

# 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 21 MAY 2026** 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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Prior to the commencement of the formal business, prayers will be delivered by Reverend Eleanor Whalley from Soham Parish Church

A minute's silence will be observed as a mark of respect following the death of two former Councillors:

Allen Alderson, District Councillor for The Swaffhams Ward from 2004 to 2019  
Brian Hayes, District Councillor for the Littleport Ward from 1999 to 2003.

## 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. Election of Chair 2026/27** **[oral]**

<b>Nomination</b> Cllr Kelli Pettitt	<b>Proposed by</b> Cllr Anna Bailey	<b>Seconded by</b> Cllr Julia Huffer
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- 3. Apologies for Absence**
  
- 4. 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.
  
- 5. Minutes – 24 February 2026** **Page 11**  
To confirm as a correct record.
  
- 6. Election of Vice-Chair 2026/27** **[oral]**

<b>Nomination</b> Cllr Keith Horgan	<b>Proposed by</b> Cllr Anna Bailey	<b>Seconded by</b> Cllr Julia Huffer
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| <b>7. Chair's Announcements</b>                     | <b>[oral]</b> |
| <b>8. To receive Petition(s) (If any)</b>           | <b>[oral]</b> |
| <b>9. Notice of Motions under Procedure Rule 10</b> | <b>[oral]</b> |

a) **Future of the A10**

**East Cambridgeshire District Council, hereinafter referred to as 'the Council', notes that:**

- The A10 corridor between Ely and Cambridge is a strategically important route for commuters, freight, agricultural traffic and local communities across East Cambridgeshire and the wider region
- The road currently carries more than 18,000 vehicles per day and remains largely single carriageway, resulting in congestion, delays, safety concerns and reduced reliability for residents and businesses
- The need to upgrade the A10 corridor has been recognised for decades, with studies dating back to the 1970s examining options to increase capacity and improve connectivity between Ely and Cambridge
- More recently, Cambridgeshire County Council undertook extensive option development work considering highway capacity improvements, junction upgrades, modal shift, and active travel measures, the outcome of which was a recommendation for full dualling of the corridor with a parallel active travel route
- This work was subsequently taken forward by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), culminating in a Strategic Outline Business Case in 2020, which proposed a range of primarily road-based improvement options, including online and offline dualling of the A10, with associated cycling and walking infrastructure
- Public engagement undertaken in 2020 demonstrated strong local interest in addressing congestion and improving connectivity along the corridor
- The A10 corridor is critical to supporting planned growth across the region, including up to 17,000 new homes and 14,000 new jobs, and is essential to maintaining the economic vitality of East Cambridgeshire and neighbouring areas
- The importance of the A10 upgrade is recognised by Homes England, which is planning a further study of the route through the Strategic Place Partnership, with work having begun in January 2026.

**The Council believes that:**

- Full dualling of the A10 between Ely and Cambridge is the most effective long-term solution to address congestion, improve safety, and provide the capacity required to support the sustainable growth of the region
- Failure to progress the scheme risks constraining economic development, worsening congestion for residents and businesses and undermining confidence in the delivery of essential regional infrastructure
- Given the public funds spent over decades, the years of technical work already undertaken and the clear strategic importance of the route, the A10 dualling project must remain a priority within regional transport planning.

**Therefore, the Council resolves to:**

- Reaffirm its strong support for the full dualling of the A10 between Ely and Cambridge, including provision for high-quality active travel infrastructure

- Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of the CPCA requesting that the A10 dualling scheme remains a strategic transport priority and that work to progress the project continues without delay
- Instruct the Leader of the Council to request that the CPCA provide clarity on the programme for further development work, including the study by the Strategic Place Partnership and the pathway towards delivery of the scheme
- Instruct the Director (Community) to share this motion with neighbouring local authorities, Members of Parliament representing communities along the A10 corridor, and relevant regional stakeholders, in order to invite them to demonstrate their support for progressing the scheme on a cross-area basis

Proposer: Cllr Lucius Vellacott (Soham South and Wicken)

Seconder: Cllr Lee Denney (Stretham)

## **b) High Street Bank Closures and Financial Inclusion in East Cambridgeshire**

### **Council notes that:**

- There has been a sustained withdrawal of high street banking services across East Cambridgeshire, leaving many communities without access to in-person financial services.
- Recent and historic bank branch closures in the district include:
  - o NatWest – Ely (17 Market Street), closed September 2025
  - o Barclays – Ely (28 High Street), closed April 2024
  - o HSBC – Ely (11 High Street), closed July 2020
  - o Barclays – Burwell (High Street), closed 2016
  - o Barclays – Littleport (Main Street), closed 2014/15
- These closures mean that many residents and businesses now have no access to a local bank branch and must travel outside the district.
- While the Post Office network provides “everyday banking” services under the current Banking Framework (2026–2030), including withdrawals, deposits, and balance checks, these services are limited in scope and do not replace full banking provision.
- Post Office services do not provide:
  - o Dedicated financial advice,
  - o In-depth fraud and safeguarding support,
  - o Full business banking services,
  - o Reliable capacity for larger or more complex transactions (e.g. cash deposit limits and branch constraints).
- Banking hubs, coordinated by LINK, are expanding nationally but:
  - o Are currently limited in number,
  - o Are primarily triggered by “access to cash” assessments,
  - o Require strict criteria such as population thresholds, business density, and absence of any remaining bank branch.

### **Council further notes that:**

- The current regulatory system places significant weight on access to cash, rather than the full range of banking needs, including advice, support, and relationship banking.
- Digital banking is not a universal solution. Many residents are digitally excluded, including:
  - o Older people,
  - o Residents with disabilities,
  - o Those on low incomes,
  - o Rural communities with poor broadband or mobile connectivity.
- The impact of closures is compounded in rural areas, where:
  - o Public transport is limited,

- o Distances to alternative branches are greater,
- o Physical barriers further restrict access.
- Small and independent businesses rely on in-person banking for:
  - o Cash deposits and coin supply,
  - o Relationship banking and lending discussions,
  - o Day-to-day financial management.

**Council believes that:**

- Access to in-person banking is a vital component of financial inclusion, not simply a matter of cash access.
- The current national framework underestimates the importance of:
  - o Face-to-face advice,
  - o Fraud prevention and safeguarding,
  - o Support for digitally excluded residents.
- Rural districts such as East Cambridgeshire face structural disadvantages under current banking hub criteria, including population thresholds and reliance on standardised metrics.
- Post Offices play an important role but are not a substitute for full banking services and are themselves under threat.

**Council resolves to:**

1. Call for Government Action

- Write to HM Government, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling for:
  - o A broader definition of banking access beyond “cash access”,
  - o Reform of banking hub criteria to include:
    - Digital exclusion,
    - Rurality and transport limitations,
    - Wider service needs such as advice and business banking,
  - o Stronger regulatory protections to prevent the loss of the last bank branch in a community.

2. Engage with the Banking Sector

- Write to major banks operating in the UK to:
  - o Highlight the cumulative impact of closures in East Cambridgeshire,
  - o Request consideration of:
    - Shared banking facilities,
    - Mobile banking services,
    - Increased outreach and community banker provision.

3. Tackle Digital Exclusion Locally

- Expand council and partner initiatives to:
  - o Improve digital skills and confidence,
  - o Increase access to devices and connectivity,
  - o Provide assisted digital support through council facilities such as libraries and community hubs.

4. Support Residents, Local Businesses and Charities

- Work with local business groups to:
  - o Assess the economic impact of closures,
  - o Identify specific banking needs of SMEs.
- Work with local charities to:
  - o Identify specific banking needs of charities,
- Provide clear guidance to residents on available services, including Post Office provision, while acknowledging their limitations.

5. Monitor and Report

- Request a report to Full Council within 6 months setting out:

- o Progress on engagement with Government and banks,
- o Opportunities for banking hubs or alternative provision,
- o Further recommendations to improve financial inclusion.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Inskip

Seconded: Cllr Christine Colbert

**c) Fair access to employment for care-experienced and disabled applicants**

**Council notes that:**

1. Employment is one of the most important routes to independence, dignity and opportunity.
2. Care-experienced people often face significant barriers in education, employment and wider life chances as a result of the disadvantage that can arise from time spent in care.
3. Disabled people also continue to face barriers in recruitment and employment, despite the skills, experience and value they bring to the workplace.
4. A guaranteed interview scheme is a practical and proportionate way to reduce unfair barriers at the first stage of recruitment, while maintaining proper standards.
5. Such a scheme does not guarantee a job offer; it guarantees an interview where an applicant meets the essential criteria for the role.
6. As a local authority, East Cambridgeshire District Council should seek to be a fair, inclusive and exemplary employer.

**Council believes that:**

1. Recruitment should be fair, open and based on merit.
2. Fairness does not mean pretending that everyone starts from the same position; it means recognising structural disadvantage and ensuring people are not unfairly excluded.
3. A guaranteed interview scheme for care-experienced applicants and disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria for a post is a reasonable and achievable step that supports equality of opportunity without lowering standards.
4. East Cambridgeshire District Council should lead by example in promoting inclusive employment practices across the district.

**Council resolves to:**

1. Introduce a Guaranteed Interview Scheme for:
  - o applicants who declare themselves to be disabled, and
  - o applicants who declare themselves to be care-experienced.
2. Ask officers to prepare a report for member consideration, setting out:
  - o how such a scheme would operate in practice
  - o the proposed definition of care experienced for recruitment purposes
  - o how applicants would be able to declare disability or care experience confidentially
  - o how the Council would ensure that applicants must still meet the essential criteria for the role
  - o any relevant legal, equality, HR and administrative implications
3. That, once developed, the scheme be clearly published on the Council's website, recruitment materials and job advertisements.
4. Encourage the Council also to consider wider steps to support the recruitment, retention and progression of disabled and care-experienced employees.

Proposer: Cllr Charlotte Cane MP

Secunder: Cllr Alison Whelan

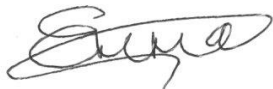
10. To answer questions from Members (If any) [oral]
11. Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders Page 33
12. Political Proportionality Page 35
13. Membership of Committees and Sub-Committees (including Substitutes) 2026/27 Page 39
14. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for all Committees and Sub-Committees 2026/27: [oral]
- Finance and Assets Committee
  - Operational Services Committee
  - Audit Committee
  - Licensing Committee
  - Planning Committee
  - Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee
  - F&A (Ethical Governance) Sub-Committee
  - Licensing Sub-Committee (Statutory)
  - Licensing Sub-Committee (Non-Statutory)
15. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority:
- (a) Appointments to Combined Authority To Follow
  - (b) Update report – February & March 2026 Page 43

### **Exclusion of the Public, including representatives of the Press**

That the Press and Public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining items 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 items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Categories 1 and 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

### **16. SECTION 113 BUSINESS CASES - FRAUD SERVICES ANGLIA REVENUES PARTNERSHIP (ARP)**

**E GRIMA**  
**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 will be available. Further details are available at <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/node/1406>. 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 ask members of the public to bring their own drinks if required.

Fire instructions for the meeting: Instructions in 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. 16 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 Categories 3 & 4 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."

