

Political Management

Cambridge City Council is one of the five district councils in the County of Cambridgeshire. It is composed of 14 wards, with three councillors elected in each ward; making 42 city councillors in total.

The current composition of the City Council is Labour (24 seats), Liberal Democrats (14), Independent (2), Conservative (1) and Green (1). A mayor and a deputy mayor are chosen each year from among the 42 councillors. All 42 members of the City Council meet formally at least five times a year at meetings whose principal business is to set the annual budget and to agree the policy framework for decision making.

The executive

The executive comprises the leader of the council and six executive councillors. The executive councillors make decisions relating to the major service areas.

These councillors can make decisions individually, usually at a meeting of a scrutiny committee relevant to their executive area. They also meet once a year to determine the council's budget.

Council meetings and committees

All council meetings are open to the public, although the public may be asked to leave when members discuss sensitive information.

Regulatory committees

These include civic affairs, licensing, planning, and standards.

Scrutiny committees

Scrutiny committees receive reports with background information and guidance on issues. The committee comments on the content and makes recommendations to the relevant executive councillor, who then considers these views before making their decision.

Area committees

The Area committees cover four geographical areas – north, south, east and west/central. Their purpose is to move decision making out into the community and to make it easier for people to have a say about decisions that affect them locally. At each meeting there is an open forum where local people can put questions to members about matters of concern in their areas.