

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2025

OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (24 MARCH)

1. Mark expressed concerns that the council's company East Cambs Street Scene was drawing up draft terms of its contract with the council, rather than the council identifying specifications for the company to consider.
 2. The committee heard that there was no evidence that fly-tipping had increased following the decision of the County Council to regulate the number of visits to its recycling centres.
 3. The committee has agreed to write to the Probation Service asking it to attend the quarterly meetings of the local Community Safety Partnership.
 4. Mark asked what the council was doing to meet its target for the number of families in bed and breakfast accommodation. The response was that the council is discussing with one of its providers the possibility of providing self-contained accommodation for families with special needs to reduce the number of families in bed and breakfast.
 5. The committee unanimously agreed a *Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy*. Demand is increasing, with a rise in the number of homeless young people with serious mental health conditions since the pandemic.
 6. The council has updated its Housing Adaptations & Repairs Policy, including raising the limit for adaptations from £10,000 to £15,000.
 7. Mark asked about litter picking on those A roads in the district that are not the responsibility of the Highways Authority. The council says it is working with its contractor to improve this service.
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FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE (27 MARCH)

1. The committee approved the Business Plan for the council's other wholly-owned company East Cambs Trading Company.
 2. The committee also agreed to approve the transfers or, where relevant, extend the leases of The Maltings, Maltings Cottage, and Oliver Cromwell House to City of Ely Council. We are told this is with the intention of removing these premises from the District Council's assets in advance of local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
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COMBINED AUTHORITY HOUSING SCRUTINY

The Combined Authority's Overview & Scrutiny Committee has received a report on governance of the Combined Authority's housing programme under the previous Mayor. Issues considered include potential whistleblowing allegations not being investigated in a timely manner, proper records of decisions not being kept, Mayoral decisions not being published, variations to previously agreed

conditions not being highlighted, paperwork not being retained, and questions remaining about decisions to remove or vary profit-share agreements.

WASTE COLLECTION CHANGES

A project team has been set up and meets monthly in preparation for the national changes to waste collection which will come into effect in 2026. The team has been focussed on the procurement of vehicles and bins and developing the communications plan. A specialist is assisting in the design of new collection rounds as moving to weekly food waste and implementing wheeled bins for general refuse requires more detailed work on our rounds.

The order for bins and vehicles has been placed, and a delivery slot secured. The new service will start on Monday 1 June 2026, rather than 1 April 2026. This will ensure full delivery of equipment and allow for much smoother implementation by avoiding the May bank holidays.

RESERVOIRS

The council is paying Eastern Powerhouse* £20,000 to scope a project to create a network of reservoirs on agricultural land across East Cambridgeshire. It has also set aside £1M of developer contributions towards the costs of construction.

*Eastern Powerhouse is chaired by Conservative former Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and ECDC Council Leader James Palmer.

BY-ELECTION

A by-election will take place on Thursday 1 May, on the same day as the Mayoral and County Council elections, for the Stretham ward of the District Council following the resignation through ill-health of Cllr Caroline Shepherd.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

We will be at Joy Bistro, 65 High Street, Sutton on Monday 12 May and Monday 2 June at 6:30-7:30PM. Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email, Facebook, or phone.

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District Councillors for the Sutton ward
(Mepal, Sutton, Wentworth, and Witcham)