

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Comprising Barton, Coton, Comberton, Grantchester, Harlton,
Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, and South Trumpington

District Councillors' Monthly Report – June 2026

District Councillor Contact Details

If you have any questions or concerns relating to SCDC services, please contact us using the details below. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc.

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Cost-of-living information

Visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/> for information on: benefits, money and debt advice; help with energy and water bills; help for parents and families; help with food and health costs; help with phone bills; help with making your home warmer; Age UK handyperson service and; support if you are in distress.

Community Hubs

Community Hubs offer residents somewhere to socialise, take part in new activities and to receive information on cost-of-living support and how to stay healthy and well. Local Community Hubs include:

Toft Community Hub, High Street, Toft, CB23 2RL.

Opening times: Mondays, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Grantchester Communal Hall, Tabrum Close, Grantchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NW

Opening times: Fridays, 10am – 12pm

Caldecote Sports Pavillion, Furlong Way, Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7ZH

Opening times: Tuesdays, 11am – 4pm

Find out more at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-hubs>

Tackling period poverty with environmentally friendly menstrual products

South Cambridgeshire District Council is once again providing free environmentally friendly menstrual products for hundreds more residents to help tackle period poverty. Councillors agreed to champion the cause, to ensure dignity for all. A funding pot of almost £10,000 has been agreed for the project, which will offer South Cambridgeshire residents a choice of one of three period product packs - either washable pads, period pants or reusable period cups.

Hey Girls, a UK-wide social enterprise, will be distributing the packs, and [residents can now apply online](#). The scheme will run on a 'first come, first served' basis.

LGA guide to disinformation for local councillors

The Local Government Association has developed [a guide on approaching and countering disinformation in response to interest from councillors seeking support in this area](#). The guide sets out key tangible actions councillors can take to respond effectively themselves while working closely with officers. Further information is available on the LGA's website and you can also find [a similar guide which was produced for officers earlier this year in LGA's Comms Hub](#).

Development Corporation

On the 3rd June, there was a significant announcement by the government about the establishment of a Development Corporation in Greater Cambridge.

- The government's announcement is here: [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)
- The government's response to the consultation (which took place earlier this year) is here: [Greater Cambridge Development Corporation: Analysis of consultation responses and next steps - GOV.UK](#)
- Our press release is here: [South Cambs District Council: Council warns that government's urban development corporation risks sidelining local communities](#)

The District Council's Cabinet has also issued the following statement to Parish Councils:

Parish Councils are probably aware that the last government and this government have both had designs on increasing the growth of housing and jobs in Greater Cambridge far beyond what we have identified through our local plan process - 150,000 by 2050 "theirs" 77,000 by 2045 "ours."

This aspiration has now taken a leap forward with the Labour Government formally announcing its intention to create a Government led Development Corporation covering the whole South Cambs and Cambridge City area. This is vastly larger in geography and population than has ever been seen before anywhere in the UK.

There is no doubt that this will result in loss of greenbelt land though where that might be, we cannot as yet say. The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan gives a very high level of protection to all of our villages and the greenbelt but it would be naïve to say that the 'Devco' would respect this.

Currently, anyone wanting to build anything at all in Greater Cambridge has to submit a planning application to the Greater Cambridge Planning Service and the decisions are taken either by our expert planning officers or by the planning committee which is made up of elected members from both political parties that hold seat in South Cambs.

It would be a travesty if these plans damaged the Greater Cambridge Planning Service which has recently been awarded the title of Best Planning Authority in England.

If the government does not amend its plans, as they currently stand, all planning applications above 250 units will be submitted to the Devco and decided by its own planning committee which will only have 4 elected members with the majority being 'experts'. This represents a huge democratic deficit, with a Westminster minister having ultimate say.

We are talking to government to see if we can move this situation into something acceptable to our council and communities based upon the large amount of consultation we have conducted and the responses we have seen to their consultation, most of which align with our strongly held views.

As a minimum, that would mean increasing the thresholds for housing by a significant amount and getting assurance that the Devco will concentrate its resources on sorting out the infrastructure gap that is actually slowing growth of our area. This includes the shortage of water, electricity, health, education and transport links.

Injunction on Land West of Moor Drove, Histon

You will be aware of the emergency injunction the Council secured on the bank holiday weekend against an illegal traveller site being constructed. Last week we secured a year-long injunction requiring the removal of all caravans brought onto the site after the emergency injunction was served. Colleagues in our Compliance team: [@Chris Barnes](#), [@Christopher Braybrooke](#), [@Tanya Mutch](#) and [@Rebecca Smith](#) were instrumental for this work in securing the longer term injunction, as well as [@Stephen Kelly](#) for his work over the bank holiday in getting the emergency injunction. A real team effort.

Homes for Ukraine Community Festival Event

The Homes for Ukraine team at South Cambridgeshire District Council, and the Communities Service at Cambridgeshire County Council are helping support Hope CIC to deliver a Community Festival event for Refugee Week 2026. The event will take place on the 17th June 2026 from 4-7pm, and will be held at Hope Heaven Farm, Girton, CB3 0FH. The event aims to celebrate all cultures living within the district through food, live music, and dance. If you would be interested in attending, please scan the QR code on the attached poster.

Updates from MHCLG

Domestic abusers to be evicted under new housing law

On 1 June, the government's [Social Housing Bill returned to Parliament for its Second Reading](#). The government has announced that abusers will be evicted from social homes and victims will be able to stay safely in their communities. Under new protections, landlords and courts will be able to evict perpetrators of domestic abuse from social housing – without the victim having to leave first. Currently, landlords can only evict a perpetrator after the victim has already left the home, and in joint tenancies, the only option for the victim is to end the tenancy entirely – potentially leaving them homeless. The Bill also closes a loophole that lets abusers serve a Notice to Quit to make victims homeless. Under the proposed new law, a Notice to Quit served by a perpetrator will not end the social housing joint tenancy while court proceedings are ongoing. In addition, for joint tenancies, courts will be able to transfer the tenancy into the victim's sole name, or where staying is not appropriate, require the landlord to provide suitable alternative accommodation where available. [For further details on the full list of measures in the Bill are available on GOV.UK.](#)

Blogs:

<https://mhclgmedia.blog.gov.uk/2026/06/01/explainer-new-protections-for-domestic-abuse-victims-in-social-housing/>

<https://mhclgmedia.blog.gov.uk/2026/06/01/coverage-of-the-social-housing-bill/>

Planning Committees and the National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions: Government response and statutory guidance for local planning authorities in England

MHCLG has published the [government response providing a summary of the responses received to the statutory consultation on the draft regulations and guidance related to the reform of planning committees](#). It also sets out the government's response on each of the consultation proposals. Alongside this government response, the government is laying the draft regulations for Parliamentary scrutiny and [publishing the accompanying statutory guidance](#). The intention is that the final regulations will be made in July and come into force on 31 October 2026. [The statutory guidance aims to help support local planning authorities in England in implementing the national scheme of delegation for planning functions.](#)

New rights for people with social housing complaints

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) is reminding individuals that as of 1 May, more people than ever before have the right to raise concerns about how councils manage social housing – even if they are not a tenant themselves.

Previously, there was a gap in the system. If individuals were not renting a council property, they had no independent body they could turn to if they had a complaint about how social housing in their area was being managed. This left many people with no way to challenge decisions or raise concerns. That has now changed. Under the Renters' Rights Act, LGSCO can now look into social housing management complaints from anyone, not just tenants. If you are a tenant of a council property and want to complain about the council as the landlord, the Housing Ombudsman continues to handle those cases as before. Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

Further information:

<https://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news/2026/may/new-powers-give-non-tenants-access-to-ombudsman-redress-for-the-first-time>

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

Applications for the Zero Carbon Communities Grant 2026/2027 are now open until **5pm Friday 24 July 2026**.

The Zero Carbon Communities Grant helps communities in South Cambridgeshire to take action on climate change. Besides Parish Councils, other organisations such as schools and sports clubs may apply for a grant for climate-positive projects which benefit the local community, with grants ranging from £2,000 to £19,500. As well as capital costs, salaries of project workers and management staff (in proportion to the staff time spent on the project), reasonable expenses of project staff and volunteers, as well as marketing and publicity for the project (as appropriate) can also be funded by the grant.

More information, as well as a recording from the online ZCC Grant Applicant Workshop (held 20th May), can be found here: (<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant>)

Reforms to Judicial Review for Infrastructure

On the 20th May, HM Treasury has published [a paper setting out proposals on further reforms to judicial review of major infrastructure](#). The government now intends to go further in ensuring that legal challenge is focused, proportionate and does not create unnecessary delay to the delivery of nationally important infrastructure. This paper sets out two proposed reforms to the current process for consenting major infrastructure – subject to detailed design and the passage of underpinning legislation – which would allow for proportionate protection from judicial review: a parliamentary authorisation mechanism; and a challenge window mechanism.