



East Cambridgeshire District Council Update Downham Ward, May 2026

Local Infrastructure Fund and Inclusive Play and Open Spaces Grants

The Local Infrastructure Fund and the Inclusive Play and Open Spaces Fund are now open for applications.

The Local Infrastructure Fund has been set up to provide local communities with easier access to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to deliver new infrastructure required as a result of growth. Funds can support new facilities like community centres, village halls, or multi-purpose community sports and leisure centres, or to create additional capacity to meet the growing needs of the community.

The Inclusive Play and Open Spaces Fund offers CIL funding to meet the capital costs of ensuring playgrounds are accessible to everyone.

For a project to be successful it must demonstrate that it is necessary to support local growth, a commitment to Net Zero Carbon, resident engagement and a green approach.

Applications for funds can be made at any time, but please note that all projects must be completed by March 2028.

More information, including eligibility criteria and application details, are available on the council's website:

- [Inclusive Play and Open Spaces CIL Fund | East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)
- [CIL Local Infrastructure Fund 2026 | East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)

DAHA Re-accreditation

Our housing team has achieved re-accreditation with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), reaffirming the Council's commitment to providing safe, effective and trauma-informed housing support to survivors of domestic abuse.

Achieving re-accreditation demonstrates that our policies, practices and staff training meet the highest national standards for supporting survivors and ensuring their safety and well-being and strengthens our commitment to doing all we can to end domestic abuse in our community.

Annual Council Meeting

The Council will hold its Annual Meeting on 21st May, where we will agree who will be the Chair and Vice Chair of Council for the forthcoming year, confirm appointments to our Committees and consider a motion supporting the dualling of the A10 between Ely and Cambridge as an essential regional project.

Combined Authority

The Mayor, Paul Bristow, has signed a letter to the Government requesting that the Combined Authority be made a Mayoral Strategic Authority, which will provide further devolved powers to our region.

The Combined Authority is set to take over various responsibilities after Local Government Reorganisation, such as the role of Police and Crime Commissioner and spatial planning where it must develop a Spatial Development Strategy which sets out how the region will develop.

Becoming a Mayoral Strategic Authority would also see the Combined Authority having greater flexibilities in how it spends its money.

Member for the Downham Ward

Leader of the Council

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