

Cllr Luis Navarro

County Councillor for Over, Northstowe, Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick

Monthly Report – November 2025

FULL COUNCIL

Council Composition

Recent changes in group leadership have reshaped the council's composition:

- Liberal Democrat & Independent Group: 33 seats
- Conservatives: 10
- Reform UK: 9
- Labour: 5
- Greens: 3
- Independent: 1

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Full Council has voted to submit **Option A** to Government. Other districts are submitting different options, with some internal opposition. The process appears to be centrally driven, with limited weight given to local views.

Summary of LGR Options:

- **Option A (North-West/South-East)**
 - *Unitary 1*: Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, Fenland
 - *Unitary 2*: Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire
 - **Option B (North/South)**
 - *Unitary 1*: Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire
 - *Unitary 2*: Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire
 - **Option C (East/West)**
 - *Unitary 1*: Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland
 - *Unitary 2*: Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire
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STRATEGY, RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Budget & Business Plan

Financial pressures persist, especially in social care, transport, and learning disability services.

Have your say on budget priorities via the **Your Voice Cambridgeshire** survey (open until 24 November).

ADULTS & HEALTH

Arthur Rank Hospice

Facing a funding shortfall of £829,000, the hospice risks losing 40% of its beds. A petition is being submitted to Government to safeguard end-of-life care.

Be Winter Wise Campaign

The council's winter campaign offers guidance and support for staying safe and warm, including help with energy costs and food vouchers.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Special Schools Delayed

Government delays in building new special schools are increasing costs for the council.

EHCPs

An additional £780,000 has been allocated to improve the timeliness of Education Health & Care Plans.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Community Watercourse Maintenance Grants

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) is offering grants of up to £10,000 to support community-led watercourse maintenance that help reduce local flood risk. These grants are aimed at areas where ownership is unclear or complex, making regular upkeep difficult. Eligible groups include parish councils and community groups with active plans to improve water flow and prevent flooding. Grant funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and will remain open until all the money has gone.

Applications should be made as early as possible to avoid disappointment. [Follow this link to learn how to apply.](#)

Flood Resilience Campaign

The council launched a campaign to improve flood preparedness. More info: Flood Prepare

Fens 2100+ Project

Engage with the vital **Fens 2100+** a major initiative led by the Environment Agency to develop a long-term investment strategy for flood and coastal resilience across the UK Fens. With 96.5% of the Fens area used for agriculture and 10% of the UK's water managed through it, this project is crucial for long-term sustainability.

EV Charging at St Ives Park & Ride

Nine solar-powered EV chargers are now available, generating renewable energy revenue to support council services.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Following up on:

- Gatehouse Road speed reduction
- Right Bend sign on Girton Road
- Westwick Gullies

Cycle Route: Longstanton to Bar Hill

Work continues on the new cycle route linking Longstanton to Bar Hill, offering a safer and more sustainable travel option for local residents. Once complete, it will significantly enhance connectivity between communities. Residents of Over will be able to access Bar Hill via Station Road, the guided Busway service road and the Northstowe cycle network that leads to this new facility. This creates a continuous, accessible route that supports active travel and reduces reliance on cars.

Busway Works & Fencing

Speed restrictions are being introduced on the guided busway for safety. The fencing is mandated by the Health and Safety Executive following a court ruling against the County Council. I'm advocating for designs that avoid overly imposing barriers.

Please do let me know if there are any further requests for access or works that may be necessary along our section of the Busway, particularly in areas that are susceptible to flooding.

Other Transport Updates

- LED street light replacements continue across the county.
- A new hierarchy for Public Rights of Way prioritises routes used by schoolchildren.
- The council is reviewing excessive roadworks signage to reduce visual clutter.