

## Ryan Coogan's post

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### [Ryan Coogan](#)

1h ·

Spending Scandal after Scandal at the Debt Ridden County Council

🔥 **Cambridgeshire County Council in Crisis: A Multi-Party Failure of Leadership**

Cambridgeshire County Council is now engulfed in one scandal after another from unlawful contracts and spiralling school transport costs to safety breaches and conflicts of interest. And no one party can claim clean hands.

This is a crisis made not just by one political group, but by years of failure, neglect, and mismanagement under the Liberal Democrats, Labour, and Conservatives alike.

🟡 **The Liberal Democrats: Presiding Over Collapse**

Since 2021, the council has been run by a Liberal Democrat led coalition and full control under Cllr Lucy Nethsingha. During their tenure:

52 procurement breaches totalling over £120 million were exposed by auditors between 2022–2024.

SEND and school taxi costs exploded to £25.6 million per year, due to lack of cost control and weak contract oversight.

£3.2 million in legal costs were spent in a single year defending the guided busway project.

The council was fined £6 million after pleading guilty to health and safety violations that led to fatalities.

The Liberal Democrats promised transparency and reform. But many key failures, including the hidden full audit into the [#Farmgate](#) land deal and continued budget overspends, happened on their watch. Critics say they've shown more interest in managing public perception than delivering real accountability. The 'This Land Ltd' Saga is continuing, and very soon may bankrupt the county, the presiding Lib Dems will no doubt blame everyone else. Whilst the auditors made it quite clear that the council do not have the quality in governance to manage such a failure..... not often you hear an external auditor telling you all you need to know of the 'quality' in the Liberal Democrats.

🔴 **Labour: Silent Partners in Failure**

Labour, part of the old ruling coalition, has done little to distance itself from these failings. Despite holding key portfolios, Labour councillors have:

Failed to stop overspending in SEND and adult social care, where costs now include placements of up to £85,000 per week.

Stayed silent on the delayed publication of the [#Farmgate](#) audit, despite promises to voters.

Backed budgets and procurement decisions that have led to repeated rule breaking and scrutiny from auditors.

Labour's role in governance has been marked by acquiescence, not accountability.

🔵 **The Conservatives: Architects of the Mess**

Before 2021, Cambridgeshire County Council was run by the Conservatives and many of the worst structural failings began under their leadership:

The [#Farmgate](#) conflict of interest, where former Conservative deputy leader Roger Hickford acquired a council farm tenancy while approving a £183,000 investment into it, was never properly investigated during their rule.

Unlawful procurement, including a winter gritting contract awarded without tender, occurred during Conservative control.

The guided busway, now subject to litigation and repair costs estimated up to £87 million, was a flagship Conservative project riddled with design and safety issues.

Now in opposition, the Conservatives are quick to criticise. But they laid the groundwork for the current dysfunction.

👉 **The Verdict: A Political Failure on All Fronts**

Cambridgeshire's problems aren't just financial. They're cultural. They stem from a toxic mix of arrogance, inaction, and incompetence from all traditional parties:

Lib Dems have failed the county.

Labour failed to challenge it.

Conservatives built it.

Until this council replaces party protectionism with full transparency, independent oversight, and enforcement of procurement law, the scandals will continue and residents will keep paying the price.

Only Reform has the skill, determination and will to fix this county. Until a reform majority, we have to settle for incompetence and failure.

Ryan Coogan

[#CambsCouncilScandal](#)

[#CambridgeshirePolitics](#)

[#CouncilCorruption](#)

[#PublicMoneyMatters](#)

[#LocalGovernmentWatch](#)

[#CouncilAccountability](#)

[#TaxpayerJustice](#)

[#HoldThemToAccount](#)

[#ProcurementScandal](#)

[#WasteOfPublicMoney](#)

All reactions:

18

[Rob Lemmon](#)

Tag the Labour and conservatives in and see what they have to say, for too long they have been skimming off the top

- [30m](#)

[Roy Bridson](#)

Go Get them Ryan , expose them for what they are and get that piece of mischief out of the PM seat

- [47m](#)

