

AMBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ambridge District Council — Municipal Year 2026

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Executive Summary

This report presents the Council’s performance against its Corporate Plan priorities and key performance indicators for the municipal year 2026. Overall, the Council performed strongly, with 78% of monitored indicators meeting or exceeding target. The Council delivered its budget with a £142,000 underspend and maintained high satisfaction levels among residents, with 74% of survey respondents rating Council services as “good” or “excellent”.

Areas of particular strength include housing delivery, environmental performance, and customer service. Areas requiring further improvement include planning application processing times and adult social care review cycles.

1. Corporate Plan Priorities — Performance Summary

Corporate Priority	Target	Actual	Status
Net additional homes delivered	350	387	Exceeded
Affordable homes completed	105	112	Exceeded
Recycling rate (%)	58%	61.4%	Exceeded
Household waste per capita (kg)	<480	463	Met
Planning decisions in time (major, %)	60%	54%	Not Met
Planning decisions in time (minor, %)	70%	73%	Met

Resident satisfaction — 72% overall (%)		74%	Met
Council tax collected (%)	97.5%	97.8%	Met
Business rates collected (%)	98.0%	98.4%	Exceeded
Adults receiving care review on time (%)	85%	79%	Not Met

2. Financial Performance

2.1 Revenue Outturn 2025/26

The General Fund Revenue Budget for 2025/26 was set at £24,140,000 (net). The provisional outturn is £23,998,000, representing an underspend of £142,000 (0.59%). This underspend will be transferred to the General Contingency Reserve, which will stand at £1,820,000 at the year end.

Service Area	Budget (£000)	Outturn (£000)	Variance (£000)
Planning and Housing	3,240	3,187	-53
Environment and Communities	7,820	7,798	-22
Adults and Children's Services	9,450	9,521	+71
Finance and Corporate Services	2,180	2,143	-37
Chief Executive and Democratic Services	1,450	1,349	-101
TOTAL	24,140	23,998	-142

3. Key Achievements 2026

3.1 Housing and Planning

The Council exceeded its housing delivery target for the fourth consecutive year, with 387 net additional homes completed. The Strategic Housing Plan 2026–2030 was adopted in April 2026. The Ambridge North Urban Extension planning application was determined, unlocking 480 additional homes. The Housing Allocations Policy was reviewed and updated.

3.2 Environment

The Council's recycling rate reached 61.4%, the highest on record and above the Government's national target of 55%. The new waste collection contract with Greenway Environmental Services was successfully mobilised. The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026–2035 was adopted, committing the Council to net zero operations by 2035.

3.3 Finance and Corporate

Council tax collection of 97.8% exceeded target. The Council successfully completed its ICT infrastructure refresh, improving system resilience and enabling new digital service channels. Customer Service satisfaction scores improved to 82%.

4. Areas for Improvement

4.1 Planning Application Processing

The percentage of major planning applications determined within the statutory 13-week period (54%) fell short of the 60% target. The shortfall reflects increased application complexity and officer vacancy levels. An improvement plan is in place, including additional agency support, an application pre-screening process, and a revised project management system.

4.2 Adult Social Care Reviews

79% of adults receiving care had their care plan reviewed within the required timescale, against a target of 85%. A review of the care management process was completed in May 2026 and an action plan is being implemented to improve review completion rates.

5. Outlook 2026/27

The Council enters 2026/27 in a sound financial position with adequate reserves. Key priorities for the coming year include the mobilisation of the new waste contract, delivery of the climate action plan, continuing the housing programme, and completing the ICT transformation project.

Report prepared by: Janet Simmons, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, and the Corporate Performance Team. June 2026.
