

Date of Publication of Decision List: 21 November 2025

For Information Only – These Decisions are Not Subject to Call-in



**East Cambridgeshire
District Council**

Council – 20 November 2025 – Decision List

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	No public questions were received.	-
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	To receive apologies for absence from Members.	Apologies were received from Cllr Martin Goodearl, Cllr Mary Wade and Cllr Gareth Wilson.	-
3.	-	Declarations of Interests	To receive declarations of interests from Members in respect of any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.	The Director Legal explained that a dispensation had been granted to all Members who also served as County Councillors to allow them to participate in the debate on agenda item 10 Local Government Reorganisation Final Report and vote.	-
4.	-	Minutes – 18 September 2025	To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 18 September 2025.	It was resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September be agreed as a correct record.	Democratic Services
5.	-	Chair's Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	The Chair requested that all Members complete their data protection forms. On behalf of the Council and the community the Council serves, the Chair extended her heartfelt thanks to the Chief Executive, John Hill, as he retired after 25 years of service.	-

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
6.	-	Petitions	To receive and petitions	There were no petitions for Council to receive.	-
7.	-	Notice of Motions under Procedure Rule 10	The following Motion was received and considered: I. Tackling Long-Term Empty Homes. Text of motion at the end of the Decision List Proposer: Cllr Mark Inskip Seconder: Cllr Keith Horgan	Motion was carried unanimously.	Director Operations
8.	-	To answer questions from Members.	To receive questions from Members of Council.	No questions from members were received.	-
9.	AA92	Schedule of Items Recommended from Committees and Other Member Bodies	To review the Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) To review the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy in Part 4, Section 7 of the Constitution.	It was resolved: a) That the annual review of the LCTRS be approved and that the Scheme for 2026/27 remain unchanged. b) To adopt the updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.	Director Finance
10.	AA93	Local Government Reorganisation Proposals	To consider the final proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	It was resolved: a) To note the report and the proposals for Options A-E for Local Government Reorganisation. b) To endorse Option B for submission to Government by 28 November 2025.	Director Operations

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				c) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat & Independent Group, to finalise the draft business case and a joint covering letter for submission of the Council's preferred proposal to Government.	
11.	AA94	Constitution Update – Further Amendments	To review proposed amendments to the Constitution.	It was resolved: To approve the proposed amendments to Constitution Procedural Rule 12.5, as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.	Director Legal & Monitoring Officer
12.	-	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	To note the reports for September and October 2025.	It was resolved: To note the two reports from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the months of September and October.	Democratic Services and Elections Manager
13.	AA95	Appointment of Chief Executive	To appoint the Council's Chief Executive.	It was resolved: To endorse the appointment of Emma Grima as the Council's Chief Executive.	HR Manager
14.	AA96	Appointment of Board Director for East Cambs Street Scene and East Cambs Trading Company	To appoint a Board Director for East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS) and East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC).	It was resolved: To appoint the Council's Chief Executive as Board Director for ECSS and ECTC from 1 January 2026.	Director Legal & Monitoring Officer

1. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

7. Notices of Motion

Tackling Long-Term Empty Homes

Council notes:

- Long-Term Empty Homes, as defined by the government in the Local Government Finance Act 1992¹ (as amended), are a national problem that need a local solution.
- 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 problem of long-term empty homes include, but are not limited to, compulsory purchase orders, Long-Term Empty Property premiums and Empty Dwelling Management Orders.

Council believes:

- That bringing empty homes back into use can play a key part in local strategies to meet housing need. Not only are empty homes a wasted resource, but they are often the subject of complaints and frustration for communities, as well as being a catalyst for crime and degradation².
- That effective action on 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 with proportionate and compassionate enforcement, learning from councils that have delivered results.

Council resolves to:

1. Direct Officers to develop a new Empty Homes Strategy by July 2026, replacing the 2006 and 2022 documents, with clear targets, resourcing, and an annual public report and present this to Operational Services committee for review and onward recommendation to full Council. This strategy to include:
 - a) ambitious and realistic district targets to reduce long-term empty homes and return them to use

- b) the list of the full range of fiscal levers, including council tax premium rates, published local exemptions and deferrals for active renovation.
2. As part of a new Empty Homes Strategy, develop a business case and options for the resources required to implement the strategy, including investigation into:
- a) a revolving Empty Homes Loan Fund³ to finance works to bring empty homes back to habitable standard.
 - b) an expanded enforcement capacity (including training and legal support) to deploy Empty Dwelling Management Orders and targeted Compulsory Purchase Orders for persistently problematic properties⁴.
 - 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 associated cost and Return on Investment justification of an Empty Homes Officer function along with a review of case management systems.
 - e) the resourcing, associated costs and justification 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. Following the adoption of a new Empty Homes Strategy, run an annual communications campaign during Empty Homes Week to showcase success stories and promote offers and enforcement.

Proposer: Cllr Mark Inskip

Seconder: Cllr Keith Horgan

Notes:

- 1. Long-term empty homes are defined as dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a period of one year or more. This definition is used for the purpose of council tax, where councils can charge a premium on such properties to encourage their reoccupation.
- 2. As advised by the November 2023 publication of the Local Government Association entitled, “A practical approach for councils on dealing with empty homes” found here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/practical-approach-councils-dealing-empty-homes>
- 3. An example of an Empty Homes Loan Fund, learning from Councils that signpost to partners that specialise in this is Lendology.com (see <https://www.lendology.org.uk/loans/empty-property-loans/?nocache=1751535828>)
- 4. Currently, as Anglia Revenues Partnership are employed to manage the collection of our Council Tax, as well as provide the data on empty homes, it will be advisable to consult with them as to how this strategy interfaces with their responsibilities. It may also be possible they could assist with enforcement actions as they currently operate a service to recover unpaid Council Tax above certain thresholds.