

Cllr Luis Navarro

Monthly Report - June 2025

County Council Annual Meeting

The County Council held its annual meeting on Tuesday 20 May. Lucy Nethsingha was re-elected as Leader of the Council, and I am now Vice-Chair for Adults & Health.

The meeting appointed Chairs and Vice Chairs of its committees, and representatives to some of its major partners. I am now Chair of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board, member of the Audits & Accounts Committee and appointed as the Council representative to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

Cllr Nethsingha highlighted the 'extraordinary challenges' of the rising number of older people needing social care and of children with special needs and disabilities. She said the new Liberal Democrat administration will "make sure our council continues to be more caring, better connected and that Cambridgeshire continues to be a wonderful environment for all to thrive."

Adults & Health

Pressures ahead for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)

NHS England has published a 'draft blueprint' for the future model of ICBs, which plan, fund, and commission NHS services locally. Spending per head will be cut to £18.76 (from a range of £49 to just under £21). Plans to meet this target were due by 30 May. ICBs must also halve their running costs by October 2025 and reduce duplication. No impact assessment was conducted before this decision.

Children & Young People

Schools Funding

The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum reported that 37 maintained schools ended 2024/25 in deficit (up from 31). Common causes include:

- Falling pupil numbers
 - Unsustainable staffing structures
 - Increased staffing costs
 - Additional classes due to infant class size legislation
 - Rising SEND-related costs
 - Ofsted and the CQC rated Cambridgeshire's SEND provision with the middle of three possible outcomes. Strengths included a clear strategy and strong partnerships.
- Recommendations:

1. Improve EHCP timeliness and quality
2. Shorten waits for mental health and neurodevelopmental services
3. Increase co-production with SEND youth
4. Improve support for transitions to adulthood
5. Better communication of the local offer

The council has invested £500,000 and approved a further £920,000 annually.
Read the full report <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50276860>

COSMIC – Libraries & Ancestry

Cambridgeshire Libraries offer free access to Ancestry at all 33 branches. Use your library card to explore historical documents and the 1921 census.

Environment & Green Investment

Disposable Vapes Ban

From 1 June, selling or supplying disposable vapes is illegal. The ban aims to reduce environmental harm and youth vaping. Offenders face a £200 fine or up to two years in prison. Trading Standards can seize illegal vapes.

Battery Charging Safety

Six fires this year have been linked to overcharged lithium-ion batteries. The fire service urges safe charging practices.

Highways & Transport

T12 Tiger Route Launch

The new T1 bus route launched from Huntingdon to Cambridge (Drummer St) Longstanton Park & Ride. It runs every 45 minutes.

More info <https://bustimes.org/services/t1-huntingdon-cambridge>

Roadworks & Closures

- Oakington Road/Rampton Road: these are the dates and road accessibility during this time:
 - 2nd June to 5th July: 24 hour 3-way lights to South-West corner of the roundabout between Oakington Road and Rampton Road. Pedestrian and Cycleway access maintained.
 - 8th July to 22d July: 24 hour 3-way lights to South-East corner of the roundabout between Oakington Road and Rampton Road. Pedestrian and Cycleway access maintained.
 - 23rd July to 12th September: Full road closure to allow workforce to complete full lane reconstruction. Pedestrian and Cycleway access maintained.
 - 15th September to 17th October: 24 hour 3-way lights to North and Southeast side of roundabout between Oakington Road and Rampton Road. Pedestrian and Cycleway access maintained.
- Mepal Bridge: Maintenance delayed to August due to other roadworks.
- The America Road: Repairs on 5–6 June under traffic lights.
- Surface Dressing: Postponed; Main Street Coveney and Pools Road Wilburton to be treated in a second phase.
- Gravel End to Downham Hythe Footpath: Work paused due to possible water vole activity; monitoring ongoing.
- A1307 Maintenance: Ongoing; 40MPH limits expected to lift by summer's end.