

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Parrock View, 358 High Road, Newton-in-the-Isle, PE13 5HS

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Clerk: Dave Gibbs

To Members of the Public and Press

3 September 2025

You are invited to attend a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council
to be held in Christchurch Community Centre
for the purpose of transacting the following business.

On Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.30pm

**Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council
at its Public Time from 7.35pm to 7.50pm**

Yours truly



(Clerk/Proper Officer)

AGENDA

**Members are reminded that they need to declare any personal or prejudicial interest
and reason before an item discussed at this meeting, under the
Model Code of Conduct Order 2001 No 3576**

065/25-26 Apologies for Absence

To receive and consider apologies from those members not present

066/25-26 Chairman's Announcements

To receive such announcements as the Chairman may wish to make to the Council

067/25-26 Public Time

- a) To hear from Canon Mark Collinson about the project to restore and reopen our Parish Church
- b) To receive representations from members of the public regarding issues pertinent to the Council

068/25-26 Confirmation of Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2025

069/25-26 Matters Outstanding

- a) Clarion garden project, Upwell Road
- b) Fenland District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- c) Public defibrillators
- d) Community Centre valuation
- e) Bin outside former village shop
- f) Parking outside Townley School
- g) MVAS battery replacement

070/25-26 Police Report

To receive a report on policing matters in the area since the last meeting

071/25-26 County & District Councillors Reports

To receive reports from Cllrs Fisher, Galbraith, Roy and Summers

072/25-26 Clerk's Report

To receive a report on meetings attended and correspondence received

073/25-26 Members and Residents Issues

To consider any matters raised by Members of the Council and local residents

a) Sixteen Foot Road - surface condition

074/25-26 Recreation Ground

To receive a report on progress since the last meeting

075/25-26 Nature Park Project

To receive a report on progress since the last meeting

076/25-26 Village Centre Regeneration Project

To receive a report on progress since the last meeting

077/25-26 Highways

a) To receive a report from the Clerk regarding the 2024/25 Local Highway Improvements application for Sixteen Foot Bank

b) To receive a report from the Clerk regarding the 2025/26 Local Highway Improvements application for Wayside Estate

078/25-26 Play Equipment Inspection

To receive an update on actions resulting from the recent annual inspection of the play equipment and to approve quotes for the schedule of works agreed at the June meeting of the Council (038/25-26)

079/25-26 Finance

To consider and resolve on the following matters:

a) To receive an updated financial statement for the period to the end of August

b) To note the 2025/26 Local Government pay settlement

c) To note the report of the External Auditor for 2024/25

d) To note the following sums received:

Fenland District Council (grant)£10,000.00

NatWest Bank (interest).....£ 19.62

e) To note the following sum paid by direct debit:

HMRC (tax and national insurance)£ 319.94

f) To approve the following payments:

Clerk salary and home office allowance (August/September) ..£ 841.06

Giles Landscapes & Management Ltd (flail and spray field).....£ 1,770.00

PKF Littlejohn LLP (audit fee)£ 252.00

g) To review the Council's insurance cover due for renewal on 30 September and to resolve accordingly

080/25-26 Policies

To consider for adoption the draft Information Technology Policy

081/25-26 Santa Run

To confirm the arrangements for this year's Santa Run

082/25-26 Consultations

To note current surveys and consultations from statutory partners and formulate an appropriate response if required

- a) Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Cambridgeshire County Council
- b) Local Government Reorganisation Option A - Cambridgeshire County Council

083/25-26 Public Time

To receive comments and suggestions from members of the public

084/25-26 Matters for Next Meeting

To discuss future agenda items from Councillors

085/25-26 Date of Next Meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting of the Council as Monday 13 October

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 14 July 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Sparrow (Chairman), J Bliss, R Feeney, J Hayes, J Hughes, S Potter, D Roy (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), four parishioners

046/25-26 Apologies for Absence

Cllr B Burfield, Cllrs S Fisher (CCC), C Galbraith (CCC), M Summers (FDC)

047/25-26 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

048/25-26 Public Time

A resident asked questions relating to the Coldham solar farm planning application discussed at the previous meeting and the Anglian Water antenna in Crown Avenue. The Chairman advised him that these matters did not fall within the remit of the Council.

It was noted that the litter bin outside the former village shop had been removed, but no replacement had been installed. The Clerk will consider potential locations for a replacement.

049/25-26 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9 June were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

050/25-26 Matters Outstanding

- a) Clarion garden project, Upwell Road - The Chairman reported that he had received an email from Tracie Hollocks at Clarion inviting the Council's input into the proposed garden project. A meeting will be arranged shortly.
- b) Fenland District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan - The Clerk has received no response from the Clerk of Manea Parish Council. Cllr Feeney reported that he had spoken to O2, who had advised him that a new mast is not currently technically feasible due to the absence of the necessary infrastructure. Norfolk County Council has recently installed monitoring devices on waste collection vehicles to map mobile signal strength and download speeds across the county. A similar scheme in Cambridgeshire would provide useful data to justify further work in Christchurch.
- c) Public defibrillators - Cllr Hayes will contact the custodian of the Farmer's Boy defibrillator and the current owner of the former pub to discuss options for the relocation of the defibrillator. The Clerk confirmed that the Dun Cow defibrillator has not been registered on The Circuit.
- d) Community Centre valuation - The Clerk reported that the quote for a valuation of the Community Centre is in the region of £170 plus VAT. Members asked the Clerk to obtain the valuation.

- e) Whitemill Environment Fund - The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Potter will represent Christchurch on the new community panel.
- f) Fens Reservoir - The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Feeney will represent the Council on the liaison group of local councils.

051/25-26 Police Report

The Clerk reported that he hopes to meet Sergeant Lee Lombardo soon. Individual officers have been reassigned specific neighbourhood responsibilities, with PC Lorraine Foster-Bentham as the designated officer for Christchurch.

052/25-26 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Roy noted that the consultation on the reorganisation of local government ends on 20 July. Customer satisfaction surveys on street cleansing and bin collections are live. The new arrangements for food waste recycling start next year and information will be available in the autumn. From a recent meeting with Anglian Water he reported that customers may claim a rebate on their sewerage charge for use of an outside tap if a sub-meter is fitted to the tap.

053/25-26 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including traffic orders for the closure of Laddus Drove from 11 to 22 August and the Sixteen Foot Bank on 18 and 19 August, a County Council appeal for food waste volunteers, and the publication of a new edition of Local Councils Explained by the National Association of Local Councils.

054/25-26 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Parking outside Townley School - Concern has been expressed regarding parking in the vicinity of the school restricting visibility and concerns over pedestrian safety. Cllr Sparrow offered to speak to the Headteacher in September.
- b) MVAS speed sign battery replacement - The battery in the MVAS sign is no longer working. The Clerk will order a replacement.
- c) Crown Avenue grass verges - The verges are included in the grounds maintenance contract, but only in areas without parked cars. Members noted that Crown Drove had not been cut. This is the responsibility of the landowner.
- d) Cllr Hayes reported a pothole around a loose drain in Upwell Road. The Clerk will arrange for this to be repaired.

055/25-26 Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that the Community Service Payback teams have completed their work in the Recreation Ground and are now working in the Community Centre Car Park. Cllr Sparrow will be meeting the Placement Coordinator shortly to conduct a risk assessment for working in Green Lane. It has also been suggested that Payback teams may be able to assist with stewarding of events such as the Car Show.

056/25-26 Nature Park Project

Cllr Sparrow reported that the majority of the field has been flailed and the remainder will be completed with a smaller machine shortly. The site will be sprayed as new weeds germinate. A further spray may be required before cultivation. The timing of the cultivation and reseedling will be agreed at the next meeting. There are up to 150 hedging plants left over from last year's Woodland Trust donation still available for planting.

The funding from the Whitemill Environment Fund has been agreed and will be released shortly. The timing of future funding rounds is unclear.

057/25-26 Village Centre Regeneration Project

Members considered the scoping document prepared by Cllr Sparrow. They adopted the document as the broad plan for the project. Members noted that the painted cobbles were not installed at Townley School and remain in storage. Further assistance from Highways is required for mapping. Cllr Roy offered to pursue this.

058/25-26 Highways

- a) The Clerk informed members that the closure of the Sixteen Foot Bank is now scheduled for 18 and 19 August for the installation of the new signs and lines included in the 2024/25 Local Highway Improvements application.
- b) The Clerk updated Members on the progress of the 2025/26 Local Highway improvement application for Wayside Estate. The project will be presented to the assessment panel on Friday 25 July. The panel's scoring will be presented to the County Council's Highways and Transport Committee on 14 October for confirmation of funding.

059/25-26 Play Equipment Inspection

The Clerk advised Members that he was obtaining quotes for the works agreed at the June meeting.

060/25-26 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 30.6.25 showed income of £14,299.23 and expenditure of £2,130.39, resulting in a surplus of £12,168.84 and total funds held of £50,194.38.
- b) Members reviewed the quarterly financial reconciliation.
- c) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:

Fenland District Council (concurrent functions grant).....	£ 2,567.00
Fenland District Council (recycling credits)	£ 292.97
Barclays Bank (interest).....	£ 67.46
NatWest Bank (interest).....	£ 10.47
- d) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£ 386.91
Lawn Boy Farm Services (mower repair)	£ 126.67
Fenland District Council (street light recharge)	£ 5,553.18
CAPALC Ltd (subscription)	£ 445.03
Middle Level Commissioners (drainage rates)	£ 53.94
Upwell Internal Drainage Board (drainage rates)	£ 53.53
Recreation Ground (transfer of recycling credits).....	£ 292.97
- e) Members considered a grant application from the Christchurch Women's Circle. Cllr Sparrow declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item. Members resolved to award a grant of £350.
- f) Members considered a quote for the replacement of street light PC3 in Upwell Road. They noted the addition of temporary traffic management at a cost of £769.50, increasing the cost by 60%, which they felt was unnecessary at this location. However they also noted that the light had already been replaced without the Council's approval. Members asked the Clerk to raise their concerns with the District Council.

061/25-26 Consultations

Members noted the following consultations and resolved accordingly:

- a) Local government reorganisation - Members may respond individually.
- b) Public rights of way hierarchy - Unlikely to influence policy.
- c) Great collaboration - The Clerk will respond.

062/25-26 Public Time

A question was asked regarding the planning application for the barns at Tipps End that were included on the agenda for the June meeting. The Clerk explained that the Council is not a consultee on applications such as this that fall within the scope of the General Permitted Development Order 2015.

063/25-26 Matters for Next Meeting

Members agreed to invite the Reverend Canon Dr Mark Collinson to speak about the plans for the Church.

064/25-26 Date of Next Meeting

Members resolved not to meet in August. The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 8 September.

Agenda Item No.	072/25-26	Christchurch Parish Council
Meeting Date	8 September 2025	
Report Title	Clerk's Report	

1. Purpose of Report

To report on meetings attended and correspondence received.

2. Report

Meetings Attended

Local Highway Improvements Panel Presentation - 25 July
Clarion Housing Group re garden project - 4 August

Correspondence Received

Cambridgeshire County Council

Roadworks and events bulletins
Traffic order for the closure of Crown Road - 25-31 October
Traffic order for the closure of Fifty Road - 10 November-19 December
Cambridgeshire Matters newsletter
Local Area Energy Plan
Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Dr Bike bicycle health checks
Local Government Reorganisation Option A

Fenland District Council

The Fenlander newsletter
Local government reorganisation update
Travel Buddies project expands
Electoral canvass begins
Chairman's Civic Reception invitation
Chairman's Coffee Morning invitation
Children's Safety Zone events successful
New water feature in Wisbech Park
March Town Centre transformation continues
FDC supports flying flags
Workwell Fenland promotion

NALC - Events update, Chief Executive's bulletin

CAPALC - Bulletin, awards, conference, local government pay award, training,
NALC/ACRE flooding survey

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority - Members newsletter, bus timetable cases

Cambridgeshire ACRE - Staying in Touch newsletter, community buildings advice service, Macmillan community cancer project, AGM

Cambridgeshire Police - Community pop-up

Cambridge CVS - Support Fenland update, Doddington survey

Report Author	Dave Gibbs
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Green Energy Switch - Free home energy visit, LEAP free appliance scheme, free EV charger installation

Helen Symmons - new audit requirements for 2026

Queen Elizabeth Hospital - Modernising our hospital newsletter

Cambridge Children's Hospital - Appointment of construction partner

Fenland Farmers - 2025 Santa Run

3. Recommendations

Members note the report.

Christchurch Parish Council - Receipts & Payments Summary as at 31.8.25

Income	Year to Date	Budget	%
FDC Precept	£ 11,100.00	£ 22,200.00	50.00
FDC Concurrent Functions Grant	£ 2,567.00	£ 2,567.00	100.00
Allotment Rents	£ -	£ -	0.00
Allotment Rates	£ -	£ -	0.00
Community Centre	£ -	£ -	0.00
Grants	£ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00	100.00
Donations	£ -	£ -	0.00
Recycling Credits	£ 292.97	£ -	#####
Bank Interest	£ 118.88	£ 450.00	26.42
VAT Refunds	£ -	£ 3,275.04	0.00
Miscellaneous	£ 240.00	£ -	#####

Total Income	£ 24,318.85	£ 38,492.04	63.18
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Expenditure

Clerk's Salary	£ 1,867.38	£ 6,125.00	30.49
Fees	£ 265.00	£ 470.00	56.38
Subscriptions	£ 445.03	£ 590.00	75.43
Admin Expenses	£ 27.53	£ 350.00	7.87
Insurance	£ -	£ 1,600.00	0.00
Drainage Rates	£ 107.47	£ 120.00	89.55
Recreation Ground	£ -	£ 2,500.00	0.00
Nature Park	£ 105.56	£ 9,500.00	1.11
Village Centre	£ -	£ 3,000.00	0.00
Churchyard	£ -	£ 745.00	0.00
Community Centre	£ -	£ 2,000.00	0.00
Street Lights	£ 4,627.65	£ 5,800.00	79.79
Section 137 Payments	£ 350.00	£ 1,000.00	35.00
Highways	£ -	£ 4,000.00	0.00
Recoverable VAT	£ 946.64	£ 1,750.00	54.09
Tree Works	£ -	£ -	0.00
Miscellaneous	£ 532.97	£ -	#####

Total Expenditure	£ 9,275.23	£ 39,550.00	23.45
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Summary

Total Income	£ 24,318.85
LESS Total Expenditure	£ 9,275.23

Net Surplus or Deficit	£ 15,043.62
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Balance Sheet

Balance B/fwd	£ 38,025.54
Surplus or Deficit	£ 15,043.62

Balance C/fwd	£ 53,069.16
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Represented by

Barclays Community Account	£ 7,205.23
Barclays Business Premium Account	£ 20,375.91
NatWest Current Account	£ 14,252.57
NatWest Deposit Account	£ 11,235.45
Cash / Cheques	£ -

£ 53,069.16

Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2024/25

In respect of **Christchurch Parish Council – CA0054**

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2025; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2024/25

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None.

3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature



Date

20/08/2025

Christchurch Parish Council

Information Technology (IT) Policy

1. Purpose

This policy defines how Christchurch Parish Council manages its use of information technology, in line with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities (2015) and the 2025 edition of the Practitioners' Guide. It ensures the council's digital operations are transparent, secure, and compliant with data protection laws.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all **councillors, employees, volunteers, and contractors** who access or manage the council's IT resources, including but not limited to:

- Desktop and laptop computers, tablets, and smartphones
- Email and cloud-based systems
- Council website, social media, and digital publication tools
- Video conferencing and messaging platforms
- Personal devices used under Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) provisions

3. Governance and Oversight

IT Oversight: The Clerk is the designated Data Protection Officer (DPO) and IT Systems Administrator. The Council is responsible for implementation, security, and compliance.

4. Data Protection & Security

All processing of personal data shall comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Privacy Policy: All data collection, processing, and subject rights are governed by the council's Privacy Policy, available on the council website. All users must familiarise themselves with it.

Access and Storage: Data is stored securely, with access granted only to authorised personnel based on necessity.

Retention: Personal data will be retained in accordance with the council's Data Retention Schedule and securely deleted when no longer needed.

Security Controls:

- Password protection and multi-factor authentication where applicable
- Regular updates and anti-malware software
- Backups of essential data in secure locations

5. Use of Personal Devices (BYOD)

Authorised Use Only: Councillors and staff may use personal devices for council business only if explicitly authorised and subject to compliance with this policy.

Security Requirements: Devices must be protected by strong passwords, encryption (where possible), and up-to-date antivirus software.

Access to council data on personal devices must be controlled and subject to regular review.

Data Separation: Council data must be kept separate from personal data using dedicated apps or storage areas.

6. Use of Personal Email Addresses

Prohibited Practice: The use of personal email accounts for council business is strictly prohibited. All council correspondence must be conducted through official council-provided email addresses. Emails from council-owned domains must not be forwarded to personal email addresses.

Monitoring and Compliance: Any breaches will be investigated, and appropriate measures taken in line with the council's disciplinary or governance procedures.

Email Retention: All council emails will be stored in compliance with the GDPR and Freedom of Information requirements.

7. IT Infrastructure & Support

Asset Register: Maintained for all council-owned hardware and software.

Maintenance: All devices must be regularly updated and checked for compliance with this policy.

Training: Users will be given training on IT systems, cybersecurity, data handling, and transparency responsibilities.

8. Monitoring and Review

Annual Review: This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation or requirement changes.

Audits: Periodic internal audits will check for compliance with security and transparency requirements.

9. Data Breach Process and Protocols

The Parish Council is committed to responding promptly and effectively to any data breaches to minimise risk and comply with UK GDPR requirements.

10. Definition of a Data Breach

A data breach is a security incident that results in the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. Examples include:

- Loss or theft of devices containing personal data
- Unauthorised access to council email accounts or files
- Sending personal data to the wrong recipient
- Malware or ransomware attacks compromising council systems

10.1 Reporting a Breach

Immediate Notification: Any councillor, employee, or contractor who becomes aware of a data breach must report it immediately to the Clerk (Data Protection Officer).

Initial Response: The Clerk will assess the severity and scope of the breach and determine if mitigation steps are required (e.g., changing passwords, disabling access, enabling 2FA).

10.2 Investigation

A full investigation will be conducted by the Clerk or designated officer within 72 hours of the breach being discovered.

The breach will be logged, including:

- Date and time of breach
- Type and volume of data affected
- Cause and extent of the breach
- Actions taken to address the breach

10.3 Notification Requirements

If the breach is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, the council must notify the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) within 72 hours.

- * If the breach poses a high risk to the individuals affected, those individuals must also be informed without undue delay, outlining:
 - The nature of the breach
 - Likely consequences
 - Measures taken to mitigate the risk
 - Contact information for further support

10.4 Remediation and Review

- The Clerk and Council will ensure lessons are learned and policies, procedures, or training are updated as necessary.
- Technical fixes or security upgrades will be prioritised to prevent recurrence.
- Breach logs will be reviewed periodically to identify systemic issues.

11. Approval and Adoption

This policy was adopted by Christchurch Parish Council on 8 September 2025 and will be reviewed annually or following a significant incident or legislative change.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Have your say!

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region is now open to public consultation, where you can have your say on the strategy that has been developed and view the local habitat map that sets out the priority areas for nature recovery in the region. The consultation will run for 8 weeks, ending Thursday 11 September.

The consultation is available here: <https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lnrs/consultation/> with a link to the survey at the bottom of the page. This link also provides access to the full draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy document as well as other supporting documentation and the local habitat map.

Why is the strategy important?

Everything we do, from the water we drink, the air we breathe and the food we eat is dependent on the natural world, yet England is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has one of the lowest proportions of land designated for nature in the UK.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are an England-wide approach to targeting nature recovery. They set out priorities and actions to support nature recovery, inform sustainable land use planning and shape how nature-based solutions are delivered.

Further information

Printed versions of the survey and documentation will also be available at all 33 libraries within the region, as well as available to download. You can find your nearest library [here](#).

The team at Cambridgeshire County Council will be available via localnaturerecoverystrategy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to help answer any questions you may have.



County Council launches second phase of engagement into Local Government Reorganisation, asking residents to share their views



People in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are being given a further opportunity to have their say in shaping the future of local government.

The Government wants to change the current structure of local authorities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by 2028, through a process known as Local

Government Reorganisation (LGR). LGR will replace all seven of the county, city and district councils that currently exist. The new unitary councils that would succeed these current authorities would be responsible for all the local government services in the geographic areas they cover, except for those provided by Town and Parish Councils.

The County Council's recent annual Quality of Life survey highlighted that just under two thirds (63%) of those residents who took part knew nothing about Local Government Reorganisation, with just under half (46%) having never heard of LGR.

Today (Wednesday, 3 September), an information campaign about Local Government Reorganisation launches with a second phase of engagement running until Friday 3 October, which invites views on the preferred option being developed by Cambridgeshire County Council – known as 'Option A'.

Option A shares Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between two new council areas – one in the North, building upon areas currently covered by Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire and Fenland District Councils, and one in the South, which builds upon the areas currently covered by Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. These new authorities would also incorporate the responsibilities and resources for their areas currently held by the County Council.

Of the three preferred options being developed by local councils in response to the Government, Cambridgeshire County Council's leadership believes that Option A best meets the Government's criteria. It balances the needs and services for both urban and rural communities, whilst delivering reduced duplication, greater accountability and financial sustainability. It would also support devolution and economic growth across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, by creating two strong and equal partners in the devolution arrangements led by the Mayoral Combined Authority.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Chief Executive, Dr Stephen Moir said: "Almost 3,000 residents and 186 stakeholders contributed to the initial phase of engagement about Local Government Reorganisation. The responses received told us about the key priorities for residents and those of many of our partners and stakeholders, including town and parish councils, businesses and the community and voluntary sector. It was clear that council size, high quality, accessible and responsive services, democratic accountability and value for money were all important."

"We believe that the creation of two well-balanced councils, each supported by one of the geographic county's two major cities and offering financial resilience and sustainability, will achieve fairer outcomes for all our communities and create more

equal, more empowered and more efficient local government for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the future.

“Option A will also enable stronger alignment with the identities of our local areas, and the daily patterns of people’s lives, in areas such as travel, access to the NHS, jobs, education and training. It will respect the role of town and parish councils, and support more localised services and democratic accountability. This option will also create new councils large enough to deliver quality services and infrastructure, which are better able to withstand future financial shocks.

“We’ve used the County Council’s approved guiding principles of size, sustainability, safety, simplicity, and synchronicity to shape this option. These principles will help to strengthen services and minimise disruption as we move into the next phase of local government for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.”

Following this second and more detailed stage of engagement, a preferred option will be discussed by the Full Council on Tuesday 21 October, prior to a submission being made to the Government in November.

For more information on LGR, head to Cambridgeshire County Council’s website:

<https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/your-future-councils/>

Cambridgeshire County Council’s Full Council meeting on 21 October will be live streamed on our YouTube channel.

Contact Information

Cambridgeshire County Council communications team

01223 699281

communications@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

In an emergency or serious incident Cambridgeshire County Council communications team can be contacted out of hours on: 07833 480 348

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