**GPC Minutes 1st July 2025 - Appendix: A**

**Parish Council Update – July 2025**

**Expiry of Postal Votes and Reapplication Process**Following a change to the law as part of the Elections Act, postal votes can no longer apply indefinitely. They now expire after a maximum period of three years.

Postal voters can still register to vote by post for a particular poll, but they can no longer hold a postal vote for longer than three years.

Due to the timing of the reapplication legislation, around 16,500 Huntingdonshire postal votes are due to expire at the end of January 2026.

It is vital that we ensure voters respond to the communications and engage with the process to prevent electors being disenfranchised due to the new requirements

<https://mcusercontent.com/c12c267f6eb236cbf6c4c1a8a/files/d0d97e3c-4a27-d12e-9029-d823522560d0/Expiry_of_postal_votes_and_reapplication_process.pdf>

**Council Reorganisation**

11 June Council leaders announced they have identified three preferred options for creating new unitary councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The announcement has been made in response to a national government requirement to replace the current district, county and city councils with simpler unitary councils, instead of two tiers of local government.

**Proposal A – North-West/South East Option**

* Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire and Fenland District Councils - along with County Council functions.
* Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.

**Proposal B – North/South Option**

* Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Huntingdonshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.
* Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District - along with County Council functions.

**Proposal C – East/West Option**

* Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland District Councils - along with County Council functions.
* Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.

[**https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/three-options-announced-for-council-reorganisation-plans/**](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/three-options-announced-for-council-reorganisation-plans/)

Consultation online until 20 July – encourage as many residents to give their opinions.

<https://can-campaigns.co.uk/local-councils-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-are-changing/>

**Food Collection Service**

Following the government's amendment of the Environment Act in November 2021 and the introduction of Simpler Recycling requirements in May 2024, all Councils in England—unless granted transitional arrangements—are required to implement a separate, weekly food waste collection service for households by 31 March 2026.

More details: <https://mcusercontent.com/c12c267f6eb236cbf6c4c1a8a/files/4b2b6066-01c4-c315-8c81-4068659ed7a4/Weekly_Food_Waste_Collections_Members_Update_June_2025.pdf>

**Street Pride Team**

In April 2025, the HDC Street Pride Team was launched as part of the Council’s strategy to improve areas that need extra care, ensuring they contribute to the vibrancy of our district’s economy and quality of life.

So far, the team have visited Stonely, Kimbolton, Tilbrook, Stow Longa, Spaldwick, Catworth, Ellington, Keyston, Grafham, Perry, Great Staughton, Hail Weston and some areas of St Neots and Huntingdon.

They will get to every town and village so if you have any areas you wish to bring to their attention or any other queries about what the team are doing please contact them [CRM\_Ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:CRM_Ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)