-free commitment.

Council therefore calls on the Leader and Executive Councillor to:

- Reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Liberal Democrat-led ambition of ending the routine use of herbicides on land managed by the City Council.
- Commission an urgent officer review of the current weed-management programme, identifying:
 - the reasons for departure from the original programme;
 - the extent of the outstanding work;
 - the staffing, equipment and financial capacity required;
 - the effectiveness and whole-life cost of the different mechanical and manual methods;
 - the frequency of repeat treatment needed;
 - seasonal and weather-related constraints;
 - the effect of parked vehicles and other access restrictions; and
 - opportunities for better coordination with the County Council, contractors, communities and other landowners.
- Bring forward a costed, non-recurring recovery programme to blitz outstanding priority areas and establish a manageable baseline for future maintenance.
- Ensure that any short-term intervention is supported by a sustainable annual maintenance programme, so that areas cleared through the recovery work receive appropriate repeat treatment.
- Develop a risk-based approach that prioritises safety, accessibility, drainage, transport routes and the protection of public infrastructure.

- Continue to test and evaluate new equipment and working methods, drawing on operational evidence from Cambridge and good practice elsewhere.
- Bring forward any necessary budget bid for 2027-28, clearly distinguishing between the one-off cost of recovering the service and the recurrent resources required to maintain it.
- Publish a clear statement for residents setting out responsibilities, priorities, expected service standards, seasonal constraints and how urgent concerns should be reported.
- Introduce transparent performance reporting covering areas completed, outstanding initial treatments, repeat visits, complaints, service requests, costs and operational learning.
- Report the findings of the review, together with costed options and a revised delivery programme, to the relevant scrutiny committee within an agreed timescale.

9c (Labour Motion) Councillor x: Impact Assessment and Data Sharing for Citywide Roadworks

As residents of Cambridge, City Councillors experience the impact of roadworks first hand, whether we are walking, cycling, using public transport or driving. We know that this causes frustration and delays, adds to the costs for businesses, makes parents late to pick up children, or simply adds to the friction of daily life. While proper maintenance of the city's infrastructure is vital, with better planning and clearer information at least some of the burden could be reduced. However, it appears that the County Council has no interest in limiting the impact of utility works and its own scheduled works on the residents of Cambridge, despite our significance within Cambridgeshire.

The purpose of this motion is to create a closer working relationship between City and County Councils with a view to managing the process more effectively. It will also support the planned creation of a unitary authority.

This Council notes:

- Cambridge City Council receives regular roadworks bulletins, including 50 planned works and 18 full road closures between 16–30 September.
- These works affect roads, pavements and cycleways.

- There is currently no comprehensive modelling of how cumulative works and closures impact congestion, movement across the city, bus reliability, or air quality.

This Council believes:

- Robust data gathering, modelling and impact analysis are essential for effective transport planning.
- Uncoordinated closures without clear assessment place unnecessary strain on residents, public transport operators and businesses, and worsen air quality.

This Council resolves:

- To write to Cambridgeshire County Council, as Highway Authority, requesting full liaison with Cambridge City Council and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to ensure:
 1. Systematic data gathering and impact analysis of roadworks and closures, shared between authorities.
 2. Integration of this data into current and future transport and infrastructure planning.
- To request continued liaison with the CPCA on the best use of this data for forward planning.

9d Councillor Baigent: Greater Cambridge Partnership

Council notes that millions of pounds of public money are currently being committed through the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), with limited transparency and scrutiny.

Council believes that significant expenditure decisions should be subject to appropriate democratic oversight and that elected members should have the opportunity to consider and approve major projects involving substantial public expenditure.

Council therefore resolves that, from the date of this motion, the Council's appointed board member on the Greater Cambridge Partnership shall not vote in favour of any GCP project involving expenditure of **£100,000 or more** unless that project has first been considered by Full Council.

Council further resolves that the relevant officer(s) shall establish an appropriate process to ensure that proposals meeting this threshold are brought before Full Council for consideration before the Council's board member is required to vote on them.

10 Proportionality Update

(Pages 149 -
152)

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 and proceed directly to the assembly point in front St Mary's Church. 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.

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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.