

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

Cambridgeshire County Council was awarded £5 million by Government (Department for Transport) in May 2012 to spend over three years. This was from the 'Local Sustainable Transport Fund', a fund established to enable the delivery by local transport authorities of sustainable transport solutions that support economic growth while reducing carbon. The fund also provides an opportunity to deliver additional wider social, environmental, health and safety benefits for local communities.

In Cambridgeshire, the funding will be used for a programme of measures aimed at 'Getting Cambridgeshire to Work' by making it easier for people to travel between home and work, and to other key destinations.

Programme measures will be implemented under three themes:

- * Improving links to transport interchanges and corridors
- * Improving links to employment areas
- * The provision of improved travel information

The programme incorporates projects which aim to:

- * Improve journey time reliability
- * Make journeys more attractive via sustainable, healthy and lower carbon contributions
- * Change travel behaviour
- * Reduce congestion
- * Improve connectivity and interchange facilities

County Council is local authority of year for business support

Cambridgeshire County Council has been named "Local Authority of the Year" in the inaugural "Primary Authority" Awards announced by the Minister of State for Business and Enterprise Michael Fallon MP.

As part of the Council's policy to support companies and jobs within Cambridgeshire the award is in recognition of the work officers from our Supporting Businesses and Communities (SBC) service have been doing across the County.

Local County Councillor, John Reynolds said: "The County Council is always looking at ways in which we can support businesses and the benefits of the scheme have exceeded our expectations. The ability to work closely with a business's gives companies confidence when investing in new products or marketing materials"

The scheme is given legal standing by the Regulatory and Enforcement Sanctions Act 2008 and allows the County Council to have formal partnerships with businesses on Trading Standards matters. The support and advice given is officially known as "assured advice" as it is legally binding on other regulators. The benefits for business are certainty in decision making with additional support on grey or complex areas of UK and European legislation.

The Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) is responsible for administering the scheme, part of the Government's Department of Business, Enterprise and Skills Office. The Government's aim with the scheme is to deliver better regulation through true partnership working between businesses and regulators.

When Cambridgeshire County Council launched the Primary Authority service in May 2011 its intention was to help drive down the cost of complying with legislation by enabling businesses to deal with a single authority and provide timely, tailored advice to business with the assurance that it will be respected by all local regulators. The scheme has now become an integral part of the way the County Council provides support to the business community.

Cambridgeshire Trading Standards backs Scam Awareness Month

Cambridgeshire Trading Standards team is promoting Scam Awareness this month, in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau and Think Jessica, to encourage people to think twice when opening their post, door or e-mails to potential scammers.

Nationally people are scammed for £3.5billion pounds a year which is equivalent to £70 a month for each adult. Scam mail rips off unsuspecting victims by offering large sums of cash or opportunities too good to miss. Letters look professional and genuine and are sometimes addressed to the individual. However alarm bells should ring when they set specific deadlines and pressure you to reply urgently.

To promote Scam Awareness, Trading Standards officers will be visiting residents across Cambridgeshire who have let us know they received scam letters so that they can share their concerns and ask advice. We will also be at the Central Library in Cambridge from 13th to 17th of May with members from the Citizens Advice Bureau with information on how to stop scammers.

There are some simple tips to remember to stop scammers: -

- Genuine companies will not request fees in advance or ask for personal details, such as passports or bank details.
- Scammers use false testimonials and photographs of fictitious winners using solicitors and other important sounding titles and names.
- If it is too good to be true it probably is, particularly if they claim you can win prizes or promote magical cures, investment opportunities, clairvoyants, and holidays.

If you think you are being scammed please share this information with family or friends, and seek advice from Citizens Advice on 08454 040506 and if you have already been scammed report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 and Royal Mail's Scam Department on 08456 113 413.

New Leader voted in for Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Martin Curtis has been voted leader of Cambridgeshire County. Councillor Curtis is the Group Leader of the Conservative party on Cambridgeshire.

It was also announced by Councillor Curtis that he intends to set up four new Policy Advisory Groups linked to the priorities of the authority.

These are:

- Developing local economy,
- Helping people live healthy and independent lives
- Supporting and protecting vulnerable children
- Supporting and protecting vulnerable adults

Members also voted that the Council should change in a year's time from the current cabinet system of governance to a committee system. This will now be looked at by the Constitution and Ethics Committee.

Five former councillors nominated to become Honorary Alderman

Five former Cambridgeshire County Councillors, who have given a total of around 100 years of public service between them, have been nominated to become Honorary Aldermen. The nominations were made by Cambridgeshire party Group Leaders following the recent elections. The award is normally given to former Councillors who have served at least 20 years. This is usually bestowed on an individual who, in the opinion of the Council has rendered eminent service to the authority as a former Councillor.

The nominees included local members

- Shona Johnstone
- John Powley
- Jill Tuck

Council welcomes new tenants and gives chance for you to run your own farm



Six new tenants have been given the opportunity to start their own rural businesses thanks to Cambridgeshire County Council's Farms Estate.

With 13,400 hectares and 216 tenants, the estate is the largest of its kind in the country – providing one of the few opportunities for new tenants to take their first step on the farming ladder.

Barry and Jo Meningen have moved into New Farm, Earith, setting up a livery yard and schooling on 28ha of pasture. David and Liona Woricker moved down from Leeds to set up an educational centre with small animals on a smallholding at Soham. Claire Bourne also moved to Soham from Fordham, to relocate her carriage driving and schooling business. Martin Rix moved from Soham to take over a 142ha mixed farm at Ditch Farm, Burwell. In the north of the county, Sean Goodger and his family moved to Lincoln Farm, March, taking over 85ha of arable land. Finally Andrew Wagstaffe moved to Jubilee Farm in Chatteris, farming 46ha.

Andrew Wagstaffe has recently moved in to Jubilee Farm after improvement works were carried out to the house. Andrew, 26, has a degree in Agriculture from Writtle College and built up experience working on local farms before deciding to start out on his own.

Andrew says "I have always wanted to farm, but as I am not from a farming family getting on to the ladder would have been impossible if it wasn't for the

opportunities the County Farms Estate provides. I am settling in well and hope to progress on the estate as I build up my business”.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said; “The County Council is delighted to be able to give these new tenants a chance to build a career in the countryside and their experience, enthusiasm and entrepreneurial ability should ensure they succeed. The chance to develop a farming business is an increasingly rare opportunity and the competition for new tenancies on the Cambridgeshire Estate is always fierce and attracts very high quality applicants from around the country.”

This spring, after a national advertising campaign a further seven tenants have been selected for holdings available from October 2013. An additional four holdings are now available.

If you are interested in joining the estate, prospective tenants are invited to apply for four holdings available from October 2013. Rowells Farm, Warboys comprises 108ha, house and buildings, Church Farm, Quy has 1.095ha, house and building, Vector Farm, Elm comprises 6.2ha of land and a house and Lynchetts Farm, Gt Chishill has 78ha, house and building. A view day is being held on Tuesday 14th May and the deadline for applications is Tuesday 4th June.

For full [details](#), please visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/property/estate/farms/farmstolet or join the Cambridgeshire County Farms Facebook group.

Workers invited to get on their bikes!

Workplaces in Cambridgeshire are invited to take part in a fun, free competition to encourage more people to cycle. From Monday 13 May to Sunday 2 June 2013, organisations will go head-to-head to see who can get the most staff cycling for just 10 minutes or more.

ARM, Hotel Felix, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Environment Agency are among the latest recruits to join over 160 businesses already signed up to the 2013 Cambridgeshire Cycle Challenge at www.lovetoride.net/cambridgeshire.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said: “It’s been great to see so many Cambridgeshire businesses and organisations signing up and supporting the Challenge this year. Cycling is a great way to commute to work and helps to reduce congestion particularly during the busy rush hour. Initiatives like the Cycle Challenge are a great way of encouraging more cyclists to choose to cycle to work and leave their cars at home.”

“The Challenge is great fun for both regular cyclists and people new to cycling. There's still plenty of time for any Cambridgeshire organisation, big or small, to get involved and it's completely free to take part. People can cycle anywhere they like, anytime they like, over the three-week period. The organisations that get the most staff riding for just 10 minutes or more will win prizes. There is also a weekly prize for the cyclist who logs the most rides and another prize for the cyclist who rides the furthest over the three weeks.”

Prizes include a new bike worth £500 offered by Townsends Light Blue Cycle Centre, 200 cinema tickets, meals at Cau Restaurant and the Old Fire Engine House, a cookery demonstration at Stickybeaks, a sewing lesson at Callyco, a superb bottle of Champagne from Anglia Wine Merchants, annual family membership worth £40 at Ely Cinema and much more.

The Cambridgeshire Cycle Challenge is being funded by the Local Sustainable

Transport Fund (LSTF). In Cambridgeshire, the funding will be used for a programme of measures aimed at 'Getting Cambridgeshire to Work' and to increase sustainable transport around the county. The project is being implemented by Challenge for Change.

Registrations are now open and it's free to participate. For more information, go to www.lovetoride.net/cambridgeshire.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN REYNOLDS 29th May