



Report to:	Cabinet	6 February 2024
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Dr. Tumi Hawkins – Lead Cabinet Member for Planning	
Lead Officer:	Stephen Kelly	
Key Decision:	No	

Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2022-2023

Executive Summary

1. All Local Authorities are obliged to publish an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) each year (note: these were previously referred to as Annual Monitoring Reports). They describe progress against the Local Development Scheme and monitor the impact of planning policies included in development plan documents. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council produce a joint AMR to monitor their development plans and policies collectively.
2. The AMR 2022-2023 demonstrates planning policies continue to have a positive impact on the sustainable development of Greater Cambridge and the quality of life of its residents. The AMR includes a wide-ranging commentary supported by a detailed set of data tables.

Recommendations

3. The Executive Councillor is recommended to:
 - 3.1. Agree the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2022-2023 (included as Appendix A) for publication on the Councils' websites.

- 3.2. Delegate any further minor editing changes to the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2022-2023 to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport.

Details

4. Local planning authorities are required to publish information monitoring progress of the implementation of their Local Development Scheme and planning policies included in their development plan documents at least on an annual basis in an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR is also required to give details of what action the Council has taken relating to the duty to co-operate, details of any neighbourhood development orders or neighbourhood development plans made, and once the Council has an adopted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule, information relating to the collection and spending of CIL monies.
5. The AMR for Greater Cambridge 2022-2023 covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The AMR includes indicators to measure the performance of the Councils' adopted planning policies as set out in the Cambridge Local Plan 2018, the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018, and the four adopted Area Action Plans for Northstowe, Cambridge East, Cambridge Southern Fringe, and North West Cambridge. It also includes indicators to measure change in the area against the objectives set out in the Sustainability Appraisals that accompany each of the adopted plans and to look at the wider effects of its planning policies on the district. The AMR also includes details on the action the Councils have taken relating to the Duty to Co-operate and of any neighbourhood plans made.
6. Authority Monitoring Reports were formerly known as Annual Monitoring Reports. They were renamed by government.
7. The AMR for Greater Cambridge 2022-2023 accompanying this report has three chapters. Chapter 1 provides some background and context. Chapter 2 includes sections on the progress against the Local Development Scheme, what actions the Councils have taken relating to the duty to co-operate and the current status of Neighbourhood Plans. Chapter 3 sets out a topic by topic analysis of the Greater Cambridge area including the impact of various policies.
8. Key findings from the AMR for Greater Cambridge 2022-2023 include:
 - The Greater Cambridge Local Plan Development Strategy Update was agreed by both Councils in early 2023. This was informed by comments made to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals (Preferred Options) consultation held in late 2021 and comprised decisions confirming: an updated need for jobs and homes; three key sites - North East Cambridge, Cambridge East, and Cambridge Biomedical Campus - as central building blocks for any development strategy; and the use of the First Proposals development strategy principles to inform identification of

further sites in a full development strategy to be confirmed at a later date. However, uncertainty regarding water supply, as well as delay to the submission of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Development Consent Order, has prevented progression of the emerging plan to the timings set out in the Local Development Scheme. A revision to the Local Development Scheme will be published in 2024.

- Three new Neighbourhood Plans were formally made in 2022-2023: West Wickham, Gamlingay and Fulbourn.
- The annual housing completions in 2022-2023 for Greater Cambridge was 2,339 dwellings. The average annual delivery rate required over the plan period 2011 to 2031 is 1,675 dwellings a year. The average annual delivery rate between 2011 and 2023 is 1,690.
- There were 794 affordable dwellings completed in Greater Cambridge in 2022-2023. This is 34% of all completions which is above the plan period average of 31%.
- In the 2022-2023 monitoring year there was a net loss of 5,698 sqm of employment floorspace in Cambridge and a net gain of 27,036 sqm in South Cambridgeshire. The largest completions were 10,974 square metres of new office and technology research facilities at land north of Melbourn Science Park and a 9,723 square metres office building at land adjacent to Cambridge North Station.
- There was a small net increase in retail space in South Cambridgeshire and an even smaller net decrease in Cambridge. The losses in Cambridge were largely due to planning permissions for a change of use from Class A1 (shops) to Class E (Commercial, Business and Service) where planning permission was required.
- Planning policies in both Council areas continue to have a positive impact on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The percentage of permissions including water efficiency and carbon reduction conditions increased significantly in 2022-2023.
- Levels of all measured pollutants were below their respective national air quality objectives levels in 2022-2023.
- Both Councils have policies that seek to protect and enhance priority species and habitat. These policies continued to be effective throughout the monitoring year.
- There have been no significant changes to the number of listed building or entries on the Historic England Buildings at Risk register in either Cambridge or South Cambridgeshire.
- Quality of life indicators continue to be generally favourable for the Greater Cambridge area.

9. The report is supplemented by two appendices. Appendix 1 lists all of the indicators across the plans and provides data where it is available. A traffic light system is used for target based indicators to quickly illustrate whether the target is being met and where potential issues may be arising. The appendix identifies only one red flag. This relates to policy 6 which seeks to increase retail floorspace by 14,141 square metres over the period 2011 to 2022 reflecting the adopted Cambridge Local Plan. Changes in shopping trends mean that although there was a gross increase in retail floorspace in Cambridge, in net terms, there was a decrease of 7,642 square metres. There

were also a small number of amber flags. The majority of these were concerned with allocations such as West Cambridge and Clifton Road where schemes are still being progressed. Appendix 2 provides the detailed data behind the quantifiable indicators.

Reasons for Recommendations

10. Local authorities have a statutory duty to publish an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) under The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and accompanying regulations.

Options

11. To not publish the Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2021-2022.
12. Reason for Rejection: Government requires that local planning authorities to publish an Authority Monitoring Report on an annual basis.

Implications

13. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: There are no significant implications.

Risks/Opportunities

14. The Planning risk management log contains a risk around housing delivery delays. The AMR gives some assurance that to date we are exceeding the required delivery rate required under the current Local Plan.

Consultation responses

15. In compiling the report Council officers and external organisations have provided information and data for the indicators included in the AMR. The final report will be published on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service website.
16. Local planning authorities are not required to undertake consultation on their Authority Monitoring Report prior to publication. However, the report is a joint report for South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council and needs signing off by both Councils. The report was signed off by Cambridge City Council at their Planning and Transportation Scrutiny Committee on 16 January 2024.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Growing local businesses and economies

17. The AMR monitors the contribution our development plans are making to support the local economy.

Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in

18. The AMR monitors the contribution our development plans are making to housing, and in particular affordable housing, in the area.

Being green to our core

19. The AMR monitors the contribution our development plans are making to climate change adaption and mitigation measures.

Background Papers

20. Background papers used in the preparation of this report:
21. The adopted Cambridge Local Plan 2018, the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018, and the four adopted Area Action Plans for Northstowe, Cambridge East, Cambridge Southern Fringe, and North West Cambridge, and their accompanying Sustainability Appraisals are published on the Councils websites:

www.cambridge.gov.uk/development-plan-for-cambridge

www.scams.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/.

Appendices

Appendix A: Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2022-2023 (and two appendices)

Report Author:

Mark Deas – Senior Policy Planner

Telephone: (01954) 713284