Councillor Peter McDonald
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Parish Council Report September 2026

South Cambs Council

Council reaches carbon emission target

South Cambridgeshire District Council has reduced net greenhouse gas emissions from the services and facilities it runs by 45.3% since 2018, hitting a milestone in reductions set in its 2020 Zero Carbon Strategy. The strategy includes a further target to reduce estate and operations emissions by at least 75% by 2030.

CPCA bus service review

The Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) launched a consultation in June on 'reimagining' the bus services across Cambridgeshire to implement the mayor's commitment to freeze the mayoral Council Tax precept, and to adjust services in the run up to the introduction of franchising. The precept freeze reduces funding by the rate of inflation (around 3–4% per year) so the required cuts are significant over the four-year mayoral term. The consultation aimed to improve value for money by focusing more closely on areas of greatest need and usage. This coincides with the expansion of the CPCA's Tiger on Demand service to replace less frequent conventional bus services.

The proposals following this consultation were published on 3 September in the agenda for the September CPCA Transport Committee meeting.

Agenda
https://democracy.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=694&Ver=4

Service Review
https://democracy.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/documents/s7450/Bus%20Services%20Reimagined%20-%20Service%20Change%20Proposals.pdf

For us it means for example the 7A will be revised/changed in August 27 and the Tiger service may replace. The 26 and 17 service will be adjusted so need to look at these two and again a possible Tiger service replacement.

Mayors to be given Planning powers

The government announced on 23 August that mayors are to be given the power to override Local Planning Authority decisions on large housing developments as part of the government's devolution proposals. This will affect schemes with more than 150 homes, more than 15,000 square metres of commercial space, and buildings over 30 metres.

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Decisions must still follow the planning rules, the local plan, and national policy. Applicants keep the right of appeal, and ministers retain a backstop power to intervene themselves.

Mayors outside London will also be able to charge a levy on development to fund major infrastructure, using the same tool that helped deliver the Elizabeth line, which has boosted rail capacity, supported housing growth and regeneration, and become the UK's busiest railway service.

Local Government Reorganisation

This has been postponed – again !

Home Energy Upgrade Guide

A new edition of the Home Energy Upgrade Guide for residents across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is now available. The guide has been developed through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP), working as Action on Energy, a partnership of local authorities across the region and is funded by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). It provides practical information to help residents improve the comfort and energy efficiency of their homes. It includes advice tailored to different house types, information on insulation, heating systems and renewable technologies, guidance on when to seek professional support, and details of available grants and services. Please help publicise this to residents. https://www.actiononenergycambs.org/guidance-and-installation/

Cambs County Council

Unpaid Carers Support

Unpaid carers across Cambridgeshire are being invited to share their experiences to help shape the future of support services in the county. Cambridgeshire County Council is bringing together unpaid carers, people with lived experience, local organisations and others with an interest in supporting carers to design future Adult Carers Support Services.

The workshops will build on feedback already shared by carers and provide another opportunity for people to influence how support is delivered in the future

The council is keen to hear from people who provide care for family members, friends or neighbours, as well as young adult carers and others with experience of caring. Their insights will help ensure future services reflect the needs of carers and the people they support.

A series of workshops will take place between September 2026 and March 2027, giving participants the opportunity to help develop future service priorities, shape how services are delivered and contribute to wider commissioning plans. There is no expectation that people

attend every session, with all involvement welcomed based on individual availability and interests.

The first workshop will take place on Friday 18 September 2026, from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Huntingdon Library. During the session, participants will explore priorities for future carers' services and help shape the outcomes they would like those services to achieve.

This work also supports The Big Conversation on Care, which launched on 29 July and is the largest public conversation about adult social care in a generation. It aims to give people across England a direct opportunity to influence the future development of a National Care Service and help shape how care and support will be provided for years to come. To learn more about The Big Conversation on Care and share your views, visit: www.caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation/

The council is committed to making the workshops accessible and inclusive. Anyone with accessibility requirements or communication needs is encouraged to discuss these when booking so that appropriate support can be provided.

Anyone interested in taking part, or who would like more information, can contact Commissioning.FPTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

New Highways Dashboard

County Highways are developing a new dashboard for Members and for residents. The first stage for Members is being rolled out in September. It will allow Members to see what is happening in their Division.

Summary Dashboard for Duxford Division

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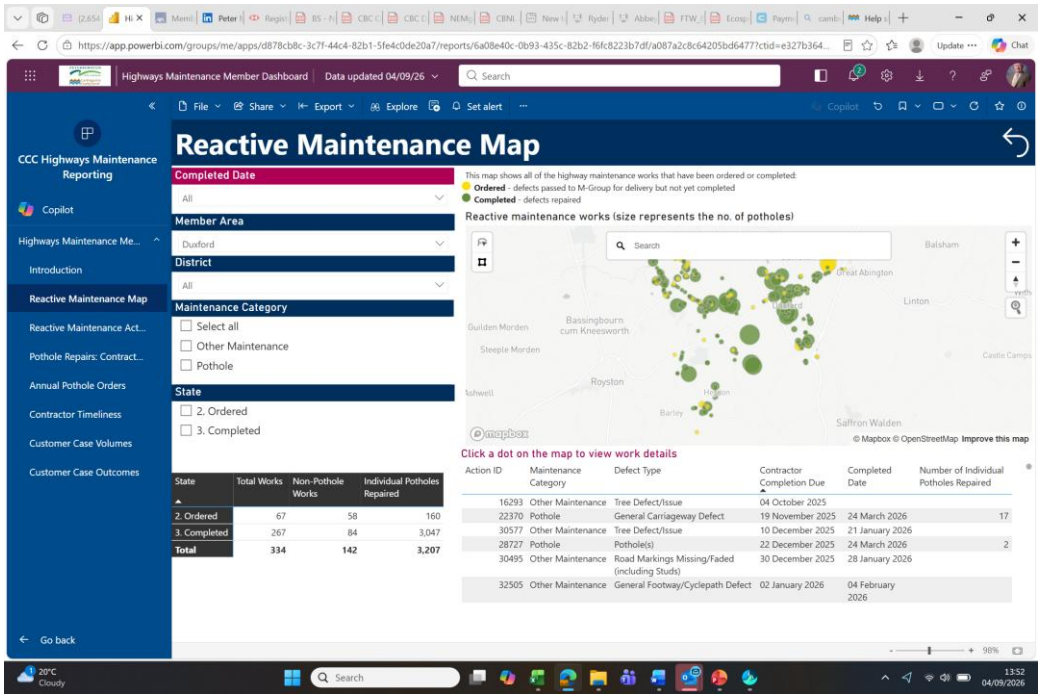
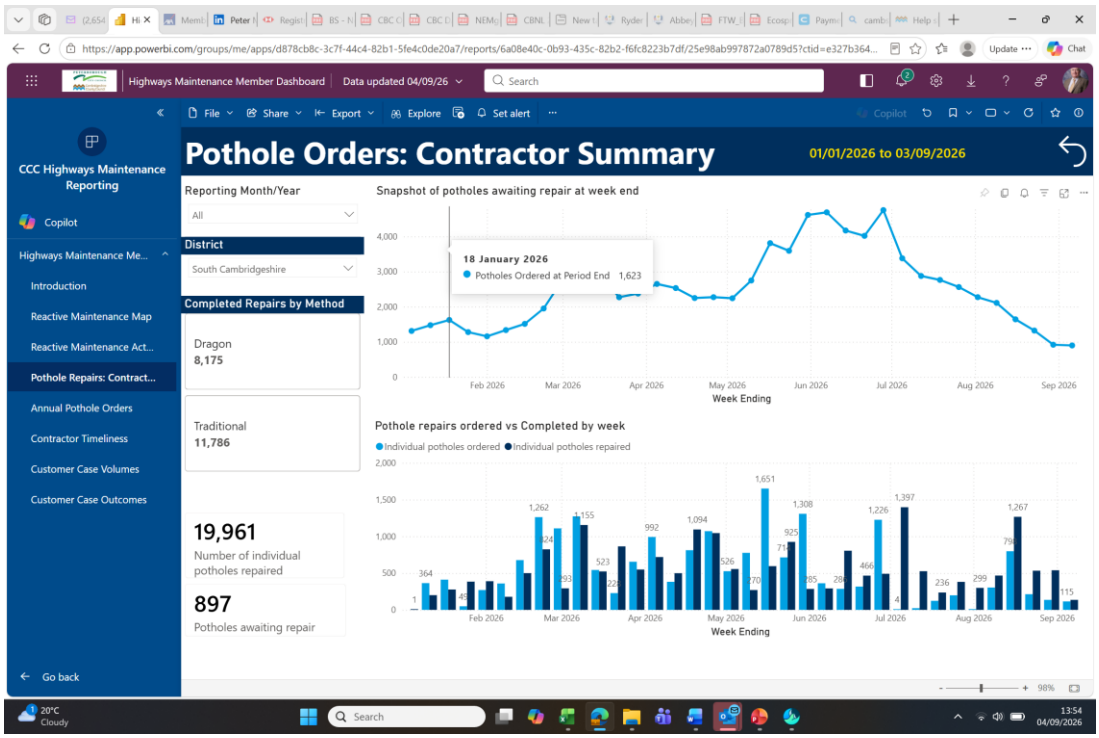


Pothole Contractor Status S Cambridgeshire



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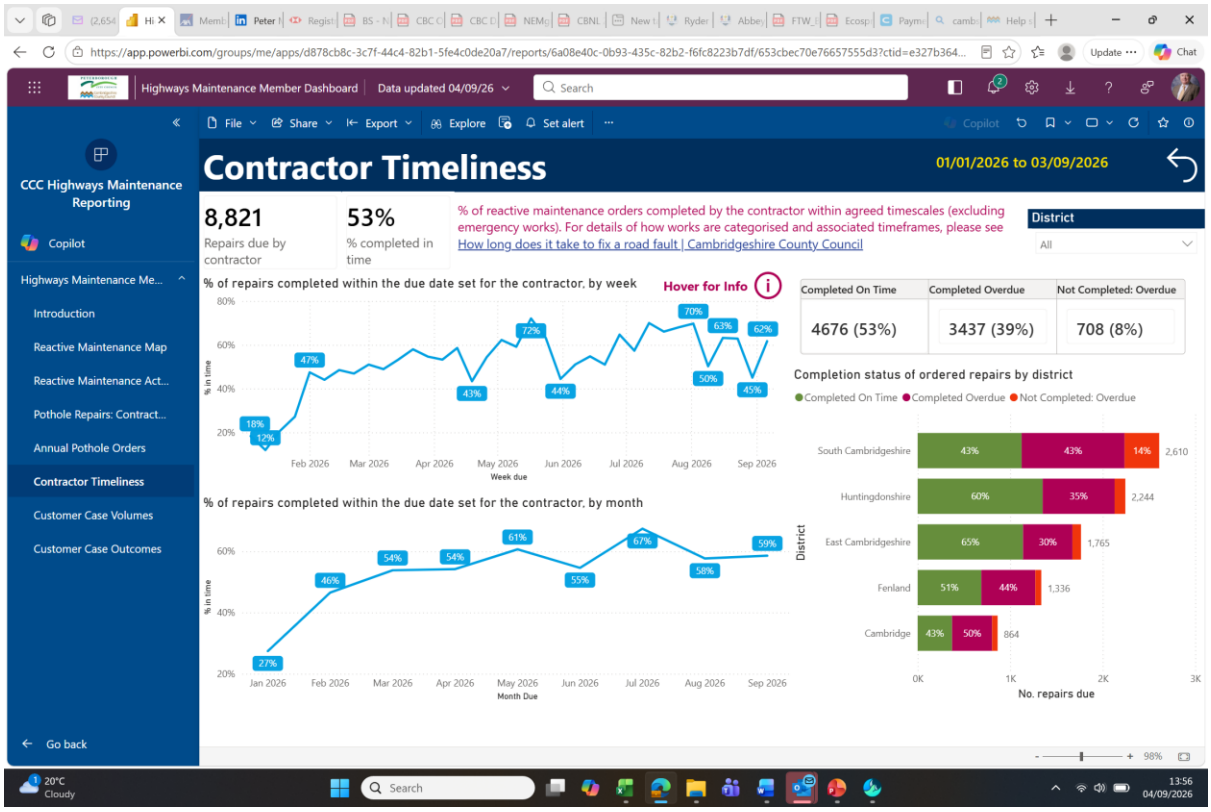
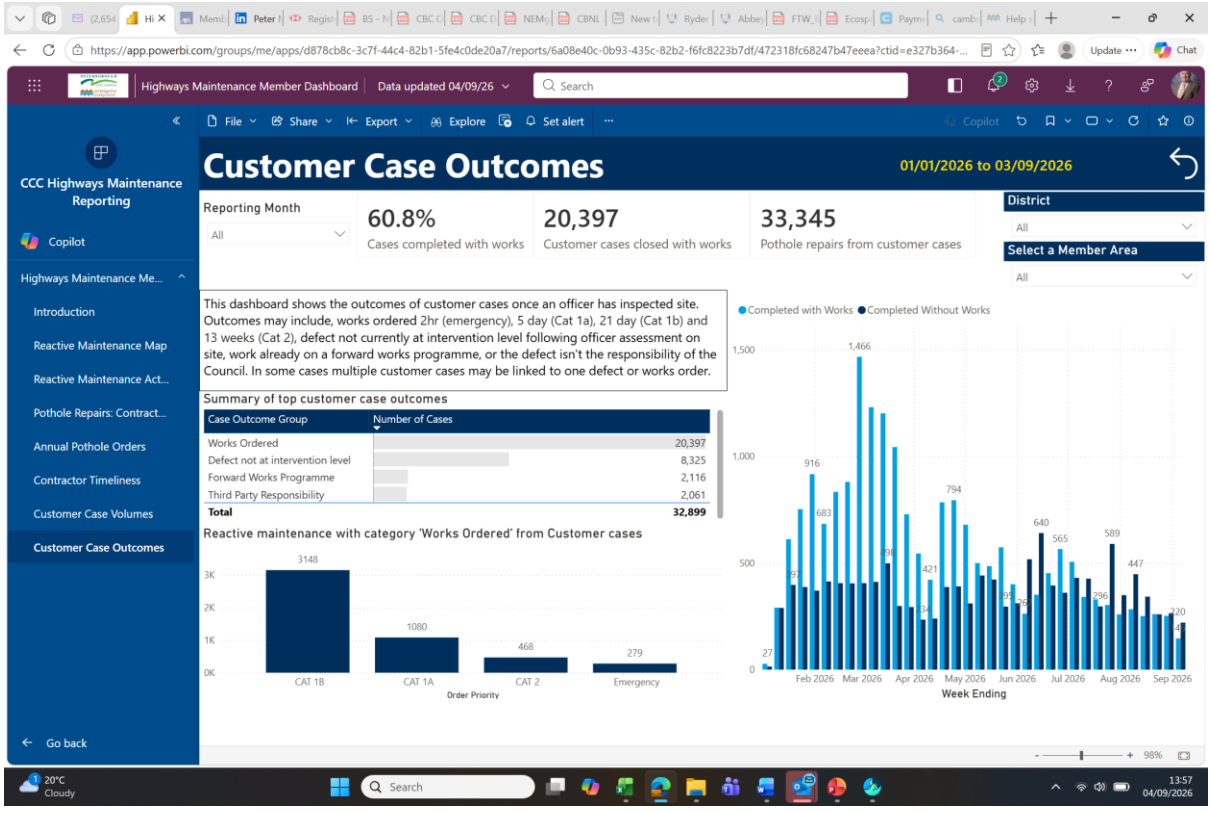
Contractor Performance



Case Outcomes



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I will be in touch to arrange briefings for Highways PC reps to explore this further.

Peter McDonald September 6th 2026

Contact Details: E mail: peter.mcdonald@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Telephone 07912 669092