

Date of Publication of Decision List: 20 July 2026

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

Council – 16 July 2026 – Decision List

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public	Two public questions were received and responded to as detailed at the end of the Decision List.	-
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	To receive apologies for absence from Members	Apologies were received from Cllr Chika Akinwale, Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann, Cllr Mark Inskip, Cllr John Trapp and Cllr Mary Wade.	-
3.	-	Declarations of Interest	To receive Declarations of Interest from councillors	No Declarations of Interest were made.	-
4.	-	Minutes – 21 May 2026	To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 21 May 2026	It was resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2026 and the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2026 be agreed as a correct record.	Democratic Services
5.	-	Chair's Announcements	Announcement of items of interest	The Chair expressed her disappointment with the Government's announcement to delay making a decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as so much time and effort had been spent compiling the different options. The Council would continue to work with the six other local authorities in the county, whilst further information was awaited from the Government.	-
6.	-	Petitions	To receive and petitions	There were no petitions for Council to receive.	-
7.	-	Notice of Motions under Procedure Rule 10	The following Motions were received and considered:		Director Community

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
			Social and Affordable Housing	This Motion was unanimously carried.	
8.	-	To answer questions from Members.	To receive questions from Members of Council.	No questions were received.	-
9.	AB48	Schedule of Items Recommended from Committees and Other Member Bodies	To consider a recommendation from the Finance and Assets Committee to approve the Annual Review of the Council's Treasury operations during 2025/26	It was resolved: That the contents of the Annual Review of the Council's Treasury operations during 2025/26, including the prudential and treasury indicators, as set out in the Annual Treasury Management Review (Appendix 1), be approved.	Director Finance
10.	AB47	Corporate Plan	To consider the updated Action Plan 2026/27 to support the implementation of the 2023-27 Corporate Plan.	It was resolved: That Council (a) Approved the updated Action Plan for 2026/27 at Appendix 1; and (b) Noted the completed actions and progress made during 2025/26.	Chief Executive
11.	AB49	Local Government Reorganisation – Establishment of Voluntary Joint Committee	To consider, before the publication of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structural Changes Order (SCO), a proposal to establish voluntary Joint Committees with the Councils in	It was resolved: To defer this matter to a future meeting of Council.	Director Operations

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
			Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to oversee transitional and implementation activity ahead of vesting day for the new Shadow Authorities. These committees will then become the statutory Joint Committee for the new unitary.		
12.	-	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Update Report	To receive the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority update report.	It was resolved: To note the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority update reports for the month of June.	Democratic Services and Elections Manager

1. Public Question Time

Question received from Fiona Wynn, Biodiversity Lead, Sustainable East Cambs and Surrounding Areas

SSECAM (Sustainable South-East Cambridgeshire and surrounding areas) is aware of public concern around chemical spraying by the Council's trading company ECTC, including apparently unnecessary spraying around litter bins, walls, signs and benches in public open spaces which could easily be controlled by means of strimming or hand tools rather than the use of chemicals. A herbicide-free approach can have significant benefits, including: Biodiversity protection, supporting pollinators such as Bees & Butterflies; Improved soil and water quality, preventing chemical runoff into local waterways; Health and safety improvements, reducing public exposure to chemical herbicides.

Could the Council please confirm:

What policy it has in respect of plant spraying, and where such a policy can be found by the public?

1. If there is no such formal policy, do you commit to preparing and publishing one no later than the end of 2026?
2. What precise chemical spray do you use, and on what criteria has it been chosen (for example, cost, safety, environmental harm)?

3. Whether it commits to reviewing the spraying around bins, signs and benches to determine whether it is strictly necessary to do so or whether alternative chemical free methods would be more appropriate in such locations? and
4. Whether it commits to consider discontinuing the use of herbicides across all council owned sites, including parks, pathways, car parks and housing areas, in the same way that Cambridge City Council and many cities and countries have already done.

Many thanks for your time and consideration towards becoming a chemical free Council.

Response from the Leader, Cllr Anna Bailey

"I want to provide some reassurance around the approach on the use of chemicals. In general, we do aim to keep areas safe, tidy and accessible, whilst balancing environmental considerations and the needs of the community. Herbicide weed control, where used, is applied in a targeted way, rather than blanket treatment and it's typically focused on areas where weeds could create maintenance or access issues, for example around street furniture or hard surfaces and fence lines. We are mindful of around concerns regarding the use of herbicides and we always look to minimise their use wherever practicable. Where treatments are necessary, approved products are used in accordance with guidance and application is carried out by trained staff. At present, glyphosate is the chemical that is used and the UK regulatory body known as CRD (Chemicals Regulation Directorate), which is a division of the HSE, has always been pro glyphosate. Our pesticide policy reflects our current practise, and we continue to keep this under review to ensure that we strike a balance that we strive to achieve and the Council is of course committed to improving bio-diversity within our parks and open spaces, for example planting trees, improving hedgerows and sowing wildflowers."

Question received from Mark Grooms, Chair of Ely Wildspace

Ely Wildspace (EWS) is increasingly concerned about the lack of clear direction from East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) regarding the current management and future development of Ely Country Park, including its proposed extension. EWS has played a leading role in shaping the Country Park since its inception and our concerns relate specifically to the "*country*" and biodiversity aspects of the site, rather than the urban-park elements such as the play area and the developing maze.

We are particularly worried that some areas designated as Country Park may be considered for private development. In addition, land purchased by ECDC from the Environment Agency approximately three years ago does not appear to have been registered with the Land Registry. There also seems to be uncertainty regarding the precise boundary of the Country Park.

As part of the accreditation process with Natural England, two essential criteria for Country Park status are clearly stated:

- **Defined boundary** – the site must have a clear, mapped boundary, whether open or fenced.
- **Public influence** – local people must have meaningful input into the management and development of the site.

In light of these requirements, we ask the Council to establish a **joint Ely Country Park Management Group**, including representatives from the public, Ely Wildspace, landowners, and other interested parties. This group would help ensure that the Country Park - and any future extensions - continues to be developed for the benefit of wildlife, the people of Ely, and the wider

area. Does the council support a joint Management Group of this type being formed, and if so can you please outline how the council will take this forward?

Given the forthcoming changes associated with local government reorganisation (LGR), we request that this group be formed within the next six weeks so that it can contribute to the LGR process in a timely and constructive manner.

Response from the Leader, Cllr Anna Bailey

“I won’t go into LGR as we will be talking about this later. I am proud about what we have achieved at the Country Park in Ely, obviously this endeavour did not happen alone, and I want to thank all those involved. It has been a long-term project and continues to be so. I am sure that they will continue to be involved in maintaining open space to be available to residents and visitors to Ely. The Country Park has once again been awarded green flag status, that is the eleventh time this has been achieved. It is a coveted status, and it is awarded to parks and open spaces that are free and open to everyone to enjoy, whilst meeting strict standards, offering excellent visitor facilities. The Country Park does in fact have a defined boundary and there are five entranceway notice boards, which provide a clear map of the Country Park area. The boards are located at the five key entranceways into the park, to give the area a clearly defined identity and let landowners, residents and visitors know when they are within the Country Park boundary. QR codes have recently been added to the Country Park signs which do direct visitors to safety information and a map on the Council’s website. The timing of receiving the land for the Country Park extension is currently unknown, however we are very much committed to working with a range of stakeholders to make sure that this land is used to benefit residents and visitors in Ely and no doubt there will be a range of offers from the landowners and the people working on it, including nature and biodiversity aspects. Development in the Country Park has been carried out in a phased approach so that proposals can be influenced through consultation with users and local interest groups. The Council carries out consultation throughout the year, seeking the views of the site users ensuring that the development is shaped by the community. The Council has consulted with the community, including the local schools, groups, local access groups and site users to ensure that all needs are taken into consideration so that Ely Country Park continues to provide a high-quality visitor experience. We have delivered a number of phased improvements, which have been informed by community feedback, and we are now working on installing a butterfly mound, which will enrich the biodiversity at the Country Park. The Council does have a management plan for the Country Park, and this was developed in partnership with the Wildlife Trust. So, I don’t believe that it is necessary to create a formal management group. We maintain our commitment to have continuous engagement with all interested parties, as I have outlined and the Council of course welcomes views from all organisations and individuals who wish to improve the experience of residents and visitors to the Country Park and we have demonstrated that working together with a wider range of stakeholders has enabled us to keep delivering improvements.”

7. Notice of Motion

a) Social and Affordable Housing

This Council believes that all residents living in social and affordable housing deserve safe, responsive and high quality housing services, regardless of their landlord.

Council recognises the important role played by housing associations and community land trusts in meeting local housing need across East Cambridgeshire, values strong partnership working with these organisations, and acknowledges the positive contribution made by community led housing groups across the district.

32 registered providers own housing in East Cambridgeshire representing 6,524 homes, both general needs and supported living. Sanctuary Housing is by far the biggest provider, owning 4,260 (65%) of these homes, representing around 10% of the entire housing stock in the district. The next largest provider is CHS (Cambridge Housing Society) Group with 554 homes. Flagship Housing owns 231 homes, Clarion 208, Accent Group 137 with remaining other smaller providers owning around 100 homes or less.

Council is concerned that inconsistent service levels experienced by some housing association tenants may disproportionately affect older and vulnerable residents and recognises the importance of ensuring that all tenants are able to access responsive services and have their voices heard. Whilst the larger providers are subject to regulatory judgement this does not provide sufficient transparency or granularity about performance at a local level.

Council resolves, with the aim of improving transparency, accountability and outcomes for tenants across the district, to:

1. Request Officers to work with housing associations above an agreed stock threshold within the district to establish a simple six-monthly performance reporting framework covering key housing management and maintenance measures.
2. Refer this reporting to the Operational Services Committee for regular review, enabling Councillors to monitor trends, identify good practice and understand where improvement may be required.
3. Invite representatives of housing associations to attend meetings with the Council to discuss performance, challenges and improvement activity where appropriate.
4. Request Officers to explore options to strengthen tenant engagement and improve understanding of tenant experience, particularly amongst vulnerable residents and those less likely to raise concerns directly.
5. Commit to continued collaboration with housing providers, with the aim to increase East Cambridgeshire's social housing capacity.

Proposer: Cllr Lee Denney
Seconded: Cllr Anna Bailey