

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

### **Godmanchester, Hemingford Abbots and The Offords Ward**

Councillors Debbie Mickelburgh, Brett Mickelburgh and Sarah Conboy

June 2026

#### **Council Governance**

Following the District Council elections in May, Huntingdonshire District Council held its Annual General Meeting on 21 May 2026. The meeting appointed the Executive Leader, Cabinet, Committee Chairs and Committee Memberships for the municipal year ahead. The Joint Administration comprising Liberal Democrat, Independent and Green councillors continues to lead the authority.

#### **Local Plan Update**

The Local Plan Update remains one of the most significant pieces of work currently underway at Huntingdonshire District Council. The next major milestone is publication of the Proposed Submission Local Plan for consultation in September 2026.

This consultation will represent the final opportunity for residents, businesses, developers, parish councils and statutory consultees to comment on the version of the Local Plan that will be submitted for independent examination.

The timetable has moved slightly from earlier expectations of a summer consultation. This allows additional time to complete consultation analysis, finalise evidence and consider any implications arising from Local Government Reorganisation announcements expected during the summer.

The Council continues to work towards submission of the Local Plan before 31 December 2026. This deadline is important because Government transitional arrangements currently allow councils progressing plans under the existing planning system to continue under those arrangements provided submission occurs before the end of December. Maintaining progress also helps strengthen the Council's position in planning decisions and reduces the risk of long-term reliance on the national presumption in favour of sustainable development.

#### **Useful Links**

Local Plan Update:

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-update/>

Evidence Library:

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-update/evidence-library-for-local-plan-update/>

#### **Planning Reform**

The Government is expected to publish further planning reforms and updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) during 2026.

One of the most significant proposals is a National Scheme of Delegation which would establish a more consistent national approach to determining which planning applications are decided by officers and which are considered by Planning Committees. Whilst the final arrangements have not yet been published, the direction of travel suggests that a greater proportion of routine planning applications may be determined under delegated authority.

## **Local Government Reorganisation**

Local Government Reorganisation remains one of the most significant issues facing councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Government consultation has concluded and councils are awaiting a ministerial decision. Huntingdonshire District Council supported Option E, which would establish Huntingdonshire as a standalone unitary authority alongside separate authorities covering Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, and Peterborough, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.

Whilst no formal announcement date has been published, councils are currently expecting further information during July.

Useful Link

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-democracy/meetings-and-decision-making/local-government-reorganisation/>

## **Tempsford New Town**

Councillors may also wish to be aware that proposals for a new settlement at Tempsford continue to evolve as part of the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor.

Whilst the proposed location is currently outside Huntingdonshire, future local government boundaries have not yet been determined and the area could ultimately form part of a future Huntingdonshire authority. Regardless of governance arrangements, a development of this scale is likely to have implications for transport, infrastructure, employment and public services across the wider region.

## **Economic Growth**

Huntingdonshire District Council continues to promote the Huntingdonshire Defence Cluster and Project FAIRFAX as significant opportunities for economic growth, investment and job creation linked to the defence, intelligence and technology sectors.

Given the strategic importance of RAF Wyton and Huntingdonshire's position within the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor, this remains a key area of focus for the Council.

## **Watching District Council Meetings**

Residents and councillors can watch many District Council meetings live, or view recordings, via the Council's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@HuntingdonshireDC/streams>

## **Further Information**

HDC News:

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/>

Let's Talk Huntingdonshire:

<https://letstalkhuntingdonshire.net/>

HDC Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Huntingdonshire/>

We will continue to keep Parish and Town Councils informed as these matters progress.