South Cambs District Council

Babraham APM: May 2025

Councillor Peter McDonald
District Councillor for Duxford, Ickleton, Hinxton, Babraham, Pampisford

Key Activities & Changes 2025/2026

Key Activities 2025/26

- Homes for Ukraine – over 800 Ukrainians found homes
- Ukrainians can apply for 18 months extension from Feb 25
- £600k for CoL support including warm hubs, slow cookers and The Mobile Food Hubs
- Having doubled the number of new Council homes built from 35 in 2019/20 to 75 in 2025/26
- £500k for homelessness
- £1m to enhance energy efficiency in council 5,600 homes
- £2 million in next 2 years allocated to continue to upgrade existing housing stock, as part of continuing carbon reduction efforts.
- £300k for zero carbon projects eg solar panels on the community Centre
- New scheme LIFT to support lower income residents

- Four-day week- 5 days work in 4 days
  - Voluntary
  - c. 80% of staff participate
- Key Measures:
  - 98% of bins emptied
  - Housing lets & repairs done on time
  - Planning performance improved
  - Staff retention improved
    - Costs c £175k for extra bin crew & lorry lease
    - Savings c.£500k in agency costs
- Net £325k benefit

  - Consultation finishes March 27th
  - Results feedback in the summer

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Financials

2024/25

- SCDC takes c.£175 of the c. £1,700 of Band D Council Tax.
- Council Tax Increased this year by 3.5% or £5 to £175.
  - Correcting a deficit of £500k in 2019/20
  - Councillor expenses 4.5% over 2 yrs in line with staff
  - SCDC still looking to generate 25% of income from investments (to protect Council & residents)
- County C Tax Increased by £76 or 4,99%.

5 yr Business Plan

- South Cambs receives no Government grant.
- Savings planned of £1.5m next few years.
- Work to bring forward community buildings at Northstowe.
- Continued efforts to reduce fly-tipping at hotspots through cameras, and promptly investigating reports of rubbish being dumped.
- A new Mobile Warden scheme, to help keep older people living independently in their homes for longer, for the years ahead
- Some of the proposed business support targets include:
  - The promotion of local businesses, as well tailored support and resources and identifying funding opportunities.
  - Supporting start-ups and small businesses to grow – such as providing space for them at the Council's Cambourne office.
  - Continuing to help establish and support local markets across South Cambridgeshire.

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My Priorities

- 1. Monitor & influence planning projects.
  - Influence the local plan process/call for sites.
  - Monitor the 5 year housing land supply.
  - Work with villages on Wellcome Genome Campus development & housing covenants.
  - Gonville & Caius 800 houses were not included in call for sites.
  - Whittlesford Depot will be re-developed.
- 2. Keep residents up to date
  - Monthly report for every Parish.
  - Facebook & Twitter.
  - Focus leaflets – 10x since Election in 2020/22.
- 3. Carry out effective case work on:
  - Planning
  - Housing
  - Highways
- 4. Represent my villages for grant support- total grants in 2023/24 across the District
  - Community chest - £65k
  - Community led £50k
  - Biodiversity- £10k
  - Zero carbon Grants £130k
- 6. Work effectively on Cabinet
  - Business Support responsibility

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Council Tax Breakdown 2025/26

Authority	Amount
Cambridgeshire County Council	£1,431.19
Cambridgeshire County Council: Adult Social Care Precept	£269.45
South Cambridgeshire District Council	£175.40
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£299.43
Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	£87.21
Mayoral Combined Authority	£36

Babraham £110

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Cambridge 2050

- Michael Gove announced a plan in July 23 for 250,000 homes in Greater Cambridge by 2040.
- In November 2023 he revised this to 150,000 homes
- The Greater Cambridge Plan is for 50,000 homes by 2041
- New Labour Government said we needed c.55,000 homes
- EWR Southern route chosen – impacting Harston, Haslingfield etc
- Cambridge South Station Jan 26

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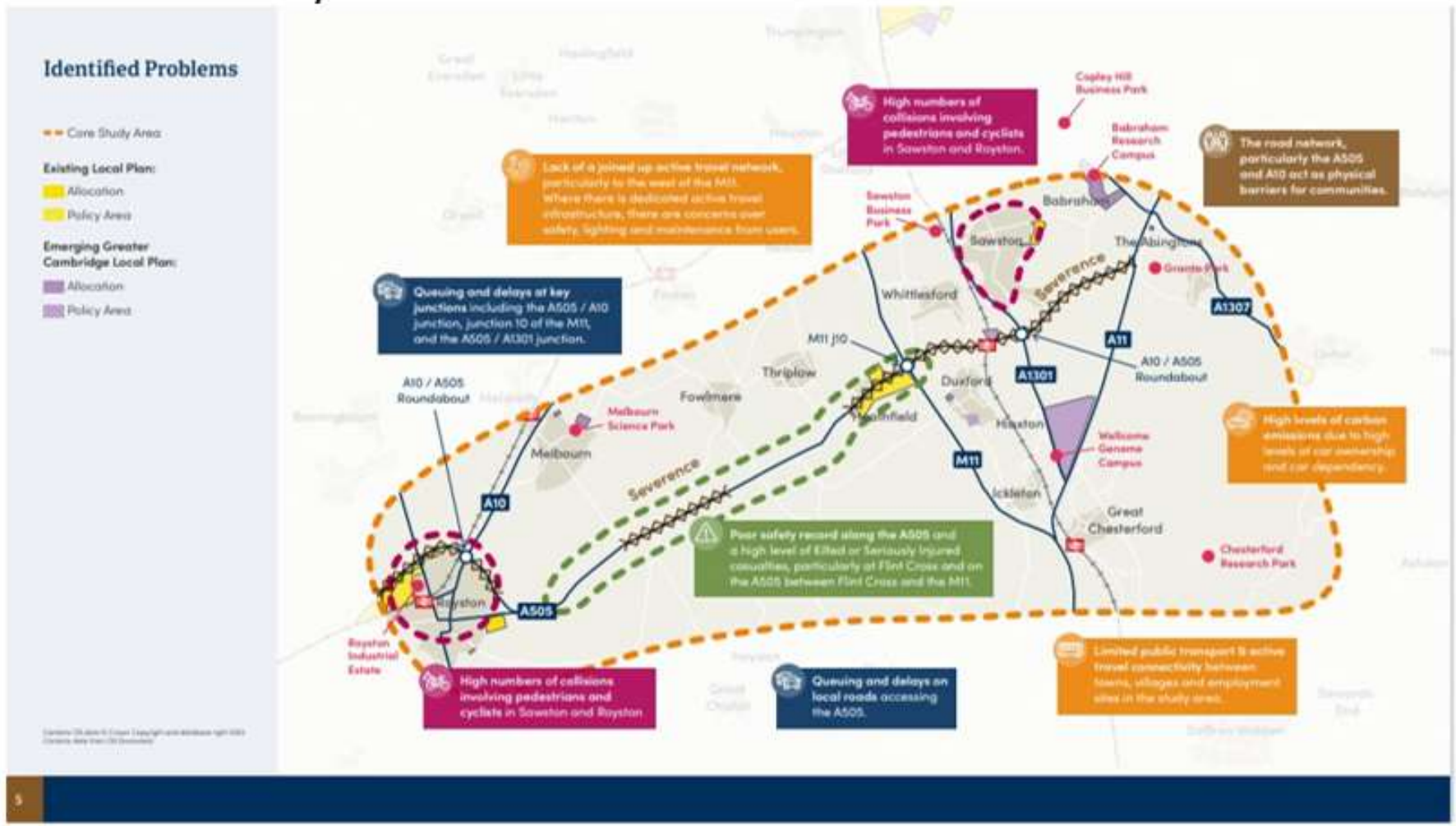
A 505 Study – Problems & Solutions



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