

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Report to Haslingfield Parish Council November 2019

General election purdah

With the general election on Thursday 12th December, a pre-election period of heightened sensitivity, also known as ‘purdah’, began on Wednesday 6th November. During this period, councils have to draw a careful line in their efforts to stimulate interest in elections without undermining confidence in the impartiality of their role in the democratic process.

It is a legal requirement that resources are not used to either support or discourage support for any candidate or political party. However, it is legitimate for councils to promote the importance of the election and encourage people to find out about the issues that are being debated. Council service areas should avoid launching any consultations or projects that could be seen as locally or politically controversial.

26th November deadline to register to vote and to apply for a postal vote

If you need to register to vote or if you wish to apply for a postal vote for the general election on Thursday 12th December, the deadline to apply is Tuesday 26th November. You only need to register to be on the electoral register once at your address, not for every election. Registering for a postal vote could be advisable for a winter general election to be held in December.

Registering is quick and easy online. Go to <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Postponement of GCP cycle of meetings due to purdah

Due to the upcoming general election, the Greater Cambridge Partnership has postponed the GCP Joint Assembly and Executive Board meetings that were scheduled for Thursday 21st November and Thursday 12th December respectively – the latter being the day of the general election itself. The Joint Assembly was due to consider the Outline Business Case and project team recommendations for the end-to-end route for the Cambourne to Cambridge scheme and the Executive Board was due to make a decision on these recommendations.

The GCP had already postponed the C2C busway decision once before, from the October executive board meeting until the December meeting, meaning it would be taken alongside the decision on demand access in Cambridge city. As a result of this postponement, the A428 Local Liaison Forum that was due to take place on Monday 18th November has also been postponed. The meetings will be rescheduled for the New Year, although exact dates are yet to be confirmed.

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