

# East Cambridgeshire District Council

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## NOTICE OF MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Annual Meeting of the **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held on **THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2025** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY, CB7 4EE**, commencing at **6:00pm** with up to 15 minutes of Public Question Time, immediately followed by the formal business, and you are summoned to attend for the transaction of the following business

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## Agenda

- 1. Public Question Time** **[oral]**  
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes Public Question Time (PQT) – questions/statements can be submitted in advance or placed in the PQT box in the Council Chamber prior to the commencement of the meeting – see Notes below for further information on the PQT scheme.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** **[oral]**
- 3. Declarations of Interests** **[oral]**  
To receive declarations of interests from Members for any items on the agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.
- 4. Minutes – 18 September 2025** **Page**  
To confirm as a correct record.
- 5. Chair's Announcements** **[oral]**
- 6. To receive Petition(s) (If any)** **[oral]**
- 7. Notice of Motions under Procedure Rule 10** **[oral]**
  - a) Tackling Long-Term Empty Homes**

### Council notes:

- The number of long-term empty homes (empty for 6+ months) in the district: 528 (Sept 2022), 546 (Sept 2023), 531 (Sept 2024), 473 (Sept 2025)—a recent improvement, but still a significant wasted housing resource.
- The council's most recent Empty Homes Strategy was adopted in 2006 and despite being linked on the council's website is believed to be no longer live.
- The council's Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy dates from 2022 and is based on other policies which expired in 2017 and 2021.
- The fiscal levers available to councils to deal with the blight of long-term empty homes.

**Council believes:**

- Bringing empty homes back into use is among the fastest and best-value ways to increase supply, cut blight, and improve access to housing in East Cambridgeshire.
- A modernised strategy should combine support, incentives and firm enforcement, learning from councils that have delivered results.

**Council resolves to:**

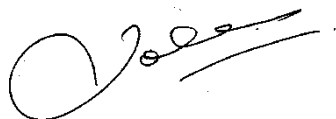
1. Commission and adopt a new Empty Homes Strategy by July 2026, replacing the 2006 and 2022 documents, with clear targets, resourcing, and an annual public report. This strategy to include
  - a) ambitious district targets to reduce long-term empty homes and return them to use.
  - b) the full range of fiscal levers, including council tax rates and published local exemptions and deferrals for active renovation.
2. Develop and approve a business case for the resources required to implement the strategy, including consideration of
  - a) a revolving Empty Homes Loan Fund to finance works to bring empty homes back to habitable standard.
  - b) expanded enforcement capacity (including training and legal support) to deploy Empty Dwelling Management Orders and targeted Compulsory Purchase Orders for persistently problematic properties.
  - c) an Empty Homes Partnership with local housing associations, community-led housing groups and social enterprises to support owners to bring properties up to standard and explore external funds to underwrite conversions.
  - d) the creation of a dedicated Empty Homes Officer post and a review of case management systems.
  - e) resourcing of a public “Report an Empty” portal and matchmaker service for buyers and renovators, and publish a quarterly dashboard, in line with LGA best practice.
3. Run an annual communications campaign during Empty Homes Week to showcase success stories and promote offers and enforcement.

**Proposer: Cllr Mark Inskip**

**Seconder: Cllr Christine Colbert**

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|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>To answer questions from Members</b>                                       | <b>[oral]</b> |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Schedule of items recommended from Committees and other Member bodies:</b> |               |
| <b>1.</b>  | <b><u>Finance &amp; Assets Committee – 25 September 2025</u></b>              | <b>Page</b>   |
|            | a. Council Tax Reduction Scheme                                               |               |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b><u>Audit Committee – 21 October 2025</u></b>                               | <b>Page</b>   |
|            | a. Adoption of Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy                               |               |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Local Government Reorganisation Final Report</b>                           | <b>Page</b>   |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Constitution Review – Further Amendments</b>                               | <b>Page</b>   |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>12. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority:</b> |             |
| (a) Update report – September 2025                             | <b>Page</b> |
| (b) Update report – October 2025                               | <b>Page</b> |
| <b>13. Appointment of Chief Executive</b>                      | <b>Page</b> |
| <b>14. Appointment of a Director to ECTC and ECSS</b>          | <b>Page</b> |



**J Hill**  
**Chief Executive**

To: All Members of the Council

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#### **NOTES:**

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. Admittance is on a "first-come, first-served" basis, and public access will be from 30 minutes before the start time of the meeting. Due to room capacity restrictions, members of the public are asked, where possible, to notify Democratic Services ([democratic.services@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@eastcambs.gov.uk) or 01353 665555) of their intention to attend a meeting.

The meeting will be webcast, and a live stream of the meeting will be available for viewing. Further details can be found [here](#). Please be aware that all attendees, including those in the public gallery, will be visible on the livestream.

Public Questions/Statements are welcomed on any topic related to the Council's functions as long as there is no suspicion that it is improper (e.g. offensive, slanderous or might lead to disclosures of Exempt or Confidential information). Up to 15 minutes is allocated for this at the start of the meeting. Further details about the Public Question Time scheme are available at: <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/committees/public-question-time-scheme>

The Council has adopted a 'Purge on Plastics' strategy and is working towards the removal of all consumer single-use plastics in our workplace. Therefore, we do not provide disposable cups at our meetings and would ask members of the public to bring their own drink to the meeting, if required.

Fire Instructions for the Meeting: Instructions for the event of a fire at the venue will be announced at the start of the meeting.

Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked "oral".

If required, all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (e.g. large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling Main Reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail: [translate@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:translate@eastcambs.gov.uk)

If the Committee wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting, a resolution in the following terms will need to be passed:

“That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no(s). X because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category X of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”