



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-331, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

On you web site there is a set of information covering option A and option B of the Local Government Reorganisation. A number of assertions are made so please can you furnish your evidence for these statements, please?

1. Option A will see us lose control of building, lose local services and lose money - all to the benefit of Cambridge
2. Option B is the most financially viable of all the options.
3. These areas will be supported by locally based staff and councillors who live and work in the same areas and know first-hand the communities they serve [is there a plan to change electoral law?]
4. All resources and focus will be directed at Cambridge
5. East Cambs becomes the building site for Greater Cambridge, which needs to accommodate 150,000 new homes (I don't understand how A and B differ here)
6. Residents will pay the highest amount of Council Tax
7. Rural and local voices will be lost in a desire to become Cambridge-centric
8. Residents will lose local control of where houses are built to the Cambridge Growth Company, which has been set up by the government to advance the development of Cambridge (also see 5.)

Response:

The Business Case proposal for Option B will be published on our website by 10th November 2025. This sets out the rationale and arguments for Option B, and considers the impacts of Option A. This information is therefore refused under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information Intended for Future Publication.

The Option A council report published by Cambridgeshire County Council also sets out further rationale that has been used to inform the Council's recent communications campaign.

[Cambridgeshire County Council Meeting Agenda](#)

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused, please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- c) State why the exemption applies:

1) Information is exempt information if –

- a. *The information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),*
- b. *The information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*
- c. *It is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a)*

2) *The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1)*

The information that you have requested will be published on our website by 10th November 2025.

As Section 22 is a qualified exemption, the public interest test will need to be considered. The Council has considered the public interest test and believe that the factors for withholding the information outweigh the factors in disclosure.

- Section 22 recognises that it must be reasonable to withhold the information until the date of publication. The business case is still in draft format and in the process of internal signing within the three councils that are producing it (East Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council). It is therefore considered reasonable to withhold the document until it is finalised and signed.
- There is a public interest in transparency being demonstrated by releasing the information requested. However, transparency is also achieved by the Council proactively publishing this information on its website by the stated date.

Review Request:

I am writing to request an internal review of East Cambridgeshire District Council's handling of my FOI request 'LGR Option A and B evidence'.

I feel that the exemption does not apply. I did not ask for the further assessment of the evidence to be provided.

I asked for the evidence itself. This does not change over time and does not need agreement from other parties. The evidence is the evidence.

I am happy for you to confirm that the assertions were made without evidence. If you say there was evidence, then you must provide it. The evidence must already be there. Again I am not asking for the conclusions being drawn (which would be in the business plan) but the evidence itself.

Review Response:

There are a number of reports and data that have been used to develop the Option B business case. These are published here:

[Option B business case | Option B | East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)

There are a number of reports that are still being finalised (going through the internal sign off process) and these are shown on the website to follow. We anticipate all documents to be published by 28 November 2025

There are a number of other sources that support the Option B business case beyond those that are being submitted to Government as appendices to the main document. These include websites and related news such as those shown below:

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/news/2025/10/27/draft-local-plan-published-for-councillors-to-consider-ahead-of-planned-consultation>)

<https://www.caseforcities.uk/>

[The Cambridge Growth Company](#)

The Council voted on a motion, that set out the view of the Administration in October 2025 [Agenda Pack Council 18 September 2025 version 7.pdf](#) this was also reflected in the communications campaign.

Based on the data gathered and analysis undertaken here are a number of inferences that can and have been drawn, these arguments are set out in the main body of the Option B Draft Business case proposal here [NORTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH AND GREATER CAMBRIDGE](#) . The document remains in draft and the final business case will be submitted to Government on 28 November and will also be published on the Council website at this time.

This concludes your review request FOI/EIR 25/26-331.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email. Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.