County Councillor report July 2020

The hedge on the corner of Ladywalk has been cut back from the footpath. I have asked our LHO to check the boundaries to ascertain who actually is responsible for the upkeep of this hedge. The new white lining on the High Street has now been completed.

Virus update

1. **Key points**
   Confirmed Covid-19 cases – overall and in care homes
   - **74 new lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases** were detected in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the latest reporting period, 20 - 26 July (as at 29 July).

   - The cumulative rate of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population in **Huntingdonshire (507.5) and Peterborough (713.3) are statistically significantly higher** than the national rate (464.0) (data at 29 July).

   - The **7 day rolling average of confirmed cases** for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, and each of the Cambridgeshire districts, shows a **declining trend overall** in Covid-19 cases. However, confirmed cases have increased in Cambridge (plus 8), Fenland (plus 1), and Huntingdonshire (plus 1).

   - According to CQC data, **3 care home outbreaks** in Cambridgeshire was reported in the last reporting period.

   - **Directly age standardised rates (DASR) of all-cause and Covid-19 related deaths have been published** by ONS for deaths occurring March-June 2020. For the combined 4-month period the DASR's for **Cambridgeshire** are **below the England average** for all-cause and Covid-19 related deaths. For the same period **Peterborough** has a DASR **similar to** the England average for **all-cause deaths**, and **below** the England average for **Covid-19** related deaths.

   All cause and Covid-19 deaths[1] – all settings and in care homes
   - **Numbers of all cause deaths** have **increased in week 29** for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined (105 all cause deaths compared to 101).

   - The **trend in all cause deaths** since the Covid-19 initial peak in deaths is **down overall** in **Cambridgeshire and its districts**. However, **Cambridge** (plus 3 deaths), **Fenland** (plus 5) and **Huntingdonshire** (plus 7) have seen increases in numbers of all cause deaths between the last two reporting weeks.

   - **No Covid-19 related deaths** occurred in **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough** in week 29.

   - In week 29, the number of **all-cause deaths** is **below the 2014-18 average** for **Cambridgeshire** and **Peterborough.** Numbers in **East Cambridgeshire** and **Huntingdonshire** are above the 5yr average.

   - For week 29, the number of **all-cause deaths in care homes** is **below the 2014-18 average** in **Cambridgeshire** and **Peterborough, and all districts except one.** It is above in **East Cambridgeshire.**
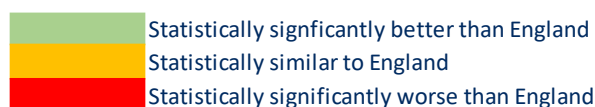
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[1] The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes provisional weekly deaths data – it is important to note that the deaths data are retrospective and not as up to date as the dates for the confirmed cases numbers.

The cumulative numbers and rates of lab-confirmed cases of Covid-19 reported at 29 July 2020

Area	Total cases	Rate per 100,000	95% CI	
			Lower CI	Upper CI
Cambridge	339	269.6	242.4	299.8
East Cambridgeshire	194	217.1	188.6	249.8
Fenland	490	482.8	442.0	527.4
Huntingdonshire	900	507.5	475.5	541.6
South Cambridgeshire	373	236.8	214.0	262.0
Cambridgeshire	2,296	352.4	338.3	367.1
Peterborough	1,434	713.3	677.4	751.0
East of England	24,641	397.4	392.5	402.4
England	259,722	464.0	462.2	465.8

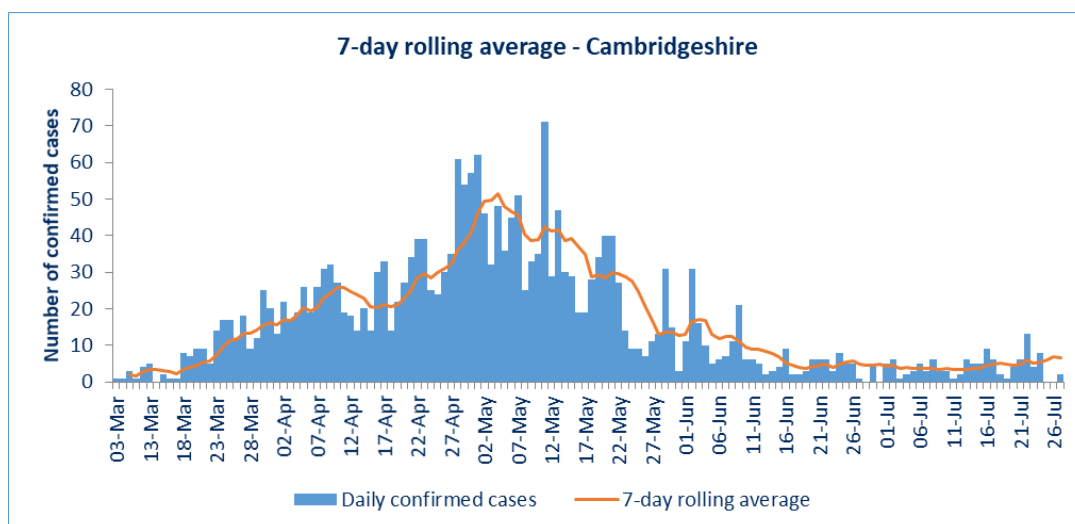Notes: Rate per 100,000 resident population, crude rates calculated using mid-year 2018 population estimates

Last updated on Wednesday 29 July 2020 at 4:03pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.

Statistically significantly better than England
Statistically similar to England
Statistically significantly worse than England

Source: Public Health England (PHE), https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/

Key points:

- The cumulative rates of confirmed cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population are statistically significantly lower in Cambridgeshire (352.4) when compared to the England average (464.0).

- Of the Cambridgeshire districts, the cumulative rate of confirmed cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population in Fenland (482.8) is statistically similar to the national average, whilst in Huntingdonshire (507.5) rates are statistically significantly higher than the national average. The rates in Huntingdonshire and Fenland are largely related to cases in particular settings, such as care homes, hospitals, schools and workplaces, and these have been actively managed locally, working with partners and Public Health England.

- The cumulative rate of confirmed cases in Peterborough (713.3) is statistically significantly higher than the national rate. The higher rate in Peterborough has been, in part, driven by the testing completed under pillar 2 since late April. This is part of an ongoing management arrangement with Public Health England and partners. The situation is also considered in daily surveillance and outbreak management meetings and appropriate action is being taken in settings and impacted communities.
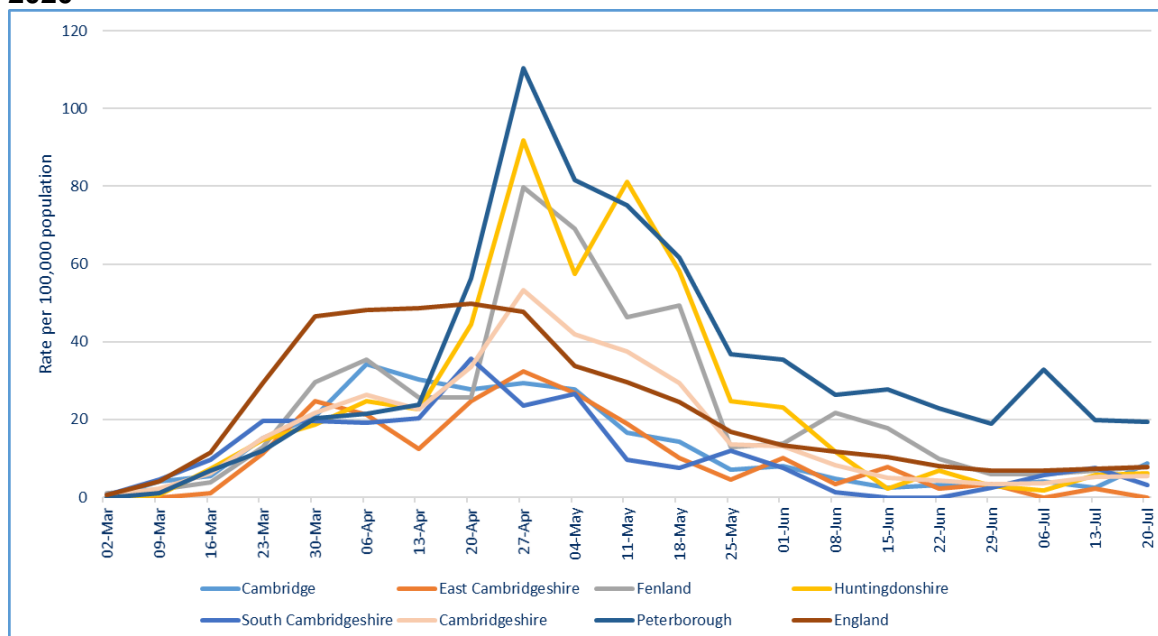

Notes: Last updated on Wednesday 29 July 2020 at 4:03pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.

Key points:
- The 7 day rolling average of confirmed cases for each areas across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough show a declining trend since the respective peak in Covid-19 cases overall; there is a slight upturn in the recent days for Cambridgeshire, and Cambridge, Fenland and Huntingdonshire districts (data not shown).

Weekly rates of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population, up to week 20-26 July, data extracted 29 July 2020

Notes: Rate per 100,000 resident population, crude rates calculated using mid-year 2018 population estimates

Last updated on Wednesday 29 July 2020 at 4:03pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.

Key points:
- Since the peaks in April, data shows an overall declining trend for the weekly rates of confirmed Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population across each area. However, Cambridge, Fenland and Huntingdonshire districts have had a slight increase in the rate of Covid-19 positive cases in the most recent reporting week.

Covid-19 outbreaks in care homes – Care Quality Commission Data

Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in care homes (most recent 6 recording periods)

Area	Week starting						All outbreaks*	Number of care homes	Percentage of care homes that have reported an outbreak
	08-Jun	15-Jun	22-Jun	29-Jun	06-Jul	13-Jul			
Cambridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	15	80.0
East Cambridgeshire	0	0	1	0	0	1	9	21	42.9
Fenland	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	28	50.0
Huntingdonshire	1	1	0	0	0	1	19	34	55.9
South Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	1	0	19	33	57.6
Cambridgeshire	1	1	1	0	1	3	73	131	55.7
Peterborough	3	1	0	0	0	0	22	36	61.1
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	4	2	1	0	1	3	95	167	56.9
East of England**	17	25	12	8	7	5	808	1,679	48.1

*All outbreak figures include the total number of outbreaks in care homes from the week starting 9 March 2020 until the week starting 13 July 2020. The week starting 9 March was the first recording period available for this dataset.

**Government office region

Notes: Each weekly total refers to reports in the period Monday to the following Sunday. This dataset includes management information describing the number of care homes reporting a suspected or confirmed outbreak of COVID-19 to PHE, together with the cumulative proportion of all care homes that have reported an outbreak. Care home data weekly updates: 23 July 2020.
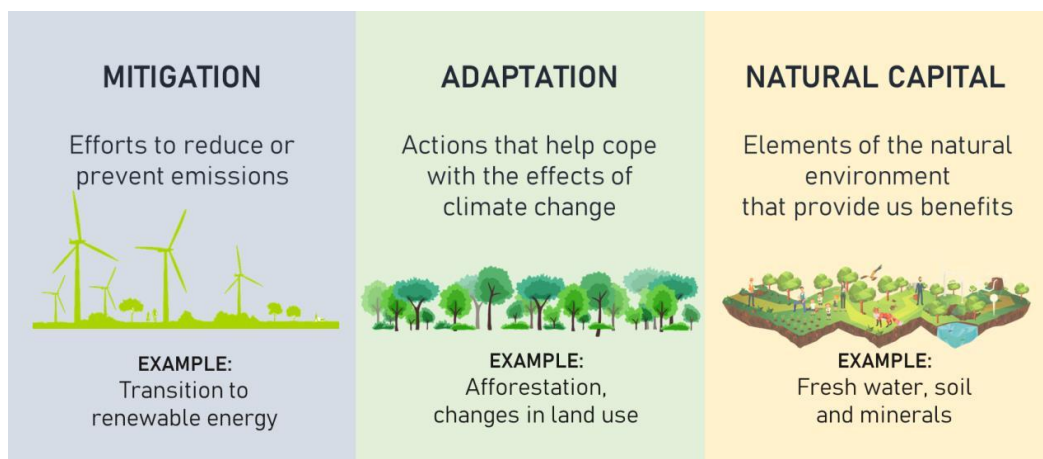
Key points:

- In total 95 out of 167 (56.9%) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough care homes have reported a suspected or confirmed outbreak of Covid-19 to CQC since early March 2020. This compares to 48.1% in the East of England.

- For the week starting 13 July, there were 3 reported Covid-19 outbreak in the care homes in Cambridgeshire.

- Once a suspected or confirmed Covid-19 outbreak at a care home is reported, the care home is added to this dataset. Once added, it is not removed. Therefore the data has limitations. For example, a suspected outbreak may be confirmed as negative through testing, but the care home will remain on the dataset. Similarly, if a care home were to report a second suspected or confirmed outbreak this would not be captured on this dataset.

Council shortlisted for top climate emergency award

Cambridgeshire County Council's work to respond to the climate change emergency has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award. The County Council's Climate Change and Environment strategy has been shortlisted in the *Leadership in responding to the Climate Emergency* category of the MJ Awards 2020. The Council agreed in May 2019 to make a declaration of a Climate Emergency and through its collaboration policy research exchange programme with Cambridge University produced an evidence base of carbon emissions across the county. A carbon footprint was developed, which included all greenhouse gas emissions that occur in the county (excluding peatland) broken down across key sectors such as transport, domestic buildings and commercial services. The council used this evidence to develop its draft Climate Change and Environment Strategy and a vision '*to deliver net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050 in partnership with all stakeholders, whilst supporting our communities and Cambridgeshire's biodiversity and environmental assets to adapt and flourish as our climate changes'.*

This vision has already started to be translated into real action. The council has added a specific priority into its Business Plan which concentrates on helping Cambridgeshire reach this net zero carbon target by 2050 and set up a £16million Environment Fund to take all the Council's offices it owns and occupies off fossil fuels by 2025 and cut its organisational carbon footprint by 50% by 2023. The Council procures £450million of services every year for Cambridgeshire communities and it will be working with its supply chain to reduce carbon emissions. Cambridgeshire County Council has been leading the way in prioritising climate and environment issues for some time. Through its initial energy investments the Council has set up a self-financing unit to focus on energy project delivery. Initially this covered schools and a solar farm, but has now been extended to cover battery storage and smart-grid development. Since then the authority has invested £11m in schools to improve energy efficiency, resulting in energy bill savings of £910,000 a year.

In 2018 the Council won the British Renewable Energy Awards' pioneer category and in 2019 became a signatory to UK 100, to lead solutions for rural communities and commit to securing the shift to 100% clean energy by 2050. As a result, Cambridge County Council was asked to set up a Countryside Climate Network of rural authorities to work to share best practice across the country and develop nature based policy solutions to climate change. This excellent strategy is already a key part of the council's contribution to the Countryside Climate Network and is sure to be used by other authorities as they work together to tackle climate change and secure a cleaner future. Its shortlisting proves that Cambridgeshire's work is recognised on the national stage. The County Council also launched a Plastics Reduction Strategy - to eliminate single use plastics to protect the biodiversity of our oceans and marine life - and was also named 'East of England Council of the Year' at the 2019 Energy Efficiency Awards. A virtual awards ceremony will be held by the MJ on 2 October when the winner of the *Leadership in responding to the Climate Emergency* category and other winners will be announced.

Community renewable energy project backed by county council wins £2million grant

A community renewable energy project has been awarded a £2.146million grant to provide sustainable heating to homes in Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire. The Heating Swaffham Prior project, which Cambridgeshire County Council is developing with Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust, will help the village move away from using oil for heating and hot water. Instead, heat extracted from the ground and air will be used, saving thousands of tonnes of carbon emissions over the project's lifetime. The grant was awarded by the Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) which is supported by the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The community heat project has been under development since 2017, driven forward by Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust and Cambridgeshire County Council. The aim of the scheme is to allow all households to make the 'green choice' by replacing their existing often large, floor, oil boilers with a smaller wall mounted heat exchanger and removing their oil tanks from their gardens. The planning application for the project was submitted on Friday, 17th July. If successful, 130, 200m deep boreholes will be drilled into the ground to extract heat which will be distributed to homes across the village via a series of pipes called a heat network. A large air source heat pump will supplement the energy extracted from the ground and solar panels will also provide renewable electricity to run the heat pumps at the energy centre. Of the 300 households within the village, 166 have expressed their interest in joining the renewable heating network from the start. It is hoped that over time the whole village will choose to connect to use the system. The project has been supported by funding from Cambridgeshire County Council. The grant funding just received from HNIP will contribute £1.79 million to the construction of the heat network and the balance will be used to set up the contracting arrangements for the project. The county council could invest up to £5.2million into the project, and this decision will be taken in late autumn once all the legal and financing arrangements are clear. If approved, construction could begin late this year and continue throughout 2021.

County Council's support for their Armed Forces Community is awarded Gold

On the 30th July, the Ministry of Defence unveiled that Cambridgeshire County Council has received the Employer Recognition Scheme **Gold Award**, for outstanding support to our armed forces community.

2020 marks the seventh year of the awards scheme and the County Council's success builds on the work carried out since being awarded the Silver award in 2018. To win the Gold award the County Council had to demonstrate that it provides ten extra paid days leave for Reservists and have supportive HR policies in place for Veterans, Reserves, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers along with Spouses and Partners of those serving in the Armed Forces. They also advocate the benefits of supporting those within the Armed Forces community encouraging others to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and to engage in the Employer Recognition Scheme. The Council's flexible working, remote working policies and leave policies all help to support our armed forces community alongside specific reservist policies which offer additional leave for reservist employees to attend training. HR policies have been amended to include a specific policy for military spouses, who are often financially penalised when posted during maternity leave, to ensure those in that situation do not have to repay their contractual maternity pay.

Peter Hudson
County Councillor
Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over