

District Councillors' report to Parish Councils June 2025

The only meeting was the following:

Annual Council meeting

This is the meeting at which the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Council and Committees are elected.

For the Chair of Council, the voting was 14 for the Conservative candidate and 14 for the Liberal Democrat & Independent candidate. The outgoing Chair used his casting vote to elect the Conservative Kelli Pettit.

In all subsequent appointments for the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, and for the committees, the voting was fourteen-all, and each time the Conservative Chair used her casting vote in favour of the Conservative candidate.

A motion to the Government to include local opinion in planning was put forward and passed unanimously.

The extra funding required for the building of the Mepal Crematorium was debated, and despite strong arguments against the spending of an extra £4m on this project, bringing the total sum to £13m, this was passed, again with the casting vote of the Chair.

Seminar on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Councillors were presented with the work so far done on LGR; three options had been selected as being the most sensible from the six that were first proposed. Three unitary authorities in Cambs and Peterborough would be too small under the Government guidelines, and that proposal too was eliminated. The three options are:

1. Peterborough City, Huntingdon and Fenland DCs form one unitary, and Cambridge City with South Cambs and East Cambs DCs form another unitary; *East-West*
2. Peterborough City, Huntingdon, East Cambs and Fenland DCs form one unitary, and Cambridge City with South Cambs DC form another unitary; *horseshoe*
3. Peterborough City, East Cambs and Fenland DCs form one unitary, and Cambridge City with South Cambs and Huntingdon DCs form another unitary; *North-South*

Options 1 and 3 would be about equal in terms of population, whereas Option 2 would be unbalanced in terms of population, but might be acceptable soon since the area surrounding Cambridge is deemed to increase rapidly in size.

Parishes will be consulted as to their preference, once more detail is provided.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp