

Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership

Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2014

Introduction to the Strategy: What is it about?

The Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership (the “LSP”) is a body that brings together senior representatives from a range of organisations based in the public, private and voluntary sectors. The LSP is responsible for co-ordinating partnership work in the local authority areas and tackling some of the difficult problems that local people feel are important.

The LSP Board was formed in 2010, merging the previously separate LSP Boards for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. This merger was in recognition of the common interests that the two communities share, the challenges presented by the growth of new communities and the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support them.

By working in partnership we can have a greater impact on problems, bringing together our knowledge of communities and range of services. It is not the desire of the LSP, however, to impose additional bureaucracy and costs on partners, so working groups and performance management will be kept to a minimum at a time when resources are constrained.

This strategy provides a shared vision and priorities that will guide partnership working in the district areas. It also identifies a smaller number of issues that the LSP will look to take forward on its own where it feels that it can enhance what is already happening and make a difference. To ensure that it is appropriate and builds on what has gone before, the strategy is based on evidence that has been tested with existing partnerships, local communities and voluntary sector groups,

The strategy reflects the changes in the national policy environment, which helps shape service provision, gives an overview of what is presently being done and shows what the previous LSPs have achieved. The LSP believes that the strategy captures the issues that must be addressed in partnership to improve quality of life for our communities. Many other issues will continue to be tackled by individual partners and partnerships.

A Vision for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

The Local Strategic Partnership aspires to Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire being a place that is fair for all, where the need for housing of all kinds, close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities, is met and where people:

- Influence decisions that affect their communities
- Are comfortable with the diversity of the area where they live
- Have the freedom and support to pursue individual and community initiatives that will improve quality of life
- Feel that they have a stake in their community and that inequalities between different communities is reduced
- Are at the forefront of improving the quality of the environment so that patterns of consumption, energy use and travel do not affect the wellbeing of future generations
- Want to live

The Priority Issues for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

The LSP has identified four priority areas that it feels are important in improving the quality of life for people living in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. The LSP will be looking to individual agencies and partnerships working in the districts to reflect these issues in their own improvement plans, but has also identified a more limited number of actions where it feels it can make a difference.

The priority issues are:

- Engaging communities to create better outcomes
- Reducing inequalities
- Improving our environment and being at the forefront of low carbon living
- Providing sustainable communities that meet local need and are places where people want to live

Engaging Communities to Create Better Outcomes

“The LSP wants public services to involve local people so they can influence decisions affecting their areas and take pride in their communities. This will involve services starting with citizens and giving more control over the way public services are delivered and commissioned.”

Why this issue?

Over the next few years communities at a neighbourhood level in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire will have increased opportunities to take on more power to design and deliver services that matter to them. This will involve public agencies working in different ways so they can better collaborate and co-produce services with local people, community and voluntary sector organisations who will likely be affected by changes in service provision or have an interest in what public agencies do. Local authorities in particular will play more of an enabling role in the future, setting the scene for communities, civil society and local champions to take a more active role in society.

Community engagement is about the participation of local people in the decisions that affect their lives. These decisions can relate to improvements and prioritising services, but also involve local people having a role in strengthening the assets of their community and building empowered and sustainable individuals and groups. The preparation of Local Neighbourhood Plans will help local people identify their needs and aspirations and guide service delivery and commissioning. The plans can also feed into more strategic documents such as the Local Development Framework, Joint Service needs Analysis, Housing Strategy and into this Sustainable Community Strategy, as community-led parish plans already do.

At present, many of the public agencies and partnerships working in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are engaging communities in the area, partly in response to statutory duties, but also because effective public engagement can improve outcomes.

What are the priority areas where the LSP want to see improvement?

- The way public services engage, inform and consult local people is improved
- Local people and voluntary and community groups are supported to work together to improve local communities
- Involvement in decision-making is increased

What is being done now?

Local stakeholders have helped shape the **Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs)** of the health and wellbeing of local communities in Cambridgeshire. Local authorities are likely to be leading JSNAs in the future, with the creation of GP funding consortia, to help ensure that health focused commissioning strategies are coherent and co-ordinated, and improve local people's wellbeing.

Cambridgeshire Local Involvement Network (LINK) is a network of local people and organisations working together to improve and shape local health and social care services.

Through this interaction healthcare commissioners and providers can share views about healthcare and make improvements for the whole community.

A **community forum** has been set up in the south of Cambridge City where major housing developments are planned at Trumpington Meadows, Clay Farm, Glebe Farm, Bell School and the Addenbrookes biomedical campus. The southern fringe community forum will bring together local council officers and councillors, parish councillors, health representatives, police, existing residents of Trumpington and new residents as they move in. Together they will oversee the development of new facilities and services like parks and open spaces, play areas and community buildings. A north-west fringe community forum will also be set up as the new housing is built in this area.

Cambridge City Council has four **Area Committees**, where decisions are taken about environmental improvements, local planning applications and community development grants in local settings, so that local people can participate and influence what happens in their community. County Councillors contribute to these meetings. There is an Open Forum session at the start of meetings where neighbourhood issues can be raised and actions to resolve them can be discussed. These Area Committees are presently being developed to increase the range of people who can participate.

There are seven **Neighbourhood Panels** in South Cambridgeshire that offer parish representatives and members of the public to influence local policing priorities in their area. Neighbourhood Policing in Cambridge is channeled through Area Committees. Local task groups and Neighbourhood Action Groups look at the detail of how the priorities need to be responded to and provide reports back to the next meetings.

What has the LSP been doing?

The LSP is supporting Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS) to work intensively with community activists in 15 of its member groups as a part of an **Empowering Communities project**. The work with the leaders, whose groups provide services to local people, mostly on a voluntary basis, has improved their capacity to plan, respond to change and find funding. It also funded CCVS to carry out a project with **Seldom Heard Voices** in South Cambridgeshire to ensure that as an LSP we can be sure that our priorities are appropriate for all our communities. The Seldom Heard Voices project has fed into this strategy.

The LSP has supported four parish councils to achieve **Quality Status**, a scheme that plays an important role in improving the quality of management and administration of parish and town councils. The LSP has also supported a number of South Cambridgeshire communities to develop a **community-led parish plan**, which give an opportunity for local people to debate and create their own vision for a sustainable future.

The LSP made it possible for a second, of the enormously popular, **Bling Ya Ting Talent Shows** to be held at the Cambridge Corn Exchange. Over 500 local people attended. The show provides a showcase for residents from a range of different ethnic backgrounds, faiths and ages to come together to perform and appreciate the diversity that is present in Cambridge.

The Cambridge LSP invited **The Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths** to run three one-day workshops. Each workshop explored with community representatives, staff working in public services and young people how Muslims in Britain are perceived and how some Muslims see themselves. Better understanding of the diverse ethnic, linguistic and social backgrounds of people who make-up the Muslim population in the City is essential for people working in front

line services so that this section of our society isn't thought of as a threat, which can lead many Muslim communities feeling as if they are under siege.

What is the LSP aiming to do over the next 3 years

The LSP will:

- Take an overview of new democratic and engagement structures as they emerge so that they can be part of the overall governance of the area and connect elected councillors, community champions and partners in a coherent approach to decision-making.
- Encourage public agencies to work together to carry out their community engagement work, to share knowledge about communities and reduce duplication and waste.
- Invest in the skills and resources that will make community engagement more effective, including community and voluntary organisations, councillors and frontline staff.

How will we know if our aims have been achieved?

Performance measures that cover engagement as well as satisfaction, trust and other outcomes that relate to cohesion will be used to prepare a baseline from which we can assess progress.

Reducing Inequalities

“The LSP wants Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire to continue to be relatively prosperous places where people enjoy a good quality of life and have a strong sense of belonging. The LSP acknowledges that there are marked differences between communities in the area in terms of life expectancy, income, life chances and participation in community life and wants to encourage initiatives to reduce these inequalities.”

Why this issue?

Inequalities are present in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, by household income, location, gender, deprivation and ethnicity.

People in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, on the whole, still enjoy relatively high levels of prosperity, compared to other parts of the country, and a local economy that has been fairly resistant to the worst effects of the recent recession, so far. Some businesses in Cambridge, however, have struggled to sustain themselves and people who have been made unemployed have had to face real hardship, with the demand for services, such as debt advice and house repossessions, from local Citizen’s Advice Bureaux increasing by a third over the past year.

Prior to the recession, groups of people had found it difficult to share in the area’s economic success and with fewer good jobs now available the deprivation associated with households living on a low income may become more widespread. Cambridge City Council’s Mapping Poverty Report (2009) showed that nearly one household in ten in the City are living on a low income and that there are concentrations of low income in certain areas.

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire has a highly qualified and skilled population but also a significant number of people without any qualifications at all. The performance of some schools in Cambridge is below the county average and it is acknowledged that inequalities in educational outcome can affect income and employment as well as physical and mental health and quality of life.

The groups of people with lower levels of education and skills living in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire have been more affected by the recent recession than others. The local economic assessments for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (2010) shows that a high proportion of young people in Cambridge who left school early are not in education, employment or training and have been cast adrift of the labour market. People from certain ethnic groups have also fared less well, notably people from the Bangladeshi community living in Cambridge, and in South Cambridgeshire there is a large gypsy/traveller population, representing the second largest ethnic minority group in the area, that has found it increasingly difficult to find work in traditional occupations.

In Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire house prices in the lowest quartile are around 10 to 15 times income, compared with a ratio of 6 across the Eastern of England. For people living on a low income it is extremely difficult to gain access to affordable housing and presently there is a waiting list for social housing that exceeds 5,000 people in Cambridge. Parts of north-east Cambridge have a high proportion of dependent children living in overcrowded accommodation, amongst the highest (11%) proportion in the country.

Changes to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) and the introduction of a new Broad Rental Market Area, combined with other proposed changes to Housing Benefits will reduce the allowances individuals can claim, leaving many people short of the rent required. This has led to hardship and a movement of claimants to areas where rents are lower.

There continues to be strong labour market links between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, as people commute between the two districts, increasing traffic flows and congestion, and this is likely to increase as people seek lower cost housing in more affordable places. In South Cambridgeshire there is a low accessibility to jobs by public transport, cycling or walking and some people can become isolated in the villages in which they live.

The local economic assessments also highlight the high proportion of jobs in the public sector in Cambridge that may be vulnerable over the next few years because of reductions in government spending, and flags up the adverse impact large-scale redundancies this sector could have. The health and high tech sectors in the districts have a dependence on migrant workers, in part, involving overseas students who may find there are reduced opportunities in the future due to changes in visa requirements. Students contribute to the relatively high proportion of people living in the area who were born outside the UK, just over a fifth of the population in Cambridge, and the rapid “churning” of the local population, one of the highest rates in the country.

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire is therefore a place of diversity, where many different communities live. In Cambridge over 40 different languages are spoken and overall communities say they get on well together, although some tensions between communities are present and incidents of racial harassment are known but levels of racially motivated crime are low. Communities living in disadvantaged areas, do generally face higher levels of anti-social behaviour and crime, according to the Cambridge’s Community Safety Partnerships Strategic Assessment for 2009.

The Health Profiles (2010) for the districts show that, women in the least deprived areas of Cambridge can expect to live 7 years longer than women in the most deprived areas. For men living in Cambridge the difference is 5 years. Average male life expectancy for men is shorter than for women in both districts. The Marmot Review on tackling health inequalities in England post 2010, states that as well as differences in average life expectancy, people living in disadvantaged areas are more likely to experience disability, the average difference in disability free life expectancy being 17 years.

The health of people in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire is generally significantly better than the England average with very few health related indicators that are worse or the same. In South Cambridgeshire road injuries and deaths are significantly worse and whilst the rate is decreasing they are still a matter of concern. In Cambridge there are more adults who binge drink and more stays for alcohol related harm than the average for England. In South Cambridgeshire rates for hip fracture in older people are similar to the England average.

Both districts have a relatively large, fast, growing, but slowly aging population but with an increasing very elderly proportion of people. Giving every child the best start in life is seen as being crucial to reducing inequalities across their life course. At present one child in five living in Cambridge lives in a household claiming Housing Benefit. Older people and single people living in social housing are more likely to be claiming income related benefits. Maintaining the independence of elderly people, who are more likely to face disability and ill health, and supporting carers will be a challenge over the next few years.

What are the priority areas where the LSP want to see improvement?

- More people are helped into work, especially young people
- Older people can lead independent, active lives

What is being done now?

A **Strategy to Tackle Health Inequalities** in Cambridgeshire has been prepared and an action plan is being implemented. This includes actions to promote healthy lifestyles, reduce obesity, decrease smoking and tackle alcohol abuse. The Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Improving Health Partnership, involving NHS Cambridgeshire, the local authorities and community and voluntary sector, is leading this work in the district areas. Local authorities will have an increasing role in the future, as a part of the government's health reforms, in prioritising prevention and detection of conditions and key health behaviours most strongly related to health inequalities such as smoking, obesity, lack of physical activity and unhealthy nutrition.

Cambridgeshire Children's Trust, the sum total of co-operative arrangements and partnerships between organisations with a role in improving outcomes for children and young people, is presently developing a **Child Poverty Reduction Strategy**, one of the priorities identified in its Big Plan2, which sets out the vision for Children and Young People in Cambridgeshire and how it will be implemented. The Trust has three Area Partnerships, one covering Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. This Area partnership is developing an Area Plan that will show local work that will contribute towards the Big Plan's priorities.

Cambridge Council and partners in the LSP's Community Cohesion Group carried out a **consultation with local Muslims** from a range of different ethnic communities in the City to give individuals and communities living in Cambridge the opportunity to raise grievances, where people feel they haven't been listened to in the past, and to identify services and activities for investment that will help support communities and bring them together. This work forms part of the government's Prevent strategy and is intended to reduce the threat to community cohesion from extremist behaviour and rhetoric.

As a part of the Making Cambridgeshire Count partnership project, which brings together public agencies to test new ways of working that aim to improve the way community's access and receive services, several initiatives are being developed that will address inequalities, including:

- a **Places Pilot in Arbury** ward in Cambridge to help public agencies improve the way they work with high demand families, to create better outcomes for the families involved;
- a **Charter of priorities to tackle inequality** in Cambridgeshire that will illustrate key inequality issues and initially apply its principles to the Places Pilots; and
- a Joint Strategy to improve **outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers**.

A series of events take place in the area, **celebrating the diversity of community life**, that involve partners in preparing programmes that encompass a wide range of activities at certain times of year. These include: Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age; Black History Month; Disability History Month, LGTB History Month, International Women's Day and the Heart of the World Festival.

To help service commissioners and providers to better understand inequalities and the need of local people, research will continue to be commissioned to ensure that the best information is available. This includes research about the housing market and the condition of private sector housing, local economic assessments, and data profiles (e.g. children and young people) that contribute to a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire showing the wellbeing of its population. The Census 2011 will be carried out and this will give a rich vein of information during the course of this strategy.

New Community Safety Strategies will be agreed in 2011 that will enable the Community Safety Partnerships to focus their efforts and make a difference. The Cambridge partnership supports an **Open Door project** to help promote the reporting of hate crime and other projects that support vulnerable groups of people.

What has the LSP been doing?

Investment from the LSP made it possible for Cambridge & District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to develop a new website dedicated to providing people with easy solutions to common problems. The content of the website reflects some of the most frequently asked questions that people bring to the CAB. These are problems they can often help themselves with given guidance as to where to find the right information.

The LSP has contributed a grant to support an **additional advisor at the CAB** to give advice for people to assist people with debt and housing problems, brought about by the recent recession. During the past year the advisor dealt with 84 cases, enabling many people to continue to live in their own homes and get their lives back on track. A scheme to recruit and train volunteers to help people make benefit claims has now concluded. 20 volunteers continue to support work at CAB, providing a legacy from the project.

The LSP has provided a grant to enable a **Specialist Alcohol Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN)** to work within Cambridge Crime Initiatives, Street Outreach Team, for a period of two years to help entrenched drinkers in a street based lifestyle to engage in treatment that will lead to physical and mental health improvements, linking the drinker with the Access Surgery – a specialist GP Surgery for the homeless and hostel population in Cambridge – and the statutory alcohol service. So far the CPN has helped over 50 people improve their lives.

The LSP has provided a grant to Cambridgeshire Age UK to deliver a **Handy Person Scheme** to older and vulnerable people in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. It allows people (over 60), who cannot get works done by any other means, to receive assistance a wide range of small jobs, such the installation of grab rails, which will make their homes a safer place and reduce the potential for accidents. So far work has been carried out for over one hundred and fifty people.

The LSP supported the beginning of a **Travellers Health Project** in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Within months of starting the project it had supported five Traveller women in South Cambridgeshire to attend the Royal Society of Public Health Level 2 Award in Understanding Health Improvement; four passed the exam initially. Two of the ladies are now trained to help members of their community/friends/family and neighbours to identify health behaviours that they might want to change and signpost them on to appropriate services.

The LSP has provided a grant to the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum to offer **information, advice and guidance to migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers** living in the city, many of whom become destitute because they cannot access mainstream services. The project linked with the British Red Cross and the Immigration and Advisory Services, who accepted 375 referrals from the project during its first year. Over 600 people have benefited from making contact and improved the difficult circumstances in which they lived.

The LSP has provided a grant to support the **Extra Mile project**, piloted in a small number of selected schools in the City that aimed to raise the attainment and aspirations of disadvantaged children and engage them in their education. The focus for the schools is on

improving outcomes in Key Stage 1 (KS1) in primary schools by going the extra mile as identified by the priorities and case studies in the Extra Mile Publication. The improvements in pupil performance are said to have been impressive, with an early evaluation of the project indicating that 75% of the schools in Cambridge have improved overall results in KS1.

What is the LSP aiming to do over the next 3 years?

The LSP will:

- Look to help guide and support the priorities of local partnerships that are reducing inequalities in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire by shaping and promoting the Cambridgeshire Inequalities Charter.
- Work with partners to develop projects that will help young people back into work.
- Work with partners to develop projects that will help maintain the independence of older people and help them to continue to live in their own homes for as long as possible.

How will we know if our aims have been achieved?

Performance measures that cover young people and older people will be used to prepare a baseline from which we can assess progress.

Improving our Environment and Being at the Forefront of Low Carbon Living

“The LSP believes that climate change and our present patterns of consumption and growth will threaten our environment and affect the wellbeing of people living in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire in the future. The LSP wants to play a part in seeking environmentally sustainable solutions that are fair to everyone, including future generations.”

Why this issue?

Our climate is changing due to man-made pollution, primarily the release of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels for energy generation and transportation. In Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire it is predicted that we can expect to see warmer, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters in the future, although there will be variations from this in some years. These changes will present risks for people, property, infrastructure and the natural environment, with the increased likelihood of summer heat waves and greater rainfall intensity causing flooding.

In national terms, the amount of energy used in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire to heat, light and power homes is high with 6.5 tonnes per head of population in Cambridge in 2008 and 9.1 tonnes per head of population in 2008 in South Cambridgeshire. There are some areas where air quality could be better and pressure is increasing on landfill sites, which are beginning to fill up as more waste is produced.

Just over half of local nature sites are in positive conservation management in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, which is a positive improvement on previous years. However, there is still more that needs to be done to ensure that local nature sites and our other local open spaces and countryside can be protected and enjoyed now and in the future.

What are the priority areas where the LSP want to see improvement?

- Sustainable forms of transport, such as cycling, walking and public transport become more accessible
- Local people improve the energy efficiency and comfort levels in their homes
- Open spaces continue to be accessible and their biodiversity is maintained and enhanced

What is being done now?

The **Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership** is helping parishes in South Cambridgeshire to take the lead in helping communities and residents to (a) reduce energy bills, (b) tackle climate change and (c) build a more sustainable future. Set up in March 2009, parishes receive support from the District Council, which is varied according to local circumstance and priorities. There are currently 23 parishes committed to the partnership.

In 2008, Cambridge was awarded **National Cycling Town** status by Cycling England, which saw over £7million spent on cycling improvements in Cambridge and its surrounding South Cambridgeshire villages by March 2011. Improvements have included:

- New cycle routes
- Improvements to existing cycling facilities
- Additional cycle parking
- Bikeability cycle training for children and adults
- Cycling events and promotions

The programme was managed and delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council in partnership with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The LSP's local authorities all signed up to the **10:10 campaign** in 2010. 10:10 was a national climate change campaign with the aim of getting individuals, companies and institutions to reduce their carbon footprints by 10% during 2010. The pledge for companies was to commit to getting as close to the 10% target as possible – and to encouraging customers, staff and suppliers to sign up too.

A number of voluntary organisations in the area **recycle household goods** by storing, mending and selling or giving them away when the original owner no longer requires them. This reduces the amount of waste going to landfill, provides volunteers/staff with new skills and enables those in need to gain items at low or no cost.

What has the LSP been doing?

The Wildlife Trust is leading a project, in part funded by the LSP, to increase the numbers of **Wildlife Sites** in positive conservation management in the districts. Wildlife Sites are recognised as the best areas of semi-natural habitat and they support the majority of our local species found in the area. The project has significantly increased the number of Wildlife Sites in positive conservation management. It involves working with landowners to develop management plans for sites and practical conservation action to improve the habitats, where appropriate.

The LSP is supporting a project to promote a **Climate Change Charter**, which is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change and represents a high-level, broad statement of commitment that any organisation based in Cambridge or South Cambridgeshire can make publicly. There is an online resource, an awards programme, annual 'expo' event as well as regular informal site visits and meetings to enable local workplaces to share their knowledge and experience. At the end of the project's first year, more than 30 employers had signed up and over 60 had joined the online network. Climate friendly organisations are now extending out across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire as a result of this project.

The South Cambridgeshire LSP, working in collaboration with the district council, developed a **Community Transport Strategy** for 2010-2012. The strategy aims to complement conventional means of transport in order to aid independent living, increase access to services and reduce rural isolation. The main objectives of the strategy, supported by a detailed evidence base, are:

- To understand the need for community transport in the district.
- To develop the capacity, self-sufficiency and environmental sustainability of service providers to meet the identified need.
- To enable easy access to community transport.

What is the LSP aiming to do over the next 3 years?

The LSP will:

- Investigate sustainable forms of rural transport, such as Demand Responsive Transport, to potentially reduce rural isolation.
- Support local communities and partners to apply for national and European funding to improve and expand sustainable forms of transport.
- Work with local people and partners to support and promote initiatives to improve home energy efficiency.
- Work with partners to develop projects that will maintain the accessibility of our open spaces and maintain or enhance their biodiversity.

How will we know our aims are being achieved?

Performance measures that cover transport, low carbon living and biodiversity will be used to prepare a baseline from which we can assess progress.

Sustainable new communities that meet local need and provide places where people want to live

“The LSP wants to ensure that the new homes built as a part of the growth of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, will be well designed and affordable places, with investment in sustainable transport and facilities to meet local need, so they form sustainable communities, where people want to live.”

Why this issue?

Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire have the highest average house prices in the county. Average house prices to average earnings mean that it is very difficult for people on lower incomes to buy a property in the area. Affordable housing is being built, however, in the current economic climate the need has increased as the number of completions has decreased.

It is important to make sure that when new homes are built, whether in existing or new communities, that all the components of a sustainable community are planned for, delivered and maintained in the long-term. It is not easy to balance all components, especially in the short-term, but it is essential that we do all we can to ensure that all communities meet local need and provide places where people want to live.

What are the priority areas where the LSP want to see improvement?

- Additional decent and affordable housing is provided.
- Community facilities are available to meet the needs of residents.
- New developments have easy access to jobs, services and public transport.

What is being done now?

Cambridgeshire ACRE runs an **Affordable Rural Housing** service supported by a partnership of local authorities and Registered Social Landlords. The service employs a Rural Housing Enabler whose responsibilities include:

- Raising awareness of issues surrounding affordable housing with local communities.
- Working with local communities and parish councils to assess local housing needs.
- Working with landowners and parish councils to identify potential sites for development.
- Liaising with relevant organisations including Local Housing and Planning Authorities and Registered Social Landlords in order to ensure development is targeted to the areas of greatest need.
- Increasing awareness of problems surrounding rural housing and influencing future policy.

New developments are underway, including Orchard Park, Cambourne and Trumpington Meadows. Existing Trumpington residents are, for example, working with the local authorities to ensure integration with the existing community and its facilities. The

government is planning to reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live.

What has the LSP been doing?

The **Connections Bus Project** took delivery of its second bus, funded by the LSP and South Cambridgeshire District Council, in November 2009. The bus aims to provide a safe and flexible meeting space for young people in areas where opportunities, services and facilities are lacking, including Cambridge city centre, villages in South Cambridgeshire and in new and developing communities.

What is the LSP aiming to do over the next 3 years?

The LSP will:

- Seek to exert influence to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Contribute to revisions of the relevant Local Development Frameworks and comment upon large planning applications.
- Encourage and support local communities to develop neighbourhood plans to shape their local areas.
- Work in support of the new Local Enterprise Partnership as it promotes local economic development and works to meet the needs and ambitions of this growing area.

How will we know our aims are being achieved?

Performance measures that cover growth will be used to prepare a baseline from which we can assess progress.

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