

District Councillors' Report to Madingley Parish Council, March 2026

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Local Government Reorganisation - consultation reminder

Until Thursday 26 March 2026, the government is consulting on four different options for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which have been developed by different councils across the region. We encourage you to have your say either via the government's consultation portal online or the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) website.

We understand that you have just received guidance from CAPALC concerning LGR and the actions you should be taking. We'd be happy to discuss with you and identify some near term actions.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan update

The recent consultation on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan generated more than 4,500 comments. The Local Plan is for the region's future - ensuring new homes, jobs and supporting facilities can come forwards sustainably while protecting the region's environment, character and quality of life. A huge amount of effort has already gone into the Local Plan which incorporates most, if not all, of the government's ambitions for growth. It will take some time to digest the comments received from the consultation, but this marks another important step in the life of the next Local Plan.

Do we need a DevCo?

As part of its plans for growth and development in Greater Cambridgeshire, the government is proposing a development corporation (DevCo), a centrally led urban development corporation for GreaterCambridge which is likely to be operating for 25 years or more. These Development Corporations are designed for Urban regeneration so this is different. Usually they cover the area needing regeneration but in our case it covers the whole of Greater Cambridge. The website and consultation link can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yfsuu3z9>. We hope you will look at the website and have your say.

We believe that a DevCo should concentrate on fixing the strategic infrastructure problems (e.g. water supply, waste-water treatment, transport networks) that we have in our district. No doubt the DevCo will be tasked with doing this but, as you will see on the website, the government also lists "powers related to planning" as part of the remit. It is therefore very possible that the responsibility for planning in Greater Cambridge will be removed from the local authority, its elected members and an award-winning planning authority and vested with the DevCo. It could mean local people lose control over the scale and pace of development and its consequences.

Full Council meeting: budgets and business plans

SCDC's full council met recently and approved its business plan and budget for the coming financial year. SCDC is one of the best run councils in the country and is often held up as an exemplar. It continues to deliver high quality services in the face of sustained cuts by central government, including recent reductions to the amount of Business Rates that local authorities can retain. A £5.24 per year increase in Council Tax for the average Band D home was agreed, which is a below inflation rise. It means the average Band D charge for South Cambridgeshire District Council will be £180.64 per year from 1 April. Even with this increase, the Council will remain one of the lowest charging district councils in the country.

Mobile Warden schemes

SCDC has pledged ongoing funding for Community/Mobile Warden Schemes, which provide crucial support for older, disabled and vulnerable residents - ensuring they can live safely and independently in their own homes. The schemes form part of the Council's work to promote healthy and supported communities.

Civil Parking Enforcement survey 2026

You should have received an invitation to take part in a survey on Civil parking Enforcement. This will give you the opportunity to say if you feel the introduction of this operation two years ago has improved the situation in Madingley. We do not have the link for the PC survey but the Clerk will have a copy. We encourage you to respond because it's likely your replies (or a lack of them) will be referenced in any future requests for enforcement action.

Expanded funding for Service Support Grants

Alongside environmental action, the Council plans to significantly strengthen its support for the voluntary and community sector. [A total of £900,000 over three years](#) - £300,000 per year - has been made available through the Service Support Grants programme, offering long-term funding agreements for groups delivering community support and development services across the district.

An additional £49,650 is also available for the years ahead to support services that help prevent and relieve homelessness. This investment supports a wide range of activity including mental health and wellbeing services, advice provision, independent living support, cost-of-living assistance and community projects.

Saving Water, Saving Money

SCDC has partnered with Control Flow Technologies to help council tenants reduce water use and lower their bills, at no cost to tenants. For some households, this could mean savings of up to £360 a year. Using funding from MHCLG, SCDC is arranging free water audits for tenants with water meters and will be fitting water-saving devices where appropriate. We are also exploring opportunities to use this funding for further water-saving measures in our offices, as well as projects in Cambridge City and across the county. The water audit involves three short visits:

- Visit 1: An engineer will take a meter reading, provide water-saving advice, and discuss current usage.
- Visit 2: The engineer will install a water-saving device on the incoming water mains (a 30–45 minute appointment). They will also check for hidden leaks in toilets, taps, or showers and carry out minor repairs where possible.
- Visit 3: To measure water usage

Tenants will be contacted directly with information on how to book their water audit. For further information, please contact Zoe Cox – Housing Systems & Innovations Team Leader. Email: zoe.cox@scambs.gov.uk

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme: Easter 2026

A reminder from Cambridgeshire County Council that children in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals are eligible for a fully funded place at participating holiday schemes for up to 16 hours. This arrangement will be in place for the upcoming Easter school holidays. In addition, recently arrived refugee families and families experiencing financial hardship are also eligible. Further information – including how to book - can be found here:

- [Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)
- [HAF Provider Directory | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Make a Difference Awards 2026

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire is once again celebrating the incredible individuals, groups and animals who make our communities better places to live. Nominations are now open for their Make a Difference Awards 2026. Do you know someone who deserves recognition? Perhaps a hard-working volunteer, supportive community group, young hero, great neighbour or just someone who quietly goes above and beyond. If you work with or alongside who has truly made a difference, this is a fantastic opportunity to highlight their contribution. You can submit your nomination at www.bbc.co.uk/makeadifference/awards

Nominations close 5pm on Tuesday 31st March 2026. The awards ceremony will take place in September.

Cambridgeshire County Council's EV Cable trial

Electric Vehicle cable channels will help people who do not have a driveway to charge their EV at home. The EV charging cable will go inside a small channel in the pavement, so it is enclosed safely while the vehicle is charging. As this is a new proposal, a controlled trial is needed to test the product and processes involved. The trial which will launch at the end of March/early April. For information visit: [On-street electric vehicle cable channel \(EVCC\) trial | Cambridgeshire County Council](#).

Planning permission may be required for the installation of the EV chargepoint on the property as permitted development rights do not cover some properties without off-road parking. Local Planning teams will likely receive enquiries from members of the public regarding applying for planning permission for an EV chargepoint.

*Corinne Garvie,
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15th March 2026*