



Councillors' Bulletin Wednesday, 7 July 2021

Contents



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

1. Meetings and events from Thursday 8 July. to Friday 23 July 2021

Date	Time	Name	Venue	Contact
Thu 8 Jul	-	-	-	-
Fri 9 Jul	-	-	-	-
Mon 12 Jul	11:59 pm	Deadline for Councillors' questions for Council on 22 July		
Tue 13 Jul	2 pm	Climate & Environment Advisory Committee	Council Chamber	Patrick Adams
Wed 14 Jul	10 am	Planning Committee	Council Chamber	Ian Senior
Thu 15 Jul	2 pm	Employment & Staffing Committee	Council Chamber	Patrick Adams
Fri 16 Jul	-	-	-	-
Mon 19 Jul	-	-	-	-
Tue 20 Jul	5:30 pm	Scrutiny & Overview Committee	Council Chamber	Ian Senior
Wed 21 Jul	-	-	-	-
Thu 22 Jul	2 pm	Council	Council Chamber	Rebecca Dobson
Fri 23 Jul	-	-	-	-

Information for District Councillors and Parish Councils

2. Road Closures for Week Commencing 5 July Relating to A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

Please find attached road closures information for week commencing 5 July in relation to the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme.

For all queries relating to the scheme, please email:
A14CambridgeHuntingdon@highwaysengland.co.uk

Further updates on scheme progress can be found on their [website](#).

3. Community Right to Bid - Assets of Community Value

The Council has made the following decision and will amend the asset register accordingly:

Land known as "Recreation Ground Extension", Longstanton – The Council has approved the listing of land known as "Recreation Ground Extension" as an Asset of Community Value until 02 July 2026.

Further information about the Community Right to Bid and Assets of Community Value can be

found on our [webpage](#)

4. Cambs Home Improvement Agency - Annual Report

Please find attached the Cambs Home Improvement Agency's annual report and a link to previous reports and their website is here: <https://www.cambshia.org/about-us/plans-and-performance/>

General Information

5. Media Monitoring



The Council's Communications Team produce a weekly summary of recent news items which is published in the Bulletin to help keep members informed of recent coverage of the Council.

Please contact the [Communications Team](#) for further information.

Date	Publication	Details		
30/06/21	Cambridge News	Judicial review threat to council planning service	P15	-
30/06/21	Cambridge Independent	Opposition builds to a GCP plan for a £132m busway in green belt	P8 & P9	GCP article
30/06/21	Cambridgeshire Live online	South Cambridgeshire District Council threatened with legal action for 'misleading' performance figures	-	-
30/06/21	The MJ online	Chief speaks out after staff targeted by campaigners	-	-
30/06/21	Royston Crow online	South Cambs sees largest free school meal rise in county	-	-
30/06/21	Let's Recycle online	Adam Read confirmed as CIWM president	-	-
01/07/21	The MJ	People section: Cllr Bridget Smith elected to new position at LGA	P19	-
01/07/21	The Cambridge Tab online	King's College bans swimming, barbecuing and boating on Grantchester Meadows	-	-
02/07/21	Cambridge Independent online	Anthony Browne MP to raise future of GCP with government after 'baffling' vote on Cambridge South East Transport busway	-	-
02/07/21	Cambridge News	GCP board approves application bid for contentious busway	P4 & P5	GCP article. Cllr Neil Gough quoted in GCP role
05/07/21	Cambridgeshire Live online	Cambourne to Cambridge busway could "irreparably damage" landscape around American Military Cemetery	-	GCP article
05/07/21	Cambs Times online	IVF treatment on the NHS set to return	-	Cllr Heather

				Williams quoted
05/07/21	In Your Area online	Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire planning applications for week ending July 05	-	-
06/07/21	Cambridge News	Health group set to end 'postcode lottery' of IVF services	P4	Cllr Heather Williams quoted
06/07/21	Cambridge News	Lib Dems criticised over its planning performance	P6	-
06/07/21	Cambridge Network online	New fund launched for growing businesses in South Cambridgeshire	-	-
06/07/21	Cambridgeshire Live online	Conservatives blame budget cuts for 'worrying' South Cambs District Council planning stats	-	-
06/07/21	Cambridge Network online	Chamber event helps to rebuild the Greater Cambridge supply chain post COVID-19	-	-
07/07/21	Cambridge News	Recovery plan for food industry	P6	-
07/07/21	Cambridge Independent	Have a say on £20m cycling work	P5	GCP article. Cllr Neil Gough quoted in GCP role
07/07/21	Cambridge Independent	Undeterred by critics, GCP pushes on with its busway plans	P8 & P9	GCP article. Cllr Neil Gough quoted in GCP role
07/07/21	Cambridge Independent	Cllr Neil Gough column: Why we must take action P9	P9	GCP column
07/07/21	Cambridge Independent	King's concern over legal claims prompts meadows swim ban	P12 & P13	Cllr Bill Handley quoted
07/07/21	Cambridge Independent	Spoils from HS2 heads by train to Barrington	P22	Mentions planning history of site
07/07/21	Cambridge Independent	Cllr Bridget Smith column: Helping prevent isolation for all residents in the district	P26 & P27	-
07/07/21	Cambridge Independent	New grant launched for businesses	P49	-
6. Items of Interest from the Local Government Association (LGA)				



Items of Interest from the Local Government Association (LGA)

The Local Government Association provides a list of news headlines relevant to its members. Please click the headlines below for more details.

Friday 2 July, Times: [Net-zero plans](#)

The Government is reportedly planning to introduce a carbon reduction scheme that could put up the costs of gas and petrol as part of an attempt to decarbonise the economy.

Saturday 3 July, Guardian: [Councils spending five times more on homeless people in B&Bs](#)

Councils in England are spending five times more on housing homeless people in bed and breakfasts that they were a decade ago, as the numbers of people needing to be put up in temporary accommodation soars.

Sunday 4 July, Sunday Telegraph: [Homeowners to get up to 15 years to sue builders for "shoddy workmanship"](#)

Homeowners will be given up to 15 years to sue builders and developers for "shoddy workmanship", under new laws which will more than double the current time limit for bringing legal claims.

Monday 5 July, BBC Online: [Grenfell prompts creation of building safety regulator](#)

The Government has announced that a new regulator will be set up with the power to prosecute property developers that do not meet safety standards.

Monday 5 July, BBC Online: [Archaeologists dig in over planning reforms](#)

Experts have warned that historical discoveries could be at risk if the Government does not put archaeology at the heart of its planning reforms.

Monday 5 July, Guardian: [Voter ID plans](#)

Plans are due to be unveiled today to make people carry identification to cast a ballot.

Tuesday 6 July, Times(Red Box): [LGA: Local government is the key to building back better](#)

In an opinion piece for Times Red Box, LGA Chairman Cllr James Jamieson says it is clear that the role of local authorities has never been more significant in the lives of people across the country.

Tuesday 6 July, Guardian: [Councils "failing to provide public health funerals"](#)

According to Quaker Social Action councils in England and Wales are not meeting their legal responsibility to provide public health funerals, often turning away low-income families who cannot afford to pay for relatives to be buried or cremated.

Tuesday 6 July, Times: [Planning reforms bill "won't halt wildlife decline"](#)

The Government's planning reforms risk damaging ancient woodlands and wildlife habitats, a coalition of environmental groups has warned.

Wednesday 7 July, Mail: [Fewer people returning to work could solve housing crisis](#)

The Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick stated that a permanent reduction to the number of staff working in offices in the wake of the pandemic could help the Government solve the housing crisis at the LGA's Annual Conference.

Wednesday 7 July, Independent: [Sir Ed Davey MP criticises planning reforms](#)

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey MP will criticise the Government's proposed planning reforms as he addresses the LGA Conference later today.

7. View Planning Applications



To view the list of planning applications that have recently been submitted to the Council, please visit the authority's on-line [Planning Application Search](#).

The system will provide a range of information on current and decided applications since 1948, including a brief description of the development, reference number, decision and the date of decision. More recent applications show the name and telephone number of the council officer who is dealing with the application.

Search results are presented in a collection of pages, the number of which depends on the number of results your search produces. There are navigation tools to allow you to browse your results.

Executive Decisions Taken Since Wednesday 6 July 2021



In accordance with the [Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution](#), any executive decision shall be published normally within five days of being made. That record will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in for review by the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or by any five other councillors.

A list of decisions currently within the call-in period is available [on the Council's website](#).

The call in procedure is set out in full in [Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, 'Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules'](#).

8. Development of a 2 Bed House on Land Situated on Longstanton Road, Oakington

The Lead Cabinet Member for Housing **agreed** to enter into a land purchase contract (subject to

planning permission being granted), with Mrs Stephenson (landowner) to purchase the land at nil cost, except for legal fees or other associated costs, and to construct a 2 Bedroom Detached House to meet the housing needs of Mrs Stephenson's granddaughters.

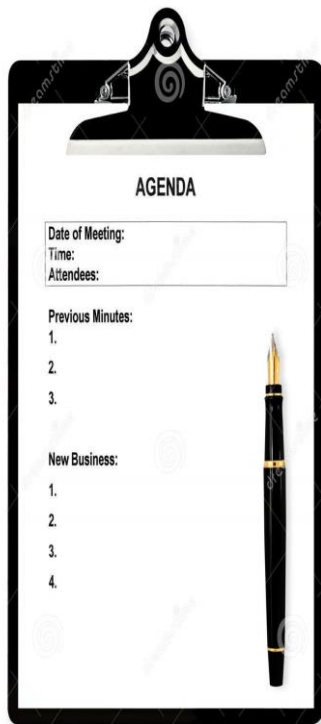
This decision was first published on Tuesday 6 July and so the deadline for call-in is 5pm on Tuesday 13 July.

Decisions Made By Officers and Reported For Information

Please click on the link to find details of decisions made by [officers under delegated authority](#).

Other Information

9. Newly-Published Items on modern.gov



Agendas

[Climate and Environment Advisory](#)

[Committee 13 July](#)

[Planning Committee 14 July](#)

Decisions

[Development of House in Oakington](#)

Minutes

[Climate and Environment Advisory](#)

[Committee 14 June](#)

[Planning Committee 9 June](#)

Agenda Item 2

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire: major improvements

We are currently carrying out finishing works for which we need to close lanes or carriageways on the A1, A14 and some local roads at times, usually overnight between 9pm and 6am, unless otherwise stated. A clearly signed diversion route will always be in place for closures.

For this week, the planned closures are:

Full closures

Monday 5 to Tuesday 6 (two nights)

- A10 northbound between Milton junction 33 gyratory and Butt Lane

Vehicles will be diverted onto the A14 westbound to Histon junction 32, north on B1049 Bridge Road then onto Impington Lane, Burgoyne's Road, Milton Road and Butt Lane to access Milton or the A10

Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8 (three nights)

- A14 eastbound Histon junction 32 exit slip

Vehicles will be diverted to continue on the A14 to Milton junction 33 and return on the westbound carriageway for access to Cambridge

Wednesday 7 to Thursday 8 (two nights)

- B1049 north and south bound between Histon junction 32 gyratory and Cambridge Road, Histon

Vehicles travelling north on Histon Road will be diverted onto the A14 westbound and continue to A428 westbound to exit at Dry Drayton. Travel through Dry Drayton via Scotland Road, Park Street and Oakington Road to then travel through Oakington via Cambridge Road, New Road and into Histon on Park Street.

Vehicles travelling from Histon to Cambridge will follow the above in reverse, exiting the A14 at Milton junction 33 for Cambridge. A14 westbound traffic will be diverted via Park Street and New Road to Oakington and onto the A1307 to then travel westbound via the Girton entry slip

- A14 eastbound Histon junction 32 entry slip

Vehicles leaving Cambridge on Histon Road will be diverted westbound to A14 Bar Hill junction 25 and return on the eastbound carriageway

Friday 9 to Saturday 10 (two nights)

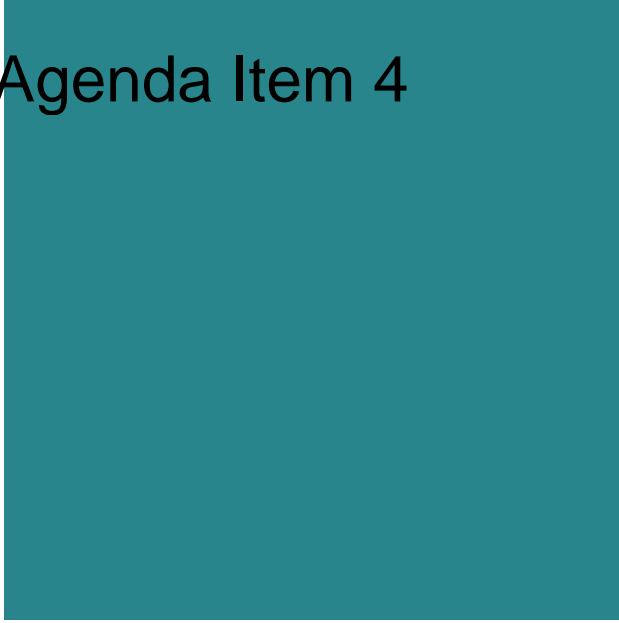
- A14 eastbound between Madingley and Girton
- All traffic will be diverted onto the A1303. Motorway traffic will then be diverted south on the M11, east on A505 and north on A11 to re-join the A14. Non-motorway traffic will continue on the A1303 and be diverted on local roads through Cambridge.

Saturday 10 8am to 5pm

- B1514 Brampton Road between Scholars Avenue and Edison Bell Way
Vehicles on the Huntingdon town centre side will be diverted onto the ring road, St Peters Road to A141 west to Brampton / Brampton Racecourse junction and into Brampton via B1514.
Vehicles on the Brampton side of the closure will follow this diversion in reverse.

For more information about this scheme, visit <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon-improvement-scheme-home/>

Agenda Item 4



Cambs Home Improvement Agency Annual Report 2020 - 2021

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Introduction

by our Lead Councillors

As district councils, we faced unprecedented challenges this year. Council staff were redeployed to roles that supported tackling the pandemic – areas like issuing food parcels and providing support and advice to the community.

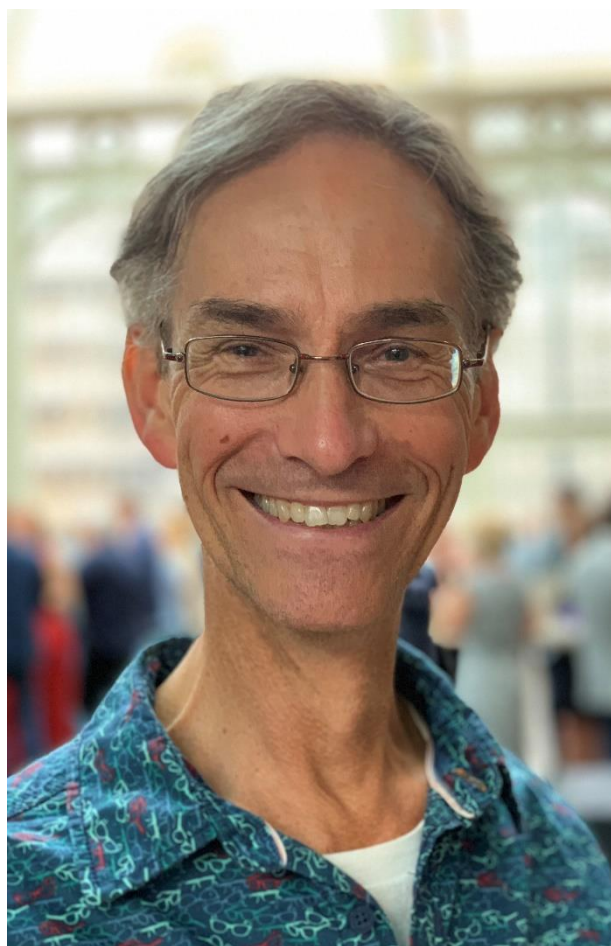
Our Environmental Health and Community Teams had to quickly respond to, and implement the national Track and Trace

Service working closely with agencies across Cambridgeshire to ensure our residents were protected as much as possible from the coronavirus.

Cambs HIA played a role in ensuring any urgent adaptations were completed for those being discharged from hospital and in helping to avoid admissions by keeping disabled people safe in their own home.

Many of the Agency's clients are clinically extremely vulnerable resulting in non urgent work being postponed in response to the national lockdown.

Through this time, raising awareness of Disabled Facilities Grants continues to be a key objective for the three councils and we continue to work collaboratively with the NHS and Social Care to meet this objective.



Cllr. Mike Todd-Jones
Cambridge City
Council



Cllr. Ryan Fuller
Huntingdonshire
District Council



Cllr. John Batchelor
South Cambridgeshire
District Council

Governance

Since 2012, Cambs HIA's Board continues to be well represented by officers from Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge County Councils.

Our Management Board:



Helen Reed,
Housing Strategy
Manager, **Cambridge
City Council**



Finlay Flett,
Operational Manager,
**Huntingdonshire District
Council**



Julie Fletcher,
Head of Housing
Strategy,
**South Cambs District
Council**



Lisa Sparks,
Commissioner (Adults),
**Cambridgeshire County
Council**



Frances Swann,
Manager,
**Cambs Home
Improvement Agency**



Julia Hovells,
Principal Accountant,
**Cambridge City
Council.**

About Us

The agency completed £2 million worth of adaptations. This represents a reduction of £1.3m in comparison to previous years which is comparative with other Home Improvement Agencies nationally.

Despite a reduction in demand for Disabled Facilities Grants, Cambs HIA completed £240,000 worth of repairs and energy efficiency work funded by Special Purpose Grants – this includes replacing boilers, roof repairs and remedying problems with damp. This represents an increase of £90,000 on the previous year.

Our staff team has remained fairly stable with one new employee being inducted and trained remotely into her new role and we have also appointed some new contractors.



A Message from Our Manager, Frances Swann:

Our focus at the start of lockdown was to ensure the safety and well being of our clients and staff. The national lockdown saw staff using new ways of working and having to prioritise adaptations which were either almost complete or urgent for the client's needs. We not only had to communicate well with our clients to make sure they understood the likelihood of delays, but also ensure the financial stability of our contractors.

Our work is extremely dependent on the flow of referrals from the Occupational Therapists who were redeployed into primary care to address the national pandemic. This resulted in the Agency completing less work this year and completing fewer adaptations.

However, as is highlighted in this report, the national lockdown enabled the much needed space to develop and implement our new IT systems and a new system went live in March 2021.

The team and our contractors adjusted well to a new way of working in a "COVID safe" manner and despite a slight increase in the number of complaints this year, we also saw good levels of customer satisfaction despite the challenges faced by all.

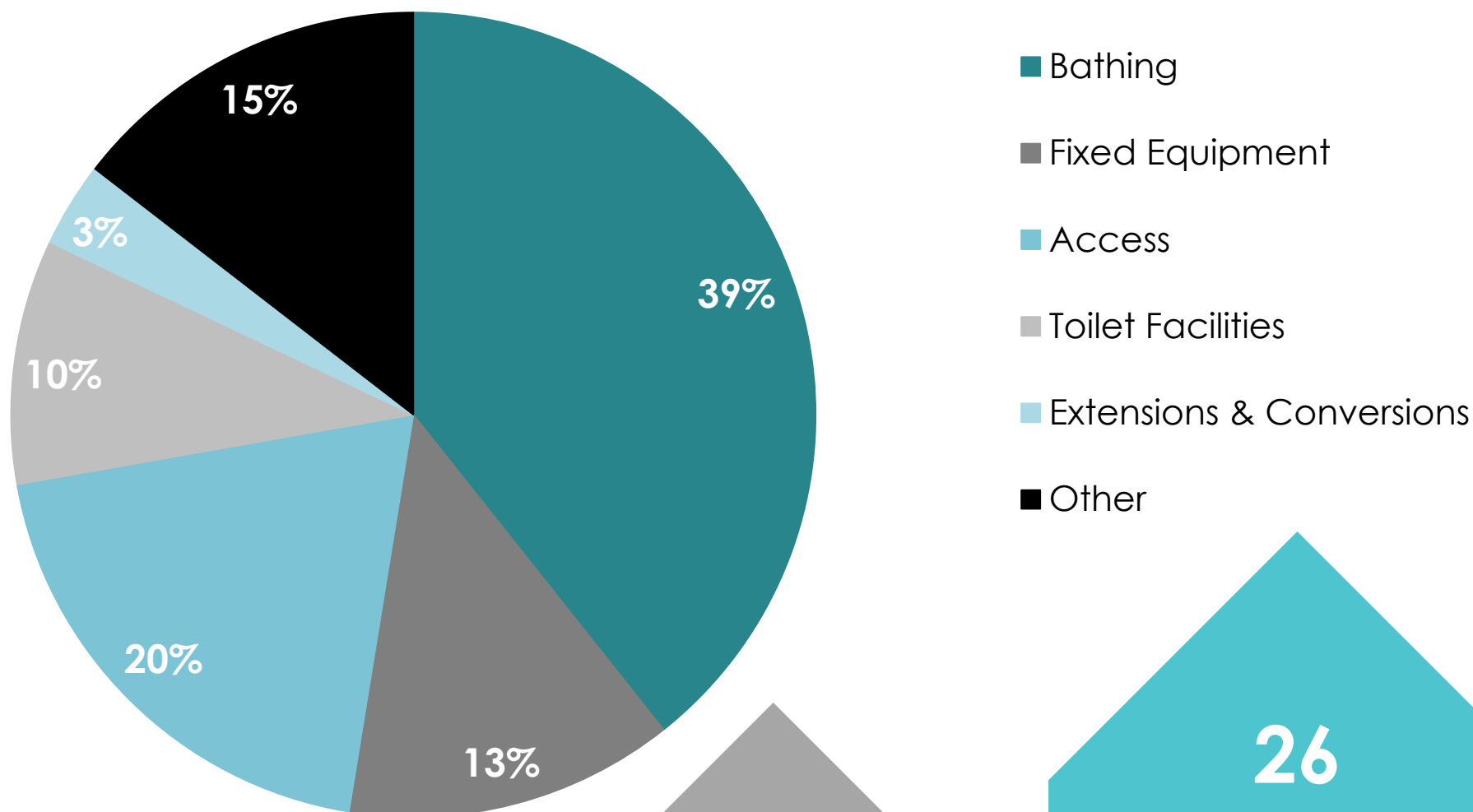


2020 – 2021: Highlights

Completed Works

In 2020/21 we enabled **166** disabled and elderly people to adapt their homes. This represents a reduction on previous years which is attributed to fewer referrals because of the pandemic.

Types of DFG completed



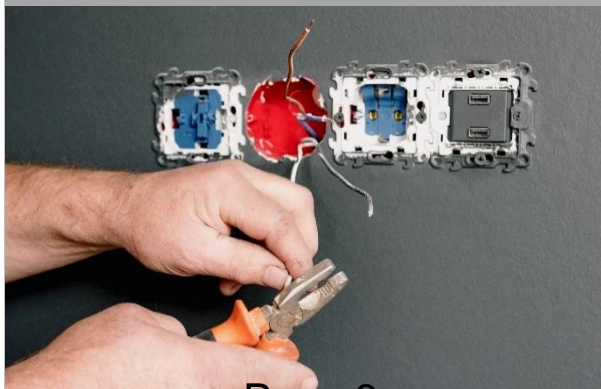
21

Private jobs competed for clients ineligible for a grant



24

Special Purpose Grants completed in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire



26

Disabled Facilities Grants completed for disabled children across Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire

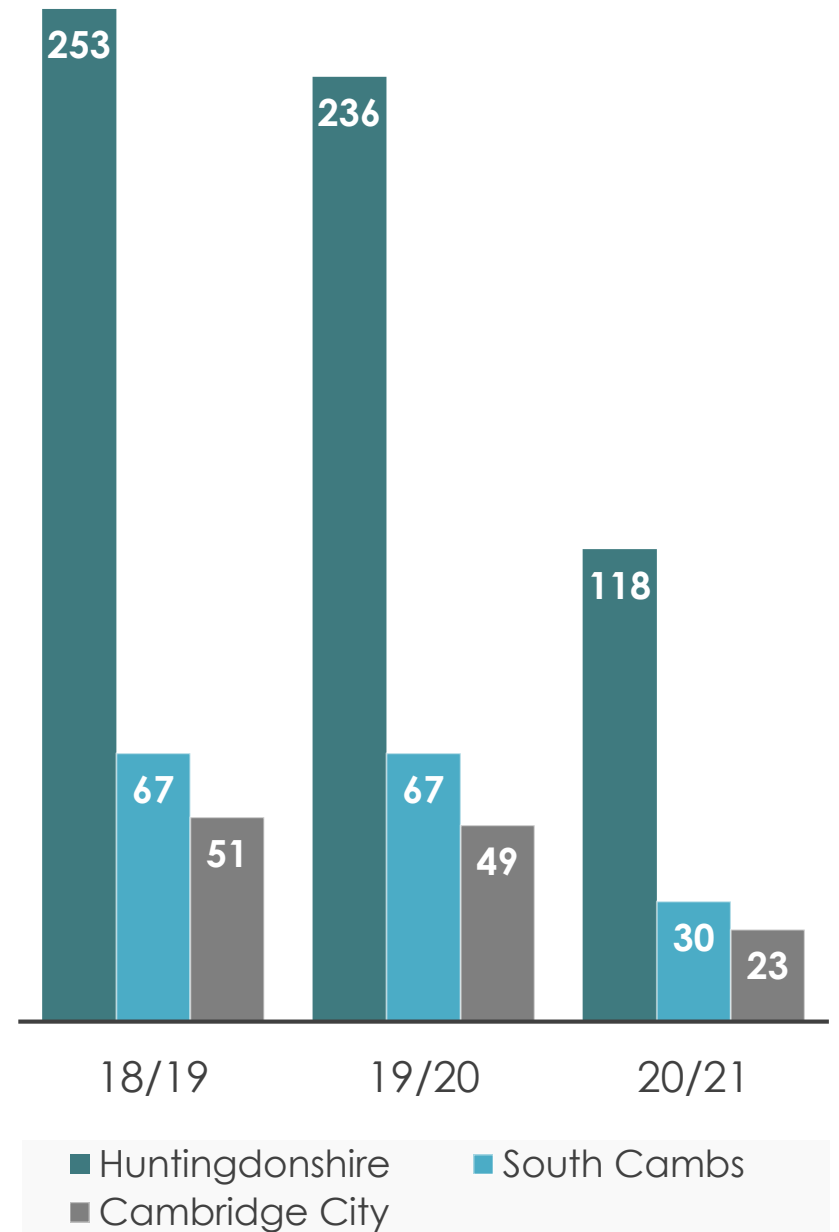


339

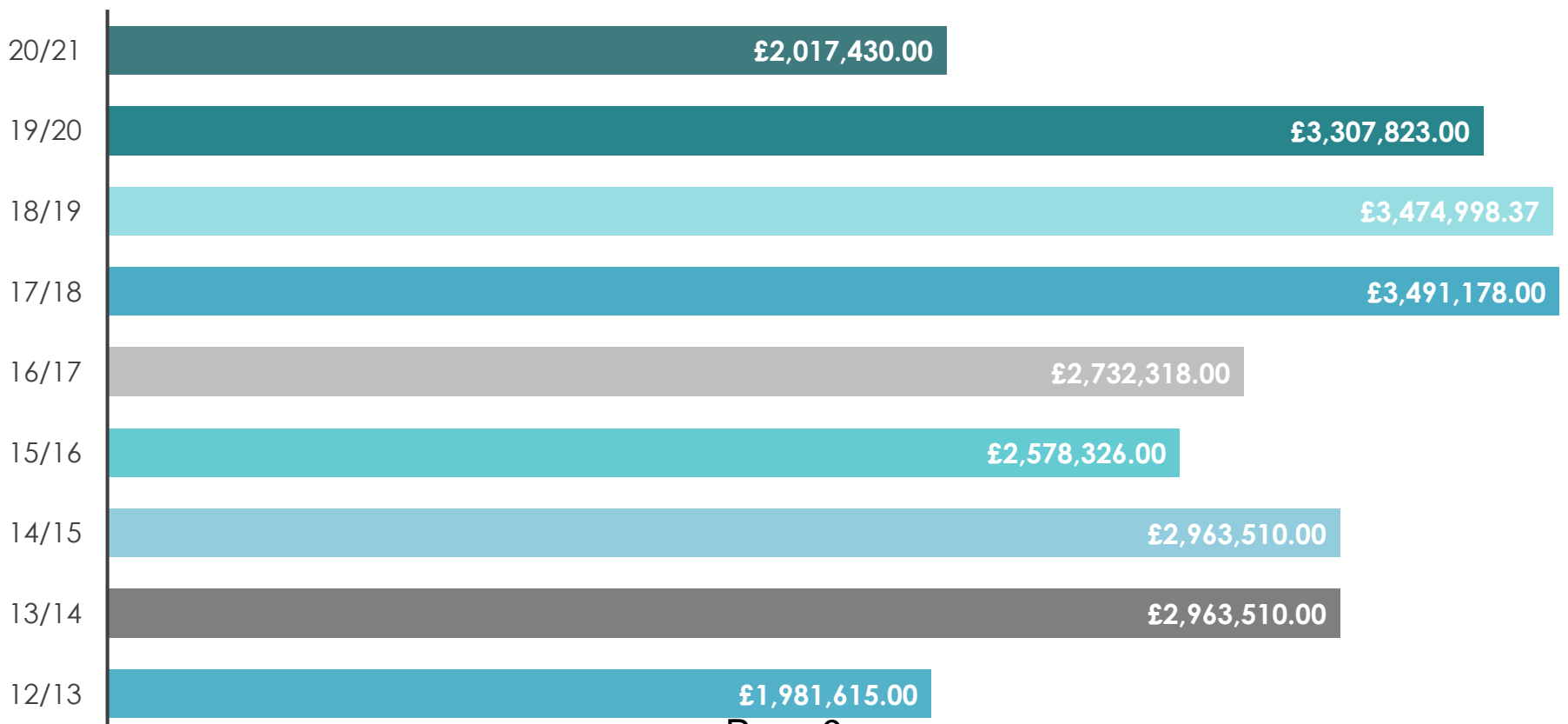
preliminary test of recourses completed to check client eligibility



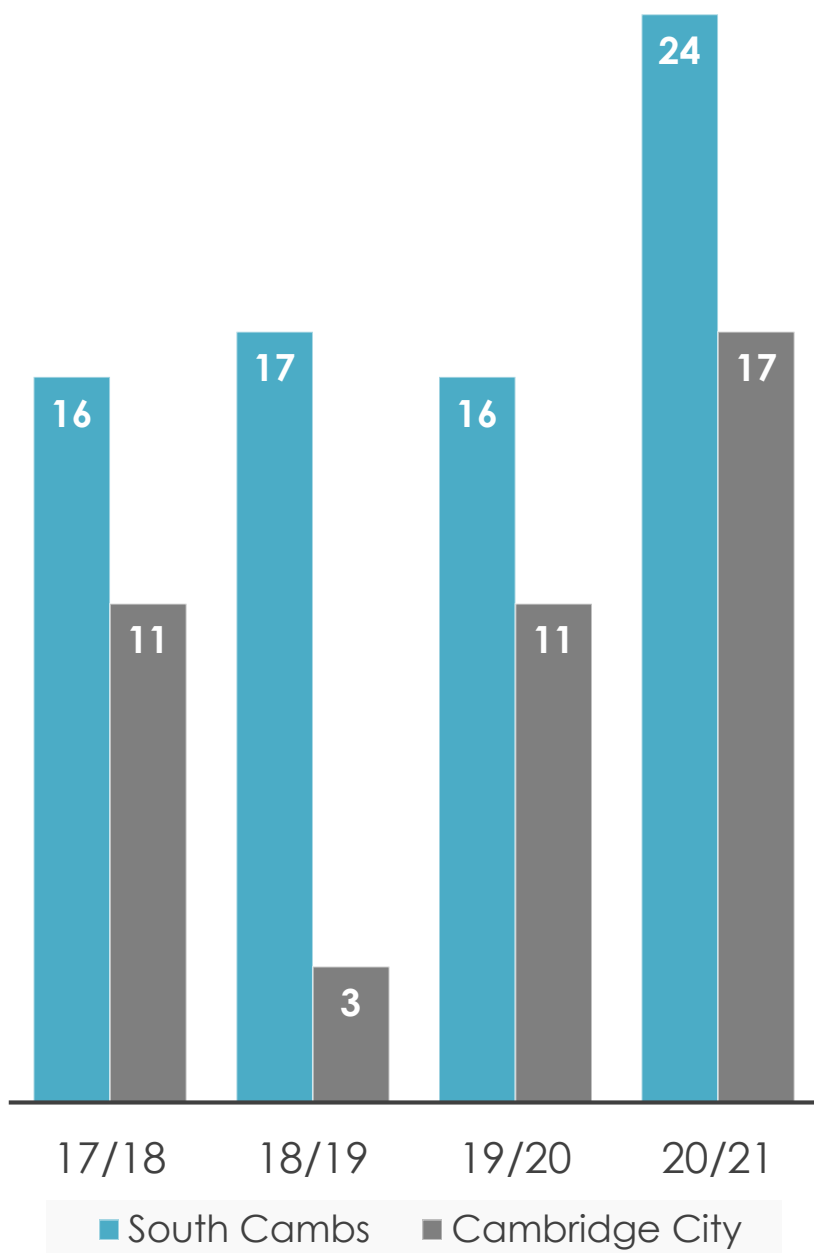
No. of Disabled Facilities Grants Completed



DFG Spend



Special Purpose Grants Completed



Cambs HIA saw an increase in the number of general enquiries in 2020/21



DFG driveway for a disabled client in Huntingdonshire

Onward referrals

We made **33** onward referrals last year to help people:



Get housing advice



Claim benefits they are entitled to



Request fire safety checks



Improve their home security



Install a Community Alarm

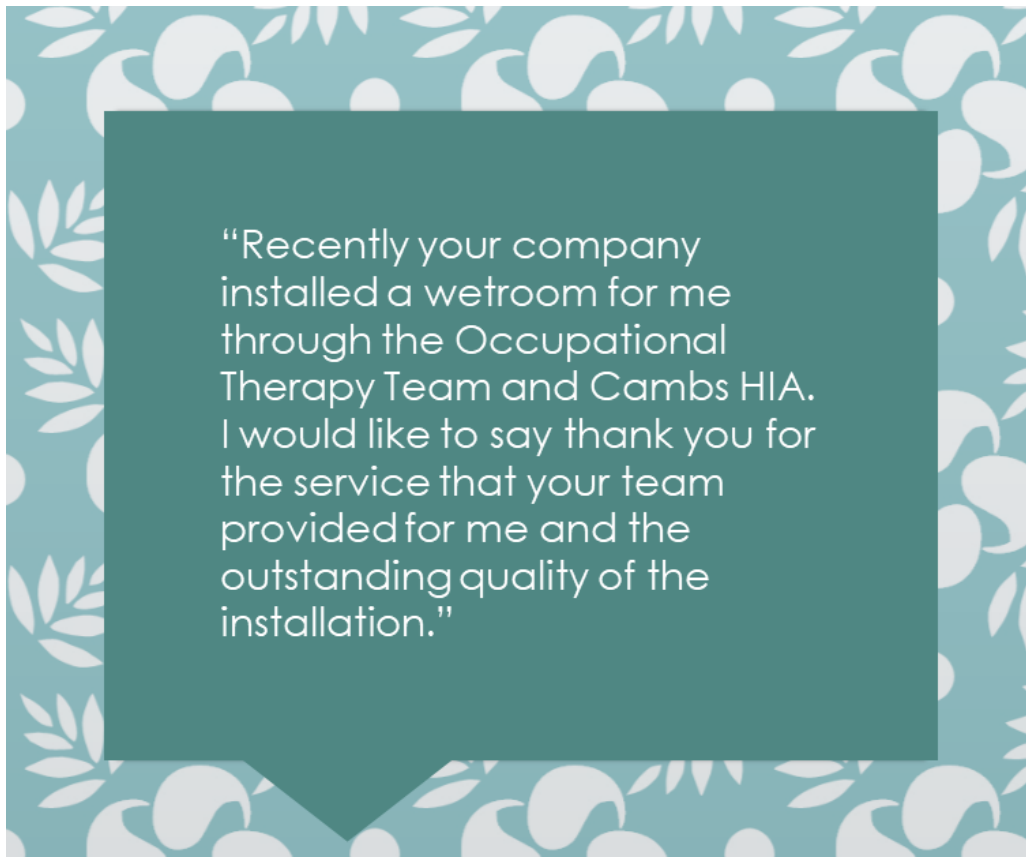
Customer Satisfaction

We monitor our performance carefully to ensure we are meeting the needs and expectations of our clients

We are pleased that customer satisfaction has remained high. We have experienced a small increase the number of complaints mainly focussed on delays and the conduct of our contractors.

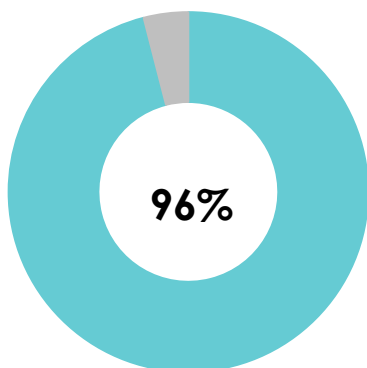
We take complaints very seriously and took the decision not to extend existing contracts and attract new contractors to improve quality and increase competitiveness. Addressing complaints about delays with work has been difficult as we had to follow the government's guidance on working in other people's homes.

There have also been some lovely compliments and a sense of gratefulness to staff for continuing to work throughout the lockdowns.

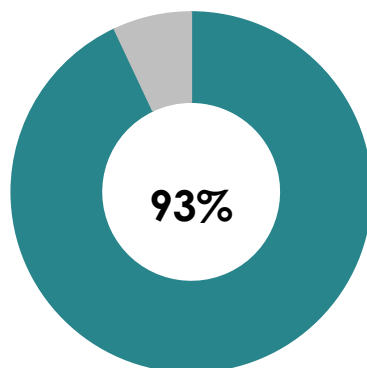


Satisfaction Stats

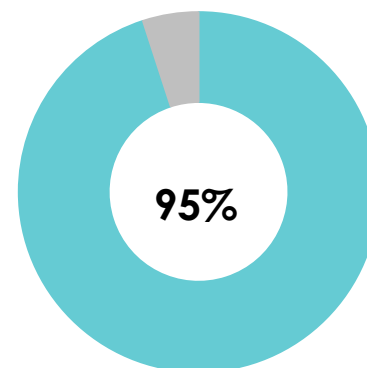
After each job is completed, each district is asked to report on feedback regarding the quality of work, our service and how well we have met our clients needs.



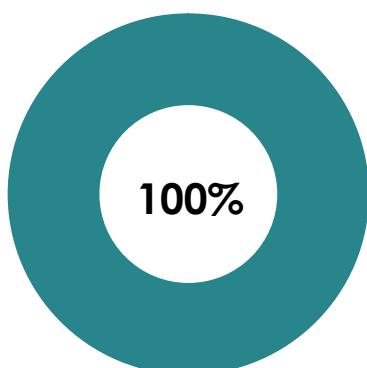
Rated the Cambs HIA'S advice as good or excellent



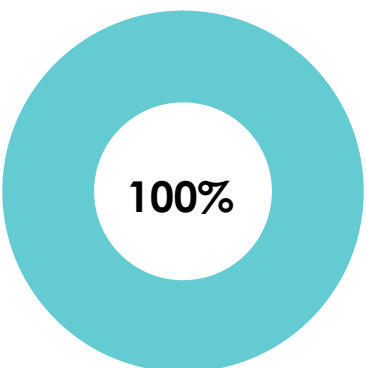
Said that work met expectations



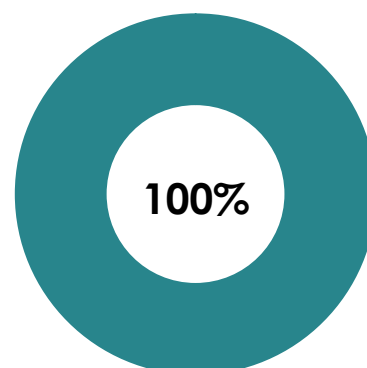
Felt that work represented value for money



Told us that work has helped their health/ wellbeing



Felt that work increased their independence



Were satisfied overall with our service

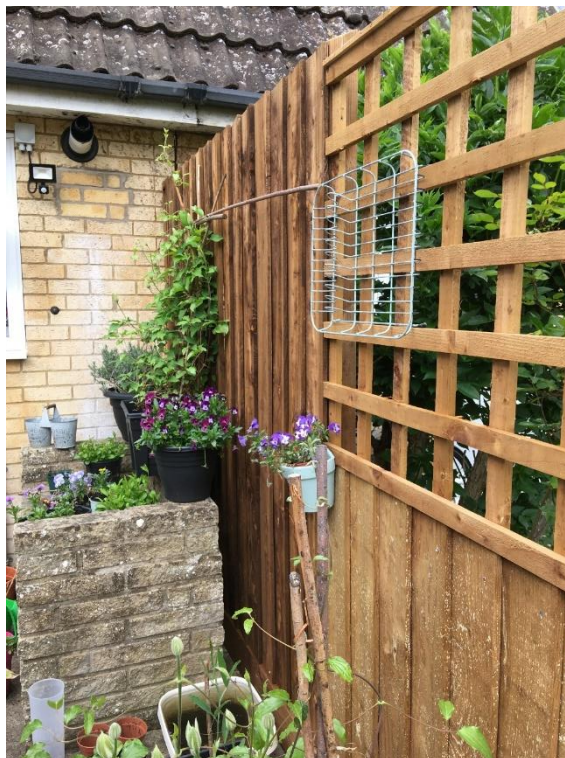
Safer Streets Project

This year we collaborated with Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary on a project aimed at reducing domestic burglary and supporting vulnerable people to improve the security of their homes. Although take up of the free improvements by non council housing residents was not as high as we would have liked, we were able to install a new fence for one resident and replace the windows and front door for another.

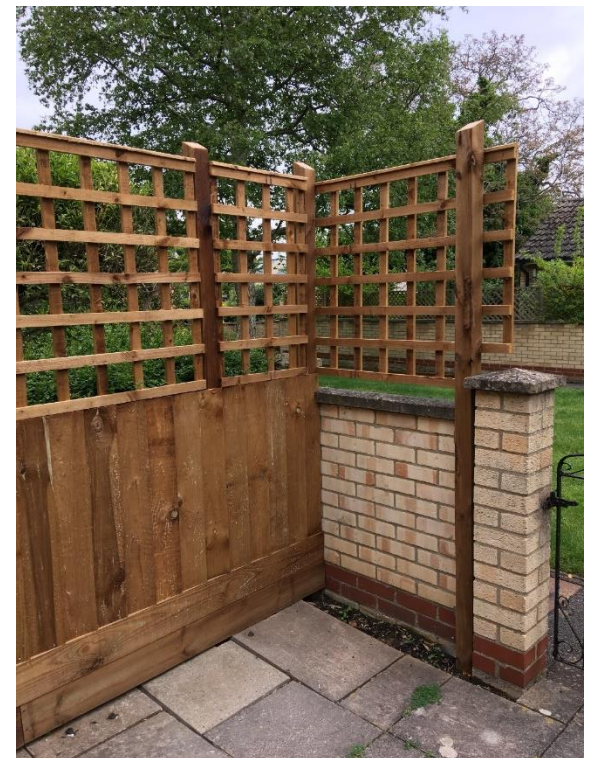
As improving home safety is one of the priorities in our Adaptations Policy, Cambs HIA is keen to look at how we could continue this work in 2021/22 for elderly and disabled people through the use of our Special Purposes Grants.



Before

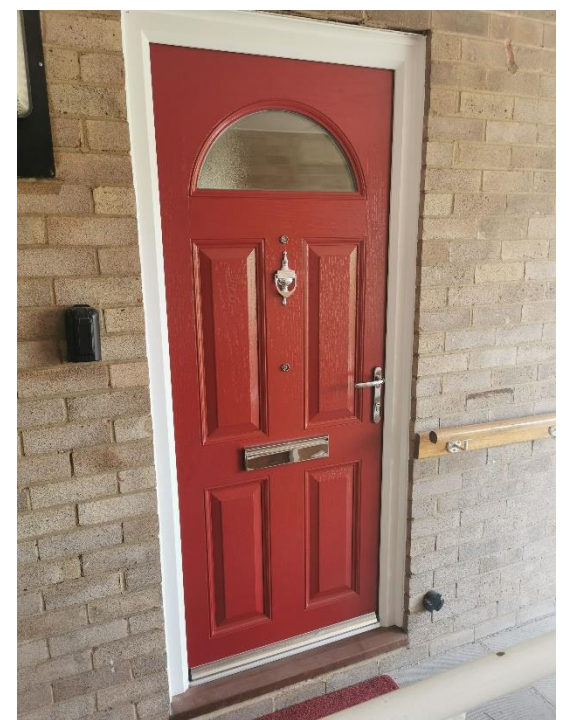


After



Grants for Fire Safety Doors

Leaseholders usually have an obligation under their lease to pay for the repair and replacement of items in their home which are not covered by the landlord. We are working with Cambridge City Council to promote the take up of grants to help fund the replacement of external doors in flatted blocks to ensure they meet fire safety and security standards.



New IT System

Cambs HIA has been working in partnership with Environmental Health across the 3 District Councils to design and implement a new Information Technology (IT) software package called Tascomi. Tascomi which, was acquired by IDOX in 2019 is a national company specialising in cloud based Public Protection software. Cambs HIA staff have learned how to design IT workflows to ensure the new system is lean and maximises “E working” opportunities, providing a better all round cloud based IT solution. The system went live on 16th March 2021. Manager, Frances Swann praised the work of Senior Caseworker, Justin Hicks who worked tirelessly to learn new skills and ensure the system replicated the needs of the service.

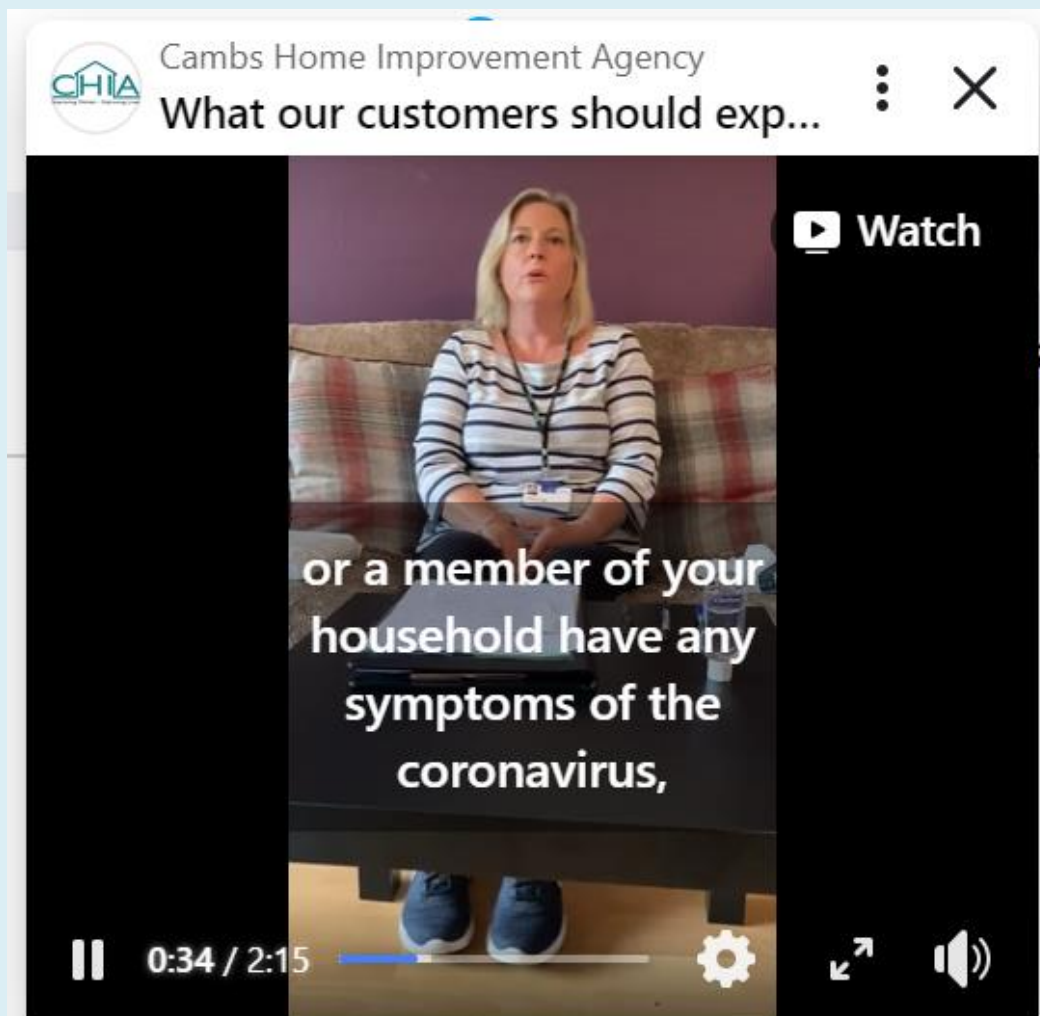


Working through the Pandemic

The terms “furlough, social distancing and hands -face –space” have become second nature to us now.

However, at the start of the pandemic, Cambs HIA had to interpret the governments guidance to ensure staff and contractors were working safely. Contractors were asked to provide detailed risk assessments about the steps they would take to help control infection and we wrote to all of our clients to inform them.

Caseworker, Tracey Hine (below) also produced a short video to help explain to our clients the steps we were taking to keep them safe.



One of the Agency Caseworkers created an informative video, explaining to clients what they could expect from visiting staff

Statement of Financial Activities

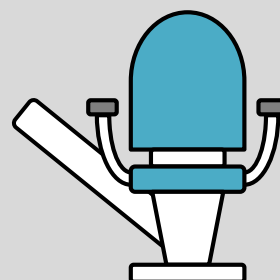
For 2017-2018, here are our statement of financial activities figures:

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 March 2021
Income			
HIA Fees	(438,622)	(383,594)	(244,035)
External Funding (Cambridgeshire County Council, etc.)	(127,490)	(177,990)	(225,990)
Other Income (including landlord & client contributions, & fees from private works)	(42,603)	(40,245)	(31,491)
Total Incoming Resources	(608,715)	(601,829)	(501,516)
Expenditure			
Cost of generating funds	506,700	554,327	494,300
Total Resources Expended	506,700	554,327	494,300
Net Incoming/outgoing resources before recognised gains and losses	(102,015)	(47,502)	(7,216)
Trading (Surplus) /Deficit b/f	(177,339)	(279,354)	(326,856)
Trading (Surplus) /Deficit c/f	(279,354)	(326,856)	(334,072)

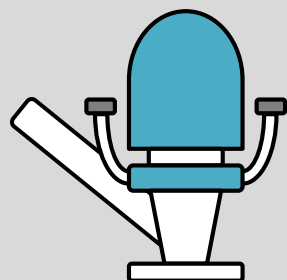
Last Year We...



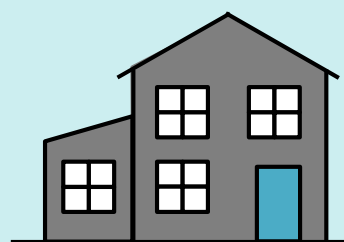
...successfully transitioned
to working from home
overnight



...continued to process
grants and adapt peoples
homes safely



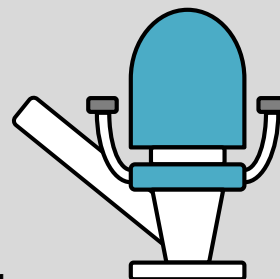
...assisted contractors on
complying with COVID
safety



...entered new
collaborations with
Cambridge City Council
and the Police



...attended Building Control
refresher sessions to upskill
staff



...Implemented a new IT
system

Local Economic Contribution



£2 Million

Spent in homes across
Cambridge City,
Huntingdonshire and South
Cambridgeshire



10

People provided with
kitchen adaptations
allowing them access to
prepare and cook food

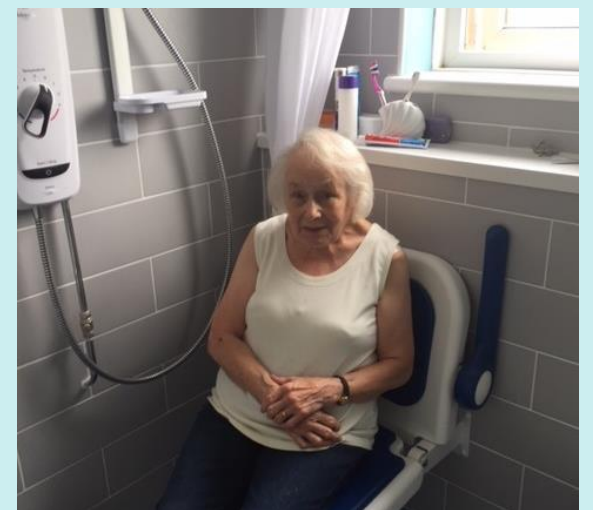


£12 Million

Worth of tender
opportunities approved for
works contracts

102

Adaptations completed for
clients living in Social
Housing, costing over
£865,000



9

Helped to tackle fuel
poverty by installing new
boilers and insulation

Cambs Home Improvement Agency @CambsHIA · 20 Feb
We're very grateful to have received these lovely cards from some of our
happy clients in @huntsdc and @SouthCambs

"#Thankyou 🙏 for all your #time, #effort, #patience, #understanding and
#care. It is very much #appreciated..."

#DisabledFacilitiesGrant #DisabledAdaptation #Thanks 🙏



We regularly post on social
media to promote the
service and to raise
awareness of disability

With Thanks to...



Approved Contractors

who are trusted and experienced in this field to complete building works on the client's behalf.

Occupational Therapists

who assess people's need for adaptations and determine how those needs can be addressed within the relevant legislation.



Local Authority Grants Officers & Private Sector Housing Teams

in each of the three districts to check and approve mandatory and discretionary grants for qualifying people.

Charitable Organisations

who help us by providing additional funding where the cost will be above the £30,000 grant limit.

Usually needed for complex work including extensions and conversions.

Our Aims for 2021-2022

Improve Performance by:

- Closely monitor the performance of new contractors
- Introduce one new service Level Agreement aimed at speeding up the landlord consent process

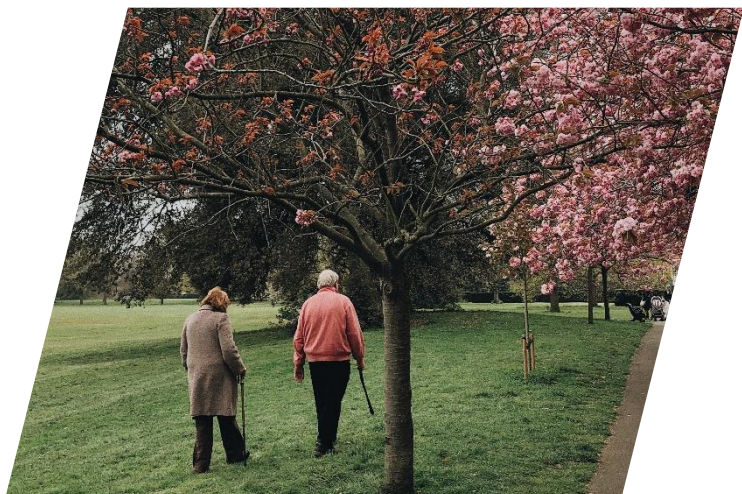
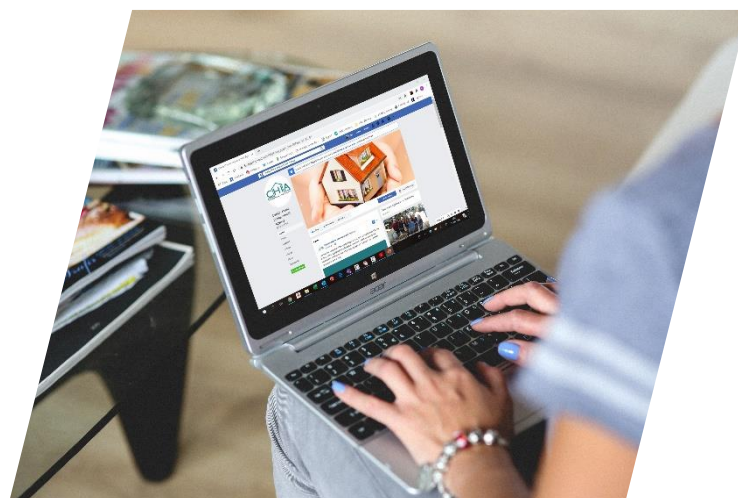


Improving Customer Service:

- Continue to develop the new IT system and develop the customer portal
- Publishing new Customer Service Standards
- Increase take up of non grant funded adaptations/develop self funded market

Increase Awareness and take up of Grants in Cambridge City by:

- Targeted work on promoting DFG's in Cambridge City
- More focussed campaigns targeting health inequalities



Promote Well Being by:

- Provide targeted grants that improve Housing Health and Safety Assessment outcomes
- Continue targeting grants to help reduce fuel poverty

Tell Us What You Think

Your Feedback

We welcome your comments about our Annual Report and how you think it could be improved.

We also welcome your views about the work of Cambs HIA, now and in the future.

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