

Revised South Cambridgeshire District Council Business Plan

The council approved a revised business plan in February. The four main priorities for the Council remain in place:



Other priorities include:

- A new Mobile Warden scheme, to help keep older people living independently in their homes for longer;
- support for the Homes for Ukraine scheme – to help guests who have arrived within the past year to move into more independent living arrangements;
- Continued efforts to reduce fly-tipping at hotspots through use of cameras, and prompt investigation of reports of rubbish being dumped;
- Working with Cambridgeshire County Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership, to introduce Civil Parking Enforcement in South Cambridgeshire;

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**Business support targets** include:

- The promotion of local businesses with tailored support packages;
- Increased support for start-ups and small businesses, including providing space for them at the Council's Cambourne office;
- Providing advice to help businesses become greener.
- helping establish and support local markets across South Cambridgeshire.

In-line with the Council's **Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Strategies**, there are plans to:

- Work with Cambridge City Council, the water industry, and others to help address water scarcity in Greater Cambridge.
- Distribute up to £125,000 as part of the Council's annual Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme – see *below*.
- Grants to villages for more tree-planting.
- Award up to £50,000 in grants to help with the installation of electric vehicle charging points at village halls and community buildings;
- Replace diesel bin lorries as they come to the end of their working lives with low-emission vehicles, or those powered by alternative fuels such as biofuel.

#### **Zero Carbon Grant Scheme re-opens:**

The scheme is intended to encourage exciting community projects that reduce carbon emissions and engage local people about climate change.

The closing date for applications is Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and community groups in the district are invited to bid. Groups in South Cambridgeshire can apply for between £1,000 to £15,000 from the District Council. The process has been simplified to aid applicants, with applications invited under two categories:

- 1. projects which reduce carbon emissions or lock up carbon in a measurable way such as low carbon, energy saving improvements to community buildings, or tree-planting initiatives, and
- 2. community engagement projects which support and encourage lower carbon living.

#### **Medium term financial strategy**

The estimated funding gap between expected resources and expenditure in the period to 2027/2028 stands at just under £4 million. £2 million in possible savings have been identified to date in the first two years of the period.

#### **Council Tax 2023/24:**

The District Council element of Council Tax for 2023/2024 has been set at £11.13million, based on an increase in the District element of the Council Tax of £5 per annum, giving an average Band D Council Tax of £165.31, in addition to the precepts of the Parish Councils, Cambridgeshire County Council,

*Will Jackson-Wood and Peter Fane, District councillors for Shelford ward.*

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Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Combined Authority and the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority.

#### **Council housing target:**

The target for new council houses over the next two years is to be raised to 75 homes per year. SCDC met its target of doubling the number of new homes delivered from 35 to 70 in 2021-22. The District Council now owns about 5,600 Council homes.

New funding of £1.7 million has been secured from Central government to go towards energy efficiency upgrades within these homes. Measures such as exterior wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, new windows and doors, draft proofing and in some cases heat pumps and solar panel installation can be provided, which could save tenants up to £400 a year on energy bills.

#### **Four-day working week trial:**

The three-month trial concluded at the end of March, and will be subject to an objective assessment by Bennett Institute for Public Policy at Cambridge University before any decision is taken on its possible extension.

#### **Planning decisions for Shelford ward:**

The SCDC planning committee in February approved the “reserved matters” on the Rangeford retirement care village and associated country park. Peter Fane withdrew from the committee for that item and spoke as local member, urging the developers to give further consideration to the changes recommended by the design panel and to improve links for walkers and cyclists, both to the village and to the car park at Magog Trust. The decision will be issued as soon as technical details on the “section 106” financial contribution to the country park have been resolved.

#### **GCP proposed Cambridge South-East Transport (CSET) busway:**

Peter Fane and Will Jackson-Wood have continued to urge GCP to reconsider their proposal for a new busway to be built across some of the finest countryside in the Cambridge green belt, pointing out that the bus lanes along the A1307 could be completed at a much lower cost with much less environmental damage, and together with a spur road around the Addenbrookes / CBC estate, could deliver largely the same benefits at much better value for money. These arguments are likely to be heard at a public inquiry. Peter spoke at the GCP board meeting to argue that both of the proposed routes across the new retirement care village would be incompatible with the report of the Inspector who approved the original outline consent.

**Note:** Peter Fane chairs the Council’s planning committee and is vice-chair of the Council, Will Jackson-Wood chairs the Employment and Staffing committee.

*Will Jackson-Wood and Peter Fane, District councillors for Shelford ward.*