

## **Parish Report November 2017**

*Mark Howell: Cambridgeshire County Councillor for Bourn, Greater Cambourne, Little Gransden, Longstowe, Lower Cambourne and Upper Cambourne*

### **Councillors vote to reshape Children's Centres services for Cambridgeshire**

Plans to focus funding on increased outreach services for children and families in Cambridgeshire, by reducing spend on building maintenance, have been given the go ahead after a full and wide ranging debate by Cambridgeshire County Councillors, with strong views shared on both sides.

Councillors at today's (17 October) Full Council meeting voted 31 to 22, to support proposals, which look to transform Children's Centre services from next April, creating a more flexible, targeted and responsive service delivered from 27 buildings supported by increased outreach services.

The decision followed a debate on the response to a ten week consultation from 2280 people - the largest response to a Cambridgeshire County Council consultation and one of the largest for a Children's Centre consultation across the Country. Having reviewed the consultation responses, the plans now include more outreach services sited in areas across the County, including the southern part of Cambridge City. This change will see £100,000 of a planned £1m saving re-invested in the service.

Following the change £4.3m will continue to be spent on the new Child and Family Centre services, complementing Early Help services of the council, which have an additional budget of £7.2 million.

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Simon Bywater, Chairman of the Children's Committee, said: "We have listened carefully to what people have been saying during the consultation and I want to reassure people we will continue to listen as we begin to implement these proposals. I recognise that feelings have run high during this debate, but I now call on all Councillors, partners and communities to come together to help take these plans forward so we can fulfill the ambition of creating a service for more families to get the right help, at the right time and in the right place.

"Today's decision means we remain heavily committed to early intervention for families, something we believe is essential. The new service is intended to be embedded alongside our district early help teams, health and other community services providing a flexible, targeted and responsive service in order to meet the needs of a rapidly changing and growing County."

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Overall, respondents to the consultation supported the key ambitions of the proposals - that funding should be directed towards those most in need, that services should be co-located with partners such as health wherever possible, and that the services should be widened to support families with children aged 0 -19. The changes to the proposals which followed consultation include:

- Investing an extra £100,000 back into outreach services across the County, including the southern parts of Cambridge after feedback identified potential gaps in provision, not included in the initial proposals.
- Resolving issues at Caldecote Children's Centre to ensure wrap-around childcare is protected alongside identifying capacity for additional childcare provision

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Samantha Hoy, Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee, added: "Children's Centre Services across the county are changing to help them meet the needs of our most vulnerable families, who remain our top priority. Our plans are very much in line with those of other counties who, like us, also have reducing budgets for a whole range of services where demand continues to grow. The Council is sending a strong message to Government that the long-term underfunding of large rural counties like ours cannot continue as part of our fairdeal4Cams campaign."

### **Work begins to identify targeted services aimed at children's needs in Cambridgeshire.**

Cambridgeshire Children's Centre are to benefit from funding targeted to support more families - following last week's council decision to refocus the services to areas of highest need.

After Full Council reviewed the results of the council's consultation –the largest response ever to a Cambridgeshire County Council consultation - an originally planned £1m saving was reduced to £900k.

Of this additional £100k, £65,995 is going back into the pot for front line delivery which equates to 7% of the total £900k saving that will be delivered from these proposals.

The additional re investment, of more than £34k, which completes the £100k, will be used for management and business support, building and infrastructure costs of Children's Centre service.

Work continues with communities to shape where this reinvestment will be made but initial plans allow for

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- the creation of 10 extra apprenticeship positions, providing further services on the front line
- more flexible use of existing staff within a new outreach approach.
- more targeted support aimed at vulnerable families particularly in the north of the county.

"Over the coming weeks and months we will be able to firm up the ideas of how this re investment will be used – but currently our emphasis is working with communities to see what they need and where our more flexible approach will pay dividends" said Simon Bywater, Chairman of the Children's and Young People's committee.

A short film based on the Broadleas Children Centre in St Ives showing a possible blue print for this new service can be viewed here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1D8MccBNnd0>

## **County-wide project to support young people affected by Domestic Abuse**

POLICE and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite is today (5<sup>th</sup> October) announcing the details of a multi-agency project to support young people who experience domestic abuse or sexual violence.

The announcement comes as Ofsted calls for greater awareness of how these issues affect children's wellbeing.

The 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Prevention and Intervention Project' has been funded through a successful partnership bid by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire County Council for £400,000 from the Home Office's VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls) Transformation Fund.

The project will tackle the adverse childhood experiences of young victims of domestic and sexual abuse through community-based counselling services. It will also support young people showing low-level perpetration type behaviour, as a result of what they have witnessed or experienced.

The project is delivered by national charity Embrace-Child Victims of Crime (CVOC), and Ormiston Families in partnership with a range of different organisations and charities.

All counselling services provided by the project will be entirely voluntary and confidential and referrals can be made by contacting Embrace CVOC on **0845 60 999 60** or visit the website: [www.embracecvoc.org.uk](http://www.embracecvoc.org.uk).

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Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite said

"I am extremely pleased that we have been able to bring in additional resources to support the most vulnerable residents of our county.

"By providing a local, joined-up response, we can make sure the right support is provided at the right time, as well as intervening early to prevent these crimes from happening in the first place."

Anne Campbell, Chief Executive, Embrace CVOC added:

"Working in Cambridgeshire for the last two years has enabled us to extend and upscale our counselling services to more young victims of domestic abuse. Experience tells us that if we are able to offer early support to young people who have witnessed abuse, we can help them look forward to more positive futures. "

Marc James, Service Manager at Ormiston Families said:

"This funding will make a real difference to children and young people affected by domestic violence. The partnership will enable us to help young people have positive futures by reducing anxiety or depression, increasing feelings of self-worth, and improving mental health and self-esteem."

Sarah Ferguson, Assistant Director for Housing, Communities and Youth for Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council said:

"We are delighted to support this initiative to promote recovery in younger people at the earliest possible time. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Prevention and Intervention Project is illustrative of how partnership working across a range of agencies can address gaps in provision, and improve outcomes for those impacted by domestic abuse."

This is one of 41 projects across England and Wales receiving a share of nearly £17m in government funding to help prevent violence against women and girls and provide support for victims.

### **Rogue trader sentenced**

Jazz Beach, 28 of Meldreth, Cambridgeshire was sentenced to 26 weeks in prison suspended for 18 months last Thursday (5 October) at Cambridge Magistrates Court.

After a trial at Cambridge Magistrates Court on 27 September, Beach was found guilty of two offences, the theft of £10,000 and one charge under the

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Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations following a joint investigation by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Trading Standards. He failed to show a public liability insurance certificate, provide receipts of materials purchased and complete work in accordance with the schedule agreed. Beach requested payment for materials when those materials were not used in the construction and used bricks that were not consistent with the agreed plans without the consumer's approval.

Beach, as JB Builders, promised to build an extension to the victims' home and landscape their garden for £43,000 in 2016. The project was due to be completed in 10 weeks as the victim needed the extension built prior to knee surgery and Beach assured them it would be done. He demanded money throughout the work which was completed slowly. More money was paid before work stopped and he failed to pay this back.

During the trial the court heard how on each occasion the money was transferred it was taken out of the account in cash a few days later. Beach claimed he gave the money back but evidence showed this was a lie. At sentencing, the magistrates took into account the compelling victims statement and the amount of distress it had caused them. Beach was also ordered to complete 200 hours unpaid work, 10 days of rehabilitation activity, pay £10,000 of compensation and £600 costs.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Head of Trading Standards Peter Gell said: "In this case it was immediately recognised Beach failed to supply important documents to the victims. This restricted the consumer's freedom of choice to decide on which builder to employ.

"This case has had a distressing impact on the victims, they needed the extension built prior to knee surgery which meant they couldn't get proper access in and out of their home, had to put their dogs in kennels and give up part of their life earned pension money to re-do the work.

"We will continue to work with our partners to keep the people of Cambridgeshire safe and we won't tolerate this type of rogue trading in our county."

### **Gritter Fleet**

With winter approaching Cambridgeshire County Council's 37 strong gritter fleet and crews will be making sure it is ready with a trial run next week (Tuesday 24 October).

The salt domes and barns have already been filled with 10300 tonnes of rock salt ready for the winter season.

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It is vital that the crews carry out a trial run to make sure the drivers re-familiarise themselves with the routes and any alterations and to make sure there are no problems.

All the vehicles will be on the roads from 7pm, including the quad bikes in Cambridge on the cycle routes. Although they will be travelling slowly and with warning lights no grit will be spread.

Last year crews went out 43 times and many of them were up through the night or early hours of the morning to make sure roads are treated.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Chair of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Mathew Shuter said "Our gritter crews do a fantastic job in all weathers and even leave their families in the middle of Christmas to make sure our roads are gritted. As we edge closer to winter we want to make sure our crews are ready to go at a moment's notice. These trial runs are really important as they allow the drivers to train for the routes they'll be keeping clear over the next six months and provide any feedback. So please don't be surprised if you see one out and about – it just means that once we have done the trial we'll be ready for when the cold weather bites."

## **Ely Museum unveils long lost pre-historic treasure found in Cambridgeshire**

On Saturday 7 October Ely Museum will reveal the latest edition to its permanent collection in the form of one of the largest gold torcs that have been found in Britain - discovered in East Cambridgeshire.

The anonymous finder reported the item to Cambridgeshire County Council's Coroner Service, which is required by law. Finds like this fall under the Treasure Act of 1996.

The significant find, which is also one of the longest ever discovered, was handed to the Council's Archaeology Officer who sent it to the British Museum to be looked at by experts.

It was found to originate from the Middle Bronze Age before the Iron Age and Roman eras. Traditionally, they were known to be worn as a symbol of high status. The East Cambridgeshire Torc as it is now known weighs 732grams, making it one of the heaviest of its type.

An inquest was held last summer where it was decided that the Torc was an official item of treasure and Ely Museum worked to raise the £220,000 that the item was valued at, to present as a reward to the finder and owner of the land.

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Cllr Ian Bates Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council Economy and Environment committee said, "We are delighted to see this treasure find handed over to the Ely Museum where it will be available for all of the public to see. It's fascinating that something of this significant has been discovered in our county, it opens up doors to many possibilities of what this item could have been used for by our Bronze Age ancestors."

Ely Museum has been successful in raising the £220,000 through the generosity of the Art Fund and National Heritage Memorial Fund and many private donations. The finder and landowner have now received their rewards.

The East Cambridgeshire Torc will be available for public viewing from This Saturday (7 October) where there will also be a range of crafts and activities for all the family to enjoy.

### **Have your say on residents' parking plans**

Cambridge residents are being asked to have their say on a number of potential new parking schemes in their local area from this week (23 October).

Consultations are focussed on four areas in the city as a priority in-line with the Council's Parking Policy which was agreed in March 2017 and are part of the Greater Cambridge Partnership's plans to reduce congestion in Cambridge.

Informal discussions with residents and councillors have already taken place and demonstrated support for a scheme which gives local residents priority over parking within their area. The needs of local businesses and community facilities are also taken into account. Residents' Parking Schemes enable those who regularly find it difficult to park within a reasonable distance of their home to find a space.

The four areas are Accordia, Staffordshire, Coleridge (West) and Newham. If schemes are supported by the majority of respondents then the consultation will progress to the next stage which is a statutory consultation.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Chair of the Highways and Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Mathew Shuter said "We've listened to requests from local residents and councillors for schemes to help them after regularly experiencing parking problems. The feedback we now hope to receive will help us to understand the level of support for the proposed schemes. We realise that this could affect other road users, not just residents so we welcome the views of everyone."

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Everyone has a chance to have their say and the consultations close on 4 December 2017. Visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/resident-parking-scheme-consultation](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/resident-parking-scheme-consultation) for more information.

Proposals are currently being put forward for revised parking fees, up to date information can be viewed on the Council's website. The Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board will fund the implementation costs associated with this scheme.

### **Half-term Guided Busway repairs planned**

Work to repair the crossing points on the Busway within the Orchard Park area in Cambridge will take place over half-term.

The busway will be closed from midnight on Friday, 20 October until 6pm on Sunday 29 October while the repairs at Icen Way, Chariot Way, Chieftain Way and Graham Road are carried out.

The Orchard Park East and West stops in both directions will be closed between these dates and closure signs have been placed at these stops.

Other maintenance work will also be carried out in this area including white lining, hedge cutting and replacing bollards.

The maintenance track will remain open to pedestrians and cyclists all week.

All buses will still be running with the A, C, R, N, D and universal services unaffected. The B service will stop on the Citi 8 bus stop on Cambridge Road in-bound and outbound. All other stops remain unchanged.

### **Fireworks haul seized after an inspection by Trading Standards officials**

Officers from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Trading Standards Service carried out a visit on Wednesday (October 18) and seized around £2,000-worth of fireworks from a property in Fenland that were illegally stored.

The fireworks, which were being sold via a social media site, were being stored in a van which officers found to be an inappropriate and potentially dangerous container to store explosives.

Fireworks should always be stored securely to stop unauthorised access, away from material that could easily burn or catch fire.

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People who sell fireworks must make sure they are registered and stored safely. Failure to do so can result in a fine or imprisonment and the courts can order that the fireworks are not returned and destroyed.

Frank Pasfield, of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Trading Standards Service, said: "We take this issue very seriously and this case should serve as a warning to anyone who is selling fireworks, especially on the lead up to Bonfire Night, to ensure they are stored in the correct container. We want people to enjoy 5 November and events to go with a bang for the right reasons, but it's important that fireworks are stored properly for everyone's safety."

Anyone wishing to sell fireworks at this time of year needs to make sure they are fully registered with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Trading Standards Service.

### **Family feedback leads to improvements in Children's Centre proposals**

Feedback from families has led to further improvements in the proposals to redesign Children's Centres across the County that will be debated by Cambridgeshire County Council on 17 October.

2280 people responded to the consultation on proposals published in July, making it the largest response to a Cambridgeshire County Council consultation and one of the largest for a Children's Centre consultation across the Country.

The council remains heavily committed to early intervention for families, believing it is essential for families to get the right help at the right time and in the right place. The new service is intended to be embedded alongside the Cambridgeshire County Council's district early help teams, Health and other community services providing a flexible, targeted and responsive service in order to meet the needs of a rapidly changing County.

Having reviewed the consultation responses, it is being proposed that more outreach services should be sited in areas across the County, including the southern part of Cambridge City. This change will see £100,000 re-invested in the service. This means reducing the proposed savings from £1 million to £900,000.

If these savings are achieved following a decision at full council, the budget for the new Child and Family Centre services will be more than £4.3million and sit alongside the Early Help services of the council, which has an additional budget of £7.2 million.

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The proposals, which will be debated and discussed in Full Council on 17 October, set out ambitious changes for Children's Centres to create a flexible, targeted and responsive service, meeting the needs of local families, with more money going into frontline work.

Overall, respondents to the survey were favourable to the key ambitions of the survey, with more than 72 per cent supporting or strongly supporting the need for Children's Centres to widen the age range they cater for, from expectant parents to 19 year olds. 75 per cent of respondents thought that having health services in the same place as Child and Family services as 'very important' or 'good to have'. In addition, the majority of people responding backed the need for Children's Centre Services to target those families that most needed support.

After listening to feedback from the public and partners, the recommendations to Council include:

- Investing an extra £100,000 into outreach services across the County, including the southern parts of Cambridge after feedback identified potential gaps in provision, not included in the initial proposals.
- Resolving issues at Caldecote Children's Centre to ensure wrap-around childcare is protected alongside identifying capacity for additional childcare provision
- A flexible, targeted and focused service that can adapt to a rapidly changing county: including a network of 27 buildings (Child and Family Centres and Zones), in places where they are most required; a substantial outreach service to take provision closer to rural communities; and a comprehensive online offer so that families can access vital information online. The new service design builds in flexibility to enable it to be responsive to the changing demands of a growing population into the future
- Investing more money in frontline services and reducing spending on existing Children's Centre buildings, which have been in place for many years, but not necessarily in areas of highest population or greatest need. This will include finding new uses for buildings that have lower level of use or poor accessibility issues in relation to space, flexible opening hours or location suitability.
- Moving towards a new 'Child and Family Centre Offer', which will support vulnerable families with children from expectant mothers, to babies and toddlers, right through to young adults. This offer will also including accessing support from health colleagues like midwives, health visitors and speech therapists.

As part of the debate at Full Council, Councillors will receive a 3000 strong petition. Councillors will also hear from members of the public who have

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requested to speak. To view the papers go to Cambridgeshire County Council website - [County Council meeting 17/10/2017](#)

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Simon Bywater, Chairman of the Children's Committee, said: "We believe in these plans and we think they can improve Children's Centre Services, especially those who really need them. We have listened to local people as part of this consultation and this is why we are proposing to invest a further £100,000 in our outreach services so we have a flexible, targeted and responsive service. It's great to see people backing our overall ambitions, but we also recognise at a district level that local people have concerns regarding what might be happening locally to them. Part of this may be that it is hard for some to see what the new service will look like when it is not tied to a building, but I would like to reassure those who use these services that we will be looking at all the suggestions to see what we can do. There are strong views on both sides, so it is important to me to make sure we have a full debate about the future of these services at full council and that democracy takes place."

### **Plans to relocate Ely Registration Office get the green light**

County Councillors on the Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee have agreed to relocate the Ely Registration Office in their last committee meeting.

The Registration office will be moved to the new Cambridgeshire Archives Centre in Ely, which is due to open in 2019.

The move will increase the availability of public appointments with the Registration Service to five days per week. The current service in Market Street, Ely, only offers appointments three days a week.

The new location will offer great transport links, with Ely Train Station being nearby. The site will also offer onsite parking, disabled parking and the ability to drop off wedding parties directly outside the building, which is not possible at the current location.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Cllr Mathew Shuter, said: "The move of the Registration Office to the Cambridgeshire Archives Centre will offer the public a more accessible location. The centre will provide opportunities for the public to come and explore Cambridgeshire's rich history, and create some of their own through registering their key milestones."

This move is subject to a planning permission application, which is due to be made in the next few months.

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## **Don't delay on having your NHS Health Check – it can really change your life**

Having a free NHS Health Check was a wakeup call for Wayne Linsdell, who was "shocked" to find out how much weight he put on after giving up smoking.

The 41-year-old put on four stone after kicking the habit in 2013 and replacing cigarettes with daily coffees and sweet treats.

He was "shocked" to find out how much he weighed when he went for his NHS Health Check at his GP surgery in Parson Drove, after receiving a letter in the post.

An NHS Health Check is designed to spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia and gives people the opportunity to take steps earlier to help lower the risk of developing one of these conditions such as weight control and exercise.

Mr Linsdell, who lives in Guyhirn near Wisbech, would drink up to four lattes a day with full-fat milk and ate unhealthy food on the go in his work as a stonemason.

After meeting a Health Trainer at Everyone Health's ChangePoint Lifestyle Service, Mr Linsdell could not believe how much fat and sugar was in his diet - which included portions of fried food and cheese - and he decided to take action.

"When I turned 40 I had an NHS Health Check which shocked me into realising how big I had become," he said. "When the Health Trainer explained how many extra calories and additional fat I was having in just the lattes I was totally shocked. I then reduced these to one a day and started looking at labels on sandwiches and crisps which I had at dinnertime. I started eating fewer takeaways and if I did have one I would go for a healthier option like grilled chicken".

Ahead of World Stroke Day on Sunday, October 29, health experts are encouraging people aged 40-74 years to book in for a free NHS Health Check at their local GP surgery and help detect potential problems before they do real damage.

The short 20-30 minute check on blood pressure, weight, cholesterol and the lifestyle factors that influence your health help to determine how likely you are to get heart disease, kidney disease and diabetes or have a stroke in the future. Those aged over 65 are also told about the signs and symptoms of

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dementia as part of the Health Check, which is funded by the County Council's Health Budget.

If you're aged between 40-74 and do not currently have a long-term health condition you should have an NHS Health Check every five years. For Mr Linsdell, his NHS Health Check proved invaluable and spurred him on to lose more than two stone in weight by changing his diet and lifestyle. He is now able to wear a pair of shorts on holiday and will "look good in a suit" at his wedding in October next year.

"I feel healthier and lighter," he added. "I find it much easier to get in and out of the banger cars when I am racing. I would encourage everyone to have their NHS Health Check, it can really change your life."

Between April 2016 and March 2017, 18,000 NHS Health Checks were delivered across Cambridgeshire - 3,000 more than the previous year.

Val Thomas, Consultant in Public Health at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "Mr Linsdell did the right thing in having an NHS Health Check. People who have an unhealthy weight are at greater risk of a range of serious health conditions, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke and certain cancers. NHS Health Checks is a great free service that can make a real difference to people's health. However, we still need more people to sign up and take action to reduce their risk of developing potentially avoidable diseases. World Stroke Day is a great motivation to give ourselves an extra push to improve our health."

If you're aged 40-74 years, call or visit your GP now to get your Free NHS Health Check.

If you cannot find time for your FREE NHS Health check at your GP Surgery, Book it with Everyone Health's Changepoint Lifestyle Service today at a clinic near you on 0333 005 0093 or [changepointcambs@everyonehealth.co.uk](mailto:changepointcambs@everyonehealth.co.uk).

NHS Health Checks are funded by Cambridgeshire County as part of its Public Health role but the Programmes delivery is involves close working with the NHS.

Changepoint is a friendly and impartial service that offers free help and support for any healthy change you want to make in your life. This could be for things like getting your family fitter, doing some regular exercise, dealing with stress, kicking a habit, or simply improving your general wellbeing. Delivered by Everyone Health, funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, and supported by other partners, Changepoint is helping to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities.

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## **Budget proposals for Public Health set for committee debate**

Councillors are set to discuss proposals for the Council's Public Health budget next week, which will outline the continuing transformation of the service.

The plans propose how the Council will invest in key Public Health Services, making sure the people of Cambridgeshire get the best possible value from every pound spent.

Cambridgeshire County Council has successfully delivered £215 million of savings over the last six years, while still providing good quality services. However, over the next five years, the Council faces a further £100 million pressure on budgets. The County Council's Public Health budget comes from a ring fenced grant from Central Government currently worth nearly £27 million. However, from 2017/18 to 2019/20 the grant is expected to reduce by approximately £0.7 million per year.

Delivery of £31 million of savings in 2017/18 is on track, and the Council is now working on plans to deliver further savings in 2018/19. Taken together the Council goes in to its budget planning round this Autumn with a £37.5 million gap between the money it receives from the Government, from council tax, business rates and the income it makes – and the amount it needs to spend on services. Councillors will be discussing a set of proposals at their service committees to help bridge this funding gap.

These principles include:

- Investing in our services to transform them, delivering better outcomes and constrained demand
- Transforming the way we work – making improvements to how we manage our business, our people and our money
- Better managing the contracts we have with suppliers and external providers
- Developing new and deeper partnerships – bringing benefits for all
- Only considering reducing services as a last resort

The transformation programme for Public Health Services will follow these key themes:

Improving engagement with communities to support behaviour changes, which will improve health in the longer term. This includes the transfer earlier this year of the CAMQUIT Stop Smoking Service to Everyone Health, an external provider, who are specialists in engaging with communities around lifestyle changes. This will save approximately £84,000.

Strengthening the role of all three tiers of local government in providing environments and services which support health and wellbeing. An example

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of this is how Cambridgeshire County Council is working with district councils to promote physical activity.

Maximising efficiency through the commissioning and procurement of services, including working in partnership with other organisations where this can improve outcomes or reduce commissioning costs. This includes the tendering for alcohol and drug misuse services, which will create a more integrated approach, which could save approximately £154,000. The budget proposals will be discussed on 19 October at the Health Committee. The agenda and papers can be found [here](#).

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Peter Hudson, Chairman of the Health Committee, said: "These are difficult times for County Councils, but we firmly believe through transformation of services that we can improve people's health outcomes and that remains our top priority. We aim to do this by commissioning services which have a proven track record in delivering results and working with a range of partners in a more integrated way. By doing this we can make efficiency savings, so any effect, if at all, on frontline services will be minimised. I look forward to debating these proposals at the Health Committee on 19 October.

"The Council is also sending a strong message to Government that the long term underfunding of large rural counties cannot continue as part of our fairdeal4Cams campaign."

### **Kingfisher Drive adopted by local highways in Soham**

Key roads within a new development in Soham were adopted by Cambridgeshire County Council on 20 October.

The original construction company for the development went into administration back in 2009 before any agreements were made about the future adoption of the roads.

The Council initiated early discussions with the remaining developers to encourage them to complete the roads and Vine Technical Services who acted on behalf of the developers have played a key role in helping to move things forward.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Leader, Councillor Steve Count said "This is excellent news. This has been a long running issue for the residents and one which I have been closely involved with. Now that the main roads have been adopted the rest of the roads will follow and we'll continue to work with everyone involved so that this can happen as soon as possible for the benefit of all the residents."

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Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Member for Soham North, Councillor Paul Raynes said "I know from talking to Kingfisher Drive residents how much they have wanted to see these roads adopted. I'm very pleased that as the County Council we have been able to work with the remaining developers effectively to finally get the work done. I'm looking forward to the remaining roads being adopted soon."

## **Council leader calls for fairer funding deal for Cambridgeshire in video**

The leader of Cambridgeshire County Council has made an impassioned plea to the Government to put a fairer funding deal for our county at the top of their agenda.

Speaking in a new [video](#), Councillor Steve Count calls on the Government to prioritise correcting the historic "unfair formula" and asking residents to lobby their MPs to make sure this happens.

Ahead of the Autumn Statement, Cambridgeshire County Council has joined forces with County Councils across the UK who suffer greatly from what Cllr Count calls 'a broken formula' to ask our MPs to take a message to government to make changes to Funding Formula plans.

As part of this push, we are asking people to join our [#Fairdeal4Cams Twibbon campaign](#) which calls for fairer funding for council services in Cambridgeshire. Despite this county being the fastest growing in the UK, it ranks third from the bottom out of a total of 27 Shire counties in the funding it gets from government. If Cambridgeshire received even the average level of government funding (RSG) for Counties it would receive an additional £15m to spend on vital frontline services each year.

Cllr Steve Count, Cambridgeshire County Council Leader, said: "The historic fairer funding formula is seriously undermining our ability to deliver services and means we are forced to tax our local residents to make up the difference. At the moment the funding formula has completely diverged from where it used to be, a fair funding formula, this has happened over many years and continues to further diverge from appropriate distribution of resources across the Country today. We want the Government to correct a flaw in the national funding formula and are asking residents to speak to their MPs to ensure they look at this. Please support our Twibbon campaign, together we can make our voices heard."

County Councils are the lowest funded of the upper tier councils receiving an average of £292 per resident less than councils in London and £166 less per

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head than metropolitan boroughs while levels of demand are rising faster in rural areas than those in more urban areas.

"Imagine how much more we'd have to spend in Cambridgeshire if Counties were treated fairly against their urban counterparts", Cllr Count added.

Across the country referrals to children's social care have risen most dramatically in rural councils, whilst they receive half the money urban councils get to deliver these services. It is estimated by the Local Government Association that by 2020 there will be a funding gap in children's services across the country of at least £2 billion.

In Cambridgeshire services have come under substantial pressure in recent years with nearly a 50% (48.8%) increase in the number of Looked after Children (LAC) and a 100% increase in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan in the past four years.

And over the next five years, the number of older residents living in shire counties, such as Cambridgeshire, is set to rise at an annual average of 2 per cent, compared to the national average of 1.8 per cent, we welcome the fact that people live longer and some parts of the our County have the highest rates of people aged 85+ in the UK, however this does potentially place further strain on adult social care services.

However, a fair deal for Cambridgeshire could provide more or enhanced services to support older people, adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs improving the quality of their lives in their own homes and in their local communities. Also additional placements in care and nursing settings for when this is needed.

The current funding formula for education spending which dates back to 2005 has also led to county schools being underfunded for a number of years, with a gap of 47% between the average per pupil funding received by counties and Inner London.

This means a £2,000 gap per pupil, per year according to an unfair formula to spend on Cambridgeshire children compared to some other areas of the country.

We are joining with other county councils to call for a fairer deal for counties. We also want the Government to take into account the additional costs and challenges of providing services in rural areas. For more information see <https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/>

Support our #Fairdeal4Cams campaign by adding a Twibbon to your social media profile. Visit <http://twibbon.com/support/fairdeal4camb-2> where you

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can add it to your profile picture on Twitter or Facebook and a support message will be posted on your behalf.

**Community Fund / Knife Crime – please forward onto others you think may be interested.**

A brief note to inform you that the Home Office has just launched a new Community Fund to support community projects which reduce knife crime and have a positive impact on young people at risk of carrying a knife and committing crime.

The fund is open to voluntary and community sector groups and the Home Office has made £500,000 available in 2017 to 2018. They are inviting bids for funding for projects of up to £20,000 although they will consider bids for greater funding for projects with collaboration between partners. A link to the Gov.Uk website giving further detail and how to apply may be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/knife-crime-community-fund>

Should colleagues have any questions about the Fund or regarding bidding, please direct any communication to the following e-mail address – the same address to which any bids should be sent:  
[Knife.Community.Fund@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Knife.Community.Fund@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

**Cambridgeshire's new Area Champions off to a flying start**

At yesterday's Communities and Partnership meeting (October 26<sup>th</sup>) three of Cambridgeshire County Council's newly appointed area champions fed back on range of work they've been involved with since they were appointed just two months ago.

Highlights from their reports included:

In Cambridge City Cllr Elisa Meschini has held initial meetings with leading officers in community services in the city – looking a joint working with new communities, with children and young people and particularly outreach into schools to develop interest and excitement in good citizenship and becoming more aware of local government- and making links with a wide variety of faith groups.

In Fenland Cllr Steve Tierney has been working to contact each town and parish council in the district, held discussions about issues to do with the rural homelessness issue, working with volunteering organisations and setting up a

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conversational Lithuanian class for English speakers to build better links with Lithuanian residents who now make up around 10% of the population

"This isn't aiming to get people to be fluent, but so that they can have a chat and break down barriers. If it works I want to roll it out to cover other languages." he said.

In East Cambs Cllr Lis Every has also started work on a database of parish councillors willing to act as community ambassadors, has delivered two school assemblies on the subject of diversity and supported work in schools across her district for Faith Week, worked with Rosmini Centre to deliver a Hate Crime and Vulnerability forum for both Littleport and Ely and been investigating a bid for programme of work related activities, eg CVs, mock interviews for disadvantage young people.

"Part of the role of the area champion is to be strategic, connecting partner organisations, identifying priorities and common outcomes," said Steve Criswell, Chairman of the community and partnership committee. "They will work with the willing and build relationships over time. They can also respond to requests from local members – particularly those who are new in role - who ask for some support, advice or encouragement, as well as learn from each other and share good practice

"Their role is not to replace or detract from that of locally elected members" he added. "But as you can see from today's feedback they are providing a huge amount of additional resource over and above their role as a Member representing their own local community.

"We also looked at the Cambridgeshire Local Council Development Plan, in which Town and Parish councils have articulated a desire to improve communications and liaison with County Council. This is a prime example of that improvement."

The establishment of an Area Community Champion within each of the five districts was agreed by Full Council in May, and they were appointed by the Communities and Partnership Committee on August 24th.

The five area champions also include Cllr Adele Costello, appointed to the Huntingdonshire Area Champion role at today's meeting Oct 26 as a replacement for Cllr Wells who has had to stand down because of work commitments, and Cllr Lina Joseph representing South Cambridgeshire area.

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## **Budget proposals for Adult Social Care seek to transform services**

New budget proposals have put the transformation of adult social care at the top of the agenda.

The plans outline how the Council will invest in the long term sustainability of adult social care, making sure the people of Cambridgeshire get the best possible value from every pound spent.

An example of how the Council is innovating within adult social care is showcased in this [video](#) showing the Council's Reablement Service. Residents, staff and a Councillor talk about how the lives of vulnerable adults, who have received care, can be positively changed by helping them regain their independence and quality of life and reduce their need for expensive adult social care.

The forthcoming budget plans fully recognise that, both nationally and locally, adult social care is under great pressure from an ageing population and increased complexity of need. In addition, Cambridgeshire is expecting a greater than average increase in the number of older residents living in the county, potentially placing further strain on adult social care budgets and services.

As well as identifying ways to transform services, Councillors are also fighting for a fairer deal from Government across a range of services, including adult social care and school funding. Shire Counties receive less funding than other types of Local Authorities across a range of services. The campaign, working with other Shire Councils across the country comes at a time when the Government is consulting on a national funding formula.

Delivery of £31m of savings in this financial year is currently on track, but the Council goes in to its budget planning round this autumn with a £37.5 million gap between the money it receives from the government, from council tax, business rates and the income it makes – and the amount it needs to spend on services. Councillors will be discussing a set of proposals at their service committees to help bridge this funding gap, which include:

- Investment in Cambridgeshire County Council services to transform them, delivering better outcomes and reduced demand
- Investment in commercial opportunities which bring in a good financial return to the council
- Transforming the way the Council works – making improvements to how we manage our business, our people and our money
- Better management of the contracts we have with suppliers

In adult social care, savings will be delivered by using innovations that can have a positive impact, helping people to live more independently, such as

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better use of technology, adaptations and equipment in the home and by providing early help. These include:

- The Neighbourhood Cares Scheme - a pilot project where better, more flexible, more responsive support is delivered locally by small teams from within the community and where teams are empowered to use their professional judgement to get things done for people
- Adult Early Help Service, where people can access support and advice at an early stage and can also get easier access to community equipment and assistive technology so they can live independently at home and keep in contact with family and carers. The Council is working closely with the NHS Neighbourhood Teams to enable us to know when someone may need additional support and work in a joined up way
- Improving staff recruitment and retention for key areas of the care system, such as care homes, home care and broadening the number of commissioned services
  
- Using the Better Care Fund to improve how people move through the system by working more closely with partners. This involves funding of over £8 million
- Working with partners on the implementation of the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) to develop community based solutions to avoid hospital admission and enable people to leave hospital in a timely way
- A falls prevention plan to reduce the number of people needing hospital stays and care due to slips, trips and falls
- Better winter planning, including a significant investment in reablement staff numbers, more social workers and more interim beds for people leaving hospital
- Reviewing the Council's Contributions Policy making sure the way in which people contribute to their care is in line with policies in other Local Authorities

The Budget Proposals will be going to the Adults Committee on 12 October and are available at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) on 4 October.

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Anna Bailey, Chairwomen of the Adults Committee, said: "There is real innovation in these plans that identify how we can help improve people's quality of life for longer into old age, as well as serious investment into planning and piloting schemes for the future sustainability of high quality support in the longer term. I also want to reassure people that where they do need more intensive or long term support we will be there for them. I look forward to the debate at the Adults Committee to help shape these proposals further."

All budget ideas to be discussed at committees over the coming month are

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still proposals. In parallel with discussions by Members, Cambridgeshire County Council will also be launching public consultation which will have two stages. Firstly small targeted focus groups will help shape budget proposals as they develop and subsequently a household survey, online survey and talking to members of the public at community events will provide further feedback on ideas and suggestions.

## **New Youth and Community Fund launched by Police Commissioner**

POLICE and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite has announced a new fund to help kick start grass root community projects.

The **Police and Crime Commissioner's Youth and Community Fund** is aimed at projects that help bring community groups together, improving their skills and confidence and empowering local people to have a stronger say about what matters to them.

The Commissioner is particularly interested in projects which help improve engagement between communities and the police, as well as those which help divert young people away from offending. Funding is also available for projects promoting the involvement of young people in policing through active participation.

Grants of up to £1,000 are available to voluntary and community organisations.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite said;

"The success of my previous Youth Fund has already demonstrated how a small amount of money can really get a project off the ground and lead to bigger things.

"I have met some amazing groups of people who, with the right support, are making a huge difference in their communities. This new fund will help even more people, young and old, to make a contribution, whether they are setting up a local sports or activity group, or buying equipment to teach people new skills.

"I encourage you to visit my website to find out about the terms and conditions of the Fund: <http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/police-crime-commissioners-youth-community-fund/>."

A host of diversionary projects have already benefitted from the Commissioner's previous Youth Fund which saw more than £27,000 awarded over 2016/2017. Projects include East Cambridgeshire Youth Consultation

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Panel, who used the money to pay for social media equipment, the Froglife Trust, a project to encourage young people to take part in conservation activities and Right Resolution CIC, a project to help care leavers move into education, training or employment.

This Fund has been created from money raised from the sale of recovered and unclaimed property under the Police Property Act.

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