

District Councillor report to Parish Council April 2025

Pre-Election Period Commences

A reminder that the pre-election period has now started, leading up to the County Council and Combined Authority Mayor elections in May.

The pre-election period refers to the time just before elections when certain restrictions are placed on communication activities. This period, often referred to as one of 'increased sensitivity,' begins on Tuesday, 25 March 2025, and ends when the polls close at 10 pm on Thursday, 1 May 2025.

Local Government Reorganisation questions

The Council has recently launched an FAQ-style webpage aimed at addressing some of the most common questions they anticipate from residents regarding local government reorganisation. You can access the page on the new website and they will continue to update the page with additional questions and answers over the coming weeks and months.

Website: [Local Government Reorganisation - South Cambs District Council](#)

The Councils new website

The new website officially has launched and hopes to offer residents a more convenient way to access personalised, local information quickly. Those who have already been exploring the site over the past few weeks will have experienced the benefits, such as receiving real-time updates on bin collection dates for their street, local street cleaning schedules, nearby planning applications, District Councillor contact details, and local events—all by simply entering their postcode on the new homepage.

The redesigned site features a modern, user-friendly interface optimised for both desktop and mobile devices, making it easier for residents to find important information and services at any time. Additional improvements include:

- **Simplified Navigation:** A clear, intuitive layout that helps users easily find essential services.
- **Enhanced User Experience:** The content on the site has been rewritten to allow residents to quickly self-serve, reducing the need for in-person visits or phone calls to the Council. They've also introduced SAM (Service AI Assistant Module), an AI chatbot available 24/7 to assist with resident inquiries.
- **Accessibility Features:** The site has been designed to meet web accessibility standards, ensuring all members of the community can access information easily.

Our website: [Home - South Cambs District Council](#)

Warm Homes Funding

The Council are pleased to announce that they have received several million pounds in funding from the Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero through the National Warm Homes programme. The Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund will allocate up to £1.29 billion to 144 projects across England, while the Warm Homes: Local Grant will distribute £500 million to 73 projects across 270 local authorities over the next three years. The Council's share of this funding is £8.2 million as part of the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund. This fund is designed to help social housing providers improve the insulation, energy efficiency, and heating systems of social homes. It will support efforts to retrofit homes, reduce fuel poverty for residents, cut carbon emissions, and contribute to achieving net zero by 2050. Additionally, this funding will help expand the housing retrofit sector.

*Thank you for taking the time to read my report; if you have any questions or want to discuss any of the issues raised email me on graham.cone@councillor.online or ring 07595 361 285 (please leave a voicemail if I am unavailable) **Councillor Graham Cone***