

At last week's Council Meeting, Cllr Conboy gave the 'State of the District' report which highlighted the successes of the last year against our five key objectives:

1. Tackling climate change and caring for the environment
2. Enhancing employment opportunities and supporting businesses
3. Supporting the needs of the residents
4. Improving the housing situation
5. Strengthening our communities

Tackling Climate Change and Caring for the Environment

- A climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency was formerly recognised at the full council meeting in February alongside the council adopting a Climate Strategy and Action Plan.
- Less than one in every 22,000bins was missed last year which is 21% lower than the previous year.
- Our Alternative Land Management scheme has identified 231 areas within the district that have been set aside for insects, birds and mammals to flourish.
- We have supported Groundworks with their Green Recovery Project to provide skills to Job Seekers in conservation, grounds maintenance and horticulture.
- We have removed 924 fly tips, collected 1,062 tonnes of litter and emptied 61,984 litter bins to ensure our district stay clean and green.

Enhancing Employment Opportunities and Supporting Businesses

- Launched the new 'Invest in Huntingdonshire' website and 'Made in Huntingdonshire' campaign.
- We have worked with Connected Cambridgeshire to continue improving connectivity across our communities.

Supporting the Needs of Residents

- Around 9.5m paid to over 61,000 households in the district to assist with the rise in utility bills.
- 48,430 attendances at the One Leisure Active Lifestyles programmes, up by 21% on last year.
- 1,299,902 One leisure admissions. The number of attendances at One Leisure increased by 20%.

Improving the Housing Situation

- Major planning applications are being processed in time and now sits at 87% compared to 81% in 2021/2.
- Household applications are being processed in time now is 91% compared to 81% in 2021/2.
- 456 new affordable homes delivered. This is 46% higher than last year and exceeds the numbers recorded in 2020/1 (311).
- Two Community Infrastructure Levy funding rounds were held this year amounting to £7,215,929.20.
- 750k CIL funding allocated to support the new headquarters of Alconbury Weald MAGPAS.

Strengthening our communities

- As part of our Health and Inequalities Project we have worked closely with 15 Recognised Organisations to develop 55 new community based prevention activities with over 1,000 attendances.
- Over 40 Warm Spaces were set up across the district with £7,170 awarded to applicants between October and March.
- Supported Ukrainian refugees who have moved to the district through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

New CEO for Huntingdonshire District Council

At last night's meeting, Michelle Sacks was confirmed as the Council's new Chief Executive Officer. She has 27 years of experience of working with local government and is recognised for her regeneration and placemaking skills. She will take over from our Corporate Director of People, Oliver Morley who took the position on in an interim basis.

Local Plan Update

The Call for Sites has generated over 300 applications across the district which will now be assessed against the Land Availability Assessment. An interactive map detailing the location of the call for sites locations will be available in the coming months.

Council Tax Support Scheme Survey

As part of our priorities in our Corporate Plan, we committed to review the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme. The scheme supports working age applicants and currently can provide an 80% reduction in Council Tax, it is proposed that those residents in most need could have up a 100% reduction.

It is a legal requirement to consult on any proposed changes to the scheme and we're asking you to take part in this consultation to find out what you think about our proposed changes.

[A new Council Tax Support Scheme for Huntingdonshire District Council : Huntingdonshire District Council - Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25 Consultation \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)

Meet Your Councillor Sessions

We understand that sometimes it is easier to talk to someone face to face, rather than send an email or make a phone call. To help, we have scheduled some dates where residents can come and meet their District and County councillors face to face.

Saturday 2nd September 14.30- 15.30 Hemingford Abbots Village Hall

Saturday 7th October 14.30-15.30 Judith's Field, Godmanchester

Saturday 4th November 14.30-15.30 Offord Village Hall

As always, we work for you year-round. Should you need us, please contact us on:

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