

Cllr Lorna Dupré

MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2025

ELECTIONS AND COUNTY COUNCIL COMPOSITION

The elections in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on Thursday 1 May have resulted in changes of political control at both Mayoral and County Council level.

Conservative Paul Bristow gained the Mayoralty, following four years of Labour under Mayor Nik Johnson. The results were as follows:

Candidate	Cambridge City	East Cambs	Fenland	Huntingdon	Peterborough City	South Cambs	Total area
Paul Bristow (Conservative)	5,042	5,733	8,302	13,797	15,769	11,600	60,243 elected
Ryan Coogan (Reform UK)	3,122	5,924	9,246	13,376	9,221	8,758	49,647
Lorna Dupre (Liberal Democrat)	6,340	7,473	2,050	9,024	2,907	13,817	41,611
Bob Ensich (Green Party)	5,332	1,528	1,063	3,206	2,649	4,477	18,255
Anna Smith (Labour)	13,382	2,863	2,176	6,694	7,629	9,927	42,671

Four of the five candidates won at least one of the six districts, showing how fractured opinion in this country has become. The winner received the votes of 28 per cent of those who voted—and 9.3 per cent of the electorate as a whole.

Meanwhile the Liberal Democrats won a majority of seats on the County Council. The composition of the council following the 1 May elections is as follows:

Liberal Democrat	31
Conservative	10
Reform UK	10
Labour	5
Green	3
Independent	2

Politicians at every level of government will be adjusting to the new dynamic.

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Quality of Life survey

The County Council's third annual countywide Quality of Life survey has launched this month, and will help the council understand and track residents' views across Cambridgeshire.

Initially launched in 2023, the annual survey tracks the responses over time so local feedback not only gives councillors and decision makers vital insight when they make business planning decisions, but also means the council can see how changes to decisions and policies—and the work of other public sector bodies in the county—affect people's views across Cambridgeshire.

The online and telephone-based survey seeks the feedback of 5,500 residents and is being run in partnership with Cambridge Ahead, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, and South Cambridgeshire District Council. The twenty-minute online and telephone survey is run by an independent market research company, Thinks Insight. The company aims to speak to 1,100 people over the age of 18 living in each of the five Cambridgeshire district areas.

The survey asks residents about their views on topics such as life and community, transport, health and wellbeing, children and young people, and the council and its services. In previous years, the survey has shown that most residents feel happy, safe and have a sense of belonging, with residents believing that Cambridgeshire is a good place to raise children. However, it has also highlighted that roads and pavement maintenance, the cost of living, and mental health and loneliness are areas of concern.

The information gathered from previous surveys has already been used to inform the council's Business Plan and Budget processes. This year there are two questions to help introduce the concept of Local Government Reorganisation to residents and provide an early indication of awareness.

Even if you are not one of the 1,100 people in your district contacted by the market research company, you can still take part. The survey is available at **www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey** until Monday, 21 July. The responses will then be collated and published to councillors and the public in the autumn. The results will help inform council meetings and priorities for the years ahead.

If you are approached, the market research team's commissioned service 'Team Search' will identify themselves as working on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council and will give contact details which allow people to check their purpose. No one will be asked for identifying personal details, or any financial information.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

School places

94.5 per cent of Cambridgeshire applicants will be going to their first preference primary school this September—above the national proportion of 93.2 per cent from 2024. This is marginally down from the 95.9 per cent who were offered their preferred choice in Cambridgeshire last year.

The proportion offered a place at their first, second, or third choice school has also slightly fallen—from 99.1 per cent last year to 98.9 per cent this year. Just over one per cent of pupils (76 children in total) have been allocated places at other schools, outside of their expressed preferences, the second lowest number in the last four years.

This year saw a slight increase in the total number of applications for a primary school place—from 6,418 in 2024 to 6,457 this year. Parents applying for primary school places for this September should have received offers by Wednesday 16 April. As always, the council advises parents to include their child's local catchment school in their application.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Carbon literacy accreditation

Cambridgeshire County Council has been re-accredited as a Bronze 'Carbon Literate Organisation', highlighting the organisation's dedication towards tackling climate change, working towards a zero-carbon future, and reducing its organisational carbon emissions.

The Carbon Literacy accreditation is a nationally recognised scheme which helps organisations reach their carbon targets and is defined as 'an awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis', and involves learning and action on climate change.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

A142 Mepal bridge closure

The closure of Mepal bridge for four consecutive weekends will now not start on the weekend beginning 9 May as previously advertised. The works have been postponed, probably for four weeks. New closure dates are yet to be advised.

Highway repairs on The America

Following the recent major works on Chain Causeway between Sutton and Earith Bridge, further works are being ordered to bring a noisy gully at the bottom of The America up to surface level and eliminate the noise.

Whilst there, the contractor will address the dropped kerbs by raising the adjacent strip of the footway slightly. These works will likely be completed under traffic lights for two days.

Chevrons on Chain Causeway

Following a comment from a resident, I have heard back from the project manager about the chevrons which used to mark the first bend on Chain Causeway from the Earith end. These were no longer in place by the time the recent reconstruction works started. This has been passed to the Local Highways Officer, as it would now fall under routine maintenance.

The project manager has undertaken to remind designers to consider sign replacements outside of the scope of works on significant schemes such as this to avoid this issue occurring in future.

Emergency access from A142 at Pemberton Park Witchford

I have been continuing to support Witchford Parish Council in making representations to the developers, highways department and planners about the open emergency access road from Honey Close near the children's play area straight on to the A142. It's a calamity waiting to happen.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Sutton surgery

Cllr Mark Inskip and I hold our monthly councillor surgery at Joy Bistro 65 High Street Sutton. Forthcoming dates are Monday 12 May and Monday 2 June, 18:30-19:30.

Or catch me on ...

- Tuesday 13 May, 10:00, The Glebe Sutton (Timebank coffee morning)
- Wednesday 21 May, 10:00, St Andrew's Hall (Witchford coffee morning)
- Wednesday 21 May, 14:00, Little Downham Village Hall (book café)
- Friday 30 May, 12:00-13:00, Scott Court Sutton (Nellie's community café)

The above dates may change at short notice subject to late changes to my diary.

I can also be contacted ...

- by email at lorna@lornadupre.org.uk
- on Facebook
- by phone on 07930 337596

Cllr Lorna Dupré

County Councillor for the Sutton division