

Cambridgeshire County Council Report **July 2022**

Cambridgeshire one of the UK's biggest population increases

Cambridgeshire has seen one of the UK's biggest population increases over the past ten years, data just published from the 2021 Census shows.

Overall the number of people living in the county rose by more than 57,000 in the last decade to 678,600. This 9.2% rise is higher than the East of England average, in a national picture which saw the East grow faster than any part of the UK

The figures confirm the County Council's contention that previous Office of National Statistics figures – on which the government bases its grant allocations – under-estimated the size of the county's population.

An accurate gauge of the county's population is more important than ever before, following yesterday's announcement by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up Michael Gove, that later this year local government is to get a two year funding settlement.

Included within the Cambridgeshire Census figures is an overall 26% rise in the number of Cambridgeshire people aged 65+ - against an 18.6% national average rise – with a high percentage increase of people in the 70 to 74 age band in all districts.

And while the more urban areas of the county like Cambridge City have seen population growth across all age ranges, its more rural areas have seen small or no growth in the youngest age groups (0-19) but large increases in older populations.

Last year's census took place in March 2021 and data from the 2021 census for England and Wales will be published in stages over the next two years.

Future releases will include figures on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing. Also, for the first time, there will be information on UK armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Summer Holidays Free School Meals

Enriching experiences and a nutritious lunch are being made available in the summer holidays for the children and young people of families receiving income-related free school meals.

Additionally for the summer Cambridgeshire are funding free access to Ukrainian and other refugee families.

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The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers fun experiences with friends and a nutritious meal for primary and secondary school children in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The sessions will also include a variety of exciting activities or sports and the opportunity to socialise with other children. Any child or young person receiving income-related free school meals is eligible for the programme.

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE), the HAF Programme enables local authorities to coordinate free holiday childcare and enriching experiences locally. The programme will be delivered in Cambridgeshire by over 125 approved providers and is co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Eligible children can attend a holiday scheme free for up to 64 hours over the summer holidays. Further information can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf and [Early Years & Childcare | Peterborough Information Network](#)

As part of the HAF programme, eligible children will be able to access:

- Fun and enriching play opportunities or new experiences that provide children with new skills and knowledge.
- At least one meal a day.
- Guidance on healthy eating and getting children involved in food preparation and cooking.
- Support for parents, carers or other family members with guidance on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food.
- Information and signposting to other services and support which might be helpful.

Both councils are working with local schools, voluntary and community organisations and childcare providers to deliver the HAF programme.

Over 20,000 supermarket vouchers have been sent to families in Cambridgeshire affected by the pandemic and the rising cost of living.

The vouchers were automatically sent to eligible families today (27 May) in time for the May half term next week.

The County Council's Joint Administration agreed to finance the vouchers regardless of Government funding until the February 2023 half term.

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A total of 21,322 vouchers – each valued at £15 for the week - were distributed to eligible children and young people across the county who met agreed criteria.

The voucher does not need to be used in a single shopping trip and once claimed will last for at least a year.

Food delivery robots will soon be taking to the streets of Cambourne

Food delivery robots will soon be taking to the streets of Cambourne as part of a pilot organised between Cambridgeshire County Council and [Starship Technologies](#), the world's leading provider of autonomous delivery services, in partnership with the Co-op.

The exciting tie-up will see 12,000 residents in 5,000 homes benefit from quick deliveries of products from their local Co-op, with customers receiving groceries from a fleet of Starship's autonomous robots which will bring the items to their doorsteps.

The project, beginning on 17 May, is part of the council's wide-ranging environmental agenda as it will help to reduce short car journeys and improve air quality, with an average delivery for a Starship robot consuming as little energy as boiling a kettle to make just one cup of tea.

Starship currently operates a fully commercial service in six countries around the world, including across university campuses in America and in local neighbourhoods here in the UK in Milton Keynes and Northampton.

The company was created by the co-founders of communications system Skype in 2014, and since launching commercial deliveries in 2018 Starship's robots have travelled more than 4 million miles and safely completed more than 3.5 million deliveries to customers. Around the world, the robots are making 140,000 road crossings every day, equivalent to three road crossings every second.

The Cambridgeshire pilot will see residents living in Lower and Upper Cambourne able to order deliveries which are selected fresh locally from the Co-op store at 29 Mosquito Road in Upper Cambourne. A map showing who will be eligible to book deliveries can be viewed on [Google](#). If the project is successful, Starship has signalled its intention to expand further across the county and use more suppliers, which in turn will lead to new jobs being created.

Cllr Mark Howell, member for Cambourne, added: "I'm delighted people living in my ward will now be able to enjoy the convenience of having small food deliveries dropped off at their front door. This will cut down on the number of

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small car journeys and save time. I would like to thank Starship for choosing Cambourne for the trial and I look forward to seeing how it goes."

Andrew Curtis, UK operations manager at Starship Technologies, said: "We are very pleased to be bringing the benefits of on-demand, contactless grocery delivery to residents in Cambourne. In the last few years we have had extremely positive feedback from people using our service regularly in Milton Keynes and Northampton who have embraced the robots as part of their local communities. We're looking forward to working closely with the council in Cambridgeshire and hopefully expanding the scope of this initial project."

Chris Conway, Co-op eCommerce Director, said: "Co-op is committed to exploring new and innovative ways to increase access to its products and services. Our members and customers lead busy lives and ease, speed and convenience is at the heart of our approach. Co-op stores across the country are well placed to serve shoppers locally and a key part of our strategy is to further develop our ecommerce offer by using our store footprint to provide same-day, rapid, home deliveries. As a convenience retailer, the ability to come into stores will always be important to customers, but we also know that shoppers want flexible options online, and so we are focused on providing what our customers want and need, however and wherever they choose to shop with us."

Starship's robots, which are powered by zero carbon electricity, are advanced autonomous devices that can carry items over short distances without needing a driver. Orders are made through the Starship food delivery app, which is available for download on [iOS](#) and [Android](#), with groceries picked fresh in local Co-op stores and delivered quickly and conveniently in as little as one hour or less.

Cambourne residents will be able to choose from a range of grocery items, schedule their delivery, then drop a pin where they want their delivery to be sent. They can watch in real-time via an interactive map as the robot makes its journey to them. Once the robot arrives they receive an alert and can meet and unlock it through the app.

The robots are lightweight and travel at the speed of a pedestrian (no faster than 4mph). They use a combination of sensors, artificial intelligence and machine learning to travel on pavements and navigate around any obstacles, while computer vision-based navigation helps them map their environment to the nearest inch.