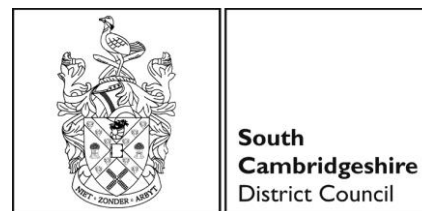


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28 January 2022

To: The Leader – Councillor Bridget Smith  
Deputy Leader – Councillor Neil Gough  
Members of the Cabinet – Councillors John Batchelor, Bill Handley,  
Dr. Tumi Hawkins, Peter McDonald, Brian Milnes and John Williams  
Quorum: Three, including the Leader or Deputy Leader

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Cabinet**, which will be held in the **Council Chamber - South Cambs Hall** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **Monday, 7 February 2022 at 10.00 a.m.**

Yours faithfully

**Liz Watts**

Chief Executive

**The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you.**

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## Agenda

	Pages
1. <b>Announcements</b>	
2. <b>Apologies for Absence</b> To receive Apologies for Absence from Cabinet members.	
3. <b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
4. <b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> To authorise the Leader to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2022 as a correct record.	1 - 14
5. <b>Public Questions</b> The deadline for receipt of public questions is 23:59 on Tuesday, 1 February 2022. The Council's scheme for public speaking at committee meetings may be inspected here: <a href="#">Public Speaking Scheme</a>	
6. <b>Issues arising from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee</b>	15 - 18

7.	<b>2020-2025 Business Plan</b>	<b>19 - 42</b>
8.	<b>Civil Parking Enforcement in South Cambridgeshire (Key)</b>	<b>43 - 48</b>
9.	<b>Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021</b>	<b>49 - 348</b>
10.	<b>Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (Key)</b>	<b>349 - 744</b>
11.	<b>Summary General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/2023</b>	<b>745 - 848</b>
12.	<b>Opposition Group Budget Proposals for 2022-2023</b> To consider any Opposition Group Budget proposals. Proposals from the Conservative Group are attached. Proposals from the Labour Group are to follow.	<b>849 - 850</b>
13.	<b>Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/2023</b>	<b>851 - 896</b>
14.	<b>Capital Investments Programme 2022/2023-2026/2027</b>	<b>897 - 908</b>
15.	<b>Treasury Management Strategy</b>	<b>909 - 952</b>
16.	<b>Capital Strategy</b>	<b>953 - 972</b>
17.	<b>Local Council Tax Support</b>	<b>973 - 976</b>
18.	<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Asset Management Strategy 2021 - 2026 (Key)</b>	<b>977 - 1072</b>
19.	<b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b> The press and public are likely to be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act). Paragraph 3 relates to information about the financial or business affairs of any person, including the Authority holding that information.	
20.	<b>Acquisition 60 Affordable Homes and Commercial Unit at Northstowe 2B (Key)</b>	<b>1073 - 1078</b>
21.	<b>Acquisition 34 Affordable Homes, Gamlingay (Key)</b>	<b>1079 - 1084</b>

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you also have a responsibility for your own safety, and that of others.

### **Security**

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You are not allowed to bring into, or display at, any public meeting any banner, placard, poster or other similar item. Failure to do so, will result in the Chairman suspending the meeting until such items are removed.

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If a member of the public interrupts proceedings at a meeting, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room. If there is a general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public, the Chairman may call for that part to be cleared. The meeting will be suspended until order has been restored.

### **Smoking**

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### **Car Parking**

Please take note that parking at South Cambs Hall will be severely limited during February 2022 due to the Greening project. This is due to trenching work which will affect the car park on the left side of South Cambs Hall.

We recommend that if your physical presence at a meeting is not essential, that you consider dialling in remotely in view of the disruption to parking while this work is underway.

If you need to attend in person, please arrive earlier to allow time to find a parking place, as you may have to park further away than usual.

Please use the overflow carpark to the right of the building (which will be staffed by a car parking attendant), the marked spaces in the Marketing Suite, or you can park along the Business Park's main road between the Marketing Suite and South Cambs Hall.

Please do not park on double-yellow lines as access for buses at the turning island must not be impeded.

If you have accessibility needs, please let Democratic Services know.

Thank you for your patience with the Greening work at South Cambs Hall, please accept our apologies if you experience any disruption as a result of the trenching work.

## Coronavirus Guidance

Following the lifting of the Government's Plan B restrictions, guidance has been issued by the Cambridgeshire County Council's Public Health Officer.

The guidance refers to the need to continue to be cautious and to maximise Covid prevention measures.

Therefore, for meetings taking place in the Chamber at South Cambs Hall, these measures are:

- a) We request that only people who need to attend in person should do so, and if you do not need to attend physically that you do so remotely;
- b) All who are in the Chamber should wear face coverings whenever possible. A box of FFP2 face masks is available on a table as you enter the Chamber for your use. The attached advice from the Public Health Officer states that *although the legal requirements on face coverings expire 27th January, the Government guidance still recommends the use of face coverings in enclosed or crowded places, particularly where people come into contact with people they don't normally meet. If 2m distancing is maintained, risk is reduced and face coverings can be worn at an individual's discretion.*
- c) All attendees are asked to observe 1m distance as far as possible in the Chamber.
- d) We ask that all attendees please follow national guidance on taking Lateral Flow Tests before attending meetings, staying away if testing positive or having Covid symptoms.
- e) We also ask that you please make use of the sanitiser for hands and surfaces and that you please keep to the one-way system in the Chamber as far as possible.
- f) Attendees are reminded to bring their own drinks bottles which can be filled at the tap in the Kitchenette opposite the Chamber, as there are no cups provided.
- a) The doors to the Chamber will be propped open during meetings to increase ventilation.

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# Agenda Item 4

## South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on  
Monday, 10 January 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor Bridget Smith (Leader of Council)

Councillors: Bill Handley                      Lead Cabinet Member for Community  
Resilience, Health and Wellbeing  
Dr. Tumi Hawkins                      Lead Cabinet member for Planning Policy and  
Delivery

Officers in attendance in the Council Chamber for all or part of the meeting:

Aaron Clarke                      Democratic Services Officer  
Stephen Kelly                      Joint Director of Planning and Economic  
Development  
Rory McKenna                      Monitoring Officer  
Liz Watts                      Chief Executive

Officers in attendance remotely for all or part of the meeting:

Anne Ainsworth                      Chief Operating Officer  
Charlotte Burton                      Principal Planner  
Peter Campbell                      Head of Housing  
Terry De Sousa                      Principal Policy Planner  
Rebecca Dobson                      Democratic Services Manager  
Caroline Hunt                      Strategy and Economy Manager  
Peter Maddock                      Head of Finance  
Jonathan Malton                      Cabinet Support Officer  
Jeff Membery                      Head of Transformation  
Matthew Paterson                      Strategic Planning Consultant

Councillor Anna Bradnam was in attendance in the Council Chamber.

Councillors John Batchelor (Lead Cabinet Member for Housing), Claire Daunton, Neil Gough (Deputy Leader), Peter McDonald (Lead Cabinet Member for Business Recovery and Skills), Brian Milnes (Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licencing), Judith Rippeth, Aidan Van de Weyer, Richard Williams, and John Williams (Lead Cabinet Member for Finance) were in attendance remotely.

### 1. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### 2. **Apologies for Absence**

There were no Apologies for Absence from Cabinet Members, but Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee sent an apology for absence.

### 3. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Brian Milnes, Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licencing declared an interest in item 8 (North East Cambridge Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission (Regulation 19)) as a Member on the Highways and Transport Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillor Peter McDonald, Lead Cabinet Member for Business Recovery and Skills, declared an interest in item 8 (North East Cambridge Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission (Regulation 19)) as the Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council.

### 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Cabinet authorised the Leader to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 6 December 2021.

### 5. **Public Questions**

Cabinet received four public questions ahead of the meeting.

a) From Mr. Daniel Fulton, who attended in person:

Before asking his question, Mr. Daniel Fulton said he wanted to correct the record and that there had been five public questions, one of which was refused. The Leader explained that the Council had e mailed the questioner on the 6 January to explain the question had been refused on the grounds that the council was made aware the matter may be the subject of legal proceedings.

Mr. Fulton then asked his question:

Is the council in possession of the automated event log from Dante Controller from the planning committee meeting on 8 September 2021, and is the council in possession of the automated logs of 1:1 messaging in Microsoft Teams that are stored on the device in use by the democratic services officer present at the planning committee meeting on 8 September 2021? If not, when was the evidence in question destroyed?

Response from Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council:

You have previously asked for this information and we have provided responses to three requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

While we are not obliged to inform you whether or not the data is held (as explained in response 10130), it was made clear to you in our FOIA responses 9704 and 9779 that we do not hold the data you seek as this is an outsourced service.

With regards to your reference to the automated logs, again I refer you to previous requests you have made on this topic under FOI requests 9779 and

10130 and our outstanding request that you clarify the nature of the data you are seeking in FOI 10154.

In order to determine whether we can confirm the existence of data, or disclose it, we need to understand if it falls within the category which could represent a security risk to the organisation. We have previously asked that you make it clear whether you are seeking messages relating to technical information or general communications. We await your reply.

Please note we have also informed you and reiterate this now, that further requests concerning technical information from Council systems regarding the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 will be classed as vexatious and not responded to – clear explanation and reasoning for refusal/exemptions has already been provided on several occasions.

The Leader invited Mr. Fulton to ask a supplementary question:

Mr. Fulton made a statement disagreeing with the response provided by the Leader but did not ask a supplementary question.

b) From Jennie Conroy, who attended remotely:

National Planning Policy requires developing local plans to be flexible to accommodate changes in circumstances; what appeared to be the most appropriate course of action to attain a planning objective in one year may be less apparent a few years on. It is also a requirement that all reasonable alternatives have been identified and considered, that the plans are achievable and reflect National and Local Planning Policies.

There have been a number of changes and new circumstances since SCDC voted to support AW's application for HIF funding enabling AW to start the process of seeking a viable alternative site for the CWWTP in order to release the brownfield site, from which it currently operates, for housing. This is also relevant with regard to the objectives of the time table specified in the Local Development Scheme, in this case to progress to formal agreement by the Councils of the proposed submission NECAAP (Reg 19) at this time, 2 years ahead of public consultation, with an explicit objective to facilitate a successful DCO examination: 'The formal agreement by the Councils of the Proposed Submission AAP will be an important factor in the DCO Examination process to demonstrate commitment to development of the area'.

The size and scale of NECAAP as currently presented and the now proposed relocation of a large scale industrial waste water treatment plant in to open Green Belt, in close proximity to Cambridge City and principal Conservation Areas, will have significant impact on Cambridge itself. However, it will be the population and electorate served by SCDC that will be most effected; in particular, Milton from the high population growth on its doorstep and impact on existing green infrastructure and, as a result of the relocation of CWWTP, the villages of Horningsea, Fen Ditton, Stow cum Quy and Lode.

It is argued that the changes that have occurred, those that remain uncertain and new information that has come forward since the initial support behind the relocation project and evidenced below, are such that it would be in the best interest of SCDC and the population it serves to postpone agreement of the proposed submission of NECAAP (Reg 19) until after the outcome of the DCO and Public Consultation (Reg 18) of the emerging Local Plan First Proposals.

It is important for SCDC to retain flexibility and influence in the planning process with regard to NECAAP, size, scale, etc; to retain effective scrutiny and influence over the design and mitigation measures AW put forward for the new plant at Reg19 of the DCO and to be open to alternatives within the developing Local Plan that are achievable, most compatible with proposed Local Planning Policies and in the best interest of the populations SCDC serve.

The latter will be best achieved, and In keeping with recent guidance from Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service that the DCO application is 'not a project or proposal within the scope of the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan or AAP to influence', to postpone the agreement of the proposed submission of NECAAP (Reg 19) to allow the DCO to be examined on its own merits without further direct influence by SCDC and to be open to alternatives and outcomes of the Public Consultation on the emerging Local Plan First Proposals.

Response from the Dr. Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Delivery:

Thank you for your statement seeking the postponement of the AAP at this stage. Having considered your statement, I believe that your concerns break down into a number of specific areas and I seek to briefly respond to them here.

I understand your request for a postponement is based upon concern around the full impact of the proposals contained within the North East Cambridge AAP being considered, notably the effects of the relocated Water Treatment works, on the communities close to the proposed site in Honey Hill. As the report has tried to set out however, the two processes of plan making and the consent process for the WTW are handled separately.

The Council's local plan evidence base makes clear that NEC is one of the most sustainable locations for future need to be accommodated. The argument in favour of the funding provided to allow for the WTW relocation is that it enables sustainable growth to be delivered on the NEC site. From a process started in 2014, both Cambridge City Council and SCDC have been exploring ways in which this area can be developed effectively. This is because we know that if we cannot develop the area effectively, we will need to meet that need in other ways, on other sites, in other locations – which are likely to include greenfield sites elsewhere in SCDC.



You have highlighted how densification, development at Cambridge Airport and options for development elsewhere in the green belt (such as the biomedical campus) might meet that additional demand. We are already considering development in some of those locations (such as Cambridge Airport) but each of those options also has consequences for those local communities. We already know from our evidence base work that NEC is the most sustainable location for future growth.

SCDC is meanwhile committed to the thorough and robust examination of the proposals for the new WTW. That examination takes place through the Development Consent Order process. Given the long-term ambition for the NEC area, I do however believe it is right for us to continue to quantify and shape the redevelopment of the NEC area and set out clearly how the potential of this site can be realised - as part of the AAP process.

The AAP will not progress to consultation until the DCO process, including its identification of impacts has concluded. Likewise, we will not be able to finalise our spatial strategy for the whole of greater Cambridge until the outcome of that process is known. But I do think it is important to continue to progress our work on this in parallel to the DCO process – not least to provide a context for proposals that may well come forward ahead of the AAPs adoption on those parts of the site that are less impacted by the WTW use.

The Leader invited Mrs. Conroy to ask a supplementary question:

Mrs. Conroy asked why the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan would not be delayed when there would be a substantive impact in the residents.

The Leader invited the Joint Director of the Shared Planning Service to respond, who noted that delaying the decision on the Area Action Plan would likely impact the timetable for the Council's new Local Plan. The DCO process already meant the adopted Local Plan might be out of date by the time the new plan could be adopted. So far, the Councils had said that the role of NEC justified delay, but any further delay to the DCO if a decision on the AAP was deferred, might require further delay to the new local plan and a potential need to consider alternative locations to NEC for development to meet needs.

c) From Mrs. Catherine Martin, who attended remotely:

The AAP proposes introducing 15,000 jobs into the area. Bearing in mind that many people will be travelling from locations where there is poor access to public transport, how many people do you estimate will be travelling to the area by car? There will also be 4500 densely packed homes. Your transport studies concede that the roads are already at capacity and local residents really do not want more traffic misery. How much confidence do you have in the ability to control the development by the notion of a 'trip budget'?

Response from Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins:

Thank you very much for your question.

It is clear that the only way that the comprehensive and sustainable delivery of the AAP can be achieved is if sites significantly reduce their vehicle trip generation, below current levels.

The Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Authority is responsible for Highways matters. It has moved away from the traditional approach of traffic management towards a vehicular trip budget model. The principle of the trip budget is to identify the maximum level of external vehicular peak-hour trips allowed for the development when fully built out, which would not result in a deterioration in the performance of the surrounding highway networks over existing levels. ([Transport Evidence Base \(June 2019\)](#), Ch.5)

To achieve this, developers will be subject to a strict trip budget and will need to show how they can meet that with measures to limit the number of vehicle trips allowed to and from each site. Development will not be permitted if proposals cannot demonstrate how they will achieve the trip budget, and there will be traffic monitoring to ensure compliance with the trip budgets.

Highways has undertaken traffic modelling to help inform the assessment of the proposals in the AAP and to help define how trips will be shared amongst the sites. On the basis of the modelling, the vehicle trip budget for the NEC area, to ensure there is no-net increase on the 2017 network baseline is:

- AM Peak (08:00-09:00): 3,900 two-way trips
- PM Peak (17:00-18:00): 3,000 two-way trips

Of the AM budget the modelling suggests that inbound employment-based trips are 2,882 with most of these inbound and 1,018 residential with most of these outbound.

Recognising that the AAP adoption is some years away, and some development is already happening in the area, the South Cambs and Cambridge City Councils Joint Development Control Committee has agreed some development principles based upon applying trip budgets to help inform the assessment of all new planning applications. Officers from the Councils Greater Cambridge Shared Planning and Highway Authority are therefore already seeking to address the concerns of residents on this issue.

For more information, please see the [Transport Position Statement \(Feb 2021\)](#), [High Level Transport Strategy \(November 2021\)](#) & [Transport Evidence Base \(June 2019\)](#) all of which are available to view on [greatercambridgeplanning.org](http://greatercambridgeplanning.org)

The Leader invited Mrs. Martin to ask a supplementary question. Mrs. Martin declined but instead raised concerns of the proposed Wastewater Treatment Works being built on Green-Belt land.

d) From Mr James Littlewood, who attended remotely:

There are many things to commend in the environmental aspirations for this development but disappointingly the provision on natural greenspace is not one of them.

The amount of informal green space meets the minimum amount required by the council's policies but two thirds of this is provided on a business park, described on p26 of the Open Spaces Report as "these green spaces aren't perceived as being accessible to the wider public". Would you want to visit a business park for your leisure and recreation? It should be noted that the green space on the business park already exists, so it is not new space.

Only a third of the green space is provided in conjunction with the housing. Most of this is provided as linear green space or pocket parks, in other words small areas of green space that are loomed over by high-rise buildings. There is one larger park but the size of this is not provided in any of the documents. Extrapolating from the plans, we estimate this to be around 3 ha in size. Fig 20 in your report includes an infographic which aims to compare the amount of open space in the AAP with other Cambridge parks, the comparison is misleading because the parks which are used for comparison are just that, parks. A better comparison would be the main park proposed for the new development. At c3ha this is small in comparison to the other parks, given that it is to cater for 16,000 people.

At a bare minimum the proposals for the AAP might possibly just provide for the day-day open space needs of the new residents: play space for children, somewhere to walk the dog or kick a ball about. But what it won't do is provide the kind of green spaces that people in high density developments need access to - which is large natural greenspace: somewhere they can go for a long walk or run, experience nature, and escape the pressures of urban life.

There is of course somewhere for them to do that, it is Milton Country Park, and a subway is proposed under the A14 so that residents can get to it. And that is exactly where the 16,000 people will go. That would be great if it were not for the fact that the Country Park is already at capacity and cannot cope with 16,000 more visitors.

In the hundreds of pages text there is almost no mention of Milton Country Park at all, let alone of it meeting the needs of the development. There has been no assessment of whether the country park has the capacity to cope and what mitigation might be required to enable it to do so. We could see no requirement for 5106 contributions to support the park to cope only this rather vague paragraph on p54 of the Open Spaces & Recreation Topic Paper:

There is a need to build in community resilience and capacity into the existing open space provision for NEC. Alongside any on-site provision, opportunities to use 5106 contributions outside the city on large-scale green infrastructure should be considered. This will avoid pressure building up on existing parks, open spaces and cycleways, which might otherwise lose their biodiversity and other qualities. For example,

undertaking negotiations for specific 5106 contributions, for growth sites straddling the Cambridge/South Cambridgeshire boundary. These could explore opportunities for improving existing or creating new parks beyond the city which are easily accessible by foot and cycle, in order to avoid over-investment in, and over-use of popular or environmentally sensitive sites.

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards would require the AAP development to have a large 100-hectare site of accessible natural greenspace within 5km. Especially as this development is to be largely car free. But there isn't one. To make matters worse, the north of Cambridge will also see 20,000 people at Northstowe and 22,000 at Waterbeach. Where will these 58,000 people go to meet their green space needs?

This is an area which has been highlighted in the evidence base for the next Local Plan as already suffering from a deficit of green infrastructure and recreational pressure. This report, informing the Local Plan, highlights North East Cambridge to Waterbeach as a priority area for green infrastructure with its enhancement marked as of 'critical importance'.

Officers have suggested that the funding for that critical greenspace could be provided through a new requirement in the next Local Plan, and if that is possible then it would be very welcome and would alleviate our concerns. However, as yet there is no proposal in place for such a scheme and it would need to be approved by a planning inspector, in short at this stage this is an "if" rather than an agreed solution. If that does not prove possible then it would be essential that s106 contributions are secured from the NEC development towards this.

Response from Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins:

Thank you for your commendation of the environmental aspirations of the NEC plan. I note your disappointment relating to the provision of natural green space and hope that today's response goes some way to alleviating your concerns in that regard.

The AAP requires development to bring forward 27.6ha of new informal and children's play space across the area which is the equivalent of around 34.5 football pitches or around three times the size of Parker's Piece. In combination with the existing open spaces at NEC, including existing and re-designed spaces on the employment parks, the plan will therefore meet the informal and children's play space requirements in the adopted Local Plans on-site, meaning all residents will have access to open space within a 5-minute walk of their homes for day to day informal recreation and access within the NEC, to a range of different types of spaces for people to enjoy.

Some of the proposed open space areas are substantial in size and altogether, the spaces on NEC account for an area comparable with Milton Country Park. The new large green space is 4.1ha (over 10 acres) which is around the same size as Christ's Pieces or 5 football pitches. Similarly, the main linear park is between 70m and 100m wide, which is the length of a football pitch, and over

1.3km long. As required by the AAP, a landscape led approach to designing these spaces will ensure that there will be opportunities for individuals and families, residents, and workers to go for walks, run, play, and experience nature on their doorstep (including spaces in the business parks).

As set out in Policy BG/GI-Green Infrastructure in the First Proposals of the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, the Councils are also seeking to bring forward new strategic scale green spaces in addition to development. The nearest area identified to NEC lies immediately north of the A14 between the top of Cambridge, Waterbeach New Town and Northstowe, identified in the First Proposals Policies Map as Area 6 – North Cambridge Green Space. This area could provide new opportunities for open space to serve not only these developments but also existing communities. These wider proposals fall outside of the AAP area and, due to their more strategic role, will be considered further as the councils prepare the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Policy 8 of the Area Action Plan already requires that Planning obligations (S106 agreements) or conditions will be applied to ensure the delivery of on and off-site provision (*of open space*) linked and effectively phased to the delivery of new homes. Therefore, the AAP already proposes to seek contributions towards off-site open space provision where it is necessary to support the development. Whilst noting the lapsed planning permission for an extension to Milton Country Park, earmarking such contributions solely to that project would, at this stage, not be sensible given that the delivery of that additional open space area for formal sports is not, at this stage assured. Instead, through the AAP proposed policy, there will remain scope to invest in deliverable new off-site infrastructure to serve this and other communities formal open space needs.

The Leader invited Mr. Littlewood to ask a supplementary question:

Mr. Littlewood responded that he was unsure why provisions for open green spaces were not made within the Area Action Plan.

The Leader welcomed the question from CPPF and noted that the Council shared their aspirations regarding this site to ensure it was an exemplar of urban living. The Leader also highlighted that the councils were committed to continuing to engage with CPPF, recognising that they were an important local stakeholder. The Leader invited the Joint director of the Shared Planning Service to respond, who noted that the provisions detailed within the Area Action Plan were not definite, and confirmation of sites would be unjustifiable at this stage. The Joint Director highlighted that there was a relationship between the local plan and the provision of new strategic open spaces. As the Local Plan and AAP progressed in parallel, there would be more certainty around delivering these types of spaces, which was important in being able to demonstrate that the plans would be found sound at examination. Therefore, the precise wording of the AAP was likely to be kept under review alongside proposed allocations in the emerging Local Plan and any development proposals around the city, such as the expansion of Milton Country Park.

## **6. Issues arising from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

At the Leader's invitation, Cabinet received the Scrutiny and Overview report summarising the meeting held on Thursday, 16 December 2021 relating to the following agenda item:

- North East Cambridge Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission (Regulation 19)

## 7. **Cambridge South Infrastructure Enhancements**

Cabinet received the Cambridge South Infrastructure Enhancements consultation response. Councillor Neil Gough, the Deputy Leader, introduced the report, noting the critical importance to the infrastructure project, and the Council's in principle support for a station at the south of Cambridge, but highlighted how the Council continued to raise specific concerns detailed in the report.

Councillor Brian Milnes, Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licencing, agreed with the comments from the Deputy Leader, but raised concerns at the lack of biodiversity of the plan.

Councillor Peter McDonald, Lead Cabinet Member for Business Recovery, noted that Cambridgeshire County Council had also raised issues with the lack of biodiversity net gain set out in the proposals.

The Leader thanked Officers for their work, and the robust response to the consultation, and Cabinet:

**Confirmed** the Council's position as set out in the Statement of Case for the Public Inquiry (Appendix A), and **noted** the delegated authority to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development to approve and submit the Proof of Evidence and Statement of Common Ground on behalf of the Council.

## 8. **North East Cambridge Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission (Regulation 19)**

Cabinet received the Proposed Submission for the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan. Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Delivery introduced the report, thanking the Officers for their work in drafting the proposal, and detailing the sustainable regeneration and investment in the North East of Cambridge over the next twenty years, minimising emissions by encouraging modal shift to public transport. This report was brought to Cabinet following the public consultation in July 2020.

The Leader invited Councillor Judith Rippeth, Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to present the comments from their most recent meeting. Councillor Judith Rippeth thanked the Officers for delivering the final report, and the Scrutiny and Governance Adviser for the summary provided for Cabinet. The Committee noted the concerns about the capacity of Milton Country Park being exceeded and noted how this needed to be addressed but welcomed the

commitment to the 20% Biodiversity Net Gain. The Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development was invited to respond and said that the AAP had considered the range of open space requirements and sought to strike a balance with the spaces provided on site. Policy in the AAP would provide for contributions to be made off site to meet needs where appropriate but that the proposals for expansion of Milton Country Park were not assured – and for this reason it would not be appropriate to earmark contributions explicitly to this location at this time.

Councillor John Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, believed that the proposal allowed for a sustainable form of development and should not be delayed, in order to enable the DCO process and subsequently the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to continue on their projected timetables. This in turn would ensure the councils have an up to date development plan for the area and prevent speculative development across the villages and Green Belt as was previously the case before the adoption of the current Local Plan.

Councillor Neil Gough, the Deputy Leader, was supportive of the report, and the proposed enhancements to the area, alongside the broader plans within the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and access for residents to green, open spaces.

Councillor Brian Milnes, Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licencing, mentioned the potential for reducing car traffic as part of the proposal.

Councillor John Batchelor, Lead Cabinet Member for Housing, was pleased with the number of affordable houses that were part of the proposal.

Councillor Dr. Richard Williams asked whether delaying the Area Action Plan at this time would impact the Council's Five-Year Housing Land Supply, and raised concerns about the water supply for the proposed development, requesting the project be delayed until the Water Management Plan had been published. The Leader invited the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development to respond. He confirmed that the AAP did not make a contribution to the Five-Year Housing Land Supply but delaying the plan process, may impact upon the Council having an up to date Local Plan to defend against planning decisions after 2023. By the time consultation began on the AAP, officers were confident that plans for meeting future water needs would be published by Water Resources East.

Councillor Dr. Claire Daunton was pleased the comments from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee had been included within the report, especially the recommended heights on all developments and accessible housing for older residents.

Councillor Anna Bradnam was concerned at the lack of provisions for sport pitches, faith spaces, cemeteries as well as a road bridge to serve the Fen Road communities. The Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development noted the comments and advised that consideration had been given to meeting these needs on site and that significant space at ground floor was identified for a range of "Class E" uses which could accommodate community needs, including faith

space, in addition to formal sports courts. The need for sports pitches and additional burial space had been considered as part of the plan process. Noting the trade-offs struck on informal and formal open space, officers considered that the burial and unmet on site formal open space needs could be met off site. The Joint Director commented that as detailed proposals for North East Cambridge were progressed, specific details could be discussed further with local communities, in particular through the Local Plan process. The Joint Director noted that Network Rail had not requested that land should be safeguarded for a new road bridge to serve the Fen Road community from North East Cambridge and that at this stage, it was not clear which would be the most suitable location for a new bridge once the technical requirements of the structure were taken into account as well as the financial implications on development viability of North East Cambridge.

The Leader closed the item, thanked Officers for their work in producing the report, and Cabinet:

- a) **Agreed** the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) (Appendix A1) and Proposed Submission Policies Map (Appendix A2) for future public consultation, contingent upon the separate Development Control Order being undertaken by Anglian Water for the relocation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant being approved;
- b) **Noted** the Draft Final Sustainability Report (Appendix B), and Habitats Regulation Assessment (Appendix C) and agree them as supporting documents to the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) that will also be subject to future public consultation;
- c) **Agreed** the following supporting documents to future public consultation:
  - a. Statement of Consultation, including the Councils' consideration of and responses to representations received to the draft North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (Regulation 18) consultation 2020 (Appendix D);
  - b. Duty to Cooperate Compliance Statement (Appendix E);
  - c. Draft Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground (Appendix F);
  - d. Equalities Impact Assessment (Appendix G);
  - e. Topic papers (Appendix H).
- d) **Agreed** the findings of the following background evidence documents prepared by the Councils that have informed the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission and are proposed to accompany future public consultation:
  - a. Typologies Study and Development Capacity Assessment (Appendix I1);
  - b. Surface Water Drainage Core Principles (Appendix I2);
  - c. Chronology of the feasibility investigations of redevelopment of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant (Appendix I3).
- e) **Noted** the findings of the background evidence documents that have informed the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission and are proposed to accompany the public consultation (see



- Background documents to this report);
- f) **Agreed** that any subsequent material amendments be made by the Cambridge Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport in consultation with Chair and Spokes, and by the South Cambridgeshire Lead Member for Planning, both in consultation with the JLPAG;
  - g) **Agreed** that any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes be delegated to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic in consultation with Cambridge Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport and by the South Cambridgeshire Lead Cabinet Member for Planning.

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**The Meeting ended at  
11.57 a.m.**

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# Agenda Item 6



**Report to:** Cabinet 7 February 2022

**Lead Cabinet Members:** Councillor Neil Gough (Deputy Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport)  
Councillor John Williams (Finance)

**From:** Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee  
Councillor Steve Hunt, Vice-Chair of the meeting

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## Update from Scrutiny and Overview Committee

### Purpose

1. This report is to inform Cabinet about relevant discussion among members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at their meeting on 18 January 2022 and to make recommendations at paragraphs 2, 9, 15, 18, 22 and 24.

### Civil Parking Enforcement

#### Recommendation from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee

2. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee welcomes and supports the recommendation that Cabinet support an application by Cambridgeshire County Council to the Department for Transport (DfT) to introduce Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) across South Cambridgeshire and grant delegated authority to the Head of Transformation, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport, to provide feedback on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council to the application for CPE to DfT and the Funding Agreement between the County Council and Greater Cambridge Partnership.

### Comments

3. Several Members specifically welcomed the proposal, and Councillor Dr. Claire Daunton highlighted how helpful it would be in encouraging more considerate car parking outside schools.
4. Councillor Daunton noted that this was a joint initiative between Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, and

the Greater Cambridge Partnership. It would be important to identify which of those partners ultimately would provide scrutiny of the scheme. For the time being though, it was accepted that Cambridgeshire County Council was accountable for implementation and noted that there was significant co-operation between the three parties.

5. Members accepted that the need for enforcement would be informed by experience gathered during Year 1 of the scheme, and that the level of penalty notices in an area was likely to remain relatively stable.
6. Councillor Dr. Richard Williams anticipated that civil parking enforcement would find significant support among residents of South Cambridgeshire. In response to his question about the reporting route, Committee members noted that South Cambridgeshire District Council would receive reports specific to its administrative area.
7. Councillor Nigel Cathcart queried how inconsiderate parking would be managed. Officers explained to the Committee that work was taking place with Cambridgeshire County Council to explore whether a letter or information could be placed on window screens of vehicles that were not parked illegally but in an inconsiderate manner. If this was possible this information would be issued by agents when such inconsiderate parking was spotted while enforcement action was being undertaken in relation to another matter in the vicinity.
8. Councillor Anna Bradnam queried whether such scheme could operate effectively in a rural area like South Cambridgeshire. The Committee noted the aspiration that a small amount of enforcement might change car parking behaviour for the better generally. Councillor Martin Cahn shared the concern about resources and accepted that, while civil parking enforcement would improve the situation, it would not completely solve the problem of inconsiderate parking.

## **2020-25 Business Plan**

### **Recommendation from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

9. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee supports the proposed draft 2020-25 Business Plan (with the Action Plan primarily focused on delivery 2022-23).

### **Comments**

10. In connection with Action C2 (Work with partners to protect and enhance the environment with the aim of doubling nature), Councillor Anna Bradnam suggested that the 'Six Free Trees' initiative might usefully be extended to allow the planting of trees on private land.
11. With reference to Action B3 (Liaison meetings and forums), Councillors Dr. Claire Daunton and Grenville Chamberlain supported the idea of creating

more such bodies as a way of engaging with those residents most affected by significant new developments.

12. Energy costs should be considered in assessing the affordability of homes.
13. Councillor Graham Cone supported ongoing initiatives to tackle fly-tipping and to expand the network of publicly available electric vehicle charging points.
14. Councillor Nigel Cathcart hoped that more attention could be given to conservation matters and measures to enhance local high streets.

## **General Fund Budget**

### **Recommendation from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

15. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee supports recommendations (a) to (k) set out in paragraph 3 of the draft report to the Cabinet meeting on 7 February 2022.

#### **Comments**

16. The Chair and others thanked the Head of Finance and his team for the helpful and clear way in which this complex subject had been presented, and accepted that, nevertheless, it represented work in progress.
17. The Chair expressed concern at the increased cost of providing pensions.

## **Housing Revenue Account Revenue & Capital Budget: 2022-2023**

### **Recommendation from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

18. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee supports the recommendations set out in paragraph 3 of the draft report to the Cabinet meeting on 7 February 2022.

#### **Comments**

19. Councillor Anna Bradnam urged South Cambridgeshire District Council to be clear about who it was selling self-build plots to so that plots were not being acquired by commercial developers.
20. Councillor Nigel Cathcart expressed concern about the disparity between Council House rent levels and rent levels charged by Housing Associations. Committee members noted that the former were social rents while the latter were affordable rents defined as being 80% of the market rate.

21. Where vacant garages were being considered for demolition, Councillor Dr. Claire Daunton hoped that consideration would be given to building social housing there instead.

## **Treasury Management**

### **Recommendation from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

22. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee supports the recommendations set out in the draft report to the Cabinet meeting on 7 February 2022.

#### **Comments**

23. The Committee welcomed the report and had no further comments to make to Cabinet.

## **Capital Strategy**

### **Recommendation from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

24. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee supports the recommendations set out in the draft report to the Cabinet meeting on 7 February 2022.

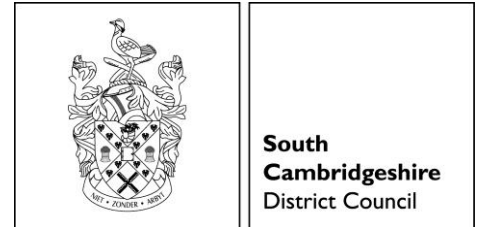
#### **Comments**

25. Referring to the Capital Strategy 2022, Councillor Anna Bradnam noted the projected levels of South Cambridgeshire District Council's total outstanding debt (which comprised borrowing and lease liabilities) compared with the Capital Financing Requirement as shown in Annex A Prudential Indicator 3: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement. Debt remained below the Capital Financing Requirement as required by statutory guidance.

#### **Report Author:**

Ian Senior – Scrutiny and Governance Adviser  
Telephone – 01954 713028

# Agenda Item 7



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

7 February 2022

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Cllr Neil Gough (Deputy Leader)

**LEAD OFFICER:** Anne Ainsworth (Chief Operating Officer)

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## 2020-25 Business Plan

### Executive Summary

1. The Council agreed four key priorities as part of developing the 2019-24 Business Plan. Beneath this sits an action plan detailing the activities the Council would carry out under each of the four areas.
2. It was agreed that the Business Plan would be reviewed annually to ensure that priorities are continuing to deliver the outcomes needed for local people. When developing the latest update to the 2020-25 Business Plan, the four priority areas have remained unchanged, but a review has been done on the action plan.
3. The plan has been updated and reflects the activity that has been on-going throughout 2021-22 during the Covid-19 pandemic. It has also been drafted with the recognition that the implications from the pandemic and multiple national lockdowns, will continue to be far-reaching and will require on-going dedicated resource from the Council into the financial year 2022/23.
4. The updated version of the plan for 2022-23 is intended to provide clear priorities and delivery dates. This will make sure the Council can easily track progress and delivery of the agreed actions. This document provides the over-arching framework for priorities and will inform 2022-23 Service Plans.

### Key Decision

5. No

### Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet:
  - (a) Consider the proposed 2020-25 Business Plan at **Appendix A** (with the Action Plan primarily focused on delivery 2022-23) and recommend it to Council for approval, with any amendments as required.

- (b) Authorise the Chief Executive to make any minor wording changes required to final drafts, in consultation with the Deputy Leader.

## Reasons for Recommendations

7. The Business Plan outlines clear and measurable actions that the Council will carry out up until 2025 to achieve the overarching priorities, with a focus on activities in 2022-23. The Business Plan is used to ensure officer and financial resources are allocated appropriately to achieve the actions and objectives detailed within it.

## Details

8. Actions from the 2020-25 Business Plan that have already been completed are highlighted in the Plan under the different themes, focusing on the outcomes of the last Action Plan for 2021-22.
9. Some other actions agreed in the 2020-25 Business Plan are being progressed in partnership with other organisations. Where these actions are now combined into joint action plans, they are not detailed in the Business Plan. For example, a number of actions are linked to the activities of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Greater Cambridge Partnership.
10. The actions within the Business Plan at **Appendix A** have been split between priorities over the next twelve months of the Plan and other longer-term objectives. All priorities proposed for 2022-23 include measures that make sure we can monitor and evaluate progress.

## Options

11. Do nothing – Cabinet could decide not to update the Business Plan, making it difficult to provide clarity about priorities for the year 2022-23 and to measure progress.
12. Request a new approach to Business Planning – Cabinet could ask for a completely new process of Business Planning to be undertaken and reject this report. This would however: be contrary to the consultation which was undertaken in 2019-20 which underpinned the 2020-25 Business Planning process; undermine the continuity in the process which allows for progress to be clearly outlined and issues to be identified; create delays to the publication of a Business Plan; and stretch resources currently directed to support those in need during the pandemic.
13. Recommended Option – Approve the Business Plan and the continuity of the process undertaken in 2019-20.



## **Implications**

14. 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:-

- The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic – multiple lockdowns have had wide reaching impacts on our communities, businesses and vulnerable individuals. Resource will be required into the financial year 2022-23 to ensure that support continues to be provided to those who need it. This may have implications for some of the timescales within the Plan but it is not possible to say at this time what may be affected. The plan has been written based on the information we have at this point in time.
- Throughout the pandemic, the positive implications for the environment and new ways of working have been documented. Although the Business Plan as a priority to be ‘Green to our Core’, it also reflects the work of the Council to embed environmental issues and considerations within all aspects of our activity.
- The implications of multiple lockdowns and national restrictions have disproportionately affected some people in our communities more than others. As part of our equality and diversity commitment, the Council has within the Plan what direct action we can take to support those who may have been most impacted.

## **Financial**

15. The Council’s Business Plan is in line with the Council’s draft budget for 2022-23, to ensure that actions can be fully resourced and funded.

## **Legal**

16. None.

## **Staffing**

17. As part of the action plan refresh process, resourcing has been considered to ensure deliverability of Council priorities.

18. There will continue to be demands upon our staffing resources from Covid-19 related activities throughout 2022.

## **Risks/Opportunities**

19. The process of refreshing the Council’s action plan will improve Business Plan performance reporting for 2022 onwards and ensure resources are clearly focussed towards delivering priorities.

## **Equality and Diversity**

20. The action plan reaffirms the Council's commitment to be an employer of choice for people with disabilities. Actions within the Business Plan will require the completion of Equality Impact Assessments for individual projects.

## **Climate Change**

21. One of the four key priority areas within the Business Plan is being 'Green to Our Core'. This priority makes sure that the environment and environmental impacts are at the centre of all the work we do.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

22. The Business Plan and day to day work of the Communities team includes a range of actions aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of the residents and businesses in the district.

## **Consultation responses**

23. A detailed public consultation was carried out in 2019 to develop the four key themes as part of the Business Plan. These four areas remain unchanged.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

18. This process does not change any of the overarching themes but establishes clear priorities falling within each of these for the next business planning period (2022-23).

## **Background Papers**

None.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Draft 2020-25 Business Plan Action Grid

## **Report Author:**

Anne Ainsworth – Chief Operating Officer  
Telephone: 01954 712920



# Business Plan 2020-25

(Revision 2022-23)

## What we're about

Putting the heart into South Cambridgeshire by:

- Helping business to grow
- Building homes that are truly affordable to live in
- Being green to our core
- Putting our customers at the centre of everything we do

## Context

The Business Plan for South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) 2020-25 was agreed and published in 2020, before the Coronavirus Pandemic reached the UK and the first lockdown was introduced. The Plan identified four priority areas for the Council to focus on over the next five years, and these priorities remain the same in this annual update.

This plan outlines the actions that will be undertaken during 2022-23 to deliver on the Council's priorities. It also reflects on some of the achievements from the last year and the context within which the Council is currently operating. The plan should be read alongside some other key documents for the Council:

- The Investment Strategy
- The Medium-Term Financial Plan
- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Recovery Plan
- SCDC Local Plan 2018
- Zero Carbon Strategy
- Doubling Nature Strategy
- Housing Strategy

And alongside some on-going areas of activity:

- Work to develop the Joint Local Plan and North East Cambridge Area Action Plan
- The Ox-Cam Arc Ambitions

Currently, the Council, like the rest of the Country, is working within the context of an on-going global pandemic and the impact of the UK's decision to leave the EU. As a consequence, it is possible that some of the timescales for activity within this plan may still be affected over the coming months, though we hope this impact will reduce during the first quarter of the delivery period. The resources of the Council, including large numbers of staff, are still engaged with activity related to our response to the pandemic, and what continues to be a very dynamic environment.



The strength of partnerships that have been reinforced throughout the pandemic will be key to the delivery of many of South Cambridgeshire's ambitions over the coming year. The need to support our communities, vulnerable individuals, and businesses in recovering from the impact of the virus will continue to shape delivery over the coming year.

South Cambridgeshire is committed to promoting a Green Recovery, and this is a key theme throughout the Business Plan, not just in the 'Green to our Core' section. The Green Economy offers considerable opportunities to support new and existing businesses, create jobs and use our natural environment to promote healthy living, reduce social isolation and support good mental health.

## Our Priority Areas

- A) Growing local businesses and economies** – We will support businesses of all sizes, including rural enterprise and farming, to help create new jobs and opportunities near to where people live and support the local economy to recover post-pandemic.
- B) Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in** – We will build vibrant communities in locations where people have good access to facilities and transport links, so they can genuinely afford to lead a happy and healthy life.
- C) Being green to our core** – We will create a cleaner, greener and zero-carbon future for our communities.
- D) A modern and caring Council** – We will provide our customers with high-quality services, strive to reduce costs, build on what we are good at to generate our own income and make decisions in a transparent, open and inclusive way.

## A) Growing local businesses and economies

### 2022-23 priorities:

Action	Measure
<p>A1) Support Businesses through COVID with help, advice and support for a green recovery that enables them to survive, adapt and grow, and to respond flexibly as the national and local situation develops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a Customer Relationship Management system to improve our engagement with, and services for, local businesses (Quarter 3)</li> <li>• Expand our Visit South Cambridgeshire brand alongside wider collaboration with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough partners, to support local businesses. (Quarter 3)</li> <li>• Deliver at least 8 Sector specific events/webinars/support initiatives as part of an ongoing engagement programme (Quarter 4)</li> <li>• Implement a new and improved policy to support the street trading sector across South Cambridgeshire. This policy will ensure high levels of safety compliance and enable the sector to thrive through the introduction of flexible trading models. (implementation by March 2023)</li> <li>• Support the private hire and hackney carriage sector through an updated and improved taxi strategy and policy. These policy measures will contribute to the overall green agenda and support the taxi trade through this transition. Public safety measures will also be progressed including the advancement of taxi</li> </ul>

	CCTV provisions. (Implementation over 2022 - 2023 and ongoing)
A2) Develop a District specific skills and training package to ensure career enhancement, and that re-skilling and up-skilling opportunities for residents and business are widely known and accessed. Adjusting the skills and training agenda to mitigate the impact of covid on the local workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an SCDC specific operational/implementation plan based on the Nov 2021 refreshed CPCA Employment and Skill Strategy (Quarter 1).</li> <li>• Develop a formal engagement programme with local schools and employers (Quarter 2).</li> </ul>
A3) Deliver support to start-ups and small businesses that is not available elsewhere to help them set up, grow, create new local jobs and deal with the impacts of Brexit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold 8 business support workshops including Retrofit training from ENE project (Quarter 4)</li> <li>• Working with partners, provide business support advice to 100 businesses (Quarter 4)</li> <li>• Complete a feasibility study looking at how South Cambs Hall could be used to provide workspace for businesses, including start-ups (Quarter 2)</li> <li>• Provide a new space for growing small businesses or shared workspace for start-ups or micro businesses (Quarter 4)</li> <li>• Establish an up-to-date list of Business Premises for start-ups (Quarter 2)</li> <li>• Appraise our own commercial inventory (including South Cambs Hall) and investigate meanwhile/partial let use for start-ups during void periods and/or designate space specifically for this purpose (Quarter 4)</li> </ul>
A4) Promote SCDC as a vibrant, attractive and commercially welcoming place in which to launch and scale businesses across multiple sectors. Continue to focus on Enterprise Zone development and regional GVA creation, complementing wider activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 additional jobs created on Enterprise Zones by end of 2024/25 financial year</li> <li>• Submit the planning application for the Northstowe Enterprise Zone (Quarter 4)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the strategy for Northstowe Enterprise Zone and begin actively promoting the site to secure new businesses locating there (Quarter 3)</li> <li>• Business Team to engage businesses for the Enterprise Zones (Quarter 1)</li> <li>• Alongside DTI and other colleagues, develop ongoing sector specific narratives to attract, grow and retain high growth sectors in our area (Quarter 4)</li> <li>• Increase rates for recycling and food waste collections for new start-ups and new SMEs within the District (Quarter 4)</li> </ul>
A5) Continue to deliver on our Investment Strategy to ensure positive local Economic Development and growth outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review our approach to identify new Green Investment opportunities (Quarter 2)</li> <li>• Undertake a market review to inform the development of plot 4010 at Cambourne (Quarter 2)</li> </ul>

### Ongoing objectives into 2022-23:

- Work with parish councils and village-based businesses to support local economies and communities as part of our wider economic recovery work. This will include helping to establish new local markets, and continuing to visit local businesses to offer advice and support
- Encourage people to use their local shops and food outlets so that high streets are retained and expanded wherever possible and local, independent businesses are championed. On-going communications and marketing campaigns such as our #On your Doorstep Campaign and continued evolution of *Visit South Cambs - best days out and weekends away in Cambridgeshire* to support and promote local commerce will be key vehicles for this
- Continue to work with the CPCA Inward Investment (Growth) Service to ensure Inward investment into our region remains a priority
- Continue to be the voice and advocate for South Cambridgeshire businesses with wider partners and networks (including our Joint Local Plan) and ensure we are adequately represented in key economic policy/decision-making initiatives





- Support Green Council initiatives, ensuring our business community are able to deliver on 2021-2050 net zero objectives. This includes helping with apprenticeship, skills and training support as appropriate to deliver outcomes and providing advice to help businesses to understand the benefits of generating their own energy, improving their own energy efficiency and wider post COP 26 initiatives and developments
- Support major employers to help homes and jobs be closer together or linked through high quality public transport, walking and cycling routes
- Work with the Police and other agencies through the Community Safety Partnership to tackle crime impacting rural businesses

## Actions and achievements completed from the 2021-22 Business Plan

- We increased our Open for Business Newsletter reach to over 2,000 businesses
- We launched a Visit South Cambridgeshire brand alongside wider collaboration with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough partners to support and promote retail, tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses
- 'On Your Doorstep' social media campaign promoted and championed to support local businesses throughout the pandemic
- Hosted a series of 9 webinars and one face to face event ranging from Mental Health support for businesses through procurement, green business, funding opportunities and wider local business partnership support. The latter was a jointly hosted event with the Chambers of Commerce
- Our High Street Support Officer teams visited over 2,000 businesses face to face since the onset of the pandemic
- We have supported 4 businesses in successfully finding their start up premises in South Cambridgeshire, 3 of whom were also SCDC growth fund recipients
- We held 9 business support workshops including a growth coaching focus as well as ongoing partnering with the Combined Authority's Growth Works.
- We worked with partners to provide business growth/ support/advice to over 100 businesses
- Developed a fund that supported innovations and start-ups as we start a green post pandemic recovery phase. (102 SCDC business were awarded a pot of £1.383m)

- Development of the Statutory Housing and employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) as part of the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (Quarter 2) Milestone completed with publication of the First Proposals of the Joint Local Plan November 2021. Review of evidence base through Local Plan process will continue.
- Distribution of over £38 Million in government grants to support businesses through the Pandemic and £43.9m of grants in total

## B) Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in

### 2022-23 priorities:

Action	Measure
B1) Increase the number of Council homes each year to support people on lower incomes. These will include high energy standards and renewable energy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 New Homes Completed (acquired or built) this year (part of a plan to double delivery to 350 over a five-year period) (Quarter 4)</li> </ul>
B2) Work with local people to set out where and how new homes and communities will be built across the Greater Cambridge area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce a report assessing feedback provided by local people from the Local Plan consultation. This will inform the next steps in the Local Plan process (Quarter 1)</li> <li>• Complete and publish a North East Cambridge draft Area Action Plan for consultation (Quarter 2)</li> </ul>
B3) Create and continue to run liaison meetings and forums where significant new developments are being planned to minimise disruption and help new residents settle in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support the liaison meetings in Cottenham, Sawston, Hardwick, Caldecote, Swavesey and Barrington and community forums in Northstowe, Waterbeach, North-West Cambridge, Cambridge East, North-East Cambridge and Bourn Airfield and Cambourne (Quarter 4)</li> </ul>
B4) Improve the energy efficiency of existing Council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce an Asset Management Plan (Quarter 1)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission a Stock Condition Survey including an audit of energy efficiency of existing housing stock relative to zero carbon target (Quarter 2)</li> <li>• Approve a work programme for insulation measures over the next four years to narrow the gap on the zero-carbon target (Quarter 4)</li> </ul>
<p>B5) Deliver 2 new sports pavilion, community centre and civic hub (containing health, library and community facilities) at Northstowe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete local engagement to understand what the community wants in the new community centre (Quarter 2)</li> <li>• Submit planning application for the Community Centre (Quarter 2)</li> <li>• Submit planning application for new Civic Hub (Quarter 4)</li> </ul>

### Ongoing objectives into 2022-23:

- Support the delivery of more affordable housing – and we will seek related external funding to do this wherever possible
- Promote Neighbourhood Plans and encourage our communities to develop them
- Focus on the health and wellbeing of our communities through everything we do, in line with our Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Private sector housing stock condition survey to be undertaken by the end of the year
- Provide advice and support to prevent homelessness and help vulnerable people in line with our Homelessness Action Plan
- Provide dedicated support to people in receipt of Universal Credit and other welfare support
- Work with national, regional and local partners to support the needs of refugees
- Keep under review the development and resourcing of more liaison meetings in South Cambridgeshire, if capacity allows



## Actions and achievements completed from the 2021-22 Business Plan

- Completed 47 new Council homes in 2020/21 and remain on track to deliver at least 60 homes in the current year
- Signed contracts to deliver over 100 new Council homes
- Targeted people who are normally underrepresented in consultations to make sure their voice is heard by going to where they are to talk to them, rather than expecting them to come to us
- Invested over £1.5 million in our Council houses to make them more energy efficient
- Supported around 1,000 people on benefits who moved to Universal Credit, including providing funding for a coach to help people into work
- Played an active role in national schemes to rehouse refugees
- Agreed a Homeless Strategy to target support to those in the greatest need
- Implementation of the new Resident Involvement Framework, including the establishment of the Housing Engagement Board, Housing Performance Panel and improved communications with our tenants
- Granted outline planning permission for the first phase of a new town north of Waterbeach
- Completed detailed planning guidance for how the new town north of Waterbeach and new village at Bourn Airfield will develop
- Ensured vulnerable tenants were given the support they needed, and linked into other services available, to help them cope during the pandemic
- Published the First Proposals for the Greater Cambridge Joint Local Plan for consultation setting out where new homes and jobs will take place
- Publishing the regulation 19 draft plan for NEC Area Action Plan setting out a vision for the area
- Carried out 19 liaison forums and 9 community forums to minimise disruption to existing residents and help new residents settle in
- Received planning permission for the new sports pavilion at Northstowe

## C) Being green to our core

### 2022-23 priorities:

Action	Measure
C1) In response to the global climate crisis we will continue to work towards a zero-carbon future by 2050	<p>In line with our Zero Carbon Strategy, we will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify and deliver further opportunities to reduce carbon emissions from our estate and operations               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ review community rooms and other small sites to identify and deliver opportunities for carbon reduction (Quarter 4)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• develop planning policies consistent with zero carbon by 2050 for adoption in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, in partnership with Cambridge City Council (Quarter 4)</li> <li>• identify and deliver opportunities to invest in publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points in priority locations in the district, working with partners - pilot installations of fast EV Chargers at Sheltered Housing Schemes for public use, and install one rapid charger for public use -(Quarter 4)</li> <li>• continue to pursue opportunities to invest in green energy schemes (Quarter 4)</li> <li>• Develop carbon reduction targets as part of the Asset Management Strategy (Quarter 3)</li> </ul>
C2) Work with partners to protect and enhance the environment with the aim of doubling nature	<p>As outlined in our Doubling Nature Strategy, we will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify and deliver new opportunities to plant trees, establish wildflower strips and in other ways enhance</li> </ul>



	<p>nature on our own estate, in consultation with residents (Quarter 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• work to ensure that development in South Cambridgeshire contributes to the goal of doubling nature by developing planning policies for adoption in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and by adopting a new Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document in partnership with Cambridge City Council (Biodiversity SPD Quarter 3)</li><li>• work with partners to develop landscape-scale habitat creation projects (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Deliver '6 Free Trees' initiative to increase the amount of tree cover of parish council land, enhancing biodiversity and carbon capture (Quarter 4)</li></ul>
C3) Retrofit our Council Commercial Property including South Cambs Hall with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete retrofit of Cambourne office (Quarter 2)</li><li>• Reduce mains gas and electricity demands from our Cambourne office by over 50% per year (from March 2021 onwards compared to baseline in 2019).</li><li>• Reduce carbon emissions from our Cambourne office by 47% compared to the baseline in 2019 (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Undertake energy efficiency and generation audits of other Council owned commercial properties (Quarter 4)</li></ul>
C4) Continue to transition to electric vehicles for the waste service, including the investigation of on-site solar panel energy generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define and implement required improvements at the depot to prepare for further electric refuse collection vehicle (eRCV) charging (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Procure up to 3 eRCVs to replace diesel version (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Develop outline business case for on-site solar PV energy generation with partners to aid the charging of vehicles (Quarter 4)</li></ul>



<p>C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, move toward the zero-carbon target and help Double Nature through habitat enhancement, advisory support for community land acquisition, local green space designation and tree-planting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver fourth round of funding through our Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme, awarding grants totalling £100,000 to community-based projects (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Continue to strengthen the Zero Carbon Parish and Community Network through our programme of workshops, web-based resources and e-bulletins for community-based zero carbon and nature recovery initiatives (Quarter 4 - at least 6 workshops to be delivered)</li></ul>
<p>C6) Upgrade our stock of 1,800 streetlights to LED, which will reduce energy consumption and save Parish Councils money</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Install energy saving LED fittings in remainder of council owned streetlights (ornate lights) to bring them in line with standard lights already upgraded (Quarter 4)</li></ul>
<p>C7) Adopt and review key actions arising from the Air Quality Strategy in relation to monitoring air pollution within statutory objectives; reduce air quality impacts from future developments in growth areas; public engagement to reduce air quality impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submit annual statutory reporting to DEFRA on-time; monitor air quality in at least 6 targeted areas utilising portable equipment; compile report following each monitoring period and publish this on the council's website (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Provide required technical inputs to consultations on major developments to ensure good air quality is experienced (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Subject to air quality monitoring results, explore the feasibility of creating a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) specifically targeting idling vehicles (Quarter 4)</li></ul>
<p>C8) Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide equipment and information kit to minimise waste and separate recycling at community events - at least 12 kits to be issued (Quarter 4)</li></ul>
<p>C9) Review of service and development of a plan to address the outcomes of the New Environment Bill, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food waste service</li><li>• Impact of the Bill on dry recycling</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review impact and outcomes of existing food waste collection trial and determine future of the scheme including budget requirements. (Quarter 3)</li></ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with RECAP on a shared county-wide approach to implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop feasibility plan for the wider role out of separate food waste collection in line with the Environment Bill and National Waste Strategy (Quarter 3)</li> </ul>
<p>C10) Reduce the amount of non-recyclable household waste collected</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop campaigns to improve recycling based on the outcomes of the waste composition analyses (Quarter 3) to achieve key targets: monthly average of 17.08kg dry recycling per household; monthly average of 34.17kg of residual waste or below per household; monthly 6% or below rate of rejection from the recycling materials processed at the Materials Recycling Facility</li> </ul>
<p>C11) Run a pro-recycling &amp; food waste promotional campaign aimed at businesses in the area throughout 2022/23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting of all sites (existing and new) that take up recycling / food bins &amp; note our increased volumes / tonnes collected with associated savings. (On-going/Quarter 4)</li> </ul>
<p>C 12) Take action to minimize fly tipping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install trial cameras at 6 locations and monitor numbers of visits required at those sites to establish a baseline (Quarter 4)</li> <li>Deliver targeted educational campaign in the area about fly tipping and increase awareness of responsible methods for disposal. To include the delivery of at least 12,000 leaflets (Quarter 4)</li> </ul>

### Ongoing objectives into 2022-23:

- Promote walking, cycling and public transport improvements through planning decisions and by working with local communities and partners
- Influence the planning of new major transport routes, such as the proposed East West rail line, to ensure the environment is fully considered and a net gain to natural capital is delivered
- Support homeowners to upgrade the environmental performance of historic buildings through planning advice and guidance





- Promote effective implementation of supplementary planning guidance supporting low carbon developments
- Strengthen the ability for local communities to deliver on local environmental ambitions and priorities included in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Strategies
- Work with communities and partners to combat environmental crimes, such as fly-tipping and deter fly-tipping at locations where it happens frequently
- Reduce waste and raise awareness by promoting recycling
- Encourage the expansion of electric vehicle charging points across our sub-contractors and partners
- Explore the expansion of electric vehicle charging points in sheltered housing schemes

## Actions and achievements completed from the 2021-22 Business Plan

- Held a local Climate Summit
- First phase of installation of LED fittings in all council owned streetlights to be completed by March 2022 (standard light poles) and achieved already a 60% reduction in energy consumption of streetlighting for Parish Councils
- Delivered a third round of funding through our Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme, awarding grants totalling £100,000 to community-based projects; continued to strengthen the Zero Carbon Parish and Community Network through our programme of workshops, web-based resources and e-bulletins for community-based zero carbon and nature recovery initiatives
- Ran an anti-fly tipping campaign that reached over 40,000 people and resulted in significant increase in reported incidents and increased tonnages collected
- Improved the way we plan our street sweeping and introduced a system so residents know when we will be coming to their area
- Created a new Planning document [NAME OF DOC] that encourages development to be more environmentally friendly
- Introduced one electric bin lorry and two small vans into the fleet
- Installed 4 additional charge points for staff/visitors at Waterbeach depot
- A survey of trees on council owned open spaces was completed in three of four sections; fourth section to be completed by March 2022
- Required enhancements made at the depot to enable on-site charging for two new electric refuse collection vehicles by March 2022



- Report issued to CEAC on the air quality monitoring network; Air Quality Strategy developed; air quality monitoring equipment deployed to monitor quality at defined location -additional equipment on order and should be in place by March 2022 - to be deployed in growth areas
- Published a resource toolkit for community groups and parish councils to improve recycling and reduce waste at community events; issued 11 community litter picking kits for events
- Delivered three-pronged social media campaign on waste prevention and reduction
- 54 parish councils accepted the offer for 3 Free Trees and 162 trees were planted
- 72 applications were received from parish councils for the 6 Free Trees scheme for 2022
- Published First Proposals Local Plan setting out ambitious targets for reduced water usage, building in climate resilience, supporting low carbon development options and highlighting opportunities for strategic scale landscape and biodiversity enrichment.
- Continued weekly separate food waste collection trials; now covering circa 10,000 homes weekly collections; undertook waste compositional analysis to identify food waste in bins - Waiting for final report to be published

## D) A modern and caring Council

### 2022-23 priorities:

Action	Measure
D1) Make sure that the Council is structured and appropriately resourced to deliver the ambitions of our communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete 3 service reviews as part of a plan to complete reviews of all services by the end of 2023 (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Review employment policies relating to recruitment and retention (Quarter 3)</li></ul>
D2) Review recruitment processes to attract and retain the best talent and ensure that we are an employer of choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete and analyse a staff satisfaction survey (Quarter 3)</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduce hybrid working arrangements further increasing our attractiveness as an employer (Quarter 2)</li><li>• Introduce a modular management skills program for middle managers (Quarter 2)</li></ul>
D3) Generate income through delivering the Council's investment strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Income from investments and other commercial activity to be at least 25% of our Taxation and Central Government Grant income by 2023/24</li></ul>
D4) Make it easier for customers to access and carry out transactions online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make a further 12 services available for customers to self-serve online (Quarter 3)</li><li>• Provide an integrated portal for businesses to access SCDC online services (Quarter 2)</li></ul>
D5) Council and committee meetings will be run paper-free wherever possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillors to be provided with increased access to Teams and Office 365 enabling file sharing and collaboration. (Quarter 1)</li></ul>
D6) Work with communities and individuals to tackle issues that are affecting them locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the Council's Community Led Plan toolkit to support local communities identify, plan and address the issues they identify in their communities (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Support 150 new clients through the housing department's visiting support service (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Provide the lifeline service to 100 new users during the year (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Spend £500,000 in total in the form of disabled facilities grant and repairs grant to allow people to live independently and safely in their homes (Quarter 4)</li><li>• Prevent homelessness for at least 50% of the people who approach us who are at risk of becoming homeless throughout the year, and offer support to those who are homeless (Quarter 4)</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue the proactive working relationship with the job centre in delivering mentoring circles plus upskilling and cross training initiatives throughout the year (Quarter 4)</li><li>• To complete a survey of all council tenants to better understand their priorities and to be able to compare satisfaction with other organisations (Quarter 1)</li><li>• Adopt an Empty Homes Strategy (Quarter 1)</li><li>• To work with partners to produce an agreed cultural strategy and action plan for South Cambs (Quarter 3)</li></ul>
D7) Ensuring that our homes are safe places for our tenants and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100% compliance with landlord safety checks to council housing including, electrical safety, gas installations and where appropriate fire risk assessments and water safety tests</li></ul>
D8) Assess current mobile home sites and ensure all are licenced correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refresh caravan site licencing policy, fees and charges (Quarter 2). The new policy will ensure that caravan sites are inspected periodically and that residents have suitable housing provision.</li></ul>

### Ongoing objectives into 2022-23:

- Expand and grow our commercial services
- Develop and support Councillors and officers to ensure that they can best serve our communities
- Create an organisational culture to deliver continuous improvement
- Continue to work with public sector partners and a network of parish councils and voluntary groups to support the most vulnerable people in the district and our businesses throughout the response phases of the Covid-19 pandemic



## Actions and achievements completed from the 2021-22 Business Plan

- Successfully filled at least 70% of jobs advertised through first round of recruitment
- Achieved Level 1 and 2 of the Disability confident standard
- Paper free cabinet meetings were held through the year
- 7 new Mobile warden schemes delivered
- Updated and published the council's Equality Scheme and raised awareness of key events and weeks throughout the year to help promote equality and deliver on our business plan objectives
- Delivered 10 new services available for customers to self-serve online
- Call back service for enquiries as part of implementation of new telephony system
- Apprenticeship Strategy reviewed and strengthened
- Completed service review of Revenues and Benefits
- Launched a new toolkit to help communities take forward Community Led Plans to address the issues they feel are important to them as we recover from the pandemic
- Worked with 13 areas of the district that have been more prone to flooding to provide training and create a local flood plan where the community required it

*Note: The Quarters referred to under the Measures relate to the financial year.*

*Quarter 1 – April to June*

*Quarter 2 – July to September*

*Quarter 3 – October to December*

*Quarter 4 – January to March*

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# Agenda Item 8



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	Monday 7 February 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Neil Gough, Deputy Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport	
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Jeff Membery, Head of Transformation	

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## Civil Parking Enforcement in South Cambridgeshire

### Executive Summary

1. South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) initiated conversations with Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) to consider options to tackle illegal and inconsiderate parking in the district. This led to CCC's Highways and Transport Committee agreeing in September 2021 that work could begin to prepare an application to the Department for Transport (DfT) to introduce CPE.
2. The GCP has agreed to cover the capital cost of introducing a new scheme and will cover any operating shortfall for the first 5 years. This is because illegal and inconsiderate parking has a direct impact on congestion.
3. Work to establish the financial model for the scheme has been carried out and SCDC members are now being asked to provide their formal support to CCC to apply to the DfT later this year.

### Key Decision

4. Yes

### Recommendations

5. It is recommended that Cabinet support an application by CCC to the DfT to introduce Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) across South Cambridgeshire and grant delegated authority to the Head of Transformation, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport, to provide feedback on behalf of the Council to the application for CPE to DfT and the Funding Agreement between CCC and GCP.

### Reasons for Recommendations

6. To tackle illegal and inconsiderate parking in the district through a CPE scheme that includes Enforcement Agents issuing penalty notices for illegal parking.

## Details

7. CPE in South Cambridgeshire will decriminalise illegal parking and therefore allow the relevant local authority, in this case CCC, to carry out the enforcement activity.
8. Alongside work to progress CPE in South Cambridgeshire, schemes are being progressed in Huntingdonshire and Fenland. All three areas will have different models to meet their individual needs and funding arrangements. The Police, who are currently responsible for parking enforcement, support the introduction of the schemes in all three areas. CPE is already in place in Cambridge City.
9. The GCP support for the scheme will require a funding agreement between CCC and the GCP. SCDC will be consulted as a valued partner but will not be a signatory to the agreement and will therefore not incur any costs.
10. It has already been established that CCC's current CPE back-office operation serving Cambridge City should be expanded to deliver CPE in South Cambridgeshire. This includes enforcement, administration, and debt recovery. This approach will keep costs as low as possible as it utilises existing systems and processes. All income generated from fines will also be retained by CCC to help offset costs.
11. A feasibility study has been completed by CCC to provide the financial modelling for the introduction of CPE in South Cambridgeshire. Table A in this report provides the breakdown.
12. CCC carried out modelling to ensure sufficient enforcement is available and commissioned work to ensure expected income generated is set at a realistic level. This information has been published in a November update to CCC's Highways and Transport Committee.

Table A: Cost of applying and operating the CPE scheme in South Cambridgeshire

-	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Expenditure (inc. annual inflation uplift)	£121,000	£125,000	£129,000	£132,000	£136,000	<b>£643,000</b>
Revenue income	£71,000*	£95,000	£95,000	£95,000	£95,000	<b>£451,000</b>
Deficit (Operational)	<b>-£50,000</b>	<b>-£30,000</b>	<b>-£34,000</b>	<b>-£37,000</b>	<b>-£41,000</b>	<b>- £192,000</b>



\*This assumes a gradual increase in number of Penalty Charge Notices issued in year 1. When the scheme is first introduced advisory notices will be used rather than immediately issuing penalty notices.

13. Cabinet should note that expenditure in Table A is based on the full additional costs of administering the South Cambridgeshire scheme. This includes two Enforcement Agents and the vans they need to visit a rural area and debt recovery.
14. CCC's experience shows that the level of penalty notices in an area remains relatively stable and does not tail off as people get accustomed to CPE.
15. CCC will maintain the actual costs of running the scheme and invoice GCP appropriately once income has been deducted. The Enforcement Agents will be part of a wider team so it is expected that there will be flexibility to reduce the level of enforcement if necessary.
16. GCP has agreed to cover the operational deficit of CPE in South Cambridgeshire for the first 5 years. After the 5-year period CCC will be duty bound to pick up these costs, but no formal agreement between GCP and CCC has yet been made. No potential future deficit of the scheme will fall to SCDC as the Council is not the Highway Authority.
17. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) review begun in early October 2021 and was completed by the end of the year. This work involved a team visiting each community to assess the current status of the lines and signs. A report is being created to detail the remedial work required, including costs of work, to ensure restrictions are compliant and enforceable prior to CPE rollout. The review was funded by GCP and they will cover the capital costs of the improvements needed. The actual cost of this is not yet known as costings can only be established after the audit has been carried out and assessed in detail.
18. Following feedback from SCDC members, we are aware of a small number of historical oddities regarding lines and signs exist in the district. For example, there is school signage and lines in Sawston where a school no longer exists. CCC and SCDC officers have agreed to review the remedial list and engage members to try and ensure oddities such as this are picked up so they can be addressed as part of the remedial works.
19. SCDC initiated conversations with GCP and CCC about CPE and has already stated its in principle support. Financial modelling has now been carried out to assess the viability and deliverability of the scheme and formal support is now sought before an application to DfT.
20. As a valued partner, SCDC will be consulted on a Funding Agreement between CCC and GCP and the application for CPE to DfT. The Funding Agreement will outline responsibilities and financial commitment. GCP's Executive Board will need to formally approve this. SCDC will not need to be a signatory.

21. Enforcement Agents are active 7 days a week for the Cambridge City CPE scheme. Morning and evening enforcement is also carried out. The same approach is envisaged for the South Cambridgeshire scheme, but the enforcement regime will be in over the first 18 months to fit with what is needed locally. The scheme will also include a reporting route so concerns of illegal parking can be made.
22. SCDC officers are working with CCC officers to see whether it is feasible for Enforcement Agents to leave a standard letter or advice note on vehicles that are parked inconsiderately. This would be done during their normal patrols with the aim of encouraging more considerate parking in the future.
23. Cambridgeshire County Council's expected timeline for the delivery of CPE is:
- September 2021 – CCC Highways and Transport Committee agreement for officers to prepare CPE application
  - September 2021 to September 2023 – Survey sign and lines, review Traffic Regulation Orders and commission remedial works to lines and signs
  - November 2021 to August 2022 – Prepare and approve CPE policy and funding agreements (GCP and CCC signatories for funding agreement in South Cambridgeshire)
  - January 2022 to June 2023 – Prepare and approve CPE application before also submitting to DfT
  - June 2022 to October 2023 – CPE implementation phase
  - October 2023 – CPE Designation Order Created and CPE brought into effect

#### Options

24. Cabinet provides their formal support for an application by CCC to the DfT to introduce CPE across South Cambridgeshire.
25. Cabinet could ask officers to provide further information before making their decision at a future meeting.
26. Cabinet may choose not to support the application to DfT by CCC.

#### Implications

27. 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:-

## **Risks/Opportunities**

28. Police capacity to actively enforce illegal parking is limited due to other priorities. If CPE is not pursued illegal and inconsiderate parking is expected to continue and may increase in the future due to the creation of new towns in the district.

## **Equality and Diversity**

CCC will consider equality and diversity during the implementation process.

## **Climate Change**

Illegal and inconsiderate parking is a factor that discourages people from using bicycles and making local journeys by foot. CPE will aid shift to greener forms of transport.

## **Health & Wellbeing**

29. Encouraging more journeys by bicycle and foot has a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

## **Being green to our core**

30. CPE supports a reduction in congestion and encourages more environmentally friendly methods of travel

Background Papers

[Cambridgeshire County Council's Highway and Transport Committee 7 September 2021 – agenda item 7](#)

[Cambridgeshire County Council's Highway and Transport Committee 4 November 2021 - agenda item 9](#)

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# Agenda Item 9



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	7 February 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Delivery	
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Stephen Kelly, Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development	

## Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report For Greater Cambridge 2020-2021

### 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 2020-2021 demonstrates that the authorities are making good progress in implementing their Local Development Scheme to update plans, and that 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.

### Key Decision

No

### Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

3. Agree the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 (included as Appendix A) for publication on the Councils' websites.
4. Delegate any further minor editing changes to the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic

Development, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Delivery, including the final designed version of Appendix 3.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

5. Local planning authorities have a statutory duty to publish an Authority Monitoring Report on an annual basis. Approval to publish the AMR for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 is being sought from Members at both Councils.

## **Details**

6. 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.
7. The AMR for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. 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.
8. Authority Monitoring Reports were formerly known as Annual Monitoring Reports. They were renamed by government.
9. The AMR for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 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.
10. Key findings from the AMR for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 include:
11. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan has made good progress against the Local Development Scheme timetable. During the monitoring year the Councils

published their initial evidence base findings and development strategy options assessments. They also undertook a series of workshops with parish councils, residents' associations, statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders to explore the evidence and options assessments, and to hear what strategy and policies they thought the Councils should be developing. Progress has continued beyond the monitoring year. The First Proposals were published on 1 November 2021 starting a six week public consultation process ending on 13 December 2021. The North East Cambridge Area Action Plan has also progressed to the committee stages at the proposed submission stage in November 2021.

12. We have continued to meet our duty to co-operate requirements across governance (for example the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group), consultation (for example strategic cross-boundary matters) and evidence gathering (for example transport and environmental data) issues.
13. Although no new Neighbourhood Plans were formally made in 2020-2021, particularly due to delays resulting from the Covid19 pandemic, a number did make significant progress such that three were formally made post March 2021: Cottenham; Histon & Impington; and Foxton.
14. The combined annual completions in 2020-2021 for Greater Cambridge (1,752 dwellings) is slightly higher than the average annual delivery rate required of 1,675 dwellings a year. This means that delivery has exceeded the required rate in four of the last five years. Completions were apportioned 1,335 in South Cambridgeshire and 417 in Cambridge.
15. There were 362 affordable dwellings completed in Greater Cambridge. This is a lower percentage than last year at 21%. Permissions granted this year secured 33% as a percentage of eligible schemes.
16. In the 2020-2021 monitoring year, business completions (net) were 23,739 sqm/0.15 hectares in Cambridge and 16,796 sqm/7.58 hectares in South Cambridgeshire.
17. Retail space continues to fall in Cambridge due to multiple schemes converting retail space to residential or leisure uses. Growth was minimal in South Cambridgeshire although there remain commitments of 51,723 sqm (net) including permissions and allocations within the new settlements. There was no significant change in the hotel stock in Cambridge in 2020-2021. However, there remain substantial commitments including new permissions in the current monitoring year.
18. In 2020-2021 no applications were permitted without suitable mitigation where the environment agency objected on flood or water quality grounds across Greater Cambridge.
19. In terms of air quality, the objectives for nitrogen dioxide and the particulate PM10 were met at all the monitoring locations in 2020-2021.

20. There was one development granted permission within the Green Belt that was considered to be inappropriate, relating to redevelopment of the Former Wastewater Treatment Facility at Hauxton. However, because of the benefits of the scheme in terms of the remediation of the pollution on site and landscaping and ecological enhancements provided by the redevelopment, it was concluded that very special circumstances exist to grant permission in this case.
21. There were also low levels of permissions within or adjacent to Important Countryside Frontages, Protected Village Amenity Areas and Local Green Spaces. All were assessed as acceptable or insignificant in terms of their impact.
22. 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.
23. Quality of life indicators continue to be generally favourable for the Greater Cambridge area. For example, life expectancy rates and the percentage of adults who are physically active are above the national average in both Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Crime rates fell in both districts in 2020-2021.
24. All the above impacts, trends and changes need to be considered in the context of Coronavirus. Social distancing requirements have changed at various times throughout the monitoring year but it is clear that considerable development activity has continued.
25. The report is supplemented by three 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. Appendix 2 provides the detailed data behind the indicators.
26. In addition, it has now been decided to incorporate information regarding infrastructure delivery into the AMR. Infrastructure Funding Statements were previously published separately as technical statements, but in order to provide a more comprehensive overview of infrastructure delivery supporting new developments a new section has been created within the AMR providing an overview of the infrastructure funding process, funding that has been secured and infrastructure that has been delivered. Appendix 3 of the AMR therefore provides an Infrastructure Funding Statement for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, supplementing the technical statements that we are required to publish for each district. This is consistent with Planning Advisory Service guidance which sets out that these statements provide an opportunity to demonstrate how we are developing and delivering an infrastructure strategy. The version of Appendix 3 included for your consideration within Appendix A of this report provides the words for this document. Officers are working on gathering photographs or images to support each of the case



studies included, and the final document will be designed and presented as a short leaflet / brochure.

27. The AMR was considered by the Cambridge City Council Planning & Transportation Scrutiny Committee on 11 January 2022. It was well received and only a few minor changes were suggested:

28. The Spaces and Movement SPD has been changed from a 'Green' to 'Amber' rating to reflect progress

29. An additional comment has been added to the section on life expectancy to highlight variations below the Local Authority scale

30. Subsequent to the Cambridge committee the data on s106 contributions in Appendix 2 was updated due to more data being received from the County Council.

### **Options**

31. To not publish the Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021. However, the Council has a statutory duty to publish an Authority Monitoring Report on an annual basis.

### **Implications**

32. There are no significant implications.

### **Consultation responses**

33. 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.

### **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

#### **Growing local businesses and economies**

34. The AMR demonstrates how the Council is supporting this corporate objective through implementing its planning policies.

#### **Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in**

35. The AMR demonstrates how the Council is supporting this corporate objective through implementing its planning policies.

#### **Being green to our core**

36. The AMR demonstrates how the Council is supporting this corporate objective through implementing its planning policies.

## **A modern and caring Council**

37. The AMR demonstrates how the Council is supporting this corporate objective through implementing its planning policies.

### **Background Papers**

Background papers used in the preparation of this report: 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](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/development-plan-for-cambridge)

[www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/)

### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Greater Cambridge Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) 2020-2021 (including Appendices)

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# Appendix A



Cambridge City Council and South  
Cambridgeshire District Council

## **Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge**

Covering the period 1 April 2020 – 31  
March 2021

Published January 2022



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## 1. Introduction and Context

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### A. Greater Cambridge Today

- 1.1 The Greater Cambridge area covers the city of Cambridge and its largely rural hinterland of South Cambridgeshire. Hence, the areas' population spans a world-renowned city, emerging new towns and about 100 villages and hamlets. The Office for National Statistics estimate that the Greater Cambridge area had a population of 286,000 in 2020. This was divided between 125,100 people in Cambridge and 160,900 people in South Cambridgeshire. However, the land take ratio is significantly different. Cambridge has an area of approximately 4,070 hectares compared with 90,163 hectares for South Cambridgeshire. The area is bordered by a number of market towns, like Huntingdon, Royston and Haverhill, which fall outside the area, and is located around 60 miles north-east of London.
- 1.2 Cambridge has an iconic historic core, heritage assets, river and structural green corridors, with generous, accessible and biodiverse open spaces and well-designed architecture. South Cambridgeshire's villages vary greatly in size, with each having a unique character. Greater Cambridge has a reputation for design excellence and has focused on new development that is innovative and promotes the use of sustainable modes of transport. It is also a centre of excellence and world leader in the fields of higher education and research. It has fostered a dynamic and successful knowledge-based economy, while aiming to retain the high quality of life in the city and surrounding villages that underpins that economic success. Cambridge is also an important centre for a wide range of services

### B. The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

- 1.3 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to publish an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It also provides an opportunity to monitor recent trends in land use and other issues (such as transport, socio-economic changes and biodiversity) and to consider the effectiveness and appropriateness of current planning policies and targets.
- 1.4 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and subsequent regulations introduced the requirement for local planning authorities to produce an AMR. The AMR sets out the Councils' progress in producing new planning policy documents against the timetable included in the approved Local Development Scheme and in implementing planning policies included in their Local Development Framework (or Local Plans).

- 1.5 The Localism Act 2011 and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 set out revised requirements for monitoring. Local planning authorities are still required to publish information monitoring progress on the implementation of their Local Development Scheme and planning policies included in their development plan documents at least on an annual basis, although the requirement to submit the AMR to the Secretary of State by 31 December has been removed.
- 1.6 The Localism Act 2011 also created the duty to co-operate which places a legal duty on local planning authorities and other specified organisations to co-operate with each other to address strategic issues relevant to their areas. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require the AMR to give details of what action the Council has taken relating to the duty to co-operate.
- 1.7 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 have also introduced the requirements that the AMR includes: (i) details of any neighbourhood development orders or neighbourhood development plans made; and (ii) if a Council has an adopted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule, information relating to the collection and spending of CIL monies.
- 1.8 Local Authorities are also required by the CIL Regulations to publish an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) to provide information on the monetary (and non-monetary) contributions sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure to support development, and the subsequent use of those contributions. For convenience a Greater Cambridge IFS has been incorporated into the AMR (as Appendix 3) to provide further information on delivery of infrastructure associated with new development in Greater Cambridge.
- 1.9 This AMR covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. It is a joint AMR for Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council and therefore the adopted planning policies for the period covered by this AMR are those contained in the:
- Cambridge Local Plan (2018) - adopted 18 October 2018;
  - South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) – adopted on 27 September 2018;
  - Cambridge East Area Action Plan (AAP) – adopted in February 2008;
  - Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP – adopted in February 2008;
  - North West Cambridge AAP – adopted October 2009; and
  - Northstowe AAP – adopted in July 2007.

## **C. Monitoring in Greater Cambridge**

- 1.10 Monitoring in Cambridgeshire is currently carried out through a partnership between the Business Intelligence (Research) Team at Cambridgeshire County Council and the planning departments at the five district councils. Greater Cambridge consists of the two local planning authorities of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Business Intelligence (Research) Team maintains a database of planning permissions involving the creation or removal of residential, business, retail and leisure uses plus any planning permissions for renewable energy generators. A survey of all extant planning permissions included in the database takes place each year, involving officers from the County Council and district councils, to collect information on their status: built, under construction or not yet started.
- 1.11 The Business Intelligence (Research) Team provides the district councils with the necessary results for their AMR indicators and a site-by-site list of planning permissions and their status. The Business Intelligence (Research) Team also publish summary tables and topic reports on housing, business, retail and renewable energy completions and commitments on their [website](#). For some indicators the data for previous years has been revised from the data previously published; this is a result of the on-going assessment of data by the Business Intelligence (Research) Team to remove any inaccuracies.
- 1.12 Data required for other indicators is obtained from various teams at Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), and other external organisations such as Natural England and the Environment Agency. A number of data series published by the Office for National Statistics are used as contextual indicators. These are usually sourced from NOMIS (the National On-line Manpower Information System).

## **D. Structure of the document**

- 1.13 Chapter 2 of the document provides a commentary on the progress against the Local Development Scheme, actions on duty to co-operate, and updates on neighbourhood planning, the Community Infrastructure Levy and on the Statement of Community Involvement. Chapter 3 is broken into several topics, such as Housing and Employment, and provides textual updates and the headline findings in relation to the monitored indicators. Appendix 1 lists all of the indicators by document. A RAG (Red, Amber, Green) column is included in the table for each indicator and where the indicator includes a target a colour is assigned to indicate whether the target is on track. Appendix 2 contains tables and charts with data which relate to the indicators listed in

Appendix 1 and the commentary in the main report. Appendix 3 provides a combined Infrastructure Funding Statement for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.



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## 2. Commentary

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### A. Progress against the Local Development Scheme

- 2.1 The Councils adopted their current Local Plans in autumn 2018. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was adopted on 27 September 2018 and the Cambridge Local Plan on 18 October 2018.
- 2.2 The Councils' current adopted Local Plans both include a policy which makes a commitment to an early review of those Plans. The policies are for a new Local Plan to be prepared jointly by Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils for their combined districts (Greater Cambridge). A new Local Development Scheme (LDS) was adopted in October 2018 setting out a timetable for the preparation of a Greater Cambridge Local Plan.
- 2.3 The latest [LDS](#) was approved in July 2020. This July 2020 LDS includes an additional Preferred Options stage in autumn 2021 to enable public consultation on the emerging preferred approach to key strategic issues, and for those views to be considered before detailed policies are drafted. The future timetable for the Local Plan will be influenced by the decision on whether to progress ahead of or in parallel with the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (NECAAP). Therefore, it is envisaged that the Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent Examination in either Autumn 2023 or Spring 2024.
- 2.4 In September 2020 the Councils published the [responses to the consultation and calls for sites](#). In November 2020 the Councils published [initial evidence base findings and development strategy options assessments](#). In the same month, a series of workshops were held with parish councils, residents' associations, statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders to explore the evidence and options assessments, and to hear what strategy and policies they thought the Councils should be developing. In January 2021 Parish Councils and Residents Associations were invited to contribute their local knowledge about the sites put forward for development, and this has been fed into the assessment of their suitability. In August 2021 the [First Proposals](#) for the Plan for consideration by councillors at both Councils were published. Following a period of scrutiny and subsequent amendments the [First Proposals](#) were published on 1 November 2021 starting a six week public consultation process ending on 13 December 2021.

- 2.5 The October 2018 LDS also set out the Councils' intention and timetable for preparing a North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (NECAAP). The AAP is being prepared jointly between both councils. North East Cambridge includes 182 hectares of brownfield land, just a 15-minute cycle ride from the city centre. The plan aims to deliver an inclusive, walkable, low-carbon new city district with a lively mix of homes, workplaces, services and social spaces, fully integrated with surrounding neighbourhoods.
- 2.6 An initial issues and options consultation was undertaken between December 2014 and February 2015. A further issues and options consultation was undertaken in Spring 2019, as anticipated in the October 2018 LDS. The latest [LDS](#) was approved in July 2020 and this July 2020 LDS set out an updated timetable for consultation on the draft NECAAP. Public consultation on the draft NECAAP ran from 27 July to 5 October 2020. The comments received have been considered, and along with additional evidence base studies, have informed the Proposed Submission version of the NECAAP. In November 2021 the [Proposed Submission NECAAP](#) for consideration by councillors through a series of meetings at both Councils between November 2021 and January 2022 was published. The comments received on the draft NECAAP have been [published](#) and the Council's responses to them are set out in the [Statement of Consultation](#).
- 2.7 Significant government Housing Infrastructure Funding has been secured to facilitate the relocation of the Milton Waste Water Treatment Plant which will enable the development of a major brownfield site and comprehensive planning of the North East Cambridge area. Anglian Water proposes that a Development Consent Order (DCO) process will be undertaken to enable the relocation. This is expected to be submitted in Summer 2022. The July 2020 LDS anticipates that the NECAAP will be submitted to Secretary of State for independent Examination in Spring 2024.

## **B. Action taken on Duty to Co-operate**

- 2.8 For the joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan and the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan which have been in preparation during the monitoring year, the two authorities have continued to work together as one, and continue to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with the other Duty to Cooperate bodies to address strategic cross-boundary matters. The authorities continue to address the Duty to Cooperate in all relevant aspects of the plans, including governance, consultation, and evidence gathering.
- 2.9 In terms of governance supporting constructive and ongoing engagement supporting both plans, a non-statutory Joint Local Planning Advisory Group

meets to discuss each plan at key plan-making stages to provide efficient and effective coordination of spatial planning for the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire districts. The group includes members of Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, and Cambridgeshire County Council (which is also under the duty to cooperate).

- 2.10 Supporting member engagement for the Local Plan, a joint high-level officer group comprising representatives of both councils, Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridgeshire County Council, and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority meets on a regular basis to help steer the development of the Local Plan; in addition, a Greater Cambridge Local Plan transport sub group - comprising the councils, County Council, Combined Authority, National Highways and Network Rail - also meets to facilitate preparation of a robust Transport Evidence Base supporting the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This group has also addressed transport matters relating to North East Cambridge Area Action Plan. Supporting member engagement for the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan, a Public Partners Stakeholder Group – comprising the councils, County Council and Combined Authority - has met regularly throughout preparation of the plan to discuss relevant planning issues, including cross-boundary matters.
- 2.11 In terms of consultation and engagement for the Local Plan, following the Greater Cambridge Local Plan: The First Conversation (Issues & Options 2020) held between January and February 2020, which identified [an initial list of potential strategic cross-boundary matters](#), scoping was then undertaken to confirm strategic cross-boundary matters, including analysing responses to the First Conversation, and mapping out the process for engagement to address the duty to cooperate right through to submission of the Plan. Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire members approved a [Duty to Cooperate & Statement of Common Ground Proposed Approach – For Consultation](#) document, which set out Greater Cambridge’s proposed approach to engagement and provided an initial view on strategic cross-boundary matters relevant to Greater Cambridge. Using the Proposed Approach document, officers have engaged with a wide range of relevant bodies to explore substantive issues via Duty to Cooperate roundtable meetings, and via bilateral meetings, which also addressed duty to cooperate matters relevant to North East Cambridge Area Action Plan. To support the [Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals consultation](#) in autumn 2021 the Councils published a [draft Statement of Common Ground](#) and [Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance](#), and offered the opportunity for further meetings with relevant bodies. Ahead of [publishing the Proposed Submission North East Cambridge Area Action Plan](#), the Councils worked with relevant bodies to resolve strategic cross-boundary matters, as documented in a [draft](#)

[Statement of Common Ground](#) and [Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance](#).

- 2.12 In terms of evidence, the Councils have continued to engage with neighbouring authorities and relevant prescribed Duty to Cooperate bodies on an ongoing basis across relevant functional geographies. Examples for the Local Plan include working with the County Council and Combined Authority on the development of the Local Plan transport evidence base, as well as engaging with the relevant prescribed bodies on the development of environmental evidence. An example for the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan was engaging with Historic England on the scope and outputs of the North East Cambridge Heritage Impact Assessment.

### **C. Details of Neighbourhood Development Orders or Neighbourhood Development Plans Made**

- 2.13 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act in 2011. Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.
- 2.14 Before a Neighbourhood Plan can be prepared a neighbourhood area must be designated. At November 2021 there are nineteen designated neighbourhood areas in South Cambridgeshire. No new areas were designated in the monitoring year:
- Babraham;
  - Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth;
  - Cottenham;
  - Foxton;
  - Fulbourn;
  - Gamlingay;
  - Great Abington Former Land Settlement Association (LSA) Estate – this covers the former Land Settlement Association estate, which only forms part of the parish of Great Abington;
  - Histon & Impington – this covers the area of the parish to the north of the A14;
  - Horseheath;
  - Linton and Hildersham – these two parishes have joined together to form a single neighbourhood area;
  - Melbourn;
  - Pampisford;
  - Sawston;

- Stapleford and Great Shelford – these two parishes have joined together to form a single neighbourhood area;
- Swavesey;
- Thriplow;
- Waterbeach – South Cambridgeshire District Council and Waterbeach Parish Council have agreed a framework as to how they will work together;
- West Wickham; and
- Whittlesford.

2.15 There is one designated neighbourhood area in Cambridge. The South Newnham Neighbourhood Area and the Neighbourhood Forum was designated on 22 March 2017.

2.16 Four Neighbourhood Plans have been 'made' (adopted) in South Cambridgeshire, following successful referendums, and these are:

- Great Abington Former LSA Estate Neighbourhood Plan - 21 February 2019
- Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan - 20 May 2021
- Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan - 20 May 2021
- Foxton Neighbourhood Plan - 5 August 2021

2.17 Four further Neighbourhood Plans have reached formal stages in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan:

- Waterbeach: Waterbeach parish was designated a neighbourhood area on 10 August 2015. Waterbeach Parish Council carried out consultation on their pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan in January and February 2019. The parish council submitted its neighbourhood plan to South Cambridgeshire District Council in February 2021 and SCDC carried out a public consultation between February and April 2021 which was followed by a formal examination. The examiner's report was published in August 2021 and the parish council and SCDC have been working together to prepare a Referendum version of the neighbourhood plan. Once this is done a referendum date will be set.
- Gamlingay: Gamlingay parish was designated a neighbourhood area on 3 February 2015. Gamlingay Parish Council carried out consultation on

their pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan in September and October 2020. The parish council submitted their plan to SCDC on 26 August 2021 and SCDC has carried out a public consultation between September and November 2021. An examination is now taking place on this plan.

- Fulbourn: Fulbourn parish was designated a neighbourhood area on 13 August 2018. A pre-submission consultation was carried out in January and February 2021. The Fulbourn Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to SCDC in October 2021 and SCDC is carrying out a public consultation which will end in January 2022.
- West Wickham: West Wickham parish was designated as a neighbourhood area on 17 November 2015. The parish council carried out the pre-submission consultation on their plan in May – June 2021. They are currently preparing to submit their neighbourhood plan to SCDC.

2.18 Initial discussions have taken place with a number of other Parish Councils about neighbourhood planning and whether a Neighbourhood Plan would be the right tool for them to achieve the aspirations they have for the future in their villages. There is growing interest from parish councils to prepare neighbourhood plans.

2.19 Further information can be found in relation to Neighbourhood Planning on the [Greater Cambridge Planning website](#).

#### **D. Information relating to the Collection and Spending of Community Infrastructure Levy Monies**

2.20 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge on new development, which helps fund a wide range of strategic infrastructure, such as public transport, parks and community facilities, needed to support growth. Both councils had previously sought to introduce a CIL and had submitted draft charging schedules for Examination in 2014. The intention was for these to be examined following the conclusion of the Examinations into the Local Plans. The councils each agreed to withdraw their CIL draft charging schedules in 2017 reflecting a number of changes in circumstances and to jointly reassess the position.

2.21 The position will be kept under review. The Councils will update the Local Development Scheme if they intend to commence preparation of a CIL scheme.

- 2.22 [Cambridge City Council](#), [South Cambridgeshire District Council](#), and [Cambridgeshire County Council](#), publish individual Infrastructure Funding Statements to comply with the 2019 CIL Regulation amendments. The statements for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire have been combined together with additional information to create the Infrastructure Funding Statement included as Appendix 3.

#### **E. Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement**

- 2.23 The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how and when the councils will involve the community and key stakeholders in preparing, altering and reviewing our plans and guidance to guide future development in Greater Cambridge. It also explains how the councils will involve the community in planning applications. Both councils have jointly prepared a [Statement of Community Involvement](#). This was adopted by SCDC in July 2019 and by Cambridge City Council in June 2019.
- 2.24 In June 2020 both councils jointly issued an [Addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement](#). An [Updated Addendum](#) was published in December 2020. This sets out which elements are impacted by current restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic, and how the Councils will continue to enable full involvement of people in planning matters. It includes guidance on Neighbourhood Plans. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the changes that have been made to the original statement. The need for these temporary measures is being kept under review.



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## 3. Topics

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### A. Housing Monitoring

- 3.1 The development strategy for Greater Cambridge supports the economic success of the Cambridge area through continued jobs growth, with housing provision at a level, and of a quality, to meet objectively assessed needs. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) requires (in Policy S/5) that provision is made for 19,500 dwellings in the district during the period 2011 to 2031 to meet the objectively assessed need. The Cambridge Local Plan (2018) requires (in Policy 3) that provision is made for 14,000 dwellings in the city during the same plan period 2011-2031.
- 3.2 Therefore, together the Local Plans set a housing requirement of 33,500 homes between 2011 and 2031 for Greater Cambridge. This results in an average delivery rate of 1,675 dwellings a year for Greater Cambridge. The latest housing trajectory for Greater Cambridge is set out in the [Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory and Five Year Housing Land Supply](#) report published in April 2021. This shows that 37,226 dwellings are expected to be delivered between 2011 and 2031 (14,129 in Cambridge and 23,097 in South Cambridgeshire), which is 11% (3,726 dwellings) more than the housing requirement and allows flexibility to respond to changing conditions.
- 3.3 Both Local Plans set out that “the housing trajectories for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, as updated each year in the Annual Monitoring Report, will be considered together for the purposes of phasing of housing delivery, including for calculating 5-year housing land supply in development management decisions that concern housing development” (Policy S/12 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and Policy 3 of the Cambridge Local Plan). Both Local Plan Inspectors’ Reports recognised that given the nature of the development strategy for Greater Cambridge as a whole, delivery would be higher in Cambridge in the early years of the plan period and higher in South Cambridgeshire later in the plan period, and therefore that housing supply and delivery should be considered jointly.
- 3.4 The [Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory and Five Year Housing Land Supply](#) report (published in April 2021) shows that the Councils jointly have 6.1 years of housing land supply for the 2021-2026 five year period. Collectively this means that for Greater Cambridge, the Councils can demonstrate a five year housing land supply.
- 3.5 The most up to date housing trajectory and five year land supply calculations are published on the [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website](#).



- 3.6 **Housing completions:** Between 2011 and 2021 (the first ten years of the plan period for both adopted Local Plans), 16,114 net additional dwellings were completed (7,806 dwellings in Cambridge and 8,308 dwellings in South Cambridgeshire). In the 2020-2021 monitoring year, 1,752 net additional dwellings were completed in Greater Cambridge, with 1,335 net additional dwellings in South Cambridgeshire and 417 net additional dwellings in Cambridge. This includes 258 dwellings at Northstowe, 30 dwellings at Eddington, 89 dwellings on Darwin Green, 67 dwellings at Marleigh (part of Cambridge East), 99 dwellings at Clay Farm, 128 dwellings at Trumpington Meadows, 68 dwellings on sites allocated in the Cambridge Local Plan within the city of Cambridge, and 195 dwellings on sites allocated in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan within the villages.
- 3.7 The combined annual completions in 2020-2021 for Greater Cambridge (1,752 dwellings) is slightly higher than the average annual delivery rate required of 1,675 dwellings a year. This means that delivery has exceeded the required rate in four of the last five years.
- 3.8 South Cambridgeshire achieved a significantly higher level of completions than the previous year (1,107 dwellings were completed in 2019-2020). In Cambridge there has been a decrease in the number of dwellings completed in comparison to the previous monitoring year (460 dwellings were completed in 2019-2020). The completion rate in Cambridge has now fallen for four successive years which reflects the spatial strategy. The higher level of completions previously achieved in Cambridge was a result of high numbers of completions on the edge of Cambridge sites completing within the city boundary. The increase in housing completions in South Cambridgeshire and decrease in Cambridge therefore reflects the build out pattern of the edge of Cambridge sites and the move towards higher delivery from new settlements.
- 3.9 Actual net completions in 2020-2021 (1,752 dwellings) were well above the anticipated net completions included in the April 2021 housing trajectory (1,095 dwellings), with delivery above the housing trajectory estimations in both local authorities. For some sites, the schemes were completed rather than only being anticipated to be partially completed. Although increasing delivery in 2020-2021, there is potential that there will be a reduction in actual completions in 2021-2022 (compared to the April 2021 housing trajectory) to compensate for this, but this will be reviewed when the trajectory is updated.
- 3.10 The **Housing Delivery Test (HDT)** is an annual assessment of actual housing delivery over the previous three years against the housing requirement for the district for that same period which is required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). HDT results are published by

the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) each year.

- 3.11 The most recent results for 2017-2018 to 2019-2020 were published in January 2021 and are 176% for Cambridge and 114% for South Cambridgeshire. There are no consequences from the HDT results published in January 2021 for Cambridge or South Cambridgeshire.
- 3.12 A statement setting out the results and the implications for both Councils is published on the [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website](#). The results for the period 2018-2019 to 2020-2021 have yet to be published but will be added to the website when available.
- 3.13 **Previously Developed Land:** Making efficient use of land, including through the reuse of Previously Developed Land (PDL), is central to the approach to delivering sustainable development. South Cambridgeshire has an indicator to monitor completions on PDL. The proportion of housing completed on PDL has now fallen for five successive years. The proportion for 2020-2021 (14%) was the lowest over the first ten years of the plan (albeit only marginally lower than 2012-2013). The fall appears to be due to the nature of sites currently being developed. The largest levels of completions in the last year were within edge of Cambridge locations, 'five year supply' sites and new settlements. These all tend to be predominantly on green field sites.
- 3.14 **Subdivision of existing dwelling plots:** Policy 52 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) sets out criteria by which new dwellings requiring the subdivision of existing dwelling plots should be considered. A review of all applications for subdivision of garden plots over the 2020-2021 monitoring year was carried out. There were a total of 12 permissions granted on garden land. Two of the applications granted were on sites with extant consents that pre-date the 2018 Local Plan; these did not reference Policy 52 so have been discounted from the assessment of the use of the policy given the extant consents on site. One of the permissions had an extant permission from 2019. The application granted in the 2020-2021 monitoring year did not reference Policy 52 but the 2019 permission did reference Policy 52 meaning that the proposal was assessed against the criteria of the policy. Of the remaining 9 permissions for subdivision of existing residential plots, 100% were considered to be appropriate when assessed against Policy 52.
- 3.15 **Housing density:** Over the plan monitoring period (2011-2021), the average net density of dwellings completed in South Cambridgeshire has fluctuated. In the last monitoring year, the average net density was 37.3 dwellings per hectare (DPH) on sites greater than nine dwellings. This was slightly above the average of 34.3 DPH over the plan period. This was partly the result of a

relatively high density being achieved on completed schemes in the Rural Centres of Histon and Cambourne.

- 3.16 Density in the city has also fluctuated over the plan monitoring period. The average density achieved in 2020-2021 of 69.8 DPH was slightly below the 2011/12 - 2020/21 average of 73.5 DPH. The largest site completed was part of the NIAB site (16/0208/REM) which resulted in 173 dwellings being built at a density of 56.0 DPH.
- 3.17 **Affordable Housing:** The availability of housing that is affordable and accessible to those in need in Greater Cambridge is a major and growing issue. In Cambridge, the median house price has risen from 8.7 times the median income in 2011 to 12.35 times the median income in 2020. In South Cambridgeshire, the median house price has risen from 7.6 times the median income in 2011 to 9.7 times the median income in 2020. These ratios have steadied in recent years, and even fallen slightly in the case of Cambridge. However, house price to income ratios remain very high by historical standards in both local authorities.
- 3.18 The affordable housing policies in South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) require the provision of 40% affordable housing on all developments of 11 dwellings or more, or on developments of 10 or less if the total floorspace exceeds 1,000 sqm (see Policy H/10 – although a lower threshold of 10 dwellings, in line with the NPPF was agreed by members at their November 2018 Planning Committee). Policy H/11 allows the provision of affordable housing on small sites adjoining villages as exception sites. Policy H/11 allows consideration to be given to exception sites providing a minimum amount of market housing if it can be demonstrated that a 100% affordable housing scheme is unviable.
- 3.19 Similarly, Policy 45 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) requires the provision of affordable housing on schemes for 11 units or more, or on developments of less than 11 units if the total floorspace exceeds 1,000 sqm. However, similar to South Cambridgeshire, a lower threshold of 10 dwellings in line with the NPPF was agreed by members at their November 2018 Planning Committee. The Cambridge Local Plan has two thresholds with 25% affordable housing required on developments of 11 (10) -14 units and 40% affordable housing required on sites of 15 or more units.
- 3.20 In total, South Cambridgeshire delivered 311 affordable dwellings in 2020-2021. At 23% of all completions this was below the plan period average for the district (26%). The scheme which accounted for the largest number of affordable homes in South Cambridgeshire was a site known as Land South of Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey (S/2315/RM). This delivered its full quota of

40 affordable dwellings from a total of 99 dwellings and the scheme is now complete. Cambridge delivered only 51 affordable dwellings in 2020-2021. This was 12% of all completions, also below the plan period average of 35% for the district. The scheme which accounted for the largest number of affordable homes in Cambridge was Parcel 8 of the Clay Farm development (15/0844/REM). This will ultimately deliver 40% affordable housing on a 251 dwelling scheme.

- 3.21 A total of 4,522 dwellings were permitted in South Cambridgeshire during the 2020-2021 monitoring year. This included 4,231 dwellings within schemes eligible to provide affordable dwellings (for example excluding schemes of less than 10 dwellings, student apartments, houses in multiple occupation, and prior notification approvals). Of these, 29% are to be affordable dwellings. This is below the policy requirement of 40% and is largely due to viability factors lowering the affordable proportions secured on some strategic sites. Residential permissions in Cambourne West (20/01536/REM, 20/01640/REM and S/4537/19/RM) have secured 30% affordable housing, which is consistent with the 30% affordable housing agreed for the whole development through the outline planning permission and s106 agreement. Also, the final residential permissions in Northstowe Phase 1 (S/0065/20/RM and S/2907/19/RM) have secured 25% affordable housing, which together with the affordable housing secured on the other residential permissions within Phase 1 have resulted in 20% affordable housing being secured for this phase as agreed through the outline planning permission and s106 agreement for this phase. The only site that was permitted without any affordable housing on viability grounds was 'Parcel COM4' at Orchard Park (S/4191/19/FL). This included 80 apartments and a clawback clause has been included in the permission.
- 3.22 A total of 1,425 dwellings were permitted in Cambridge during the same period. This included 934 dwellings within schemes eligible to provide 40% affordable dwellings (ie. schemes of 15 or more dwellings). Of these, 47% are to be affordable dwellings. This is comfortably above the policy. The high proportion of affordable housing permitted was influenced by three all affordable housing schemes at 67 - 97A Campkin Road (19/1616/FUL), The Meadows Community Centre (19/1756/FUL) and the Buchan Street Neighbourhood Centre (19/1757/FUL). All three applications were submitted by Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP) which is a joint venture company set up by Cambridge City Council and Hill Investment Partnership. There was only one scheme of 11-14 dwellings where a lower level of 25% affordable housing is required. This scheme, 212-214 Newmarket Road (18/1679/FUL) met the policy requirement will include 3 affordable dwellings out of a total of 13.

- 3.23 **Housing development by settlement category:** Over the plan period so far (2011 to 2021), the majority of completions across the whole plan area have been in the Cambridge Urban Area and Edge of Cambridge (3,817 and 4,942 respectively). In the rural area of South Cambridgeshire, Rural Centres account for the largest share of housing completions (1,756) followed by 'five year supply' sites (1,332), Minor Rural Centres (1,078) and New Settlements (935).
- 3.24 **Student Accommodation:** Policy 46 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) relates to student accommodation. This requires that new student accommodation developments demonstrate there is a proven need for student accommodation to serve a particular institution and a formal agreement must be entered in with the institution to confirm the accommodation is suitable. Student accommodation is to serve students who are attending full-time courses of one academic year or more. The policy indicator requires a review of whether applications are built to meet the specific needs of a named institution or institutions.
- 3.25 Three schemes were permitted in 2020-21 and all met the policy criteria as they were associated with Cambridge University colleges. In total, they should deliver a net increase of 133 student bedrooms. The largest proposal is a redevelopment scheme at Lucy Cavendish College (20/03342/FUL) which will deliver a net increase of 61 student bedrooms alongside a college cafe and social learning space, ancillary facilities and external works.
- 3.26 In the 2020-2021 monitoring year there was a net gain of 100 completed student rooms in Cambridge through five developments. All were related to University of Cambridge Colleges. The largest net gain was a Clare College scheme (17/0970/FUL) at St Regis and 108 Chesterton Road which resulted in the completion of 53 new student rooms. A scheme at Lucy Cavendish College (20/03342/FUL) resulted in a loss of 11 rooms. However, when completed the new buildings will deliver 72 additional student rooms. A Trinity College scheme at the Cambridge Union Society (17/1541/FUL) delivered a net gain of 32 student rooms and a Downing College scheme at 90-92 Regent Street (18/0154/FUL) delivered a net gain of 24 student rooms. Finally, Corpus Christi delivered two student rooms through the change of use of an office (18/1561/FUL).
- 3.27 There has been a net increase of 4,576 student rooms over the first ten years of the plan period (2011-2021). The trigger of 3,104 rooms set by the indicator in the plan relates to the findings of the Assessment of Student Housing Demand and Supply study (January 2017) for Cambridge City Council. This is the demand for a 10 year period up to 2026. Since the 2016/2017 monitoring year an additional 1,998 (net) student rooms have been provided.

- 3.28 **Greater Cambridge Partnership (formerly City Deal) – 1,000 Additional New Homes on Rural Exception Sites:** The [Greater Cambridge City Deal](#) was signed with Government in June 2014 and brings up to £500 million of grant funding to help deliver infrastructure to support growth in the area with its highly successful economy. Through the City Deal, the partners have committed to the delivery of 1,000 additional new homes on rural exception sites by 2031.
- 3.29 The Greater Cambridge City Deal Board agreed in September 2016 how the 1,000 additional dwellings on rural exception sites will be monitored, and their relationship to the housing requirement set out in the Local Plans. The Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans set a requirement of 33,500 homes between 2011 and 2031 for Greater Cambridge, and it was agreed that only once delivery exceeds the level needed to meet the Local Plans requirements can any eligible homes be counted towards the 1,000 additional new homes on rural exception sites. Eligible homes are defined as “all affordable homes (as defined by the NPPF) constructed on rural exception sites, and on sites not allocated for development in the local plans and outside of a defined settlement boundary”.
- 3.30 The latest Greater Cambridge housing trajectory (published in April 2021) anticipates that delivery will exceed the housing requirement in the Local Plans in 2022-2023, and therefore until that point affordable homes completed on eligible sites are contributing towards delivering the Greater Cambridge housing requirement of 33,500 dwellings. On the basis of their anticipated delivery, as set out in the Greater Cambridge housing trajectory (April 2021), known eligible sites with planning permission or a resolution to grant planning permission at November 2021 are anticipated to deliver approximately 742 eligible affordable homes between 2022 and 2031.
- 3.31 There are still a further nine years until 2031 during which affordable homes on other eligible sites will continue to come forward and that will count towards this target. Quarterly updates on anticipated delivery towards this City Deal commitment are provided to the [Greater Cambridge Partnership Board and Assembly](#).
- 3.32 **Gypsy & Traveller Sites:** Local planning authorities are required to make provision for Gypsy & Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots to meet identified needs. The [Cambridgeshire, King’s Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough and West Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment](#) (GTANA) was completed in October 2016 and was used to inform the pitch and plot requirements included in the adopted Local Plans.

The GTANA (2016) concluded for South Cambridgeshire that the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller could be met through existing available sites and it identified a need for nine additional Travelling Showpeople plots in South Cambridgeshire over the period 2016-2021 and 12 plots over the period 2016-2036. Although no Travelling Showpeople plots were delivered in the 2020-2021 monitoring year, four plots were delivered in 2016-2017. One gypsy & traveller pitch was completed in 2020-2021 bringing the total to ten since 2016. A new GTANA is being developed as part of the evidence base for the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan but has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

- 3.33 **Accessible Homes:** An accessible home supports the changing needs of residents from raising children through to mobility issues faced in old age or through disability. Both Local Plans make provision for accessible dwellings. Policy 51 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) requires that a) all housing development should be of a size, configuration and internal layout to enable Building Regulations requirement M4(2) 'accessible and adaptable dwellings' to be met unless it has been demonstrated that it would be unviable to do so and b) that 5% of affordable housing on sites capable of providing 20 or more self-contained affordable homes, meet M4(3) of Building Regulations. There is no indicator which monitors the use of Policy 51 in the Cambridge Local Plan, however a review of part b) of the policy has been undertaken. This found that there were three developments including 20 or more self-contained affordable homes granted full permission in 2020-2021. All had a requirement for 5% of homes to be built to M4(3) standard. A further outline application was permitted for Cambridge East – Land north of Cherry Hinton (18/0481/OUT). This will require Policy 51 to be addressed in the subsequent reserved matters applications.
- 3.34 Policy H/9 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) requires that 5% of new dwellings meet M4(2) of Building Regulations. All developments of 20 or more houses are therefore required to provide an element of accessible dwellings. An evaluation of all of the developments of 20 or more dwellings approved in the 2020-2021 monitoring year was undertaken. Eleven applications were reviewed. Seven met or exceeded the required standard and the remaining schemes either had a previous outline or extant planning permission in place. Overall, the impact of the policy will continue to grow as fewer reserved matters applications are approved where there is an outline permission granted before Policy H/9 came into effect. Some schemes will be delivering or exceeding the policy requirements even where the outline permission was granted before the Local Plan was adopted. For example, the scheme at Land to the rear of 130 Middle Watch, Swavesey (S/1896/19/RM) will deliver 70 dwellings including all 28 affordable and 4 market bungalows

achieving M4(2) standard (46% of all dwellings). There have also been some significant outline permissions granted in 2020-2021 where the policy will be a requirement for all subsequent reserved matters applications. These are Land North of Cherry Hinton (S/1231/18/OL) which has permission for up to 1,200 dwellings and the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus which has permission for up to 1,500 dwellings (S/4329/18/OL).

## **B. Employment Monitoring**

- 3.35 Cambridge is an acknowledged world leader in higher education, research and knowledge-based industries. It has a prosperous and dynamic economic base in high technology, research and development and related service sector industries. The success of the high technology industry in the area and the clustering of hi tech, biotech and research and development industries around Cambridge University and Addenbrooke's Hospital is termed the "Cambridge Phenomenon". Both Local Plans identify targets for jobs to be provided over the period between 2011 and 2031. In South Cambridgeshire the target is 22,000 jobs and in Cambridge the target is 22,100 jobs. Over the plan period (2011-2019) there have been 44,000 jobs created across Greater Cambridge: 19,000 in South Cambridgeshire and 25,000 in Cambridge. (This data is taken from the ONS Jobs Density data series via NOMIS. It is a workplace-based measure and comprises employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces.) It should be noted that this data set has a significant time lag and the most recent data does not cover the Coronavirus pandemic period.
- 3.36 Employment sites within villages are a scarce resource that should be retained to provide local employment. Policies therefore resist the re-use of employment sites for non-employment uses, unless there is proven limited or no market demand for the site within its existing use; the community benefit of the new proposal outweighs the adverse effects of the loss of employment; or the existing use is generating environmental problems that will remain similar with any other alternative employment use (see Policy E/14 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018)).
- 3.37 The Cambridge Local Plan supports a forecast growth of 8,800 jobs in the B use classes. Growth of this scale is expected to generate demand for around 70,200 sqm of additional B use floorspace. Policy 40 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) supports new office and research facilities in the city centre, eastern gateway, around both train stations, in the Biomedical Campus and West Cambridge Site, and on suitable windfall sites around the city. The loss of B use floorspace (or sui generis research floorspace), both within and outside of Protected Industrial Sites, is protected by Policy 41 which only permits loss of this floorspace where it facilitates modernisation or



redevelopment to allow continued employment use (within the B use class) or if the loss has been justified through a marketing exercise.

- 3.38 In the 2020-2021 monitoring year, business completions (net) were 23,739 sqm/0.15 hectares in Cambridge and 16,796 sqm/7.58 hectares in South Cambridgeshire. The largest completion was a 17,246 sqm office block at 32-38 Station Road, Cambridge (15/0906/FUL). For 2011-2021, business completions (net) were 166,426sqm/-7.78 hectares in Cambridge and 232,480 sqm/95.52 hectares for South Cambridgeshire. In Cambridge 1.06 hectares of employment land was lost in 2020-2021 to other uses on unallocated sites. In South Cambridgeshire 2.98 hectares of employment land was lost to other uses in 2020-2021.
- 3.39 By the end of the monitoring year, March 2021, there were 3,560 people claiming unemployment related benefits in Cambridge (4.1% of residents aged 16-64). There were 3,090 people claiming unemployment related benefits in South Cambridgeshire (3.2% of residents aged 16-64). In both cases the levels had more than doubled over the year (almost trebling in the case of South Cambridgeshire). Data shows that the claimant count has fallen in both local authorities since the end of the monitoring year. However, in August 2021 the levels in both the authorities remained higher than at any time in the previous ten years prior to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 3.40 The number of businesses in South Cambridgeshire fell in 2020 for the first time since 2011. This fall was due to a fall in business births and rise in business deaths. Overall, there was a net fall of 130 active businesses. Cambridge was a little more resilient and achieved a net increase of 70 active businesses.

### **C. Allocations Monitoring**

- 3.41 For the purposes of the AMR, the Councils monitor progress on the delivery of allocations within both Local Plans.
- 3.42 Indicator M34 of the South Cambridge Local Plan (2018) monitors progress on employment sites. The updates are as follows:
- **Cambridge Science Park (Policy E/1):** This site has played an important role in supporting the research and development and high tech sectors since the 1970's. Its accessibility has been significantly enhanced by the Guided Bus and Cambridge North Station. Early parts of the site were built at low densities and were built forty years ago. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan identifies the opportunity for their redevelopment and densification, to make better use of the site. It should

be noted that the policy does not allocate a specific amount of floorspace. This area is also included within the Area Action Plan being prepared for North East Cambridge. The Greater Cambridge Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study (November 2020) concludes that intensification of employment uses should be sought through the Area Action Plan. Details of completions and commitments in the Science Park at March 2021 are included in tables 58 and 59 of Appendix 2. A planning application (20/03444/FUL) submitted for 4,600 sqm of commercial office floorspace at 127-136 Cambridge Science Park is awaiting a decision.

- **Land south of Cambridge Biomedical Campus (Edge of Cambridge) (Policy E/2):** an extension of 8.9 hectares to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus is identified for biomedical and biotechnology research and development uses and related higher education and sui-generis medical research institute uses. The Cambridge Biomedical Campus have now prepared a Vision 2050, setting out aspirations for its future. Through a collaboration with adjoining landowners, submissions have been made through the call for sites setting out proposals for future development, including in areas which are currently part of the Green Belt. Submissions by the Cambridge Biomedical Campus as part of the Cambridge South proposal considers this may be capable of a significantly higher level of development.
- **Fulbourn Road East (Fulbourn / Edge of Cambridge) (Policy E/3):** a site adjoining the Peterhouse Technology Park of 6.9 hectares is allocated for employment uses. The Greater Cambridge Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study (November 2020) concludes that the site should be retained for employment use. A hybrid planning application for a total of 56,473sqm of commercial floorspace for Use Classes E(g) i (offices), ii (research and development), iii (light industrial) and B8 (storage and distribution - limited to data centres) uses covering the whole allocation was refused at Joint Development Control Committee on 27 October 2021. It was refused due to concerns about traffic, green belt and landscape impacts.
- **Papworth Hospital:** The hospital closed in May 2019 and relocated to the Addenbrooke's Biomedical Campus. No planning application(s) has yet been received for the redevelopment of the existing Papworth Hospital site.
- **Histon and Impington Station Area: The Bishops Site, Cambridge Road, Impington:** the site has full planning permission for the demolition

of the existing buildings and the erection of 35 dwellings, which was approved in June 2018. At December 2020 the site had been cleared. However, by May 2021 there had been no further progress. **Former station site including derelict Histon & Impington Railway Station, 94-96 Station Road, Impington:** the site has full planning permission for the restoration and redevelopment of the former station building with a ground floor commercial unit and two dwellings and the erection of 10 dwellings. At April 2021 the site was complete. **Station Road Garage, Station Yard, Station Road, Histon:** the site has outline planning permission for 32 dwellings and amenity space, which was approved in September 2019.

- **Bayer CropScience Site (Hauxton):** The site is allocated for housing and B1 employment uses. Outline planning permission was granted for a scheme including up to 380 dwellings, up to 4,000 sqm of B1a use and up to 250 sqm of retail use in February 2010 (which has now lapsed). Detailed masterplanning of the site resulted in the site being anticipated to provide 285 dwellings, rather than 380 dwellings as anticipated in the outline planning permission. At February 2020, all 285 dwellings had been completed. The Greater Cambridge Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study (November 2020) concludes that the site should be retained for employment use. An application has not yet been submitted for the non-residential element of the allocation.
- **Papworth Everard West Central: Land south of Church Lane:** the site has outline planning permission for the erection of up to 58 dwellings and open space, and full planning permission for 8 units for either housing or business use, a brewhouse, a bakery, and community rooms. A detailed planning permission for 53 dwellings was granted in August 2017. At March 2021, both permissions were under construction with 20 dwellings completed. **Catholic Church site:** the site has planning permission for the demolition of the existing dilapidated church and erection of four new apartments. At November 2021, the church had been demolished and the new dwellings had been completed.
- **Dales Manor Business Park, Sawston (Policy H/1a):** The site is allocated for residential development and B1 employment uses. The allocation envisages that an area of 1.5 hectares bound by East Way, Middle Way and Grove Road will be developed for B1 uses, and that the remainder of site, 9 hectares of B2/B8 uses and vacant land, will be lost to residential uses. However, the landowners of the north-western part of the site are implementing a detailed planning permission for 27 units for B1c, B2 and B8 uses and the erection of 14m high wind turbine, and

therefore this part of the allocation is no longer available for residential development. The Greater Cambridge Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study (November 2020) concludes that “given the active commercial interest in the site and recent completions, the residential component is unlikely to be brought forward in full if not in entirety. A removal of the mixed use allocation should be considered and employment otherwise retained under the wider existing policy framework”.

- **Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay (Policy H/1f):** the site is 4.09 hectares of mixed B1/B2/B8, which is proposed for residential led development. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan requires redevelopment to provide 25% employment land, therefore resulting in a loss of around 3 hectares. Outline planning permission for the demolition of 5 dwellings and industrial and office units, and the erection of up to 90 dwellings was granted in December 2016 and reserved matters planning permission was approved in June 2020. The planning permission covers approximately 75% of the site. The site is currently under construction.

3.43 Indicator M7 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan monitors progress on the delivery of new mixed-use developments or redevelopment at a number of sites. The updates are as follows:

- **Orchard Park** is a mixed-use development on the northern edge of Cambridge between Kings Hedges Road, Histon Road and the A14. Outline planning permission for the whole site was approved in June 2005, and has largely been implemented, but that planning permission has now lapsed.
  - **Parcel L2:** the site has full planning permission 75 dwellings (20/03802/FUL) and the pre-commencement conditions are currently being discharged. The site is being brought forward by Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP - Hill Investment Partnerships and Cambridge City Council).
  - **Parcel Com4:** full planning permission for the erection of a new residential block comprising 80 apartments was approved in August 2020 (S/4191/19/FL). However, an alternative scheme (S/4243/19/FL) for 138 student rooms has resolution to grant planning permission subject to completion of a s106 agreement. It is currently unclear which of these two schemes will be implemented.
- **Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road / Progress towards housing provision as identified in Policy 20 and allocation R43 for up to 1,780 dwellings (Cambridge indicator):**

- The NIAB frontage site has detailed planning permission for 187 dwellings. 153 of these dwellings have been completed and planning permission for a non-residential development on the site of the remaining 34 dwellings was approved in March 2018.
  - The NIAB main site has outline permission for up to 1,593 dwellings with a primary school, community facilities and retail units. Within this permission 2 parcels have detailed permission for 287 dwellings with 204 dwellings completed by March 2021. A further reserved matters application (21/03619/REM) for 411 dwellings (parcels BDW5 and 6) was submitted in August 2021. It is expected that the local centre including library and retail areas will be completed by autumn 2022.
  - NIAB 2 & 3 (Darwin Green 2 & 3) is allocated for 1,000 dwellings and a secondary school. An Environmental Impact Assessment scoping opinion response was provided by the Council in September 2019. It is assumed that this development will follow on from the delivery of NIAB Main (Darwin Green 1) and an outline planning application is expected in early 2022.
- **Cambridge East – Land north of Newmarket Road (also referred to as WING or Marleigh)/ Progress towards housing provision as identified in Policy SS/3 (1a) for 1,300 dwellings:** Outline permission (S/2682/13/OL) was granted in November 2016 for 1,300 homes, a primary school, a food store and community facilities. Reserved matters applications (S/1096/19/RM and 20/02569/REM) for 547 dwellings have been permitted and are under construction with 67 homes completed by March 2021. The first phase of development includes a mix of non residential uses including a local centre/community building with offices above and sports facilities and buildings. A reserved matters application (21/02450/REM) for 421 dwellings was approved in October 2021. Pre-application discussions have commenced in respect of the consolidation of the Northworks part of the site (B2 land).
- **Cambridge East / Delivery of allocation R47 as specified by the Cambridge East - Land North of Cherry Hinton SPD for approximately 780 residential units** (this is also monitored by the indicator associated with Policy 13 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2018): This land is allocated in the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 (Policy 13 / Site R47) and in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 (Policy SS/3) for 1,200 dwellings. It is anticipated that approximately 780 dwellings will be in Cambridge and approximately 420 dwellings will be in South Cambridgeshire. The Cambridge East – North of Cherry Hinton SPD was

adopted by both Councils in November 2018. An outline planning application (18/0481/OUT & S/1231/18/OL) for a maximum of 1,200 homes, retirement living facility, a local centre, primary and secondary schools, community facilities, open spaces, and allotments was granted in December 2020. A Planning Performance Agreement is currently being negotiated for infrastructure matters with a reserved matters application expected in 2022. This means that a reserved matters application for phases 1 and 2 will follow later in the year with construction likely to start late in 2022 or 2023.

- **Cambridge Northern Fringe East:** The Councils are preparing a new plan for development of the area west of the new Cambridge North Station, together with Cambridge Science Park. The North East Cambridge Area Action Plan: Issues and options document was consulted on in spring 2019 and consultation on the draft Area Action Plan was undertaken in autumn 2020. The comments received have been considered, and along with additional evidence base studies, have informed the Proposed Submission version of the NECAAP. In November 2021 the [Proposed Submission NECAAP](#) for consideration by councillors through a series of meetings at both Councils between November 2021 and January 2022 was published.
- **Northstowe:** Northstowe is a new settlement of up to 10,000 dwellings to the north west of Cambridge, adjacent to the villages of Longstanton and Oakington. The new town was originally planned in the Northstowe Area Action Plan (adopted in July 2007) with an area of reserve land to the west of the town. The reserve land is allocated in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 (adopted in September 2018, Policy SS/5) to provide flexibility for the phasing and delivery of the new town. In July 2012, the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee endorsed (with some revisions) the site wide masterplan (Development Framework Document) as a material consideration for all subsequent planning applications.
  - **Phase 1:** Outline planning permission for phase 1 (up to 1,500 dwellings, a primary school, a mixed-use local centre, leisure, community, health and employment uses, a household recycling centre, recreational space, infrastructure works and the demolition of existing buildings and structures) was granted in April 2014. Phase 1 is being delivered by five housebuilders. 713 houses had been completed by March 2021. All residential parcels have received reserved matters consent. The primary school is completed and occupied.

- **Phase 2:** Outline planning permission for up to 3,500 dwellings, a secondary school, two primary schools, a town centre including employment uses, and sports hub was approved in January 2017. The first phase (2a) of residential development of 406 homes within phase 2 of Northstowe will be delivered by Urban Splash and will be modular housing. Reserved matters planning permission for this phase including 406 dwellings, non-residential floorspace and open space was granted in February 2020. At March 2021, two show homes had been completed. A S73 application (21/02585/S73) has been submitted to make design amendments to the age restricted accommodation (60 dwellings). The education campus within Phase 2 has been completed. A reserved matters application has also been submitted for the sports pavilion (21/03350/REM).
  - **Phase 3:** The land is allocated in the Northstowe Area Action Plan (adopted in July 2007), and is anticipated to provide approximately 5,000 dwellings. Outline planning applications for phase 3a (4,000 dwellings) and phase 3b (1,000 dwellings) were submitted in early 2020 by Homes England. A further two planning applications within phase 3b were submitted by Endurance Estates and Digital Park (totalling around 210 dwellings) in mid-2020.
- **Waterbeach New Town (Policy SS/6):** The site is allocated for a sustainable new town of approximately 8,000 to 9,000 dwellings. The policy for the new town requires appropriate employment provision to meet the needs of the town, provision of access to local jobs, and support for continued development of the economy of the Cambridge area. The Waterbeach New Town SPD (adopted in 2019) states that the New Town will provide a significant amount of employment land, including an appropriate mix of offices, light industrial and research and development uses. These will be in an appropriate location focused upon the new town centre, the rail station district and other local centres. The development will be expected to provide serviced and safeguarded employment land at appropriate phased timescales during the life of the development. **Urban & Civic (the western part of the site):** Outline planning permission for up to 6,500 dwellings (including up to 600 residential institutional units), business, retail, community, leisure and sports uses, a hotel, schools, and open spaces, was granted in September 2019 (S/0559/17/OL). The first phase Design Code was approved at Planning Committee in June 2020 and the first reserved matters infrastructure application has also been approved. A reserved matters application (21/02400/REM) for 89 dwellings was granted in July 2021 and is expected to start on site by the end of 2021. **RLW Estates (the eastern part of the site):** An outline planning application

(S/2075/18/OL) for up to 4,500 dwellings, business, retail, community, leisure and sports uses, new primary and secondary schools and sixth form centre, and public open spaces went to planning committee in January 2021 where it was resolved to grant subject to completion of a s106. It is anticipated that reserved matters applications for the first residential parcels could be submitted within 1-2 years.

- **Bourn Airfield New Village (Policy SS/7):** in addition to employment opportunities from the redevelopment of the 9 hectare former Thyssen Krupp site which adjoins the new village site, the new village will incorporate employment opportunities which are outlined in the Bourn Airfield New Village SPD (adopted in 2019). An outline planning application (S/3440/18/OL) for approximately 3,500 dwellings, employment, retail, hotel and leisure uses, residential institutions, education and community facilities, and open space went to planning committee in February 2021 where it was resolved to grant subject to completion of a s106 agreement. It is anticipated that this will be completed and a decision notice issued by the end of 2021 with a start on site potentially in Summer 2022. An application for full permission for Phase 1 and outline permission for Phase 2 of the redevelopment of the former Gestamp Factory site for up to 26,757sqm of light industry, research and development, and warehouse and distribution, with supplementary restaurant and cafe, day nursery/creche, and gym was granted in January 2021 (20/02568/FUL).
- **Cambourne West (Policy SS/8):** the policy for a fourth linked village at Cambourne seeks to relocate the amount of employment land currently remaining undeveloped on the southern side of the business park within the new Cambourne West site. Outline planning permission for Cambourne West was granted in December 2017 (S/2903/14/OL). Reserved matters applications (S/4537/19/RM, 20/01536/REM, 20/01640/REM and 20/02543/REM) have subsequently been permitted and include 826 dwellings. The first two permissions are under construction and discharging conditions. The latter two permissions are also discharging conditions and have an anticipated start on site date of the end of 2021. No planning application(s) have yet been submitted for the non residential uses. The South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership has applied for a screening opinion (21/03771/SCRE) for a proposal for up to 300 dwellings, creation of new open spaces, a public square, a café (following the change of use of the Marketing Suite) and associated works on land within Cambourne Business Park.



3.44 Indicator M28 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan monitors progress on residential allocations. Many of these have been covered in the above updates on employment and mixed use allocations. The remaining updates are as follows:

- **Fulbourn and Ida Darwin Hospitals:** Prior approval permission for the demolition of 18 buildings including the water tower was given in December 2018, and the first phase of demolition has been completed (S/4469/18/PN). Outline planning permission for up to 203 dwellings, land for community provision, and open space following the demolition of existing buildings on site was approved in November 2019 (S/0670/17/OL). The application proposes that the development is split into two phases to allow the immediate redevelopment of the majority of the site, with a small number of buildings retained for ongoing use by the NHS Trust until they are no longer required or the accommodation has been relocated elsewhere. A reserved matters application for 203 dwellings and land for community provision is due to be determined by the end of 2021 (20/05199/REM).
- **Land North of Babraham Road (Sawston):** The site has full planning permission for 158 dwellings and landscaping (S/3729/18/FL). At March 2021, 30 dwellings had been completed, 9 dwellings were under construction, and the remaining 119 dwellings had not been started.
- **Land South of Babraham Road (Sawston):** A full application was submitted in August 2021 (21/03955/FUL). The application is currently under-going consultation and is likely to go to planning committee in early 2022.
- **Land North of Impington Road, Histon & Impington:** The site has full planning permission for 26 dwellings and open space. At May 2021 the site was completed at least in terms of being watertight. Internal fittings were on-going.
- **Land off New Road, Land rear of Victoria Way, Melbourn:** The allocation has two full planning permissions which are both under construction. One permission for 67 dwellings (S/4414/17/FL) saw the five remaining dwellings completed in 2020-2021. The other permission is for the demolition of an existing dwelling and the erection of 22 dwellings and open space (S/2424/18/FL), and all 22 dwellings were completed in 2020-2021.

- **Land East of Rockmill End, Willingham:** The site has detailed planning permission for 72 dwellings, public open space, local equipped area of play and a pumping station (S/0122/18/RM). The planning permission covers a larger site than the allocation. At March 2021, 64 dwellings had been completed and the remaining 8 dwellings were under construction.
- **Land at Bennell Farm, Comberton:** The site has detailed planning permission for 90 dwellings and open space (S/4552/17/RM). At March 2021, 36 dwellings had been completed and the remaining 54 dwellings were under construction.

3.45 The indicators associated with Policies 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 27 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) monitor the progress of allocations within the plan. A number of these indicators crossover with those in the South Cambridge Local Plan (2018) and are therefore reported above. The remaining updates are as follows:

- **Delivery of an urban country park and other appropriate development at land South of Coldhams Lane:** There has been engagement from the Anderson Group in the first quarter of 2021 to enter into a Planning Performance Agreement to come forward with an employment led application and Urban Country Park. Subsequently a hybrid planning application comprising: a) outline planning application for commercial development comprising B8 floorspace, including ancillary E(g)i floorspace, and flexible B8/E(g) floorspace, car and cycle parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved except for access on Parcel A; b) full planning application for ecological enhancements on Parcel B; and c) full planning application for recreation and ecological enhancements, including landscaping, public open space and pedestrian and cycle access on Parcel C was submitted but later withdrawn (21/02326/FUL). A revised application is expected.
- Delivery of **allocation M15** as specified by the consented planning application (06/0796/OUT) and completion of the development.  
**Cambridge Biomedical Campus:** An application by AstraZeneca (19/1070/REM - Phase 1b) for a R&D Enabling Building of 13,197 sqm, an Amenities Hub of 3,261 sqm, associated car, motorbike and cycle parking including a Multi Storey Car Park, a temporary Multi Use Games Area, hard and soft landscaping, and internal roads, supporting facilities and ancillary infrastructure was approved in January 2020. A further application was approved in June 2021 (20/05027/REM) which included an office building of 13,502 sqm; a Hive of 3,593 sqm; associated car,

motorbike and cycle parking including a Travel Hub of 2,970 sqm; a temporary Multi Use Games Area; hard and soft landscaping; and internal roads, supporting facilities and ancillary infrastructure. A new reserved matters application for the proposed Cambridge Children's Hospital was submitted in September 2021 (21/04336/REM). In the meantime, earlier permissions are progressing. Phase 2 of the outline permission (16/0176/OUT) has been granted (covering 7 parcels). Full permission has been granted for the Abcam building (parcel 1) and is now (largely) built and occupied (16/0165/FUL). Reserved matters have been granted for 1000 Discovery Drive (parcel 2) including the erection of a five-storey mixed use laboratory and office building and associated plant, internal roads, car parking, cycle parking, landscaping and public open space (20/03950/REM).

- Delivery of progress towards housing provision as identified in **Policy 18 (Southern Fringe Area of Major Change)** and allocations **R42 a, b, c and d** (which includes up to 2,250 dwellings at Clay Farm, up to 600 at Trumpington Meadows, 286 at Glebe Farm, and up to 347 at the Bell School Site):
  - The **R42a** allocation covers Clay Farm. The site has detailed planning permission for 2,188 dwellings and is being delivered by multiple housebuilders (Countryside Properties, Skanska, Bovis Homes, Hill Residential and Cambridge City Council, Crest Nicholson and CALA Homes). A total of 2,136 dwellings had been delivered at March 2021.
  - The Trumpington Meadows housing development makes up allocation **R42b**. Outline planning permission for approximately 1,200 dwellings, a primary school, recreation / leisure uses, and community and other local facilities was granted in October 2009, with the dwellings split equally between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. A total of 1,016 dwellings have been completed on site (across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire) at March 2021.
  - The Glebe Farm housing development is built on allocation **R42c**. The site was completed in the 2015-2016 monitoring year.
  - The Bell School housing development makes up site **R42d**. The residential development on this site was completed in the 2019-2020 monitoring year.
- Delivery of the **M13 allocation at West Cambridge**: An application (19/1763/FUL) for the extension of the Whittle Laboratory, including new National Centre for Propulsion and Power (4,251 sqm of Academic (D1) Floorspace), demolition of 1,149 sqm of D1 floorspace and all associated Infrastructure including landscaping, drainage, substation

and car and cycle parking was permitted in July 2021. All pre-commencement conditions have now been discharged. A larger outline application for the site (16/1134/OUT) which seeks outline permission for up to 383,300 sqm of academic floorspace, commercial / research institute floorspace, nursery use, retail / food and drink uses, assembly and leisure uses, and sui generis uses (including Energy Centre and Data Centre) following demolition of existing buildings) was considered by the Planning Committee in July 2021 where they resolved to grant planning permission subject to conditions and a Section 106 agreement. The S106 is currently being negotiated.

- Delivery of progress on mixed use developments at **Station Area West (1) and (2) (allocations M14 and M44)** and **Clifton Road Area (allocation M2)**:

- At M14, planning application 08/0266/OUT provided for a comprehensive redevelopment of the Station Road area, comprising up to 331 residential units, 1,250 student units, Class B1a (Office) floorspace, Classes A1/A3/A4 and/or A5 (retail) floorspace, a polyclinic, Class D1 (art workshop) floorspace, Class D1 (community room) floorspace, Class D1 and/or D2 (gym, nursery, student/community facilities) floorspace, use of block G2 as either student accommodation or doctors surgery, and a hotel, along with a new transport interchange and station square, a new multi storey cycle and car park). It was granted permission in April 2010 but is now lapsed. However, much of the scheme has been completed.

The following are under construction:

- 89 dwellings, office space, retail space and café/restaurant space (blocks I1 and K1, 15/1759/FUL)
- office space, retail space and café space (block I2, 15/0906/FUL)
- office space (block J1, 15/1522/FUL)

The following have detailed planning permission but have not been started:

- office space (block J3, 15/0864/FUL or 15/0865/FUL) – granted in January 2020
- office space (block J4, 15/2271/FUL) – granted in January 2020

A full planning application for blocks J3 & J4 (17/1550/FUL) is also being considered. Blocks B2, F2, G1 & G2 do not have detailed planning permission, however, a full planning application for blocks B2 & F2 (21/00264/FUL) is being considered.

- At M44, the landowners submitted a planning application (20/03429/FUL) proposing 26,674 sqm of commercial office floorspace as well as 1,566 sqm of flexible use on the ground floor for retail/restaurant/café use. However, this was refused in April 2021. An appeal has been lodged and an inquiry is scheduled for January 2022. There also remains an extant permission for a mixed use scheme including 156 dwellings which is only partially completed.
- At M2, development is complicated by the number of freeholders and leaseholders involved. It has not been possible to contact all landowners but from the responses received to date there is clearly some interest in redeveloping part of the site for residential use. The Greater Cambridge Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study (November 2020) concludes that the local planning authority should seek to retain the allocation including maximising the amount of B1 employment floorspace given the city centre location and requirements for office space.
- To deliver progress on allocation **R4** (48 dwellings) at **Mitchams Corner**: Contact with the principal landowner as part of the Housing Trajectory (April 2021) revealed that the site is likely to come forward for residential development around 2029-2031. The landowner anticipates a scheme of about 100 dwellings. However, a small part of the allocation (Carlyle House) is under separate ownership and there is no evidence that this element of the allocation will come forward for development.
- To deliver progress on **R10** (167 dwellings), **R21** (128 dwellings and 1 hectare of employment land) and **R9** (49 dwellings) in the Mill Road opportunity area:
  - **R9 (Travis Perkins, Devonshire Road)**: The site is currently occupied by Travis Perkins. An application for the demolition of existing depot building and redevelopment of site to provide two new buildings comprising Class E (g)(i) / E (g) (ii) floorspace with associated plant and cycle parking, three new residential buildings comprising 100 units with associated plant and cycle parking, one new building comprising flexible commercial space (Class E) to include a creche with associated cycle parking, flexible community space (Class F.1/F.2), hard and soft landscaping and associated access was refused in December 2021 (21/03620/FUL).
  - **R10 (Mill Road Depot, Mill Road)**: Following the grant of permissions (17/2245/FUL, 18/1947/S73 and 19/0175/FUL), the site now has

approved plans for 236 dwellings. By May 2021 there had been 54 completions and the remaining 182 dwellings were under construction.

- **R21 (315-349 Mill Road and Brookfields):** Part of the site has been developed for a scheme of 270 student rooms (14/1496/FUL) which was approved at appeal. The landowner is working with Cambridge City Council to look at redevelopment options for this site and adjoining land, and that a number of feasibility studies are being undertaken. They anticipate that the site will be available before 2031 with development starting in 2025-2026.
  
- To deliver progress on **M5** (20 dwellings and 0.5 hectares of employment land) and **E5** (1.4 hectares of employment land) at **Cambridge Station, Hills Road Corridor and City Centre opportunity area:** the landowner of M5 anticipates the site will be available before 2031 and has advised they are considering development options. There is no update on the redevelopment of E5. However, there is a permission for a change of use of the first floor from A2 to B1(a). This should not affect longer term redevelopment plans.
  
- To deliver **Old Press/Mill Lane** as defined in the masterplan/outline planning permission and SPD: A planning application for redevelopment to include 94 student rooms, 1,478 sqm of college offices, 1,773 sqm of teaching space, 1,004 sqm college leisure and community space, and 363 sqm of A1/A2/A3/A4 uses) was granted in March 2021 (18/1930/FUL). This relates to the southern part of the allocation. The remainder of the site will be brought forward for a range of college and/or university uses including student accommodation. The Council understands that the University of Cambridge is in the process of relocating its uses from this site, before coming to an agreement with one or more of the colleges to bring forward the site for development. This will be kept under review as the Councils continue discussions with the University of Cambridge and the colleges, as part of the preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.
  
- To deliver progress on **GB3 & 4** (25,193 sqm employment land): a planning application on GB3 for the erection of a new building comprising 9,976 sqm of E(g) floorspace was deferred by the Joint Development Control Committee in October 2021 pending a request for further information (20/05040/FUL). The application is likely to return to committee in early 2022. The redevelopment of GB4 was completed in 2017-2018.

- Progress of allocations **GB1 & GB2**: These allocations are land north and south of Wort's Causeway.
  - **GB1 (north of Wort's Causeway)**: permission was granted for up to 200 dwellings in February 2021 subject to completion of a s106 agreement (20/01972/OUT).
  - **GB2 (south of Wort's Causeway)**: permission was granted for up to 230 dwellings and up to 400 sqm of non residential floorspace in September 2020 subject to completion of a s106 agreement with a decision issued in May 2021 (19/1168/OUT). A reserved matters application for the appearance, landscape, layout and scale for Phase 1, comprising: the north-south primary route connecting Babraham Road and Worts Causeway, secondary route bellmouths, footways and cycleways, SuDS detention basins, water main diversion, hard and soft landscaping including the creation of the southern gateway and the central square, provision of a local area of play, the installation of a pumping station, and all ancillary works, associated infrastructure and engineering works, and partial discharge of various conditions of the outline permission is awaiting a decision (21/04186/REM).
- Indicator M29 of the South Cambridge Local Plan and the indicator associated with **Policy 54** of the Cambridge Local Plan monitor the delivery of residential moorings on the allocation associated with **Policy H/7** (SCDC) and allocation RM1 (Cambridge): No relevant planning application(s) have been submitted.

#### **D. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and other policy documents Monitoring**

3.46 For the purposes of the AMR, the Councils monitor progress on the delivery of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and other policy documents. The indicators associated with Policies 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 22, 24, 26 and 28 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) monitor the progress on the production of SPDs, AAPs, masterplans associated with allocations within the plan, and other policy documents. The updates are as follows:

- Production of **Spaces and Movement Strategy**: The Making Space for People: Vision and Principles consultation took place in September and October 2019. This document set out a high level vision for Central Cambridge and identified a number of key aims, objectives and strategies that would help deliver the vision. The preparation of the document and wider Making Space for People project is on-going to take into account the representations received from the consultation, coronavirus pandemic

measures that have since been introduced across the City and feedback from the Planning and Transportation Scrutiny Committee on 12 January 2021. The Council will continue to work with key partners, such as the GCP and Cambridgeshire County Council, on this project as it progresses.

- Production of the Grafton Area Supplementary Planning Document: **The Grafton Area Masterplan and Guidance SPD** covers the area referred to in Policy 12 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 (Fitzroy Street/Burleigh Street/ Grafton Area of Major Change). The SPD was adopted in October 2018.
- Adoption of Cambridge East – Land North of Cherry Hinton Supplementary Planning Document by 31 March 2019: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council produced the **Land North of Cherry Hinton SPD** in partnership with local stakeholders. The Land North of Cherry Hinton SPD was adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council in November 2018 and by Cambridge City Council in December 2018.
- Adoption of Mitcham’s Corner Development Framework SPD before a planning application is submitted: **The Mitcham's Corner Development Framework** was adopted in January 2017.
- Adoption of Mill Road Depot Planning and Development Brief SPD before a planning application is submitted. The **Mill Road Depot Development Framework SPD** was adopted by the council in December 2018. The first planning application on the site was submitted in December 2017 and determined on 11 June 2018.
- Approval of Old Press/Mill Lane masterplan/outline planning permission by 31 March 2021: An initial application for the redevelopment of the Mill Lane area was submitted in January 2019. This was considered by planning committee on 11 June 2019 where members resolved to approve the application in accordance with the officer recommendation. S106 discussions delayed the permission but a decision notice was issued on 19 March 2021. The permission allows for the redevelopment of the site to form an expansion of Pembroke College comprising repurposing of existing buildings, demolition and erection of new buildings for a mix of uses comprising: 94 student residential units; 1478sqm B1 College office floorspace; 1773sqm D1 teaching space; 1004sqm D2 College leisure and community floorspace; 363sqm commercial A1, A2, A3, A4 retail, food and drink floorspace; and ancillary uses comprising landscaping and hard surfacing, formation of new courtesy crossing at Trumpington Street,



highways, vehicular and cycle parking, and associated works and infrastructure.

- The adoption of a Flooding and Water SPD: The **Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD** was adopted by both councils following the adoption of the two new Local Plans. The SPD was re-adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council in November 2018 and adopted by Cambridge City Council in December 2018.
- Production of Sustainable Design and Construction SPD including water efficiency guidance: The **Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD** was adopted by both councils in January 2020.
- Consultation on a draft **Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document** took place in summer 2021.
- Consultation on the **Draft Little Shelford Village Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document** took place over September and October 2021.

## **E. Climate Change, Sustainability Measures and Pollution**

- 3.47 In 2019 both Councils declared a Climate Change Emergency. The Councils are committed to encouraging and enabling a reduction in the use of fossil fuels and increasing the proportion of energy used that is generated from renewable sources.
- 3.48 In recent years, household consumption of gas and electricity in Greater Cambridge has fallen, while the generating potential of renewable energy sources in the district has increased. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) requires all developments to embed the principles of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures within their design (Policy CC/1). The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) also includes Policy CC/2 that sets out guidance for proposals to generate energy from renewable sources and Policy CC/3 that requires all development proposals for new dwellings or 1,000 sqm of floorspace to include renewable or low carbon energy technologies that will reduce carbon emissions by a minimum of 10% compared to Building Regulations. Policy CC/4 requires that all residential developments achieve a minimum water efficiency of 110 litres per person per day and that non-residential schemes be accompanied by a water conservation strategy to demonstrate a minimum water efficiency equivalent to 2 credits in the BREEAM standard. The Cambridge Local Plan (2018) includes Policy 28 which states that all development should take the available

opportunities to integrate the principles of sustainable design and construction into the design of proposals. All new developments are required to achieve a 44% reduction in carbon emissions relative to Part L of 2006 Building Regulations and water efficiency rate of 110 litres per person per day. Non-residential developments are expected to meet BREEAM 'Excellent'.

- 3.49 A review of all relevant permissions granted in the monitoring year was undertaken to understand whether water efficiency measures were being conditioned in line with the requirements of Policies 28 and CC/4 of the adopted Local Plans 2018 and the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (adopted in January 2020). This involved reviewing whether a condition relating to water efficiency measures had been included on the decision notice of the eligible permissions as required by the policies in each plan. The review found that in South Cambridgeshire 81% of eligible residential permissions included a condition relating to water efficiency and in Cambridge 68% of eligible residential permissions included a condition relating to water efficiency. Although Cambridge is hitting the indicator trigger there has been a significant improvement in the use of a condition to secure water efficiency measures since last year when only 29% of eligible permissions included the condition. Although the percentage of eligible permissions without water conditions appears high, the applications which don't include a condition are generally small applications for single dwellings. In Cambridge, there were 10 single dwellings and one application for 9 dwellings permitted without the requisite condition limiting water consumption; that means that 97% of dwellings permitted included a water efficiency condition. In South Cambridgeshire, 13 dwellings were permitted without the water condition meaning that 99% of dwellings permitted included a water efficiency condition. The review of non-residential permissions found that in South Cambridgeshire 75% of eligible permissions included a condition relating to BREEAM and water efficiency and in Cambridge 81% of eligible permissions included a condition.
- 3.50 Using the same methodology as the review of water conditions, eligible permission were reviewed to check for a condition requiring carbon reduction, low carbon technologies or renewable energy in line with Policy CC/3 and Policy 28. In Cambridge 73% of residential permissions and 81% on non-residential permissions included a condition requiring carbon reduction measures. As with water conditions, the applications which don't include a condition are generally small applications. 96% of eligible dwellings permitted included a carbon reduction condition. In South Cambridgeshire 100% of eligible residential permissions and non-residential permissions included a condition requiring renewable or low carbon technologies.

- 3.51 Officers are reviewing the way these policies are monitored as the current methodology is imperfect as some of the schemes may have dealt with water efficiency or carbon reduction measures as part of the application process but this may not have been conditioned. Officers are also reviewing the application process to ensure that the policy requirements are considered on all eligible applications.
- 3.52 **Flood risk:** The NPPF requires a risk based sequential approach to flood risk that avoids development being permitted in high risk areas and steers development to areas with a lower risk from flooding. Policy CC/9 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) and Policy 32 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) state that development will only be permitted where: the sequential and exception tests established by the NPPF demonstrate that the development is acceptable; suitable flood protection, mitigation and discharge measures are included into the proposal; and there would be no increase in flood risk elsewhere. Policy 31 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) requires an integrated approach to Water Management including a requirement for all flat roofs to be green or brown and all surfaces to be permeable. In 2020-2021 there were 26 developments completed where the site outline included land within Flood Zone 2 or 3 in Greater Cambridge: 20 in South Cambridgeshire and six in Cambridge. In total, 17 were residential developments and 9 were business or mixed use schemes. For all of these developments, flood risk was considered in detail as part of the determination of the planning application, with Flood Risk Assessments submitted, consultation undertaken with Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority, and conditions applied to the planning permissions where necessary.
- 3.53 **Carbon dioxide emissions and air quality:** A key factor affecting climate change is carbon dioxide emissions and the aim nationally, and indeed internationally, is to reduce levels of emissions of this greenhouse gas. The rate of carbon dioxide emissions per person from domestic sources, for example through the use of gas and electricity, has shown a reduction over the Local Plan period.
- 3.54 Air quality is an issue alongside the A14 and South Cambridgeshire District Council has designated an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) with the objective of improving conditions in terms of levels of nitrogen dioxide and the particulate PM<sub>10</sub>. The A14 improvements should significantly alleviate impacts on local air quality in the AQMA and possibly allow the revocation of it or, certainly, the remodelling of it. In the 2020-2021 monitoring year, the objectives for nitrogen dioxide and the particulate PM<sub>10</sub> were met at all the monitoring locations. A decrease in concentrations was seen at all monitoring locations.

3.55 Air quality varies within Cambridge and tends to be better in the suburbs away from busy roads. The centre of Cambridge has been in an AQMA since 2004. The main source of air pollution in Cambridge is nitrogen dioxide from vehicles. The trends noted from the recorded levels of air pollution in 2020 indicate that levels of nitrogen dioxide in Cambridge were considerably lower than in 2019; this is in line with the national trend which is attributed to a reduction in traffic as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The lockdown impact on air pollution levels was most noticeable in areas where traffic/air pollution is higher, and less noticeable away from busy roads. Recorded levels of particulate matter in 2020 fell slightly, unlike recent years where levels of particulate matter have remained stable. Only a small proportion of particulate matter in Cambridge air is related to vehicular traffic so the significant drops in traffic levels during lockdown periods has had only a small impact on overall particulate pollution levels in the city. Levels of all measured pollutants are currently below their respective national air quality objectives levels.

#### **F. Biodiversity Monitoring**

3.56 In 2019 both Councils declared biodiversity emergencies. Both Councils are committed to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the district and any new development should aim to maintain, enhance, restore or add to biodiversity. Policy NH/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) states that planning permission for development which would adversely impact on the population or conservation status of protected species, priority species or habitat, unless the impact could be adequately mitigated or compensated for, should be refused. Policy 70 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) seeks to protect and enhance priority species and habitat and states that development which will cause significant harm to a protected species, priority species or priority habitat, without adequate mitigation, should be refused.

3.57 The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service consulted on a draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document in summer 2021. The aim of the document is to provide accessible, accurate and up-to-date guidance on the planning regulations surrounding biodiversity. If adopted, the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document will become a material planning consideration in determining planning applications in both Council areas.

3.58 The protection and enhancement of sites of internationally and nationally important nature conservation areas must be balanced with the need for development and in some instances the Council may allow sensitively located and carefully designed developments (see South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

(2018) Policy NH/5 and Cambridge Local Plan (2018) Policy 69). European Directives and national planning policy also provide tiered protection for sites of biodiversity or geological importance.

- 3.59 **Development in locations of environmental importance:** During the 2020/2021 monitoring year in South Cambridgeshire, the boundary of Gamlingay Heath Plantation County Wildlife Site was adjusted to remove an area of 0.1ha on the eastern side subject to an approved planning application related to an adjacent property. The officer report noted that ecological assessments had been undertaken and the proposal was considered acceptable by the council's Ecology Officer subject to condition. The report explains that although part of the site was within the County Wildlife Site, there were no designated features within the site which contribute to its ecological value as the site is laid to lawn as a domestic garden. A new road/track was created within Wimpole Park County Wildlife Site associated with the creation of a new car park just outside the County Wildlife Site. During 2020-2021 in Cambridge City, the northern end of Barnwell Pit City Wildlife Site was significantly affected by the Chisholm Trail Newmarket Road underpass compound and preparatory works for a new cycle themed café. The majority of the terrestrial habitat within the site has now been lost. The Chisholm Trail cycle route construction has also continued to affect some other City Wildlife Sites (Barnwell Junction Pastures, Barnwell Junction Disused Railway and Ditton Meadows). The officer report for the Chisholm Trail planning application (C/5007/16) explained that although there would be habitat loss as part of the works, new habitat would be created which would lead to no overall loss of biodiversity as part of the development.

## **G. Community, Leisure, Open Space and Green Belt Monitoring**

### **(i) Recreational facilities, Open Space and Green Belt**

- 3.60 Recreational facilities, including outdoor play space, informal open space and supporting built recreation facilities are important to local communities for their recreational amenity but also for their impact on the quality of the environment. In high density new housing developments where gardens are smaller, open space and recreation facilities are particularly important. Both Councils therefore require developers to contribute towards providing new open space within their development or contributions towards enhancing existing facilities for the benefit of the new occupants. Policy SC/7 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) and Policy 68 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) set requirements for open space in new developments.
- 3.61 The Recreation and Open Space Study was published by South Cambridgeshire District Council in July 2013. It investigates the current

quantity and quality of recreation and open space provision in the district, how this is meeting local need, and reviews the standards for open space necessary to ensure that new spaces are provided to meet the needs generated by new development. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) carries forward the majority of the open space allocations from the superseded Site Specific Policies DPD and identifies two new sites at Histon and Great Shelford (Policy SC/1). The Open Space and Recreation Strategy was published by Cambridge City Council in October 2011. The strategy covers most open spaces in the city including both public and private land. The strategy sets out to ensure that there is adequate open space to meet the needs of those who live, work, visit and study in Cambridge. A joint updated open space strategy will be prepared by both Councils in the future.

- 3.62 The Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015-2031 and Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Indoor Sports facility Strategy 2015-2031 were both published in 2016. The Playing Pitch Strategy assesses the provision of existing facilities and considers the need and location for both the provision of grass and artificial pitches in future, and includes action plans for each sport to ensure sufficient provision is available to 2031. The Indoor Sports Facility Strategy assesses the need for future provision of facilities to serve existing and new communities, and includes an action list of where new provision should be provided onsite and how offsite contributions should be used to support new and improved provision.
- 3.63 The main purpose of the Cambridge Green Belt is to preserve the unique character of Cambridge as a compact dynamic city, and to prevent surrounding communities from merging with each other and with Cambridge. There is therefore a presumption against inappropriate development (as defined in the NPPF) in the Cambridge Green Belt (see South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) Policy S/4 and Cambridge Local Plan (2018) Policy 4). In South Cambridgeshire, during 2020-2021, there was one development granted permission within the Green Belt that was considered to be inappropriate. The permission relates to the remediation and redevelopment of the Former Wastewater Treatment Facility at Hauxton. Whilst the application (S/2184/16/OL) was considered by the Planning Committee in 2018, approval was subject to a Section 106 legal agreement which was finalised in January 2021. The site lies wholly within the Green Belt and due to the scale of buildings proposed and their position on the site, the development was considered to be inappropriate by definition; however, because of the benefits of the scheme in terms of the remediation of the pollution on site and landscaping and ecological enhancements provided by the redevelopment, it was concluded that very special circumstances exist to

grant permission in this case. In Cambridge there were no inappropriate developments in the Green Belt granted permission during 2020-2021.

- 3.64 Alongside this, South Cambridgeshire District Council is also committed to protecting Important Countryside Frontages, Protected Village Amenity Areas and Local Green Spaces. Policy NH/13 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) states that planning permission for development will be refused if it would compromise the purpose of an Important Countryside Frontage, which is to enhance the setting, character and appearance of the village by retaining a sense of connection between the village and its rural surroundings. In 2020-2021 three developments were completed adjacent to Important Countryside Frontages. One of these, the change of use and conversion of the former church hall in Duxford, comprised only minimal external alterations to the existing building. The other two developments at Hauxton (new village hall) and Shingay Cum Wendy (former Monkfield Nutrition site) were considered to be acceptable in terms of their impact upon the setting and visual amenities of each village, in accordance with Policy NH/13.
- 3.65 Policy NH/11 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) states that planning permission for development will not be permitted in or adjacent to a Protected Village Amenity Area (PVAA) if it would have an adverse impact on the character, amenity, tranquillity or function of the village. There were three developments completed within or partly within a designated PVAA during 2020-2021. Each of these developments were considered to be compatible with their locations and to accord with the requirements of Policy NH/11. Eight developments were completed adjacent to a PVAA during the monitoring year. In one case at Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay, the site formed part of a mixed use allocation under Policy H/1(f) of the Local Plan and provided an opportunity to enhance the setting of the adjacent PVAA. In the other cases, the impact of the new development on the character of the area, including the adjacent PVAA was considered to be acceptable, in accordance with adopted policies.
- 3.66 Policy NH/12 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) states that Local Green Spaces will be protected from development that would adversely impact on their character and particular local significance. In 2020-2021 there were three developments completed adjoining a Local Green Space. In all cases it was considered that the proposed developments would not give rise to any harmful impacts on the character of each LGS.
- 3.67 Policy SC/8 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) seeks to protect recreation areas, allotments and community orchards from being lost through new developments. There were no developments completed in 2020-2021

that resulted in the loss of recreation areas, allotments, or community orchards.

## **(ii) Community and Leisure Facilities and Local Services**

- 3.68 The Cambridge Local Plan (2018) supports proposals for new or enhanced community and leisure facilities (see Policy 73) where there is a local need and the range, quality and accessibility of the facilities are improved. New City-wide or sub-regional facilities are also supported subject to there being a need for the facilities and them being in a suitable location, in accordance with the sequential test as set out in the NPPF. The loss of community and leisure facilities will be resisted unless the facilities can be replaced within a new development or relocated at least at their existing scale, range, quality and accessibility or if the facility is no longer needed (demonstrated by appropriate marketing). There has been a net increase of 6,831 sqm of D1 (community use) floorspace and a net increase of 1,726 sqm of D2 (recreation and leisure use) floorspace in Cambridge in the 2020-2021 monitoring year.
- 3.69 **Public Houses:** The Cambridge Local Plan (2018) (see Policy 76) seeks to protect the loss of Safeguarded Public Houses unless they have been demonstrated to be no longer needed within the community and that all reasonable efforts have been made to preserve the facility. Appendix C of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) includes a list of Safeguarded Public Houses in Cambridge; there are a total of 102 public houses on the list. The current data held by the councils on Public Houses needs to be updated and the intention is to carry out a survey of public houses as part of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan process. A number of public houses have closed during the Coronavirus pandemic. However, some have taken advantage of social distancing forced closure to refurbish so it is difficult to know which have closed permanently. A new survey in spring 2022 will hopefully be able to distinguish between short and long term closure. The opening of the Cambridge Tap on St Andrews Street does indicate a willingness to invest in public houses in Cambridge. Also, The Five Bells on the Safeguarded Public Houses list re-opened in 2021 after several years of closure. Now known as The Bird or Worm? It is the city's first gaming pub and is further evidence of the Policy 76 supporting the retention of public houses.

## **H. Retail**

- 3.70 South Cambridgeshire District Council seeks to encourage the provision and retention of village services and facilities within villages. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) seeks to protect the loss of village services and facilities (see Policy SC/3) and through Policies E/21 and E/22 requires proposals for retail development to be considered against a hierarchy of



preferred locations and be in scale with the proposed location's position in the hierarchy. An additional 268 sqm (net) of retail floorspace was completed in South Cambridgeshire in 2020-2021, with a further 51,723 sqm (net) committed at March 2021 through allocations and planning permissions, including provision within the new settlements.

- 3.71 Policy 6 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) sets a hierarchy of retail centres starting with the City Centre, working its way down to District Centre, Local Centre and Neighbourhood Centres. In accordance with the sequential approach set out in the NPPF, retail and other town centre uses are directed to these centres. Retail developments proposed outside of these centres must be subject to a Retail Impact Assessment where the proposed gross floorspace is greater than 2,500 sqm or at a lower threshold where the proposal could have a cumulative impact.
- 3.72 The Cambridge Local Plan (2018) identifies capacity to support 14,141 sqm net of comparison retail floorspace in Cambridge between 2011 and 2022. This will be through the redevelopment of the Grafton area and other appropriate redevelopment/infill development in the historic core. 24,166 sqm of retail floorspace has been completed in the city since 2011. However, due to loss of retail floorspace, overall there has been a decrease of 7,729 sqm of retail in the city. There was an overall decrease of 2,803 sqm of retail in Cambridge in 2020-2021. This was due to multiple schemes converting retail space to residential or leisure uses. The largest loss was a result of a student accommodation scheme at 6-18 King Street (17/1497/FUL). However, there is still a further 14,630 sqm (net) retail floorspace committed at March 2021 through allocations and planning permissions.
- 3.73 District Centres are important in providing for the day-to-day needs close to where people live and work. The indicator associated with Policy 72 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) monitors the percentage of A1 uses in District Centres with a target of retaining at least 55% of units in A1 use. In 2013 only one of the 6 District Centres surveyed met the target of at least 55% of units in A1 use. This had risen to three centres in 2019 but fell back to two centres in 2020 due to an increase in vacant units from the previous year. A new survey is being carried out in January of 2022 and will reflect the new Use Class Order that came into use in 2020.
- 3.74 **Visitor Accommodation:** Policy 77 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) states that new hotels and expansions of existing hotels will be supported in a number of identified areas, in other city centre areas and on the frontage of main roads or in close proximity to mixed use areas or within walking distance of good public transport links.

- 3.75 There were no significant hotel related completions in Cambridge in 2020-2021. In total there were three completions. Two resulted in a loss of hotel accommodation: changes of use to a residential dwelling and a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO). The third resulted in a change of use of existing staff accommodation at a restaurant to bed and breakfast accommodation. All three applications involved less than 1,000 sqm of hotel (C1) floorspace and the net result was a loss of 738 sqm of hotel floorspace.
- 3.76 There remain substantial commitments including new permissions in the current monitoring year. In total there were commitments for 53,241 sqm of hotel floorspace including 17,690 sqm under construction as of 31 March 2021. The latter emanates from a planning permission (19/0156/FUL) for a 180 room aparthotel (Turing Locke) and 150 room hotel (Hyatt Centric) in Eddington. Both have opened since the close of the monitoring year. Within the existing commitments, two significant hotel developments were approved in the 2020-2021 monitoring year. A Premier Inn has been permitted to the rear of the Grafton Centre (19/0512/FUL) which will deliver 5,834 sqm and 153 bedrooms. An easyHotel has permission on Newmarket Road which will deliver a further 1,779 sqm and 90 bedrooms.

#### **I. Design and Conservation Monitoring**

- 3.76 Cambridge's historic and natural environment defines the character and setting of the city and contributes significantly to quality of life. Policy 61 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) outlines the standards by which proposals which impact on the historic environment will be assessed. Policy 62 actively seeks the retention of local heritage assets (such as Buildings of Local Interest – BLIs). The Council aims to ensure a balanced approach between protecting the heritage assets of Cambridge and ensuring that they contribute to tackling climate change and reducing the carbon emissions of the city. Policy 63 specifies how proposals to address climate change which impact on heritage assets will be considered.
- 3.77 Cambridge has six Scheduled Monuments and 12 Historic Parks and Gardens. There are now 17 Conservation Areas designated in the city. This represents 23.71% of the city's area. The total area has not changed in this monitoring year, and it totals 964.95 hectares.
- 3.78 The indicator associated with Policy 62 monitors the number of BLIs in Cambridge. 465 buildings are designated as being BLIs in Cambridge and this number has not changed from last year. This figure of 465 buildings, like the number of entries on the National Heritage List for England, in some cases uses a single entry to cover more than one building.

- 3.79 Cambridge has 830 listed building entries on the National Heritage List for England. There are 67 which are listed as Grade I. The number of II\* is 53, and there are 710 Grade II. This is an increase of one with the addition of a K6 Telephone Kiosk in Trumpington Street. For the size of the city, Cambridge has a greater than average number of higher-grade buildings. Some of the entries, such as those for Colleges or terraced houses include more than one building or property; therefore the overall number of buildings is considerably higher. Cambridge has two entries on the Historic England Buildings at Risk register: the Old Cheddars Lane Pumping Station, and the Church of St Andrew the Less on Newmarket Road. This has not changed from the previous year's list.
- 3.80 Policy NH/14 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) supports development proposals when they sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets. There are 2,695 Listed Buildings in South Cambridgeshire as shown on Historic England's website. This is an increase of two on the previous year's report with the two new listed buildings both being grade II – a cottage in Harston and a barn west of Foxton railway station. Of these 2,695, only nine are on the Historic England Buildings at Risk register, the same number as for last year.
- 3.81 There are 108 Scheduled Monuments and 12 Historic Parks and Gardens in South Cambridgeshire. The district has a total of 85 Conservation Areas. These numbers have not changed over recent years.

## **J. Transport Monitoring**

- 3.82 Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council worked together closely on transport issues as they prepared their adopted Local Plans and a transport strategy for the Greater Cambridge area. The [Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Transport Strategy](#) was adopted in March 2014. It is recognised that there is a close link between planning for growth and development and for transport and accessibility to ensure that growth can be accommodated in the most sustainable way and that people can access the services and facilities they need in an efficient and affordable way.
- 3.83 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority are now the Local Transport Authority for the area, and they adopted a [new Local Transport Plan](#) in 2020. They have also commenced a refresh of the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP).

- 3.84 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a [policy paper on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#) in February 2021. A 12 week digital consultation on the [vision for the Spatial Framework](#) was held over the summer of 2021.
- 3.85 Both Councils have also worked closely with Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency) as the **A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Scheme** has progressed by formally responding to consultations in February and May 2014 and participating in the Development Consent Order application examination which was held between May and November 2015. Work started on the construction of the scheme in late 2016, part of the new road was opened in December 2019 and the remainder opened in May 2020.
- 3.86 Both Councils are partners of the [Greater Cambridge Partnership](#) (formerly known as the City Deal), which is a delivery body for the Greater Cambridge City Deal. The [Greater Cambridge City Deal](#) was signed with Government in June 2014 and is one of the largest of several city deal programmes taking place across the country. It brings together key partners to work with communities, businesses and industry leaders and up to £500 million of grant funding to help deliver infrastructure to support growth in one of the world's leading tourism and business destinations. As part of this, the Greater Cambridge Partnership is considering a range of transport projects to deliver a sustainable transport network for Cambridge and the surrounding network of towns and villages.
- 3.87 The Executive Board of the Greater Cambridge Partnership approved the next stage of the **Cambridge South East transport** project. A Transport and Works Act Order application is planned to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport in winter 2021/22. Works began on the A1307 cycling and walking upgrades between the end of the A1307 dual carriageway at Magog Farm Barns to the junctions at Copley Hill Business Park.
- 3.88 The Greater Cambridge Partnership held further engagement on the proposed **Foxton Travel Hub** in September 2021. This explored providing in the region of 500 car parking spaces and 150 cycle parking spaces to encourage people to take the train into Cambridge.
- 3.89 Safety upgrades to the **Downing Street/St Andrew Street junction** were completed in April 2021.
- 3.90 **Histon Road** fully reopened to traffic in Autumn 2021 following the completion of significant upgrades to walking and cycling infrastructure.

- 3.91 The Greater Cambridge Partnership are progressing a proposal for an off-road busway route between **Cambourne and Cambridge**. At the July 2021 meeting the Executive Board approved the Outline Business Case and asked the project team to go ahead with the next stage of the application process: to undertake a full Environmental Impact Assessment.
- 3.92 The Greater Cambridge Partnership City Access project is working to improve public transport and offer people better choices for their journeys. Public consultation was held in Autumn 2021 to understand the public's view on changes to the bus network and reallocation of road space to public transport and active travel.
- 3.93 The Transport and Works Act Order submission for **Cambridge South Station took place in June 2021. An inquiry was held in Autumn/Winter 2021**. Subject to gaining consent, work could start on the station in 2023 with a target of the station opening in 2025.
- 3.94 **East West Rail** is a proposed scheme to re-establish a rail link between Cambridge and Oxford. A non-statutory consultation was held on the proposal in early 2019. In January 2020 the Preferred Route Option for the Cambridge to Bedford section was announced. This proposes a route from the south of Cambridge to a new station in Cambourne and then north to Bedford through St Neots/Sandy area with a new station proposed there. A number of community events which were scheduled to happen in spring 2020 had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. In October 2020 East West Rail Co launched a [Community Hub](#) to inform, discuss and consult with residents. A consultation on five preferred routes alignments for the Cambridge to Bedford route ran during Spring/Summer 2021.
- 3.95 In the [Road Investment Strategy](#) the Government announced funding for upgrading the **A428 between the Caxton Gibbet and A1 (Black Cat junction)** as part of an expressway standard link between Cambridge and Oxford. Both Councils are working closely with Highways England and the Department for Transport to develop the scheme. Highways England submitted a Development Consent Order Application in February 2021 following 2 rounds of public consultation. Examination on the application began in August 2021. Subject to approval, construction is expected to start in 2022-2023.
- 3.96 **England's Economic Heartland (EEH)** are the sub-national transport body for the region covering an area from Swindon to Cambridgeshire and from Northamptonshire to Hertfordshire. EEH published their [Transport Strategy](#) in July 2021.

## **K. Health, wellbeing, and inclusive communities monitoring**

- 3.97 Good health both for individuals and communities is related to a wide range of planning issues including good quality housing and developments, well designed street scenes, well laid out neighbourhoods, quality and efficiency in transport systems, access to appropriate employment, and opportunities to experience leisure and cultural services and activities and green and open space. The Sustainability Appraisal which accompanies the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) includes a number of general wellbeing monitoring indicators.
- 3.98 The latest Public Health data reveals that life expectancy rates for females have been broadly stable in recent years whilst there has been some marginal improvement for males. Life expectancy rates remain higher for females than males locally and nationally whilst life expectancy rates in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge exceed national levels for both genders (although rates vary within both districts reflecting variations in levels of deprivation). Rates are higher in South Cambridgeshire than Cambridge for both genders. In South Cambridgeshire the life expectancy of a female born during the period 2018-2020 was 85.9 compared with 83.1 for a male. In Cambridge the life expectancy of a female born during the same period was 84.5 compared with 80.9 for a male. In England the equivalent life expectancy rates were 83.1 and 79.4
- 3.99 The percentage of adults who are physically active in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire is higher than in the East of England. For 2019-2020 the respective figures were 75.0% in Cambridge, 74.9% in South Cambridgeshire and 67.3% in East of England.
- 3.100 Crime rates fell significantly in 2020-2021 compared with the previous year. Previously, crime rates had stabilised after a period of significant increases. Rates in Cambridge remain well above rates in South Cambridgeshire. In 2020-2021 there were 92.9 recorded crimes per 1,000 people in Cambridge and 41.0 recorded crimes per 1,000 people in South Cambridgeshire. The rate in Cambridge is the lowest recorded since 2017-2018 and the rate in South Cambridgeshire is the lowest since 2016-2017.
- 3.101 It is not possible to monitor trends in educational performance currently due to the lack of school exams. However, the latest data is provided in appendix 2.

## **L. S106/Infrastructure**

- 3.102 **Developer Contributions:** New developments can create additional demands for physical infrastructure and social facilities and can have an

adverse impact on the environment. Both Councils, in accordance with government guidance, therefore require developers to make schemes acceptable in planning terms by making a contribution towards any necessary improvements or new facilities, and also by providing mitigation for any loss or damage created by the proposed development (see South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) Policy TI/8 and Cambridge Local Plan (2018) Policy 85).

- 3.103 Where infrastructure and community facilities cannot reasonably be provided on the development itself, it may be appropriate to secure a financial contribution for off-site provision. Developer contributions are secured through section 106 agreements, a legal agreement between the developer, the appropriate local authority, and other relevant parties, as a result of negotiations on a planning application.
- 3.104 In 2020-2021, for developments in Cambridge, a total of £17,198,409 was secured and £3,632,510 was received by both Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. In 2020-2021, for developments in South Cambridgeshire, a total of £14,871,801 was secured and £7,868,799 was received by both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. Additional detail is set out in the Infrastructure Funding Statements for [Cambridge City Council](#), [South Cambridgeshire District Council](#) and [Cambridgeshire County Council](#), the tables of data in Appendix 2, and also the Infrastructure Funding Statement included as Appendix 3.

# Appendix 1

## List of indicators

<p><b><u>RAG Rating key</u></b>  <b>Green</b> – on track  <b>Amber</b> – running below target  <b>Red</b> – missed target/Trigger met</p>
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## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
2	Amount and type of completed employment floorspace	To deliver an increase of at least 12 hectares of employment land	Net 23,739sqm / 0.15ha	Net 166,426sqm / -10.61ha	Amber (net growth for each of last 6 years)
2	Number of new jobs created	To deliver a net increase of 22,100 jobs in the Cambridge Local Authority Area between 2011 and 2031.	1,000 (2018-2019)	25,000 (2011-2019)	Green (2020 data yet to be published)



Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
3	<p>Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• net additional dwellings completed in previous years and the current year;</li> <li>• predicted completions in future years;</li> <li>• progress against the housing target for the plan period; and</li> <li>• rolling five year supply plus relevant buffer (jointly with Cambridge City Council).</li> </ul>	<p>To deliver a net increase of 14,000 residential units in Cambridge between 2011 and 2031. Housing trajectory to demonstrate that this can be achieved</p>	<p>417 dwellings completed 2020-2021</p> <p>Information about the housing trajectory, predicted future completions and the five year supply is provided in the Housing Monitoring chapter.</p>	<p>7,806 dwellings completed 2011-2021</p> <p>A year by year breakdown is provided in Table 1 in Appendix 2.</p>	Green

3	Total dwellings completed annually and cumulatively in Greater Cambridge by development sequence	To focus development within Cambridge, on the edge of Cambridge, at new settlements and within the more sustainable villages in South Cambridgeshire categorised as Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres.	1,752 dwellings completions in Greater Cambridge in 2020-2021.	<p>16,114 dwellings completions in Greater Cambridge between 2011-2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,817 in the Cambridge Urban Area</li> <li>• 4,942 on the Edge of Cambridge</li> <li>• 935 in New Settlements</li> <li>• 1,756 in Rural centres</li> <li>• 1,078 in Minor Rural Centres</li> <li>• 715 in Group Villages</li> <li>• 209 in Infill Villages</li> <li>• 2,662 in the countryside</li> </ul> <p>Completions in the countryside include rural exception sites for affordable housing (344 dwellings), sites allocated in the Local Plan (402),</p>	Contextual indicator
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Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
				'five year supply' sites (1,332 dwellings), and dwellings permitted in accordance with countryside policies such as barn conversions, and agricultural workers dwellings (584).	
4	Amount of inappropriate development on the green belt	To restrict inappropriate development in the Green Belt unless very special circumstances have been accepted that outweigh any harm caused.	In the 2020-2021 monitoring year there were no applications for inappropriate development permitted in the Green Belt without very special circumstances having been accepted that outweighed any harm caused.	In the 2019-2020 monitoring year there were no applications for inappropriate development permitted in the Green Belt without very special circumstances having been accepted that outweighed any harm caused.	Green
5	Proportion of journeys made by car, public transport, taxi, delivery vehicles and cycles	To increase the proportion of journeys made by car, public transport, taxi, delivery vehicles and cycles.	Transport updates are provided in Transport Monitoring section.	Transport updates are provided in Transport Monitoring section.	Transport updates are provided in Transport Monitoring section.

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
5	Delivery of schemes in the Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSCSC), the Local Transport Plan (LTP) (or successor documents) and City Deal Projects	Contextual indicator, to provide information on the implementation of the development strategy against the development sequence, to inform the local plan review.	Transport updates are provided in Transport Monitoring section.	Transport updates are provided in Transport Monitoring section.	Transport updates are provided in Transport Monitoring section.
6	Amount of additional retail floor space	To increase retail floorspace in the city from 2011 to 2022 by 14,141 sqm (net).	Net decrease of 2,803sqm.	Gross increase of 24,166sqm. Net decrease of 7,729sqm.	Red

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
10	Production of Spaces and Movement Supplementary Planning Document.	Production of Spaces and Movement Supplementary Planning Document	Work on the Spaces and Movement SPD is on-going to take into account the representations received from the consultation, coronavirus pandemic measures that have since been introduced across the City and feedback from the Planning and Transportation Scrutiny Committee on 12 January 2021. The Council will continue to work with key partners, such as the GCP and Cambridgeshire County Council, on this project as it progresses.	N/A	Amber

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
11	Percentage of A1 uses on primary shopping frontages	Retention of 70% A1 uses on primary shopping frontage unless adequate justification can be evidenced.	N/A – data not collected. See Retail Monitoring section.	N/A – data not collected. See Retail Monitoring section.	N/A – data not collected. See Retail Monitoring section.
11	Percentage of A1 uses on secondary shopping frontages	Retention of 50% A1 uses on secondary shopping frontage unless adequate justification can be evidenced.	N/A – data not collected. See Retail Monitoring section.	N/A – data not collected. See Retail Monitoring section.	N/A – data not collected. See Retail Monitoring section.
12	Amount of additional retail floorspace within Grafton AOMC	Delivery of up to 12,000 sqm of retail floorspace.	0	0 – further explanation in the text of the Retail Monitoring section	Amber
12	To produce the Grafton Area Supplementary Planning Document	To produce the Grafton Area Supplementary Planning Document.	The Grafton Area Masterplan and Guidance SPD was adopted with the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) in October 2018.	N/A	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
13	Adoption of Cambridge East - Land North of Cherry Hinton Supplementary Planning Document	Adoption of Cambridge East - Land North of Cherry Hinton Supplementary Planning Document by 31 March 2019.	Following the adoption of both the Cambridge Local Plan in October 2018 and the South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan in September 2018, the Land North of Cherry Hinton SPD was adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council in November 2018 and by Cambridge City Council in December 2018.	N/A	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
13	Delivery of allocation R47 as specified by the Cambridge East - Land North of Cherry Hinton SPD for approximately 780 residential units	Delivery of allocation R47 as specified by the Cambridge East - Land North of Cherry Hinton SPD for approximately 780 residential units.	An outline planning application (18/0481/OUT & S/1231/18/OL) for a maximum of 1,200 homes, retirement living facility, a local centre, primary and secondary schools, community facilities, open spaces, and allotments was granted in December 2020. A PPA is currently being negotiated for infrastructure matters with a reserved matters application expected in 2022.	N/A	Green



Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
15	Adoption of Cambridge Northern Fringe East Area Action Plan	Adoption of Cambridge Northern Fringe East Area Action Plan.	Consultation on the draft AAP was undertaken in autumn 2020. The comments received have been considered, and along with additional evidence base studies, have informed the Proposed Submission version of the NECAAP.	N/A	Green
16	Adoption of South of Coldham's Lane masterplan before a planning application is submitted	Adoption of South of Coldham's Lane masterplan before a planning application is submitted.	See the row below	N/A	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
16	Delivery of urban country park and appropriate development as defined in the masterplan	Delivery of urban country park and appropriate development as defined in the masterplan.	There has been engagement from the Anderson Group in the first quarter of 2021 to enter into a PPA to come forward with an employment led application and Urban Country Park. Subsequently a hybrid planning application was withdrawn. A revised application is expected.	N/A	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
17	Delivery of allocation M15 as specified by the consented planning application (06/0796/OUT) and completion of the development	Delivery of allocation M15 as specified by the consented planning application (06/0796/OUT) and completion of the development. Target of up to 60,000 sqm of clinical research and treatment (D1) 130,000 sqm of biomedical and biotech research and development (B1(b)) 25,000 sqm of either clinical research and treatment (D1) or higher education or sui generis medical research institute uses.	An application was approved in June 2021 (20/05027/REM). A new reserved matters application for the proposed Cambridge Children's Hospital was submitted in September 2021 (21/04336/REM). Reserved matters have been granted for 1000 Discovery Drive (parcel 2) including the erection of a five-storey mixed use laboratory and office building and associated plant, internal roads, car parking, cycle parking, landscaping and public open space (20/03950/REM).	N/A	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
18	Progress towards development of allocation R42	Progress towards housing provision as identified in Policy 18 and allocations R42 a, b, c and d, which includes up to 2,250 dwellings at Clay Farm; up to 600 at Trumpington Meadows; 286 at Glebe Farm and up to 347 at the Bell School Site.	Updates on allocated sites are provided in the Allocations Monitoring section	R42a (Clay Farm) - A total of 2,136 dwellings had been completed by March 2021.  R42b (Trumpington Meadows) – 1,016 dwellings had been completed by March 2021.  R42c (Glebe Farm) - all 287 dwellings were completed by March 2016.  R42d (Bell School) – 270 dwellings had been completed by March 2020.	Green

19	Completion of West Cambridge Masterplan	Approval of West Cambridge masterplan/outline planning permission by 31 March 2019.	Outline application for the site (16/1134/OUT) which seeks outline permission for up to 383,300 sqm of academic, commercial, research and other uses was considered by the Planning Committee in July 2021 where they resolved to grant planning permission subject to conditions and a Section 106 agreement. An application (19/1763/FUL) for the extension of the Whittle Laboratory, was permitted in July 2021. All pre-commencement conditions have now been discharged.	N/A	Amber
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Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
19	Delivery of allocation M13 as defined in the masterplan/outline planning permission.	Delivery of allocation M13 as defined in the masterplan/outline planning permission.	This indicator cannot be monitored until planning permission has been approved	N/A	This indicator cannot be monitored until planning permission has been approved
20	Progress towards housing provision as identified in Policy 20 and allocation R43 for up to 1,780 dwellings	Progress towards housing provision as identified in Policy 20 and allocation R43 for up to 1,780 dwellings	Full details of permissions on the NIAB frontage site and main site are provided in the allocations section.	N/A	Green
21	Progress towards mixed use development and principal land uses as identified in Policy 21 for allocations Station Area West (1) and (2) (allocations M14 and M44) and Clifton Road Area (allocation M2).	Progress towards mixed use development and principal land uses as identified in Policy 21 for allocations Station Area West (1) and (2) (allocations M14 and M44) and Clifton Road Area (allocation M2).	Full details of permissions on the NIAB frontage site and main site are provided in the allocations section. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M14 is largely complete</li> <li>• An application on M44 is at appeal</li> <li>• There has been little progress at M2</li> </ul>	N/A	Amber

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
22	Adoption of Mitcham's Corner Development Framework SPD before a planning application is submitted.	Adoption of Mitcham's Corner Development Framework SPD before a planning application is submitted.	The Mitcham's Corner Development Framework was adopted in January 2017.	N/A	Green
22	Progress towards housing provision as identified in Policy 22 and allocation R4 for approximately 48 dwellings	Progress towards housing provision as identified in Policy 22 and allocation R4 for approximately 48 dwellings	The site is not expected to come available until 2029-2031.	N/A	Amber
24	Adoption of Mill Road Depot Planning and Development Brief SPD before a planning application is submitted.	Adoption of Mill Road Depot Planning and Development Brief SPD before a planning application is submitted.	R10 - Mill Road Depot Development Framework was adopted with the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) in October 2018.	N/A	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
24	Progress towards housing provision as identified in Policy 24 and allocations R10 (for approximately 167 dwellings), R21 (for approximately 128 dwellings and up to 1 hectare employment floorspace) and R9 (for up to 49 dwellings).	Progress towards housing provision as identified in Policy 24 and allocations R10 (for approximately 167 dwellings), R21 (for approximately 128 dwellings and up to 1 hectare employment floorspace) and R9 (for up to 49 dwellings).	<b>R9:</b> 21/03620/FUL refused December 2021 <b>R10:</b> By May 2021 there had been 54 completions and the remaining 182 dwellings were under construction <b>R21:</b> Part of site complete. Remainder subject to feasibility studies	N/A	Amber
25	Progress towards development of sites M5 (20 residential units over 0.5 ha of employment) and E5 (1.4ha of employment uses) as identified in Policy 25.	Progress towards development of sites M5 (20 residential units over 0.5 ha of employment) and E5 (1.4ha of employment uses) as identified in Policy 25.	The landowner of M5 had advised the site will be available before 2031 and they are considering development options. No update on E5	N/A	Amber
26	Approval of Old Press/Mill Lane masterplan/outline planning permission by 31 March 2021.	Approval of Old Press/Mill Lane masterplan/outline planning permission by 31 March 2021.	See row below	N/A	Amber



Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
26	Delivery of Old Press/Mill Lane as defined in the masterplan/outline planning permission and SPD.	Delivery of Old Press/Mill Lane as defined in the masterplan/outline planning permission and SPD.	A planning application for redevelopment of southern part of site was granted in March 2021 (18/1930/FUL). University and Colleges are working together to bring forward remainder of site	N/A	Amber

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
27	Progress of GB1 & 2 towards the housing targets of 200 and 230 residential units.	Progress of GB1 & 2 towards the housing targets of 200 and 230 residential units.	GB1: permission was granted for up to 200 dwellings in February 2021 subject to completion of a s106 agreement (20/01972/OUT) GB2: permission was granted for up to 230 dwellings and up to 400 sqm of non residential floorspace in September 2020 subject to completion of a s106 agreement with a decision issued in May 2021 (19/1168/OUT). Reserved matters application awaiting decision (21/04186/REM)	N/A	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
27	Progress of GB3 & 4 towards the identified employment floorspace target of 25,193 sqm by the end of the plan period.	Progress of GB3 & 4 towards the identified employment floorspace target of 25,193 sqm by the end of the plan period.	An planning application on GB3 was deferred by the Joint Development Control Committee in October 2021 pending a request for further information (20/05040/FUL). The application is likely to return to committee in early 2022. The redevelopment of GB4 was completed in 2017-2018	N/A	Green
28	Number of non-residential completions delivered at BREEAM 'very good/excellent and maximum credits for water consumption	An increase in the number of non-residential completions (where applicable) delivered at BREEAM 'very good'/'excellent' and maximum credits for water consumption.	New policies so there are very few completions yet. A review of non-residential permissions found that 81% of eligible permissions included a condition relating to BREAAM and water efficiency. Officers are reviewing the	This is a new policy and therefore data for 2011-2021 is not available.	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
			way this policy is monitored as the current methodology is imperfect as some of the schemes may have dealt with water efficiency as part of the application process but this may not have been conditioned. Officers are also reviewing the application process to ensure that the policy requirements are considered on all eligible applications.		
28	Percentage of new dwellings which achieve 110L water per person per day	That all new dwellings permitted will be designed to achieve water consumption levels of 110 litres per person per day or less	97% of eligible dwellings permitted included a water efficiency condition.	This is a new policy and therefore data for 2011-2021 is not available.	Green

<b>Policy no</b>	<b>Indicator description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2020-2021: Meeting target?</b>	<b>2011-2021: Meeting target?</b>	<b>RAG rating: Meeting target?</b>
28	Production of Sustainable Design and Construction SPD including water efficiency guidance	Production of Sustainable Design and Construction SPD including water efficiency guidance.	The Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD was adopted by both councils in January 2020.	N/A	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
28	Number of schemes connected to strategic district heating	Connection of all schemes located within the strategic district heating area to district heating where available.	0	There have been no connections to the site wide strategic district heating network. The area was based on some work undertaken by Cambridge City Council and the University of Cambridge on a city centre district heating project. However, while technically feasible, the project did not come to fruition because the costs were just too great to make it a viable investment. A number of smaller heat networks are being planned for parts of the city, including a heat network serving the University's New Museums Site.	N/A

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
31	The adoption of a Flooding and Water SPD	The adoption of a Flooding and Water SPD which will enforce the requirement for developers to submit a drainage strategy by 31 March 2019	The Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD was adopted by both Councils following the adoption of the two new Local Plans in autumn 2018.	N/A	Green
31	Number of planning permissions granted where the Environment Agency initially objected on water quality grounds	No planning permissions granted where the Environment Agency initially objected on water quality grounds without appropriate conditions.	0	0	Green
32	Number of planning permissions granted where the Environment Agency initially objected on flooding grounds	No planning permissions granted where the Environment Agency initially objected on flooding grounds without appropriate conditions and / or submission of a satisfactory flood risk assessment	0	0	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
36	Air quality	To improve air quality especially within Air Quality Management Areas	In Cambridge, the recorded nitrogen dioxide levels in 2020-2021 were considerably lower than in previous years. The levels of PM <sub>10</sub> in Cambridge are below the legal limits.	The average nitrogen dioxide concentration and PM <sub>10</sub> levels have been below legal limits since monitoring records started in 2014 up the current monitoring year (2020-2021).	Green
40	Amount of additional business floorspace	Increase in business floorspace by 70,000 sqm	Net increase of 23,739sqm	Net increase of 166,426sqm	Green
41	Amount of employment land lost to other non-employment uses	To limit the amount of employment land lost to non-employment uses.	1.06ha (This excludes employment land lost on land allocated for alternative uses)	17.81ha (This excludes employment land lost on land allocated for alternative uses)	N/A – no target



Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
43	Progress development of specific sites for university development	To progress development of specific sites mentioned in the policy including New Museums, Mill Lane/Old Press, Eastern Gateway or near East Road, West Cambridge and Cambridge Biomedical Campus against the relevant SPDs or planning permissions.	Updates on allocated sites are provided in the Allocations Monitoring section	N/A	N/A
43	Amount of available land for university growth	To ensure there is sufficient land to support the growth of the Universities.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
45	Amount of and mixture of tenure of affordable housing completion	To deliver affordable housing on developments as set out in Policy 45. To deliver a mix of housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community. To increase the delivery of affordable housing to respond to the high level of need identified	51 affordable units completed in the 2020-2021 monitoring year. This accounts for 12% of all completions in Cambridge in the 2020-2021 monitoring year.	2,755 completions over the period 2011-2021. This accounts for 35% of all completions over the same period.	Contextual indicator – no target
46	Amount of student accommodation delivered which is specific to an educational institutions and speculative	Target: To ensure student accommodation built meets the specific needs of a named institution or institutions.	Three planning applications approved for student rooms in 2020-2021. All linked to named institutions.	New policy introduced in 2018.	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
46	Amount of student accommodation delivered which is specific to an educational institutions and speculative	Trigger: Amount completed of student accommodation exceeds recognised need of 3,104 to 2026 as guided by the Assessment of Student Housing Demand and Supply for Cambridge City Council or successor document.	100 completed student rooms (net) in 2020-2021.	Between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2021 a total of 1,998 student rooms have been completed.	Green
49	Number of caravans on unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites	To monitor the number of caravans on unauthorised Gypsy & Travellers sites. Sufficient sites coming forward to meet identified needs of those that meet the planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers and those that do not meet the definition but can demonstrate a cultural need for caravan accommodation.	0	Numbers have varied each year. Data available in Table 17 of Appendix 2.	No identified need in Cambridge

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
52	Number of new residential developments on existing residential plots	To ensure no subdivision of existing dwelling plots in order to provide further residential accommodation.	11 dwellings were completed on garden land in Cambridge in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	208 dwellings were completed on garden land in Cambridge in the period between 2011 and 2021.	Analysis of the use of policy 52 is presented in the text of the Housing Monitoring Chapter.
54	Delivery of RM1	Delivery of allocation RM1 as specified in Appendix B of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014.	No relevant planning applications have been submitted.	N/A	Amber
62	Amount of local heritage assets lost	To retain local heritage assets	In the 2020/21 monitoring year there were 465 Buildings of Local Interest; no change on the 2019/20 monitoring year.	Trend data from 2011 is unavailable due to a change in counting methods.	Green – Small increase over last 5 years
67	Amount of Protected Open Space available	Retention of protected open space within the Local Authority area unless appropriate mitigation can be implemented or justified.	Some provisional open space data is provided in table 95. This has been calculated using aerial photography and has not been subject to a site visit so may need to be revised in future.	Trend data is unavailable.	Unable to compare with previous years

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
68	Amount of new protected open space secured through new development	Net gain of protected open spaces through new development.	Data unavailable this year.	Trend data unavailable.	Unable to compare to previous data.
69	Change in the areas of local nature conservation importance	No loss in the areas of local nature conservation importance as a result of new development where no mitigation has been provided.	No change in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	No change in the period 2011-2020.	Green
70	Amount of land within SSSI and quality of SSSI	No loss of land within SSSI as a result of new development where no mitigation has been provided. No deterioration of SSSI as a result of new development.	No change in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	15.03ha 93.5% of which is in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition since beginning of monitoring period (2011)	Green

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
72	Percentage of A1 uses within district centres	To ensure that the proportion of retail (A1) uses in the district centres does not fall below 55%. Retention of an appropriate balance and mix of uses within Local and Neighbourhood Centres.	In 2020, 2 of 6 District Centres report 55% or more in A1 use.	Previous surveys: 2013: 1 out of 6 2019: 3 out of 6	Red
73	Amount of community and leisure floorspace gained/lost	To deliver new types of community and/ or leisure facilities.	There has been a net increase of 6,831sqm of D1 floorspace and 1,726sqm of D2 floorspace in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	There has been a net increase of 25,533sqm of D1 floorspace and 34,003sqm of D2 floorspace over the period 2011-2021	N/A contextual indicator
76	Number of public houses (as identified with appendix c) lost?	To retain public houses identified within Appendix C of the Cambridge Local Plan.	An updated survey of public houses is required and will be available in future years. The updated survey is expected in Spring 2022.	No data available from 2011 to 2020.	N/A no data available

Policy no	Indicator description	Target	2020-2021: Meeting target?	2011-2021: Meeting target?	RAG rating: Meeting target?
77	Number of hotel bed spaces approved	Development of up to 1,500 additional bedspaces, as identified in the Cambridge Hotel Futures Study or successor document.	In the 2020/21 monitoring year there were two significant hotel developments permitted totalling 243 bed spaces.	Data from previous years unavailable.	Data from previous years unavailable
77	Location of new hotels	Monitor the location of new hotels in line with the identified locations set out in Policy 77 and the requirements of National Town Centre Policy (NPPF 2012, paragraph 24).	New permissions to rear of Grafton Centre and on Newmarket Road	N/A	N/A contextual indicator
78	Number of hotel bed spaces lost	To protect the loss of hotel accommodation	No significant losses (small losses through changes to two guest houses) in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	Data not collected in previous years.	Green

<b>Policy no</b>	<b>Indicator description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2020-2021: Meeting target?</b>	<b>2011-2021: Meeting target?</b>	<b>RAG rating: Meeting target?</b>
85	Amount of S106 money secured for infrastructure through development	To secure sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all the requirements arising from the new development.	In the 2020/21 monitoring year £17,198,409 was secured through S106 agreements (Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council). £3,632,510 in S106 money was received by Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council from S106 agreements in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	Details of S106 money secured and received are available in Appendix 2	N/A



## South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018)

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M1	<p>Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• net additional dwellings completed in previous years and the current year;</li> <li>• predicted completions in future years;</li> <li>• progress against the housing target for the plan period;</li> <li>• rolling five year supply plus relevant buffer (jointly with Cambridge City Council).</li> </ul>	S/5	<p>To deliver a net increase of 19,500 homes in the district between 2011 and 2031. Housing trajectory to demonstrate that this can be achieved. To demonstrate a five year supply of housing land (plus relevant buffer) jointly with Cambridge City Council. Housing trajectory and accompanying five year supply calculations to show whether this can be demonstrated.</p>	<p>1,335 dwellings completed in 2020/21.</p> <p>Information about the housing trajectory, predicted future completions and the five year supply is provided in the Housing Monitoring section.</p>	<p>8,308 dwellings completed 2011-2021.</p> <p>A year by year breakdown is provided in Table 1 of Appendix 2.</p>	Green

M2	Total dwellings completed annually and cumulatively in Greater Cambridge by development sequence, including by settlement category within the rural area	S/6, S/7, S/8, S/9, S/10, S/11	Contextual indicator, to provide information on the implementation of the development strategy against the development sequence, to inform the Local Plan review.	1,752 dwellings completions in Greater Cambridge in 2020/21.	<p>16,114 dwellings completions in Greater Cambridge between 2011-2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,817 in the Cambridge Urban Area</li> <li>• 4,942 on the Edge of Cambridge</li> <li>• 935 in New Settlements</li> <li>• 1,756 in Rural centres</li> <li>• 1,078 in Minor Rural Centres</li> <li>• 715 in Group Villages</li> <li>• 209 in Infill Villages</li> <li>• 2,662 in the countryside</li> </ul> <p>Completions in the countryside include rural exception sites for affordable housing (344 dwellings), sites allocated in the Local Plan (402),</p>	Contextual indicator Breakdown of completions by settlement category in Table 2 of Appendix 2
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Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
					'five year supply' sites (1,332 dwellings), and dwellings permitted in accordance with countryside policies such as barn conversions, and agricultural workers dwellings (584).	
M3	Affordable housing completions	S/5	Contextual indicator, to provide information on delivery of affordable housing.	311 affordable dwelling completions in 2020/21.	2,172 affordable dwelling completions between 2011 and 2021.	N/A contextual indicator
M4	Amount and type of completed employment floorspace on previously developed land		Contextual indicator, to provide information on the implementation of the development strategy and the use of previously developed land.	4.31ha of employment completions (of a total of 13.99ha) were on previously developed land in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	107.47ha of employment completions (out of a total of 166.98ha) were on brownfield land between 2011 and 2021.	N/A contextual indicator

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M5	Percentage of new and converted dwellings completed on previously developed land		Contextual indicator, to provide information on the implementation of the development strategy and the use of previously developed land.	14% of new and converted dwellings were on previously developed land in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	The percentage of dwellings on previously developed land has fluctuated within a range of 14% (2020/21) and 44% (2013/14).	N/A contextual indicator
M6	Number of new jobs created  Amount and type of completed and committed employment floorspace and land	S/5	Delivery of additional 22,000 jobs in the district between 2011 and 2031. Maintain employment land supply to enable delivery of forecast jobs in 'B' use classes.	In 2019 there was an increase of 6,000 in the number of jobs in South Cambridgeshire. (2020 data has yet to be published).  Net 16,796sqm / 7.58ha of employment land completed in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	Over the period of 2011-2019 19,000 jobs have been created (2020 data has yet to be published)  Net 232,480sqm / 82.69ha of employment land completed over the plan period (2011-2021).	Green
M7	Progress and development on strategic site allocations	SS/1 – SS/8, TI/1	To deliver new mixed use development or redevelopment at Orchard Park, land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road (NIAB / Darwin Green), Cambridge East, Waterbeach	Orchard Park: outline permission for the whole site was granted in 2005 and has largely been implemented.  NIAB: Within this permission 2 parcels have detailed permission for 287		Green

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
			New Town, Bourn Airfield New Village, and Cambourne West.	<p>dwelling with 204 dwellings completed by March 2021. A further reserved matters application (21/03619/REM) for 411 dwellings (parcels BDW5 and 6) was submitted in August 2021. It is expected that the local centre including library and retail areas will be completed by autumn 2022.</p> <p>NIAB 2&amp;3: It is assumed that this development will follow on from the delivery of NIAB Main (Darwin Green 1) and an outline planning application is expected in early 2022</p> <p>Cambridge East: Reserved matters applications (S/1096/19/RM and 20/02569/REM) for 547 dwellings have been permitted and are under construction with 67 homes completed by March 2021. A reserved matters</p>		

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
				<p>application (21/02450/REM) for 421 dwellings was approved in October 2021. Pre-application discussions have commenced in respect of the consolidation of the Northworks part of the site (B2 land).</p> <p>Waterbeach new town:  <b>Urban &amp; Civic (the western part of the site):</b>  The first phase Design Code was approved at Planning Committee in June 2020 and the first reserved matters infrastructure application has also been approved. A reserved matters application (21/02400/REM) for 89 dwellings was granted in July 2021 and is expected to start on site by the end of 2021. <b>RLW Estates (the eastern part of the site):</b>  An outline planning</p>		

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
				<p>application (S/2075/18/OL) for up to 4,500 dwellings and other uses went to planning committee in January 2021 where it was resolved to grant subject to completion of a s106. It is anticipated that reserved matters applications for the first residential parcels could be submitted within 1-2 years.</p> <p>Bourn Airfield New Village – Outline permission for 3,400 dwellings, employment, retail, leisure and a hotel was submitted in September 2018 and is under consideration. Amendments were submitted on 11 December 2020 and are currently subject to consultation.</p> <p>Cambourne West: Reserved matters applications (S/4537/19/RM, 20/01536/REM,</p>		

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
				20/01640/REM and 20/02543/REM) have been permitted and include 826 dwellings.		
M8	Renewable energy capacity installed and with planning permission by type	CC/2, CC/3	To increase the generation of renewable energy within the district.	0MW of renewable energy capacity was installed in the 2020/21 monitoring year.  A total of 2.6385MW of renewable energy capacity had planning permission at 31 March 2021.	A total of 298.21MW of renewable energy capacity was installed between 2011/12 and the 2020/21 monitoring year.	Green
M9	Proportion of development proposals permitted, for all new dwellings and new non-residential buildings of 1,000m <sup>2</sup> or more, reducing carbon emissions by a minimum of 10% using on site renewable and low carbon energy technologies	CC/3	That all development proposals for all new dwellings and new non-residential buildings of 1,000m <sup>2</sup> or more will reduce carbon emissions by a minimum of 10% using on site renewable and low carbon energy technologies.	100% of eligible applications included a condition requiring carbon reduction measures.	100% of eligible permissions granted in both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 monitoring years included a permission requiring carbon reduction measures.	Green



Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M10	Number of planning permissions granted where the Environment Agency initially objected on water quality grounds	CC/7	No planning permissions granted where the Environment Agency initially objected on water quality grounds without appropriate conditions.	0 in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	2 in 2011/12 and 1 in 2012/13, all of which were subject to amendments or conditions to overcome the Environment Agency's objection.	Green
M11	Number of planning permissions granted where the Environment Agency initially objected on flooding grounds	CC/9	No planning permissions granted where the Environment Agency initially objected on flooding grounds without appropriate conditions and / or submission of a satisfactory flood risk assessment.	0 in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	A total of 40 over the period of 2011-2020, all of which were subject to amendments or conditions to overcome the Environment Agency's objection.	Green
M12	Proportion of new homes permitted achieving water consumption levels equivalent to 110 litres per person per day or less	CC/4	That all new dwellings permitted will be designed to achieve water consumption levels of 110 litres per person per day or less.	99% of eligible dwellings permitted included a water efficiency condition.	This is a new policy and therefore data for 2011-2021 is not available.	Green

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M13	Proportion of non-residential developments permitted demonstrating a minimum water efficiency standard equivalent to the BREEAM non-residential standard for 2 credits for water use levels	CC/4	That all suitable non-residential developments permitted will be designed to achieve a minimum water efficiency standard equivalent to the BREEAM non-residential standard for 2 credits for water use levels.	A review of non-residential permissions found that 75% of eligible permissions included a condition relating to BREAAAM and water efficiency. Officers are reviewing the way this policy is monitored as the current methodology is imperfect as some of the schemes may have dealt with water efficiency as part of the application process but this may not have been conditioned. Officers are also reviewing the application process to ensure that the policy requirements are considered on all eligible applications.	This is a new policy and therefore data for 2011-2021 is not available.	Amber

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M14	Amount of new development completed within, or likely to adversely affect, internationally or nationally important nature conservation areas	NH/4, NH/5	That there is no new development completed within or that will adversely affect internationally or nationally important nature conservation area(s).	In the 2020/21 monitoring year no new development was completed within, or is considered to adversely affect, nationally or internationally important nature conservation sites in South Cambridgeshire.	Between 2004 and 2021 no new development was completed within, or is considered to adversely affect, nationally or internationally important nature conservation sites in South Cambridgeshire.	Green
M15	Amount of inappropriate development permitted in the Green Belt	S/4, NH/8, NH/9, NH/10	To restrict inappropriate development in the green belt, unless very special circumstances have been accepted that outweigh any harm caused.	In the 2020/21 monitoring year there were no applications for inappropriate development permitted in the Green Belt without very special circumstances having been accepted that outweighed any harm caused.	In the previous 2019/20 monitoring year there were no applications for inappropriate development permitted in the Green Belt without very special circumstances having been accepted that outweighed any harm caused.	Green

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M16	Amount of development completed within or adjacent to a Protected Village Amenity Area (PVAA) that would have an adverse impact on its character, amenity, tranquillity or function	NH/11	That land within or adjacent to a Protected Village Amenity Area (PVAA) is protected from development that would have an adverse impact on the character, amenity, tranquillity or function.	There were no developments completed either within or adjacent to a PVAA that were assessed as having an adverse impact in 2020/21.	There were also no developments completed either within or adjacent to a PVAA that were assessed as having an adverse impact in 2019/20.	Green
M17	Amount of development completed within a Local Green Space that would adversely impact on its character and particular local significance	NH/12	That land designated as a Local Green Space is protected from development that would adversely impact on its character and particular local significance, and that where inappropriate development is completed very special circumstances have been demonstrated and discussions have been undertaken with the local community.	There were no developments that had an adverse impact on the character or local significance of Local Green Spaces in 2020/21.	There were also no developments that had an adverse impact on the character or local significance of Local Green Spaces in 2019/20.	Green

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M18	Amount of land adjacent to an Important Countryside Frontage that has been lost to development	NH/13	That land adjacent to an Important Countryside Frontage is protected from development that would compromise its purposes.	There were no developments that had an adverse impact on the Important Countryside Frontages in 2020/21.	There were also no developments that had an adverse impact on the Important Countryside Frontages in 2019/20.	Green
M19	Change in areas of biodiversity importance (international, national and local designations)	NH/4, NH/5	That there is no loss in the areas of biodiversity importance as a result of new development where no mitigation has been provided.	The boundary of Gamlingay Heath Plantation CWS was adjusted in 2020/21 to remove an area on the eastern side subject to an approved planning application related to an adjacent property. This area had been used as part of the grounds of the property for a period of time prior to this. One new County Wildlife Site, Magog Down and Stapleford Pit, has been selected in the period 2020/21.	Details of any change in areas of biodiversity importance are recorded in Appendix 2.	Green

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M20	Average net density of all completed new housing developments on sites of 9 or more dwellings at urban extensions, new settlements, Rural Centres, Minor Rural Centres, and Group Villages	H/8	To deliver an average net density of 30 dwellings per hectare (dph) on developments completed in Rural Centres, Minor Rural Centres and Group Villages. To deliver an average net density of 40 dph on developments completed in urban extensions to Cambridge and in new settlements.	In 2020/21 the average density was as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 62.3 dph in the Urban extensions to Cambridge</li> <li>• 32.9 dph in new settlements</li> <li>• 53.4 dph in Rural Centres</li> <li>• 34.6 dph in Minor Rural Centres</li> <li>• 27.4 dph in Group Villages</li> </ul>	Over the period of 2011-2021 the average density was as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 49.9 dph in the Urban extensions to Cambridge</li> <li>• 34.6 dph in new settlements</li> <li>• 34.6 dph in Rural Centres</li> <li>• 35.8 dph in Minor Rural Centres</li> <li>• 27.5 dph in Group Villages</li> </ul>	Green
M21	Housing completions by number of bedrooms	H/9	Contextual indicator, to provide information on delivery of a mix of housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community across all housing developments.	In the 2020/21 monitoring year 45% of housing completions were 1 or 2 bedrooms, 29% were 3 bedrooms and 25% were 4 bedrooms.	Details for the full period are available in Table 28 of Appendix 2.	N/A contextual indicator

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M22	Market housing permitted on developments of over 10 dwellings by number of bedrooms	H/9	All development proposals of over 10 dwellings permitted will consist of at least 30% 1 or 2 bedroom homes; at least 30% 3 bedroom homes; and at least 30% 4 or more bedroom homes.	In the 2020/21 monitoring year on developments of over 10 dwellings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36% of completions were 1 or 2 bedrooms,</li> <li>• 35% were 3 bedrooms, and</li> <li>• 30% were 4 bedrooms.</li> </ul>	Figures have varied over the monitoring period. 1 and 2 bed dwellings have reached their target in 5 out of 10 years. 3 bed dwellings have reached their target in 8 out of 10 years. 4 bed dwellings have reached their target every year.	Green in 2020/21
M23	Affordable housing completions on rural exception sites	H/11	Contextual indicator, to provide information on the delivery of affordable housing on rural exception sites.	9 completions on Rural Exception sites in 2020/21 monitoring year.	339 completions on Rural Exception Sites over the period 2011-2021.	N/A contextual indicator
M24	Progress towards City Deal commitment to deliver an additional 1,000 new homes on rural exception sites	-	To contribute to the delivery of an additional 1,000 new homes on rural exception sites between 2011 and 2031, as set out in the City Deal agreement (see paras 3.27-3.29).	Cannot monitor this indicator yet - as set out in the Housing Monitoring section.	Cannot monitor this indicator yet - as set out in the Housing Monitoring section.	N/A

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M25	Gypsy & Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots completed	H/20, H/21, H/22	To deliver permanent Gypsy & Traveller pitches, as set out in Policy H/20, which identifies that no pitches are required under the evidence base supporting the Local Plan (Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2016). To deliver at least 11 Travelling Showpeople plots between 2011 and 2031, as set out in Policy H/20.	There was 1 private permanent Gypsy & Traveller pitch and 0 Travelling Showpeople plots completed in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	114 permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches have been completed between 2011 and 2021. 10 Travelling Showpeople Plots have been completed between 2011 and 2021.	Green



Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M26	Meeting the needs of those that meet the planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers and those that do not meet the definition but can demonstrate a cultural need for caravan accommodation	H/20, H/21, H/22	Sufficient sites coming forward to meet identified needs of those that meet the planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers and those that do not meet the definition but can demonstrate a cultural need for caravan accommodation.	New Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment due to be published in 2022.	-	-
M27	Number of caravans on unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller sites	H/20, H/21, H/22	Contextual indicator, to provide information for the on-going review of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs.	0 in January 2020. No more recent data due to Coronavirus.	Table 18 in Appendix 2 provides data from previous years.	N/A contextual indicator
M28	Progress and development on residential allocations at villages (Policy H/1), and at Bayer CropScience Site (Hauxton), Papworth Everard West Central, Fen Drayton	H/1 – H/5, E/8	Various targets for particular residential allocations	Bayer CropScience – 215 dwellings and 70 extra care apartments have been completed. The employment part of the allocation has not yet had an application.  Papworth Everard West – the development on land	N/A	Green

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
	Former LSA Estate, Fulbourn and Ida Darwin Hospitals, and Histon & Impington Station area			<p>south of Church Lane was under construction with 24 dwellings completed by March 2021. The Catholic Church site has been completed by November 2021.</p> <p>Fulbourn and Ida Darwin Hospitals – outline planning permission for 203 dwellings granted in November 2019. A reserved matters application for 203 dwellings and land for community provision is due to be determined by the end of 2021.</p> <p>Histon &amp; Impington Station area – three areas of this site are being brought forward for mixed use developments, as set out in the allocations monitoring section.</p>		

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M29	Development of Residential Moorings at Chesterton Fen Road, Milton	H/7	To deliver residential boat moorings at Chesterton Fen Road, Milton as allocated through Policy H/7.	No relevant planning application(s) have been submitted.	N/A	Amber
M30	Number of homes completed to the accessible and adaptable dwellings M4(2) standard	H/9	That 5% of homes completed on developments of 20 or more dwellings are built to the accessible and adaptable dwellings M4(2) standard.	All schemes meeting the standard where appropriate	Trend data unavailable as the requirement relates to a policy in the 2018 Local Plan.	Green
M31	Affordable dwellings permitted as a percentage of all dwellings permitted on sites where the policy requiring affordable dwellings applies	H/10	That all developments of 11 dwellings or more, or on development sites of less than 11 dwellings if the total floorspace exceeds 1,000m <sup>2</sup> , permitted will provide 40% of the dwellings on site as affordable dwellings, unless the exceptions listed in Policy H/10 can be demonstrated.	On schemes which were eligible to provide affordable housing in South Cambridgeshire in the 2020/21 monitoring year, 29% of dwellings permitted were affordable. This was largely due to viability factors lowering the affordable proportions secured on some strategic sites. Further details in paragraph 3.21.	Historic data available in Tables 15 and 16 of Appendix 2.	Green

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M32	Amount of employment land lost to non-employment uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total</li> <li>• within development frameworks</li> <li>• to residential development</li> </ul>	E/14	To limit the amount of employment land lost to non-employment uses.	In the 2020/21 monitoring year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.98ha of employment land was lost to other uses,</li> <li>• 2.92 ha was lost within the development frameworks, and</li> <li>• 2.98ha was lost to residential development.</li> </ul>	In total over the period 2011-2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34.37ha of employment land has been lost to non-employment uses,</li> <li>• 20.54 ha was lost within the development frameworks, and</li> <li>• 18.04ha has been lost to residential uses.</li> </ul>	N/A contextual indicator
M33	Amount of completed and committed floorspace for retail	E/21 – E/23	Contextual indicator, to provide information on delivery of retail developments.	There was a net increase of 268sqm of retail floorspace in the 2020/21 monitoring year: 273sqm of convenience, 0sqm of durable and -5sqm of unspecified. In March 2021 there was 51,723sqm (net) of committed retail floorspace.	Over the period of 2011/12 to 2020/21 there was a net increase of 7,778sqm of retail floorspace completed.	N/A contextual indicator

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M34	Progress and development on allocations at Cambridge Science Park, land south of Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Fulbourn Road East, for employment uses (Policies E/4 and E/5), Papworth Hospital, Histon & Impington Station area, Dales Manor Business Park (Sawston), Green End Industrial Estate (Gamlingay)	E/1 – E/6, E/8, H/1:a, H/1:f, H/2, H/4	Various targets for employment allocations.	<p>Cambridge Science Park - details of completions and commitments in the Science Park at March 2021 are included in table 58 and 59. A planning application (20/03444/FUL) submitted for 4,600 sqm of commercial office floorspace at 127-136 Cambridge Science Park is awaiting a decision.</p> <p>Cambridge Biomedical Campus - an application has not yet been submitted.</p> <p>Fulbourn Road East – A hybrid application covering the whole allocation was refused in October 2021.</p> <p>Papworth Hospital – an application has not yet been submitted.</p> <p>Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay – Outline planning</p>	N/A	Green

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
				permission for the demolition of 5 dwellings and industrial and office units, and the erection of up to 90 dwellings was granted in December 2016 and reserved matters planning permission was approved in June 2020. The planning permission covers approximately 75% of the site.		
M35	Progress of open space allocations	SC/1	To deliver the extensions to existing recreation grounds and new sites for open space allocated through Policy SC/1.	Data unavailable this year	Data unavailable this year	-
M36	Loss of recreation areas, allotments and community orchards resulting from new developments	SC/8	To restrict the loss of recreation areas, allotments and community orchards to other uses.	No recreation areas, allotments or community orchards were lost as a result of developments completed in the 2020/21 monitoring year without recreational areas being re-provided as part of the new development.	Also no losses in 2019/20.	Green

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Policy	Target	Meeting target? 2020/21	Meeting target? 2011/2021	Meeting target? RAG
M37	Provision of open space, outdoor recreation and children's play space resulting from new developments	SC/7	Contextual indicator, to provide information on the provision of allotments, community orchards, sports pitches, other outdoor sports facilities, and children's play space in new residential developments.	Data unavailable this year	Data unavailable this year	-
M38	Investment secured for infrastructure and community facilities through developer contributions	TI/8	Contextual indicator, to provide information regarding securing of necessary facilities and / or contributions to support all new development.	In the 2020/21 monitoring year £14,871,801 was secured through S106 agreements (South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council). £7,868,799 in S106 money was received by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council from S106 agreements in the 2020/21 monitoring year.	Details of S106 money secured and received are available in Appendix 2	N/A Contextual indicator

## South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) Sustainability Appraisal

Issue	Indicator	Target	Meeting target?
Land	Percentage of new and Converted Dwellings on Previously Developed Land	The Core Strategy included a target that between 1999 and 2016 at least 37% of new dwellings should either be located on previously developed land or utilise existing buildings.	In the 2020/21 monitoring year 14% of new and converted dwellings were on previously developed land.
Land	Amount and Type of Completed Employment on Previously Developed Land	-	In the 2020/21 monitoring year 4.31ha of employment land was completed on Previously Developed Land. See Table 57 in Appendix 2 for further details of types of employment land.
Land	Average Density of New Residential Development Completed	-	In the 2020/21 monitoring year the average density was 37.3 DPH.
Pollution (air quality)	Annual average concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) (at monitoring points)	Member States are required to reduce exposure to PM2.5 in urban areas by an average of 20% by 2020 based on 2010 levels. It obliges them to bring exposure levels below 20 micrograms/m <sup>3</sup> by 2015 in these areas. Throughout their territory Member States will need to respect the PM2.5 limit value set at 25.	13 at Impington, 11 at Orchard Park School and 12 at Girton Road.



Issue	Indicator	Target	Meeting target?
Pollution (air quality)	Annual mean number of days when PM10 levels exceeded a daily mean of 50ug/m	-	0 days at all monitoring locations.
Pollution (air quality)	No of declared Air Quality Management Areas and locations within 10% of threshold	-	0
Pollution (Water quality)	% of surface waters meet the Water Framework Directive 'good' status or better for water quality	'Good' status or better for water quality in all river basins by 2015.	High 0%, Good 0%, Moderate 89%, Poor 11%, Bad 0%.
Waste reduction and recycling	Amount of municipal waste arising, and managed by management type and the percentage each management type represents of the waste managed	The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2008-2022 sets targets for the reduction of household waste sent to landfill of: x 55 to 60% of household waste by 2020.	425 tonnes of household waste was collected in 2020/21. 27% of waste collected in 2020/21 was composted. 24% of waste collected in 2020/21 was recycled.
Construction waste	Tonnage of construction and demolition waste produced and proportion that is recycled / reused.	N/A	We will aim to provide this data in future years.
Biodiversity loss from development	Number of development schemes completing relevant biodiversity avoidance or mitigation measures.	N/A	It is not possible to monitor this indicator as a significant proportion of applications determined employ biodiversity avoidance and mitigation measure.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Meeting target?</b>
Biodiversity loss from development	Amount of new development within, or likely to adversely affect internationally or nationally important nature conservation areas.	N/A	Between 2011 and 2021 no new development was completed within, or is considered to adversely affect, nationally or internationally important nature conservation sites in South Cambridgeshire.
Biodiversity - Protected sites	Change in area of sites of biodiversity importance (SPA, SAC, RAMSAR, SSSI, NNR, LNR, CWS)	Better wildlife habitats with 90% of priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition and at least 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95% in favourable or recovering condition.	One new County Wildlife Site has been selected in the period 2020/21. One County Wildlife Site has had its boundary amended in the period 2020/21. This resulted in an overall increase in area of County Wildlife sites by 71.28ha
Biodiversity - Protected sites	% SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	Better wildlife habitats with 90% of priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition and at least 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95% in favourable or recovering condition.	92% in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition.
Landscape	% planning permission granted which are inconsistent with local landscape character	N/A	Data not available
Landscape	Areas inconsistent with landscape character	N/A	Data not available.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Meeting target?</b>
Townscape	% of total built-up areas falling within Conservation Areas	N/A	23.2% of development frameworks covered by Conservation Areas
Heritage assets	Number of Listed Buildings and number that are at risk	N/A	2,695 listed buildings; 9 at risk (0.3%).
Heritage assets	Number of other historic assets, and historic assets at risk	N/A	5 Conservation areas, 1 other building structure, 6 places of worship and 13 scheduled monuments at risk.
Places	Satisfaction rating for Quality of the built environment	N/A	Data no longer collected.
Places	Buildings for Life Assessments – Number of Developments achieving each standard	N/A	Data no longer collected.
Climate Change	Carbon Dioxide emissions by sector and per capita	N/A	The most recent data available is from 2019 and is reported in Table 85 of Appendix 2.
Climate Change	Renewable energy capacity installed by type (in MegaWatts)	N/A	No renewable energy capacity was installed in the 2020/21 monitoring year.
Climate Change	Kilowatt hours of gas consumed per household per year, Kilowatt hours of electricity consumed per household per year	N/A	Data provided in Tables 78 and 79 in Appendix 2.

Issue	Indicator	Target	Meeting target?
Climate Change	Water consumption per head per day (Cambridge Water Company area)	N/A	In the 2020/21 monitoring year the average water consumption per head per day was 131 litres.
Climate Change	Amount of new development completed on previously undeveloped functional floodplain land, and in flood risk areas, without agreed flood defence measures	N/A	No development was completed on floodplain 2 or 3 without mitigation measures.
Health	Life expectancy at birth % of residents with a long-term illness (Census data)	N/A	The most up to date information from 2018-2020 shows life expectancy at birth to be 83.1 for males and 85.9 for females. Long term limiting illness is only measured every 10 years.
Crime	Number of recorded crimes per 1000 people	Annual targets in community safety plan.	In 2020/21 there were 41.0 crimes per 1,000 people.
Crime	Percentage of people feeling safe after dark	Annual targets in community safety plan.	This data is no longer collected.
Housing	Total and percentage of Dwellings completed that are affordable	40% of dwellings permitted on sites of three or more dwellings.	311 affordable completions on all sites in the 2020/21 monitoring year. This accounts for 18% of all completions.
Housing	House price to earnings ratio	N/A	9.68 in 2020
Housing	Delivery of Extracare Housing	N/A	Data not available.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Meeting target?</b>
Housing	Number of new Gypsies and Travellers pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots	85 new Traveller pitches by 2031 and 4 new Travelling Showpeople plots by 2016.	There was 1 Gypsy & Traveller pitch completed in the 2020/21 monitoring year.
Inclusive communities	% of residents who feel their local area is harmonious	N/A	This data is no longer collected.
Inclusive communities	% of residents that definitely agree or tend to agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	N/A	This data is no longer collected.
Inclusive communities	Index of multiple deprivation	N/A	In 2019 South Cambridgeshire has an average deprivation score 8.49.
Inclusive communities	Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport journey time of key services	N/A	Data unavailable.
Inclusive communities	% of adults who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area	N/A	This data is no longer collected.
Inclusive communities	% of residents that 'definitely agree' and 'tend to agree' that they can influence decisions affecting their local area	N/A	This data is no longer collected.
Economic Activity	Number of People in Employment	Local Plan seeks to meet objectively assessed needs of 22,000 jobs, 2011 to 2031.	The number of jobs created over the period 2011-2019 was 19,000.
Economic Activity	Annual net change in VAT registered firms	N/A	In 2019 the net change in the business population was - 130.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Meeting target?</b>
Economic Activity	Industrial composition of employee jobs	N/A	2020 data can be found in Table 60 of Appendix 2.
Work Opportunities	Percentage of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance	N/A	In March 2021 3,090 people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit who are required to seek work and be available for work. This is 3.2% of all residents aged 16-64.
Work Opportunities	% of Residents aged 16-64 in employment and working within 5km of home or at home (Census data)	N/A	The most recent data is from 2011 when 35% of South Cambridgeshire residents worked within 5km of home
Work Opportunities	Economic Activity Rate	N/A	The economic activity rate for 16-64 year olds in South Cambridgeshire was 78.0% in 2020/21.
Work Opportunities	Median Gross Household income	N/A	Median gross household income is not available. The median gross annual full-time earnings for employees was £38,726 in 2020.

Issue	Indicator	Target	Meeting target?
Investments	Investment Secured for Infrastructure and Community Facilities through developer contributions	N/A	In the 2020/21 monitoring year £14,871,801 was secured through S106 agreements (South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council). £7,868,799 in S106 money was received by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council from S106 agreements in the 2020/21 monitoring year.
Investments	Percentage of 15/16 year olds achieving 5 or more GCSE/GNVQ passes at A* to C grade	N/A	This standard has changed since the indicator was written. Data is not comparable for 2020/21 as student did not sit exams due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
Transport	Vehicle flows across the South Cambridgeshire – Cambridge City boundary over 12 hour period	N/A	The total number of motor vehicles on the day of monitoring in 2020 was 161,907.
Transport	Cycling trips index	N/A	Data unavailable
Transport	Congestion – average journey time per mile during the am peak environment	N/A	In the most recent monitored period (Sept 2016-August 2017) the average journey time per mile during the AM peak was 4.75 minutes.

Issue	Indicator	Target	Meeting target?
Transport	Investment secured for transport infrastructure through developer contributions	N/A	Investment secured through s106 contributions: £7,091,960. Money received from s106 contributions: £943,759.
Transport	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	N/A	Data unavailable for 2020 – data for 2011-2019 presented in Appendix 2.
Travel - Sustainable transport Car Parking Standards (to ensure standards are helping to meet the objectives of the Local Plan with regards to generating a modal shift towards more sustainable modes of transport)	Number of development schemes implementing minimum or greater provision of cycle parking	100%	Data unavailable
Travel - Reducing journeys made by car	Amount of development within 15 minutes walking distance (1000 meters) and 10 minutes cycling distance (2km) of rural centres	N/A	Data unavailable.



## North West Cambridge AAP

Indicator no.	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NWC01	number of student accommodations completed	CORE	<p>To provide an adequate supply of land for housing for development (1) for 2,000 University students, and (2) for 3,000 open market and affordable dwellings.</p> <p>The total housing completions and annual rate of completions for North West Cambridge will be monitored against the North West Cambridge AAP housing trajectory in each Council's Annual Monitoring Report.</p>	<p>0 student bedrooms completed in 2020/21.</p> <p>0 student bedrooms completed in 2019/20.</p> <p>0 student bedrooms completed in 2017/18.</p> <p>325 student bedrooms completed in 2016/17 on Lot 5.</p> <p>Overall 325 student bedrooms completed.</p>

Indicator no.	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NWC01	number of housing completions	CORE	N/A	<p>30 units completed in 2020/21 at M1 &amp; M2</p> <p>22 units completed in 2019/20 at M1 &amp; M2</p> <p>373 units completed in the 2018/19 at M1 &amp; M2 (109 units) and Lot 2 (264 units).</p> <p>352 units completed in the 2017/18 monitoring year at M1 &amp; M2 (3 units), Lot 1 (117 units) and Lot 3 (232 units).</p> <p>73 units completed in the 2016/17 monitoring year at Lot 8.</p> <p>Overall 850 units completed.</p>

Indicator no.	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NWC02	housing density	CORE	At least 50 dwellings per hectare average net density.	<p>Density of 28 dph achieved in 2020/21, on M1.</p> <p>No parcels completed in 2019/20.</p> <p>Density of 194 dph achieved in 2018/19, on Lot 2.</p> <p>Density of 160 dph achieved in 2017/18, on Lots 1 &amp; 3.</p> <p>Density of 152 dph achieved in 2016/17, on Lot 8.</p> <p>Overall density of 160 dph achieved so far.</p>

Indicator no.	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NWC03	% affordable housing	CORE	At least 50% affordable housing must be provided to meet the needs of Cambridge University and College Key Workers	<p>No affordable units completed in 2020/21.</p> <p>No affordable units completed in 2019/20.</p> <p>264 affordable units completed in the 2018/19 monitoring at Lot 2.</p> <p>349 affordable units completed in the 2017/18 monitoring year at Lot 1 (117 units) and Lot 3 (232 units).</p> <p>73 units completed in the 2016/17 monitoring year at Lot 8.</p> <p>Overall 686 affordable units completed.</p>
NWC04	employment land supply by type	CORE	(1) 100,000m2 of employment and academic development; (2) Approximately 60,000m2 of higher education uses, including academic faculty development and a University Conference Centre, within Use Class D1.	No completions from these uses at 31 March 2021.

Indicator no.	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NWC05	employment uses in local centre	CORE	100% of completed development for B1 uses in the local Centre in units not exceeding 300 m2.	No completions in 2020/21.  No completions in 2019/20.  200 sqm of B1a completed at Lot 1 in 2017/18.
NWC06	distance to public transport	LOCAL	Majority of development within 400m of a bus stop.	It is not possible to monitor this indicator until the development has completed.
NWC07	amount of completed non-residential development which complies with parking standards	CORE	Car parking standards are set out in Appendices 1 and 2.	Data unavailable.
NWC08	public open space and recreation facilities	LOCAL	Standards for provision of public open space and recreation facilities are set out in Appendix 3. Protection of Traveller's Rest Pit SSSI and surrounding geodiversity.	It is not possible to monitor this indicator until the development has completed.

Indicator no.	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NWC09	amount of development in line with the code for sustainable homes	LOCAL	Amount of residential development designed in line with the Code for Sustainable Homes: (1) Percentage approved on or before 31 March 2013 designed to meet Code level 4 or higher, up to a maximum of 50 dwellings; (2) Percentage approved after 1 April 2013, designed to Code level 5 or higher. Amount of non-residential development designed in line with BREEAM: (1) Percentage approved designed to "Excellent" standards.	Data unavailable – The code for sustainable homes has now been superseded.
NWC09	Percentage approved on or before 31 March 2013 designed to meet Code level 4 or higher, up to a maximum of 50 dwellings	LOCAL	N/A	Data unavailable.
NWC09	Percentage approved after 1 April 2013, designed to Code level 5 or higher	LOCAL	N/A	Data unavailable.

Indicator no.	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NWC09	Amount of non-residential development designed in line with BREEAM:	LOCAL	N/A	Data unavailable.
NWC10	Percentage approved designed to "Excellent" standards.	CORE	(1) Percentage of the non-residential development and student accommodation energy requirements provided by renewable energy (at least 20% required if renewable CHP is not viable); (2) Percentage of the development served by a CHP plant or a District Heating Scheme fuelled by renewable energy sources.	Data unavailable.
NWC10	Distance to public transport	CORE	N/A	Data unavailable.
NWC10	Percentage of the development served by a CHP plant or a District Heating Scheme fuelled by renewable energy sources.	CORE	N/A	Data unavailable.

Indicator no.	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NWC11	Percentage of residential development approved on or before 31 March 2013 which reduces water consumption by 30%, based on 2006 per capita levels; and	LOCAL	1) Percentage of residential development approved on or before 31 March 2013 which reduces water consumption by 30%, based on 2006 per capita levels; and (2) Percentage of residential development approved after 1 April 2013, which reduces water consumption by 47% based on 2006 per capita levels.	Data unavailable.
NWC11	Percentage of residential development approved after 1 April 2013, which reduces water consumption by 47% based on 2006 per capita levels.	LOCAL	N/A	Data unavailable.
NWC12	S106 moneys secured for infrastructure and community facilities	CORE	Trigger points set out in S106 agreements or planning obligations.	See Tables 130 & 131 in Appendix 2.



## North West Cambridge AAP Sustainability Appraisal

Indicator description	Indicator type	Meeting target
Total deliverable amount of affordable housing Occupancy rates of affordable housing (key worker)	Significant effects indicators	See Indicator NWC03. Occupancy rate data unavailable but may be possible to monitor once the development is complete.
Occupancy rates	Significant effects indicators	Data unavailable.
Average house prices	Significant effects indicators	In September 2020 the average house price for Cambridge was £430,000 and for South Cambridgeshire was £375,000.
No of journeys by (i) type and (ii) mode	Significant effects indicators	Data unavailable.
No of jobs on site	Significant effects indicators	Data unavailable.
type of jobs on site	Significant effects indicators	Data unavailable.
Nox levels	Significant effects indicators	Below annual objective in all measuring points in South Cambridgeshire.
PM levels	Significant effects indicators	Below 50µg/m <sup>3</sup> in all measuring points in South Cambridgeshire.
Incidents of flooding	Significant effects indicators	Data unavailable.
no of buildings achieving the required levels of building sustainability	Significant effects indicators	Data unavailable.

Indicator description	Indicator type	Meeting target
Per capita water consumption	Significant effects indicators	Development at North West Cambridge was conditioned to achieve 80L per person per day.

## Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP

Indicator no	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
CSF01	Total Housing Completions / Annual Rate	core	At least 600 dwellings in South Cambridgeshire.	<p>In 2020/21 the following dwellings were completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 99 at Clay Farm</li> <li>• 128 at Trumpington Meadows</li> </ul> <p>Since 2011/12 the following dwellings have been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,136 at Clay Farm</li> <li>• 1,016 at Trumpington Meadows</li> <li>• 270 at Bell School</li> </ul>
CSF02	Housing Density	core	At least 50 dwellings per hectare.	Average density in Trumpington Meadows of 98.0 in 2020/21. The overall density over the plan period so far (2011-2021) is above the target at 54.3.
CSF03	Housing Mix	core	<p>1) At least 50% of homes with 1 or 2 bedrooms</p> <p>2) Approximately 25% of homes with 3 bedrooms</p> <p>3) Approximately 25% of homes with 4 or more bedrooms.</p>	<p>In 2020/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% of units were 1 &amp; 2 bedrooms</li> <li>• 21% were 3 bedrooms</li> <li>• 14% were 4 bedrooms</li> </ul> <p>For the whole plan period (2011-2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 61% were 1 &amp; 2 bedrooms</li> <li>• 18% were 3 bedrooms</li> <li>• 21% were 4 bedrooms</li> </ul>

Indicator no	Indicator	Type of indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
CSF04	Employment Land supply by type	core	Cambridge Southern Fringe will need to provide small scale local employment, as part of a development with an appropriate mix of uses.	The Local Centre was completed in 2017/18 providing D1, A2, A3 and retail uses.
CSF05	Distance to public transport	Local	All development within 600m of a stop on dedicated local Busway or 400m of other local bus stops.	It is not possible to monitor this indicator until the development has completed.
CSF06	Distance to public open space	Local	Formal sports pitches within 1000m; No home more than 100m from a LAP; No home more than 240m from a LEAP; No home more than 600m from a NEAP or SIP.	It is not possible to monitor this indicator until the development has completed.

## Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP Sustainability Appraisal

Indicator	Type	Threshold	Meeting target
Brownfield land stock	Important local context indicator	Dynamic, depends on consumption of existing stock and future needs.	Data unavailable.
Housing completed on brownfield land in last year	Important local output indicator	37% (Structure Plan target). Also 42% - suggests brownfield stock is being used to quickly.	No dwellings were built on brown field sites in Trumpington Meadows in 2020/21.
Hectarage of employment land completed on brownfield land in last year	important local output indicator	Dynamic, depends on consumption of existing stock and future needs.	No B1-B8 employment land completed at Trumpington Meadows.
Gas consumption (KwH) per home per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	Any increase (since this suggests adverse trend on a wide scale).	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
Electricity consumption (KwH) per home per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	Any increase (since this suggests adverse trend on a wide scale)	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
% of new homes achieving the EcoHomes 'good' standard	important local output indicator	75%?	Data unavailable.
Water consumption per household per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	75%?	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
% of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	Local context indicator	Any reversal in improvement rate shown in recent years (review once achievement is over 90%?).	92% in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Meeting target</b>
Achievement of BAP targets for habitats & species	Local output indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
% of rights of way open and in good condition	Local output indicator	Initially at least 65%, but should be increased over time.	Data unavailable.
Levels of usage of rights of way and other sites	Local output indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
% of listed buildings at risk	Local context indicator (proxy for development pressure)	To be determined.	0.3% in South Cambridgeshire in 2020/21.
% of developments in or within 400m of a conservation area, SMR or similar	Local context indicator (proxy for development pressure)	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
Satisfaction with quality of the built environment	Local output indicator	75% satisfaction 20% concern with deterioration.	Data unavailable.
CO2 emissions per dwelling / year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined.	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
Background NO2/NOx levels	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	40g/m3.	Data at monitoring points around Greater Cambridge level provided in Appendix 2.
Background PM levels	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	40g/m3 to end 2005 then 20g/m3.	Data at monitoring points around Greater Cambridge level provided in Appendix 2.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Meeting target</b>
% of main water courses in good or fair quality	local context indicator	–	High 0%, Good 0%, Moderate 89%, Poor 11% and Bad 0%.
Number of substantiated public complaints about odours, noise, light and other problems	local context indicator	–	Data unavailable and indicator not monitored.
Household waste collected per household / year	Local output indicator	To be determined (based on BVPI target).	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
% household waste from which value is recovered	Local output indicator	40% (2005).	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
Number of properties at risk from flooding	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	to be determined.	Data unavailable.
Life expectancy at birth	local context indicator	Any reduction.	See Table 116 of Appendix 2.
Exercise levels	local context indicator	to be determined.	See Table 117 of Appendix 2.
Number of people commuting on foot or cycle	local context indicator	To be determined, though should be at least 30% for travel plans.	Data unavailable.
Recorded crimes per 1000 people	local context indicator	any increase?	See Table 118 of Appendix 2.
% of residents feeling safe or fairly safe after dark	local context indicator	Any reduction.	Data unavailable.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Meeting target</b>
Hectarage of strategic open space	Local output indicator	To be determined (not clear what national targets exist at present).	Data unavailable.
% of population in categories 1-3 for access to a range of basic amenities	Local output indicator	Any reduction, and any failure to meet spatial targets in AAPs (for example, policies NS/6 & NS/8 in Northstowe AAP).	Data unavailable.
Available capacity in local primary and secondary schools	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined based on discussions with Education Authority.	Data unavailable.
% of residents who feel their local neighbourhood is harmonious	Local output indicator	Any reduction.	Data unavailable.
House price / earnings ratio	significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined, but initially set at 5 as indicative of wider national conditions.	See Table 12 of Appendix 2.
% of homes judged unfit to inhabit or of sub-standard quality	significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
House completions available under 'affordable' funding / tenancy	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	50% (or target in Development Control Policies if this changes).	Between 2011/12 and 2020/21 there have been a total of 2,172 affordable completions in South Cambridgeshire and 2,755 in Cambridge.



<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Meeting target</b>
% of adults who feel they can influence decisions	local context indicator	to be determined.	Data unavailable.
Usage levels for community facilities in new development	Local output indicator	to be determined.	Data unavailable.
Unemployment level	Local output indicator	0.5% increase in any 12-month period.	See Tables 61 and 62 of Appendix 2.
% of economically active residents working within 5kms of home	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	Reduction below 35%.	The 2011 census data shows that 35% of South Cambridgeshire residents work within 5km of home or at home.
% of pupils achieving 5 or more A* to C GCSE grades	local context indicator	To be determined (through discussion with Education Authority).	See Tables 121a-118c in Appendix 2. However, data for 2020/21 is not comparable with previous years due to Coronavirus pandemic impact on exams.
Level or value of developer contributions in the current year	Local output indicator	to be determined.	Data unavailable for 2020/21 but historic data available in Table 127 of Appendix 2.
Net annual growth in VAT registered firms	local context indicator	Shrinkage of >0.1% in the year.	See Table 65 in Appendix 2.
Economic activity rate	local context indicator	Change of -2% or more.	See Table 64 in Appendix 2.

Indicator	Type	Threshold	Meeting target
Sectoral split of employment	Local output indicator	To be determined (threshold needs to reflect shifts in sectoral balances).	See Table 60 in Appendix 2.

## Northstowe AAP

Indicator number	Indicator	Type of Indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NS01	Total Housing Completions / Annual Rate	Core	4,800 by 2016 / 650 per year	258 dwellings completed in the 2020/21 monitoring year. 713 dwellings completed 2016/17 to 2020/21.
NS02	Housing Density	Core	–	3 parcels (402 dwellings) were completed in 2020/21 at an average density of 32.9 dph. The overall density for completed parcels to date is 34.6 dph.
NS03	Housing Mix	Core	1) 25% to 30% of homes with 1 or 2 bedrooms 2) In the range of 35% to 40% of home with 3 bedrooms 3) In the range of 30% to 35% of homes with 4 or more bedrooms.	In 2020/21 1&2 bedrooms = 34% 3 bedrooms = 48% 4 bedrooms = 18%  In 2011/12 2020/21 1&2 bedrooms = 29% 3 bedrooms = 45% 4 bedrooms = 26%.
NS04	Employment Land Supply by type	Core	Provide for approximately 20 hectares of employment land over the AAP period.	No employment land delivered yet at Northstowe.

Indicator number	Indicator	Type of Indicator	Targets	Meeting target?
NS05	Distance to Public Transport	Local	All development within 600m of a stop on dedicated local busway or 400m of other local bus stops.	It is not possible to monitor this indicator until the development has completed.
NS06	Distance to public Open Space	Local	Formal sports pitches within 1,000m; No home more than a 1 minute walk (i.e. 100m actual walking distance) from a Local Area for Play (LAP); No home more than a 5 minute walk (i.e. 400m actual walking distance) from a Local quipped Area for Play (LEAP); No home more than a 15 minute walk (i.e. 1,000m actual walking distance) from a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) or Space for Imaginative Play (SIP).	It is not possible to monitor this indicator until the development has completed.

## Northstowe AAP Sustainability Appraisal

Indicator	Type	Threshold	Meeting target?
Brownfield land stock	Important local context indicator	Dynamic, depends on consumption of existing stock and future needs	Data unavailable
Housing completed on brownfield land in last year	Important local output indicator	37% (Structure Plan target). Also 42% - suggests brownfield stock is being used to quickly.	All homes completed at Northstowe so far have been on greenfield land.
Hectarage of employment land completed on brownfield land in last year	Local output indicator	Dynamic, depends on existing stock and future needs (see above).	No employment land delivered yet at Northstowe.
Gas consumption (KwH) per home per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	Any increase (since this suggests adverse trend on a wide scale).	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
Electricity Consumption (KwH) per home per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	Any increase (since this suggests adverse trend on a wide scale).	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
% of new homes achieving the EcoHomes 'good' standard	Important local output indicator	75%?	Data unavailable.
Water consumption per household per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	As above.	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.

Indicator	Type	Threshold	Meeting target?
% of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	Local context indicator	% of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable condition in recent years (review once achievement is over 90%?).	92% in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition.
Achievement of BAP targets for habitats & species	Local output indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
% of rights of way open and in good condition	Local output indicator	Initially at least 65%, but should be increased over time.	Data unavailable.
Levels of usage of rights of way and other sites	Local output indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
% of listed buildings at risk	Local context indicator (proxy for development pressure)	To be determined.	0.3% in South Cambridgeshire in 2020/21.
% of developments in or within 400m of a conservation area, SMR or similar	Local context indicator (proxy for development pressure)	To be determined.	Data unavailable
Satisfaction with quality of the built environment	Local output indicator	75% satisfaction.	Data unavailable.
CO2 emissions per dwelling / year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined.	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
Background NO <sub>2</sub> /NO <sub>x</sub> levels	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	40 < g/m <sup>3</sup> .	Data at district level for monitoring locations around Greater Cambridge provided in Appendix 2.

Indicator	Type	Threshold	Meeting target?
Background PM <sub>10</sub> levels	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	40< g/m <sup>3</sup> to end 2005 then 20< g/m <sup>3</sup> .	Data at district level for monitoring locations around Greater Cambridge provided in Appendix 2.
Number of substantiated public complaints about odours, noise, light and other problems	Local context indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
Household waste collected per household per year	Local output indicator	To be determined (based on BVPI target).	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
% household waste from which value is recovered	Local output indicator	40% (2005)	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
Number of properties at risk from flooding	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
Life expectancy at birth	Local context indicator	Any reduction.	See Table 116 in Appendix 2.
Exercise levels	Local output indicator	To be determined.	See Table 117 in Appendix 2.
Number of people commuting on foot or cycle	Local output indicator	To be determined, though should be at least 30% for new development.	Data unavailable.
Recorded crimes per 1000 people	Local context indicator	Any increase (?).	See Table 118 in Appendix 2.
% of residents feeling safe or fairly safe after dark	Local context indicator	Any reduction.	Data unavailable.
Hectarage of strategic open space	Local output indicator	To be determined (not clear what national targets exist at present).	Data unavailable.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Meeting target?</b>
% of population in categories 1-3 for access to a range of basic amenities	Local output indicator	Any reduction, and any failure to meet spatial targets in AAPs (e.g. policies NS/6 & NS/8 in Northstowe AAP).	Data unavailable.
Available capacity in local primary and secondary schools	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined based on discussions with ed. authority	Data unavailable.
% of residents who feel their local neighbourhood is harmonious	Local output indicator	Any reduction.	Data unavailable.
House price / earnings ratio	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined, but initially set at 5 as indicative of wider national conditions.	See Table 12 in Appendix 2.
% of homes judged unfit to inhabit or of sub-standard quality	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
House completions available under 'affordable' funding / tenancy	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	50% (or target in Core Strategy if this changes).	Between 2011/12 and 2020/21 there 194 affordable completions in Northstowe. This was 21% of total completions.
% of adults who feel they can influence decisions	Local context indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.
Usage levels for community facilities in new development	Local output indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable.



<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Meeting target?</b>
Unemployment level	Local output indicator	+0.5% increase in any 12-month period.	See Table 62 in Appendix 2.
% of economically active residents working within 5kms of home	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	Reduction below 35%.	The most recent data is from 2011 when 35% of South Cambridgeshire residents worked within 5km of home.
% of pupils achieving 5 or more A* to C GCSE grades	Local context indicator	To be determined (through discussion with education authority).	See Tables 121a-121c in Appendix 2. However, data for 2020/21 not comparable with previous years due to Coronavirus pandemic impact on exams.
Level or value of developer contributions in the current year	Local output indicator	To be determined.	See Tables 128 & 129 of Appendix 2.
Net annual growth in VAT registered firms	Local context indicator	Shrinkage of >0.1% in the year.	See Table 65 in Appendix 2.
Economic activity rate	Local context indicator	Change of – 2% or more.	See Table 64 in Appendix 2.
Sectoral split of employment	Local output indicator	To be determined (threshold needs to reflect shifts in sectoral balances).	See Table 60 of Appendix 2.

## Cambridge East AAP

Indicator No.	Indicator	Related policies	Targets	Meeting Targets
CE01	total housing completions	CE/7	CE03	67 dwellings completed in 2020/21.
CE02	density	CE/7	At least 50 dwellings per hectare.	No parcels completed to date.
CE03	housing mix	CE/7	No specific target - Cambridge East should provide a mix of housing sizes that address the level of need for smaller 1 and 2 bedroom homes in the Cambridge area whilst at the same time creating a balanced community for the long term.	In 2020/21 1&2 bedrooms = 31% 3 bedrooms = 28% 4 bedrooms = 40%
CE04	amount of/type of employment land completions	CE/8	Equivalent of 20-25 hectares of employment.	No employment land completed to date.
CE05	Distance to public transport	CE/11	All development within 600m of a stop on dedicated local busway or 400m of other local bus stops. The Total housing completions and annual rate of completions for Cambridge East will be monitored	N/A

Indicator No.	Indicator	Related policies	Targets	Meeting Targets
			through the Cambridge East housing trajectory.	
CE06	Distance to protected open space	CE/20	Formal sports pitches within 15 minutes walk; No home more than one minute's walk (i.e. 100m actual walk distance) from a LAP; no home more than five minutes walk (i.e. 400m actual walk distance) from a LEAP; no home more than 15 minutes walk (i.e. 1,000m actual walk distance) from a NEAP or SIP.	N/A
CE07	renewable energy installed by type	CE/24	Renewable energy to provide at least 10% of predicted energy requirements.	N/A
CE08	Infrastructure secured through S106	CE/9	Targets to be detailed through s.106 agreement or planning obligations.	See Tables 132 & 133 in Appendix 2.

The first completions at Cambridge East – Land north of Newmarket Road occurred in 2020/21. Cambridge East – Land north of Cherry Hinton is still going through the planning process. A Planning Performance Agreement is currently being negotiated for infrastructure matters with a reserved matters application expected in 2022. This means that a reserved matters application for phases 1 and 2 will follow later in the year with construction likely to start late in 2022 or 2023. Therefore, most of the indicators are not yet capable of being monitored. More indicators will be monitored in future years as the development progresses.

## Cambridge East AAP Sustainability Appraisal

Indicator	Type	Threshold	Meeting Target?
Brownfield Land stock	important local context indicator	Dynamic, depends on consumption of existing stock and future needs.	Not monitoring
housing completed on brownfield land in last year	important local output indicator	SCDC 37% (Structure Plan target). Also 42% - suggests brownfield stock is being used to quickly CCC 60% target by 2004/5.	There have been no completions on brownfield land to date.
hectarage of employment land completed on brownfield land in last year	Local output indicator	Dynamic, depends on existing stock and future needs.	There have been no employment land completions to date.
Gas consumption per home per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	Any increase (since this suggests adverse trend on a wide scale).	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
electricity consumption (KwH) per home per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	Any increase (since this suggests adverse trend on a wide scale).	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
% of new homes achieving the EcoHomes 'Good' standard	important local output indicator	75%?	N/A

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Meeting Target?</b>
Water consumption per household per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	75%?	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
% of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	Local context indicator	Any reversal in improvement rate shown in recent years (review once achievement rate is over 90%).	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
Achievement of BAP targets for habitats & species	Local output indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable
% of rights of way open and in good condition	Local output indicator	Initially at least 65% but should be increased over time.	Data unavailable
Levels of usage of rights of way and other sites	Local output indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable
% of Listed Buildings at risk	Local context indicator (proxy for development pressure)	To be determined.	Not monitoring
% of Developments in or within 400m of a conservation area, SMR or similar	Local context indicator (proxy for development pressure)	To be determined.	Data unavailable
Satisfaction with the quality of the build environment	Local output indicator	SCDC 75% satisfaction 20% concern deterioration CCC not known.	Not monitoring
CO2 emissions per dwelling per year	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined.	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.

Indicator	Type	Threshold	Meeting Target?
Background No2 / Nox levels	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	SCDC 40 g/m3 CCC not known.	Data at district level from monitoring locations around Greater Cambridge provided in Appendix 2.
Background PM10 levels	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	SCDC 40A/m3 to end of 2005 then 20g/m3 CCC Not known.	Data at district level from monitoring locations around Greater Cambridge provided in Appendix 2.
% of main water courses in good or fair quality	local context indicator	SCDC 94% CCC Not known.	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
No. substantiated public complaints about odours, noise, light and other problems	Local context indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable
Household waste collected per household per year	Local output indicator	SCDC To be determined (based on BVPI target) CCC 460 kg by 2006/7.	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
% household waste from which value is recovered	Local output indicator	SCDC 40% (2005) CCC Not known.	Data at district level provided in Appendix 2.
No. of properties at risk from flooding	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined.	Data unavailable
Life expectancy at birth	Local context indicator	Any reduction.	Data at District level - see Table 116 in Appendix 2.
Exercise levels	Local output indicator	To be determined.	Data at District level - see Table 117 in Appendix 2.
No of people commuting on foot or cycle	Local output indicator	To be determined, though should be at least 30% for new development.	Data unavailable

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Meeting Target?</b>
Recorded crimes per 100 people	Local context indicator	Any increase?	Data at District level - see Table 118 in Appendix 2.
% of residents feeling safe or fairly safe after dark	Local context indicator	Any reduction.	Not monitoring
Hectarage of strategic open space	Local output indicator	To be determined (not clear what national targets exist at present).	N/A
% of population in categories 1-3 for access to a range of basic amenities	Local output indicator	Any reduction and any failure to meet spatial targets in aps.	Not monitoring
Available capacity in local primary and secondary schools	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	to be determined based on discussions with the education authority.	Not monitoring
% of residents who feel their local neighbourhood is harmonious	Local output indicator	any reduction.	Not monitoring
House price / earnings ratio	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	To be determined, but initially set at 5 as indicative of wider national conditions.	Data at District level - see Table 12 in Appendix 2.
% of homes judged unfit to inhabit or of sub-standard quality	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	to be determined.	Not monitoring
House completions available under 'affordable' funding / tenancy	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	SCDC 50% (or target in Development Control Policies) CCC 40%.	14 affordable dwellings completed in 2020/21.



Indicator	Type	Threshold	Meeting Target?
% of adults who feel they can influence decisions	Local context indicator	to be determined.	Not monitoring
Usage levels for community facilities in new development	Local output indicator	to be determined.	Not monitoring
unemployment level	Local output indicator	0.5% increase in any 12-month period.	Data at District level - see Table 62 in Appendix 2.
% of economically active residents working within 5km of home	Significant (adverse) impact indicator	SCDC Reduction below 35% CCC Not known.	Not monitoring
% of pupils achieving 5 or more A* to C GCSE grades	Local context indicator	to be determined (early discussions with education authority).	Measured at district level
Level or value of developer contributions in the current year	Local output indicator	to be determined.	See Tables 132 & 133 in Appendix 2.
Net annual growth in VAT registered firms	Local context indicator	SCDC Shrinkage of >0.1% in the year CCC Not known.	Data at District level - see Table 65 in Appendix 2.
Economic activity rate	Local context indicator	Change of -2% or more.	Data at District level - see Table 64 in Appendix 2.
Sectoral split of employment	Local output indicator	To be determined.	Data at District level - see Table 60 in Appendix 2.

The first completions at Cambridge East – Land north of Newmarket Road occurred in 2020/21. Cambridge East – Land north of Cherry Hinton is still going through the planning process. A Planning Performance Agreement is currently being negotiated for infrastructure matters with a reserved matters application expected in 2022. This means that a reserved matters application for phases 1 and 2 will follow later in the year with construction likely to start late in 2022 or 2023. Therefore, most of the

indicators are not yet capable of being monitored. More indicators will be monitored in future years as the development progresses.

# Appendix 2: Tables and Charts

## Housing data

Total housing completions annually and for the plan period in Greater Cambridge

Area/Tenure	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
<b>Cambridge – Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>1322</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>7,806</b>
Market	295	417	900	523	596	725	445	523	261	366	5,051
Affordable	60	56	422	197	300	458	667	345	199	51	2,755
<b>South Cambridgeshire - Total</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>8,308</b>
Market	525	486	481	539	550	435	557	811	728	1,024	6,136
Affordable	168	69	150	329	129	116	180	341	379	311	2,172
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>1,953</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>1,849</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>16,114</b>
Market Total	820	903	1,381	1,062	1,146	1,160	1,002	1,334	989	1,390	11,187
Affordable Total	228	125	572	526	429	574	847	686	578	362	4,927

Table 1– Total (net) housing completions in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire over the plan period so far (2011-2021)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Total housing completions by settlement hierarchy

Area	Cambridge	South Cambridgeshire	Total
Cambridge Urban Area	3,525	292	3,817
Edge of Cambridge	4,272	670	4,942
New Settlement	N/A	935	935
Rural Centre	N/A	1,756	1,756
Minor Rural Centre	N/A	1,078	1,078
Group Village	N/A	715	715
Infill Village	N/A	209	209
Countryside - Local Plan allocation	N/A	402	402
Countryside - rural exception site	N/A	344	344
Countryside	9	575	584
Countryside - five year supply site <sup>1</sup>	N/A	1,332	1,332
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,806</b>	<b>8,308</b>	<b>16,114</b>

Table 2 – Total (net) housing completions by settlement hierarchy for the plan period 2011-2021

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Total housing completions

### Northstowe

Area	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Total
Northstowe	13	140	278	246	258	935

Table 3 – Total housing completions at Northstowe

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

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<sup>1</sup> 'Five Year Supply' sites: these were planning applications that were permitted as a departure to the development plan while South Cambridgeshire District Council was unable to demonstrate a five year housing land supply. This does not include planning applications that would have normally been permitted as a departure to the development plan.

### North West Cambridge

Site	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Lots M1 and M2	0	3	109	22	30	164
Lot 1	0	117	0	0	0	117
Lot 2	0	0	264	0	0	264
Lot 3	0	232	0	0	0	232
Lot 8	73	0	0	0	0	73
Total	73	352	373	22	30	850

Table 4 – Total housing completions at North West Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Cambridge Southern Fringe

Site	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Clay Farm	0	16	271	393	149	467	539	109	93	99	2,136
Trumpington Meadows	2	141	141	67	105	89	123	148	72	128	1,016
Bell School	0	0	0	0	21	122	45	50	32	0	270

Table 5 – Total housing completions at Cambridge Southern Fringe

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Total student housing in Cambridge

### Completions by bedroom

Net/ gross	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Gross	32	868	245	710	790	1,085	78	552	349	124	4,709
Net	26	860	233	675	784	1,085	-17	552	278	100	4,376

Table 6 – Number of student housing completions (by bedroom) in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Committed student rooms at 31 March 2021

Area	Gross	Net
Cambridge	1,029	1,028

Table 7 – Committed Student Rooms at 31 March 2021

Note: Commitments include two allocations which together include 470 student rooms

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Affordable housing completions:

### Total affordable housing completions

Area	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Cambridge	60	56	422	197	300	458	667	345	199	<b>51</b>	<b>2,556</b>
South Cambridgeshire	168	69	150	329	129	116	180	341	379	<b>311</b>	<b>1,793</b>
Total	228	125	572	526	429	574	847	686	578	362	4,349

Table 8 – Total Affordable housing completions

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

Total affordable housing completions as a percentage of all completions

Area	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Cambridge	16%	12%	32%	27%	33%	39%	60%	40%	43%	12%	35%
South Cambridgeshire	24%	12%	24%	40%	19%	21%	24%	30%	34%	23%	26%
Greater Cambridge	22%	12%	29%	33%	27%	33%	46%	34%	37%	21%	31%

Table 9 – Affordable housing completions as a percentage of all completions

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

Total affordable housing completions on rural exception sites

Area	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
South Cambridgeshire	88	13	72	23	28	35	0	34	39	7	339

Table 10 – Affordable housing completions on Rural Exception Sites

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council



### Total affordable housing completions by type - Cambridge City

Year	Intermediate	Key worker	Local Authority	Social rented	Other	Total
2020-2021	33	0	14	4	0	51
2019-2020	55	0	7	137	0	199
2018-2019	28	264	0	53	0	345
2017-2018	165	369	2	152	-10	667
2016-2017	125	74	0	259	0	458
2015-2016	129	0	0	169	2	300
2014-2015	113	0	-10	94	0	197
2013-2014	216	0	0	206	0	422
2012-2013	87	0	-29	-2	0	56
2011-2012	20	0	6	34	0	60

Table 11 – Affordable housing completions by type - Cambridge City

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## House prices and earnings

### House price to earnings ratio

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cambridge	8.69	9.33	9.64	10.82	12.30	13.38	13.33	13.04	12.69	12.35
South Cambridgeshire	7.58	7.42	7.14	7.76	9.66	9.46	10.30	9.73	9.09	9.68

Table 12 – Ratio of median house price (existing dwellings) to median gross annual (where available) residence-based earnings by local authority district, England and Wales, 2011 to 2020

Source: ONS, release date 25 March 2021

### Median gross annual residence based earnings (£)

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cambridge	29,434	29,490	31,109	31,430	31,345	31,014	32,247	32,980	34,275	34,827
South Cambridgeshire	31,353	32,770	34,307	33,508	31,567	35,425	35,432	37,414	40,052	38,726

Table 13 – Median gross annual (where available) residence-based earnings by local authority district, England and Wales, 2011 to 2020 (£)

Source: ONS, release date 25 March 2021 (Earnings data are taken from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings release)

### Median house prices (£)

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cambridge	255,750	275,000	300,000	340,000	385,500	415,000	430,000	430,000	435,000	430,000
South Cambridgeshire	237,500	243,000	245,000	260,000	304,995	335,159	365,000	364,000	364,070	375,000

Table 14 – Median house price by local authority district, England and Wales, year ending September 2011 to year ending September 2020 (£)

Source: ONS, Release date 25 March 2021 (House price data are part of the House Price Statistics for Small Areas (HPSSAs) release)

## Affordable housing policy

### Affordable Housing permissions in South Cambridgeshire as a percentage of all eligible permissions

(A)	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Affordable dwellings permitted as a % of all dwellings completed on sites where policy HG/3 is applicable	40%	39%	37%	23%	38%	41%

Table 15 – Affordable Housing permissions in South Cambridgeshire as a percentage of all eligible permissions where Policy HG/3 of the Development Control Policies DPD (2007) was applicable

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

(B)	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Affordable dwellings permitted as a % of all dwellings permitted on sites where the affordable housing policy of Local Plan is applicable (Policy H/10)	33%	33%	32%	29%

Table 16 – Affordable housing permissions in South Cambridgeshire as a percentage of all eligible permissions in accordance with the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) Policy H/10

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

#### NOTES:

For (A) the data includes planning permissions where Policy HG/3 of the Development Control Policies DPD (2007) applied and where the target was to achieve a 40% affordable housing contribution either onsite or offsite through a commuted sum contribution.

For (B) the data includes planning permissions where Policy H/9 of the submission version and H/10 of the adopted version (post 28 September 2018) of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan applies and where the target is to achieve a 40% affordable housing contribution either onsite or offsite through a commuted sum contribution.

In September 2018 Policy H/10 was adopted as part of the South Cambridge Local Plan (2018). In November 2018 Members agreed to require affordable housing on sites of 10 or more dwellings, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) rather than 11 or more dwellings as set out in the submission version of Policy H/9 and adopted version of Policy H/10. The data included for 2018/19 therefore uses two different thresholds: 11+ dwelling permitted between 1 April 2018 and 13 November 2018, and 10+ from 14 November 2018-31 March 2019

## Gypsy & Traveller community

### Caravan Count – Cambridge

Year	Month	Social rented	Permanent Planning Permission	All Private Caravans	No. of Caravans on Sites on Gypsies own land: 'Tolerated'	No. of Caravans on Sites on Gypsies own land: 'Not tolerated'	No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Gypsies: 'Tolerated'	No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Gypsies: 'Not tolerated'	Total	Travelling Showpeople Caravans
2011	Jan	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	5	-
2011	July	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	5	-
2012	Jan	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	5	-
2013	Jan	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	4	-
2013	July	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	5	-
2014	Jan	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	4	-
2014	July	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	5	-
2015	Jan	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	4	0
2016	Jan	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-
2017	Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
2018	Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
2019	Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
2020	Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 17 – Traveller Caravan Count for Cambridge

Source: Traveller caravan count, ONS

## Caravan Count - South Cambridgeshire

Year	Month	Social rented	Temporary Planning permission	Permanent planning permission	All private caravans	No. of caravans on sites on Gypsy owned land 'Tolerated'	No. of caravans on sites on Gypsy owned land 'Not tolerated'	No of caravans on land not owned by Gypsies 'Tolerated'	No of caravans on land not owned by Gypsies 'Not tolerated'	Total	Travelling Showpeople caravans
2011	Jan	58	126	324	450	0	11	0	0	519	-
2011	July	59	108	286	394	0	4	0	0	457	-
2012	Jan	53	102	351	453	0	16	0	0	522	-
2013	Jan	44	77	357	434	0	5	0	0	483	-
2013	July	41	56	340	396	0	4	4	0	445	-
2014	Jan	44	48	412	460	0	5	0	0	509	-
2014	July	36	9	436	445	0	6	0	0	487	-
2015	Jan	32	10	410	420	0	27	0	0	479	69
2016	Jan	39	0	394	394	0	0	0	0	433	32
2016	July	43	29	340	369	0	0	0	0	412	-
2017	Jan	41	0	483	483	32	0	0	0	556	32
2017	July	46	1	504	505	37	0	0	0	588	-
2018	Jan	52	2	499	501	8	0	0	0	561	51
2018	July	43	0	583	583	0	1	0	0	627	-
2019	Jan	54	1	543	544	0	0	0	0	598	32
2019	July	47	1	573	574	0	0	0	0	621	-
2020	Jan	47	1	534	535	0	0	0	0	582	32

Table 18 – Traveller Caravan Count for South Cambridgeshire

Source: Traveller caravan count, ONS

\*The twice-yearly Traveller Caravan Count takes place in January and July, recording the number of caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. Each January count now includes a count of caravans occupied by travelling showpeople in each local authority in England. There was no Traveller Caravan Count in July 2020 and January 2021 due to Coronavirus restrictions. The Traveller Caravan Count resumed in July 2021 but no data has been published yet.



## Gypsy & Traveller pitches completed in South Cambridgeshire

### Permanent G&T Pitches

Year	Private	Public
2011-2012	10	1
2012-2013	29	0
2013-2014	54	0
2014-2015	4	0
2015-2016	5	1
2016-2017	8	0
2017-2018	0	0
2018-2019	1	0
2019-2020	0	0
2020-2021	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 19 – Gypsy & Traveller pitches completed

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### G&T Pitches for Emergency Stopping

Year	Private	Public
2011-2012	0	0
2012-2013	0	0
2013-2014	0	0
2014-2015	0	0
2015-2016	0	0
2016-2017	0	0
2017-2018	0	0
2018-2019	0	0
2019-2020	0	0
2020-2021	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 20 – Gypsy & Traveller pitches completed

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Permanent Travelling Showpeople Plots

Year	Private	Public
2011-2012	0	0
2012-2013	0	0
2013-2014	0	0
2014-2015	6	0
2015-2016	0	0
2016-2017	0	0
2017-2018	4	0
2018-2019	0	0
2019-2020	0	0
2020-2021	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 21 – Gypsy & Traveller pitches completed

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Brownfield development

### Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land in South Cambridgeshire

Area	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
South Cambridgeshire	27.6	14.6	44.1	31.8	35.8	27.8	25.0	22.1	19.1	14.2

Table 22 – Percentage of new and converted dwellings completed on previously developed land in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Housing completions on garden land in Cambridge

Area	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Total
Cambridge	13	13	19	23	34	21	39	18	17	11	208

Table 23 – Housing completions on garden land in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Housing densities

### Average density in South Cambridgeshire

Year	Density
2011-2012	35.8
2012-2013	29.1
2013-2014	29.9
2014-2015	40.3
2015-2016	30.1
2016-2017	32.2
2017-2018	45.1
2018-2019	42.5
2019-2020	31.9
2020-2021	37.3
<b>2011/12-2020/21</b>	<b>34.3</b>

Table 24 – Average Density in South Cambridgeshire, 2011/12-2020/21 (Dwellings per hectare on completed sites of more than nine dwellings)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Average density in Cambridge

Year	Density
2011-2012	94.1
2012-2013	194.4
2013-2014	91.7
2014-2015	81.5
2015-2016	67.0
2016-2017	78.8
2017-2018	74.3
2018-2019	90.8
2019-2020	55.6
2020-2021	69.8
<b>2011/12-2020/21</b>	<b>73.5</b>

Table 25 – Average Density in Cambridge, 2011/12-2020/21 (Dwellings per hectare on completed sites of more than nine dwellings)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Average densities by settlement category in South Cambridgeshire

Year	Urban Extension (within SC)	New Settlement	Rural Centre	Minor Rural Centre	Group Village	Infill Village	Countryside
2011/12	62.9	N/A	28.9	42.6	32.5	28.1	N/A
2012/13	27.6	N/A	35.9	35.9	19.8	N/A	N/A
2013/14	20.9	N/A	39.8	22.1	30.2	18.3	33.5
2014/15	76.0	N/A	41.1	41.2	22.1	N/A	N/A
2015/16	N/A	N/A	28.0	33.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016/17	50.7	N/A	29.2	28.1	31.8	25	N/A
2017/18	59.1	N/A	98.3	37.0	23.9	N/A	12.8
2018/19	90.3	35.8	40.3	41.2	29.2	N/A	116.7
2019/20	N/A	43.0	32.9	26.8	32.9	N/A	31.4
2020/21	62.3	32.9	53.4	34.6	27.4	n/a	69.2
<b>2011/12-2020/21</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>33.7</b>

Table 26 – Average density by settlement category in South Cambridgeshire, 2011/12-2020/21 (Dwellings per hectare on completed sites greater than nine dwellings)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Average densities in Trumpington Meadows and Eddington

Year	Trumpington Meadows (C & SC)	Eddington (C & SC)
2011/12	N/A	N/A
2012/13	N/A	N/A
2013/14	N/A	N/A
2014/15	50	N/A
2015/16	30.5	N/A
2016/17	43.4	152.1
2017/18	59.1	160.1
2018/19	51.9	194.1
2019/20	N/A	N/A
2020/21	98.0	27.8
<b>2011/12-2020/21</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>160.0</b>

Table 27 – Average densities in Trumpington Meadows and Eddington, 2011/12-2020/21 (Dwellings per hectare on completed sites greater than nine dwellings)

Note: There were no built out sites in 2019/20

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Housing completions by number of bedrooms

### Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms (%) in South Cambridgeshire

Bedrooms	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>1 or 2 bedrooms</b>	45%	32%	39%	43%	28%	34%	40%	43%	40%	45%
<b>3 bedrooms</b>	23%	34%	27%	34%	33%	35%	33%	28%	31%	29%
<b>4 or more bedrooms</b>	31%	29%	28%	22%	37%	30%	26%	29%	28%	25%
<b>Unknown bedrooms</b>	1%	4%	6%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%

Table 28 – Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms (%) in South Cambridgeshire 2011/12-2019/20

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms in Trumpington Meadows (South Cambridgeshire only)

Bedrooms	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	202-/21	Grand Total
<b>1 bedroom</b>	8	0	0	33	2	14	20	77
<b>2 bedrooms</b>	15	0	5	58	62	38	63	241
<b>3 bedrooms</b>	6	0	16	21	13	13	27	96
<b>4 or more bedrooms</b>	0	2	41	11	29	7	18	108

Table 29 – Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms in Trumpington Meadows (South Cambridgeshire only)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms (%) in Trumpington Meadows (South Cambridgeshire only)

<b>Bedrooms</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
1 bedroom	27%	0%	0%	27%	2%	19%	16%	15%
2 bedrooms	52%	0%	8%	47%	59%	53%	49%	46%
3 bedrooms	21%	0%	26%	17%	12%	18%	21%	18%
4 or more bedrooms	0%	100%	66%	9%	27%	10%	14%	21%

Table 30 – Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms (%) in Trumpington Meadows (South Cambridgeshire only)  
 Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms in Northstowe

Bedrooms	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Grand total
1 bedroom	0	0	9	8	3	20
2 bedrooms	6	17	81	60	85	249
3 bedrooms	3	81	114	101	123	422
4 or more bedrooms	4	42	74	77	47	244

Table 31 – Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms in Northstowe

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms (%) in Northstowe

Bedrooms	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Grand total
1 bedroom	0%	0%	3%	3%	1%	2%
2 bedrooms	46%	12%	29%	24%	33%	27%
3 bedrooms	23%	58%	41%	41%	48%	45%
4 or more bedrooms	31%	30%	27%	31%	18%	26%

Table 32 – Housing completions (GROSS) by number of bedrooms (%) in Northstowe

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council



Market housing completions (GROSS) on developments of more than 10 dwellings by number of bedrooms – South Cambridgeshire

<b>Bedrooms</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
1 or 2 bedrooms	33%	40%	35%	26%	24%	21%	28%	30%	24%	36%
3 bedrooms	31%	24%	21%	33%	33%	35%	31%	33%	36%	35%
4 or more bedrooms	36%	35%	44%	40%	41%	42%	41%	37%	40%	30%
Unknown bedrooms	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 33 – Market housing completions (GROSS) on developments of more than 10 dwellings by number of bedrooms – South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Ranges of housing densities

Housing on completed sites of more than nine dwellings by range of density (%) in South Cambridgeshire

Year	<30 DPH	30-50 DPH	>50 DPH	Total completed
2011-2012	31%	37%	32%	887
2012-2013	39%	52%	10%	450
2013-2014	48%	45%	7%	488
2014-2015	4%	80%	16%	947
2015-2016	26%	74%	0%	496
2016-2017	53%	24%	24%	685
2017-2018	14%	4%	82%	266
2018-2019	3%	81%	16%	713
2019-2020	19%	81%	0%	741
2020-2021	8%	75%	17%	996
<b>2011-2021</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>6,669</b>

Table 34 – Housing on completed sites of more than nine dwellings by range of density (%) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

Housing on completed sites of more than nine dwellings by range of density (%) in Cambridge

Year	<30 DPH	30-50 DPH	>50 DPH	Total completed
2011-2012	3.5%	4.9%	91.5%	283
2012-2013	0%	0%	100%	119
2013-2014	4.1%	12%	84%	443
2014-2015	0%	19.6%	80.4%	735
2015-2016	1%	32.9%	66.2%	1,238
2016-2017	0%	41.1%	58.9%	739
2017-2018	0%	19.3%	80.7%	1,058
2018-2019	0%	4%	96%	656
2019-2020	0.0%	26.1%	73.9%	1,034
2020-2021	0.0%	7.0%	93.0%	430
<b>2011-2021</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>80.1%</b>	<b>6,732</b>

Table 35 – Housing on completed sites of more than nine dwellings by range of density (%) in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Employment data

### Number of jobs created

#### South Cambridgeshire

Jobs	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total jobs	80,000	74,000	75,000	84,000	87,000	91,000	97,000	93,000	99,000
Jobs created	-	-6,000	1,000	9,000	3,000	4,000	6,000	-4,000	6,000
Cumulative net additional jobs	-	-6,000	-5,000	4,000	7,000	11,000	17,000	13,000	19,000

Table 36 – Number of Jobs created in South Cambridgeshire

Note: The total number of jobs is a workplace-based measure and comprises employee jobs, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces.

Source: Job density data series, ONS (via Nomis)

#### Cambridge

Jobs	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total jobs	98,000	100,000	108,000	113,000	114,000	115,000	118,000	122,000	123,000
Jobs created	-	2,000	8,000	5,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	4,000	1,000
Cumulative net additional jobs	-	2,000	10,000	15,000	16,000	17,000	20,000	24,000	25,000

Table 37 – Number of Jobs created in Cambridge

Note: The total number of jobs is a workplace-based measure and comprises employee jobs, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces.

Source: Job density data series, ONS (via Nomis)

## Amount and type of completed and committed employment floorspace and land

### Gross Amount and Type of Completed Employment Floorspace (sqm)

#### Cambridge

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	0	6,193	11,845	0	348	965	19,351
2012-2013	0	11,164	0	0	69	1	11,234
2013-2014	0	5,730	0	539	2,361	1,296	9,926
2014-2015	106	1,366	2,210	123	0	2,328	6,133
2015-2016	487	17,330	6,688	3,064	261	4,511	32,341
2016-2017	0	15,490	603	1	2,343	0	18,437
2017-2018	0	75,149	24,539	0	2,869	2,787	105,344
2018-2019	0	428	79,843	0	0	886	81,157
2019-2020	16,810	539	2,554	40	0	0	19,943
2020-2021	17,245	12,589	1,115	768	84	0	31,801
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,648</b>	<b>145,977</b>	<b>129,397</b>	<b>4,535</b>	<b>8,335</b>	<b>12,774</b>	<b>335,666</b>

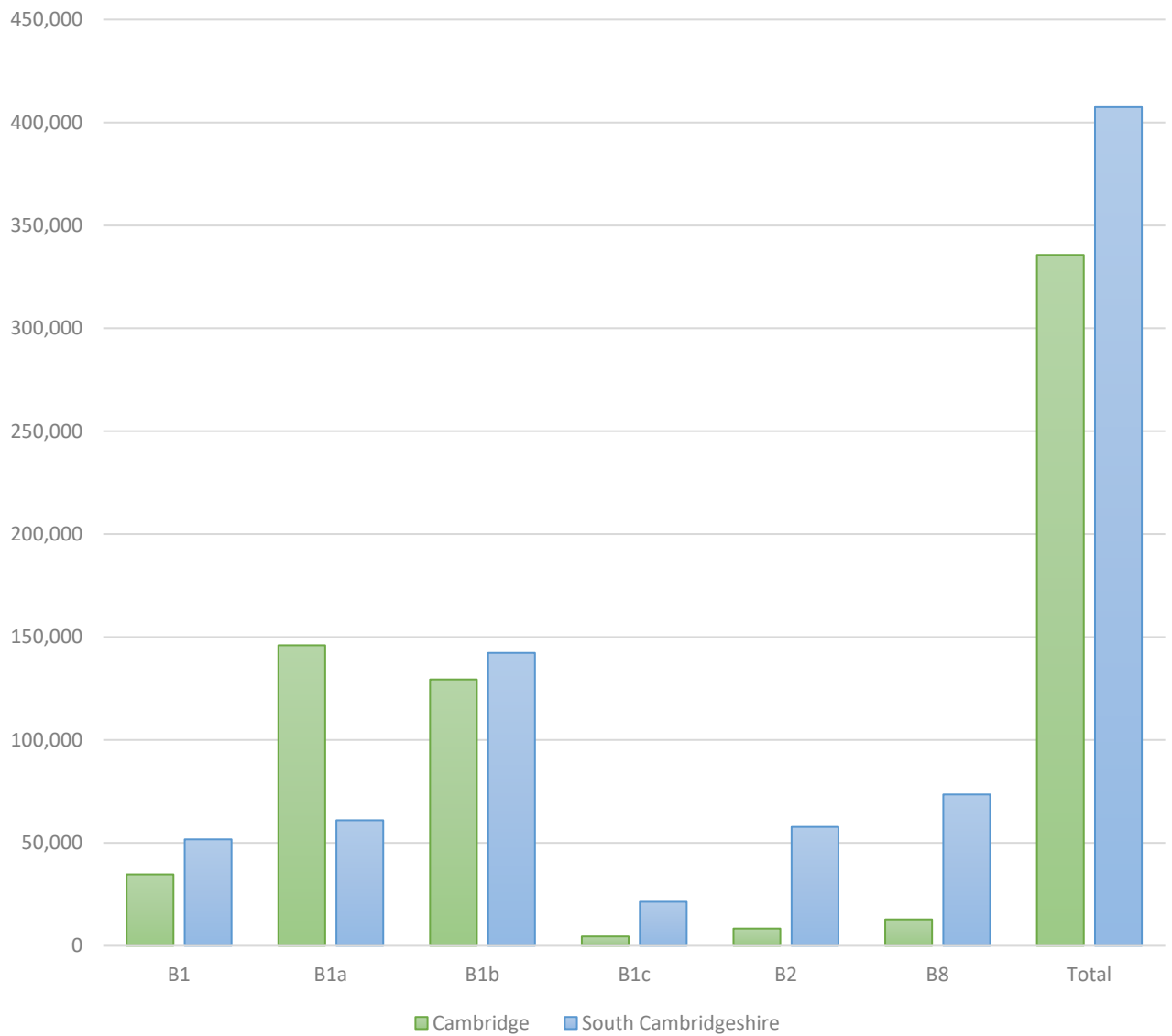
Table 38 – Gross Amount and Type of Completed Employment Floorspace (sqm) in Cambridge. Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

#### South Cambridgeshire

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	0	564	5,461	172	5,767	4,947	16,911
2012-2013	4,821	1,112	1,428	870	8,359	6,561	23,151
2013-2014	128	1,775	4,154	853	2,261	7,420	16,591
2014-2015	330	3,727	33,613	1,754	4,845	7,696	51,965
2015-2016	5,529	9,972	17,372	2,668	14,104	3,354	52,999
2016-2017	1,043	10,619	8,673	990	2,635	8,979	32,939
2017-2018	8,305	11,955	9,703	7,516	10,587	14,836	62,902
2018-2019	11,736	6,394	38,583	3,755	4,890	6,751	72,109
2019-2020	18,123	12,981	3,165	790	180	9,615	44,854
2020-2021	1,660	1,868	20,120	1,975	4,121	3,318	33,062
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,675</b>	<b>60,967</b>	<b>142,272</b>	<b>21,343</b>	<b>57,749</b>	<b>73,477</b>	<b>407,483</b>

Table 39 – Gross amount and type of completed employment floorspace (sqm) in South Cambridgeshire. Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Gross amount and type of completed employment floorspace (sqm) over plan period (2011-2021)



## Net amount and type of completed employment floorspace (sqm)

### Cambridge

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	-224	-2,250	7,632	-4,695	-425	912	950
2012-2013	0	2,397	0	-1,574	-1,170	-161	-508
2013-2014	-81	-4,328	-1,300	-465	-1,255	-5,429	-12,858
2014-2015	106	-12,401	1,590	-262	-561	-9,433	-20,961
2015-2016	425	1,313	6,607	1,748	261	-66	10,288
2016-2017	0	12,936	603	-469	2,055	-1,856	13,269
2017-2018	-6,526	66,199	23,562	0	-2,307	-1,028	79,900
2018-2019	0	-9,198	78,709	-1,425	-1,817	602	66,870
2019-2020	16,810	-11,260	350	40	0	-202	5,738
2020-2021	17,245	6,345	1,115	598	-840	-724	23,739
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,755</b>	<b>49,751</b>	<b>118,868</b>	<b>-6,504</b>	<b>-6,059</b>	<b>-17,385</b>	<b>166,426</b>

Table 40 – Net amount and type of completed employment floorspace (sqm) in Cambridge

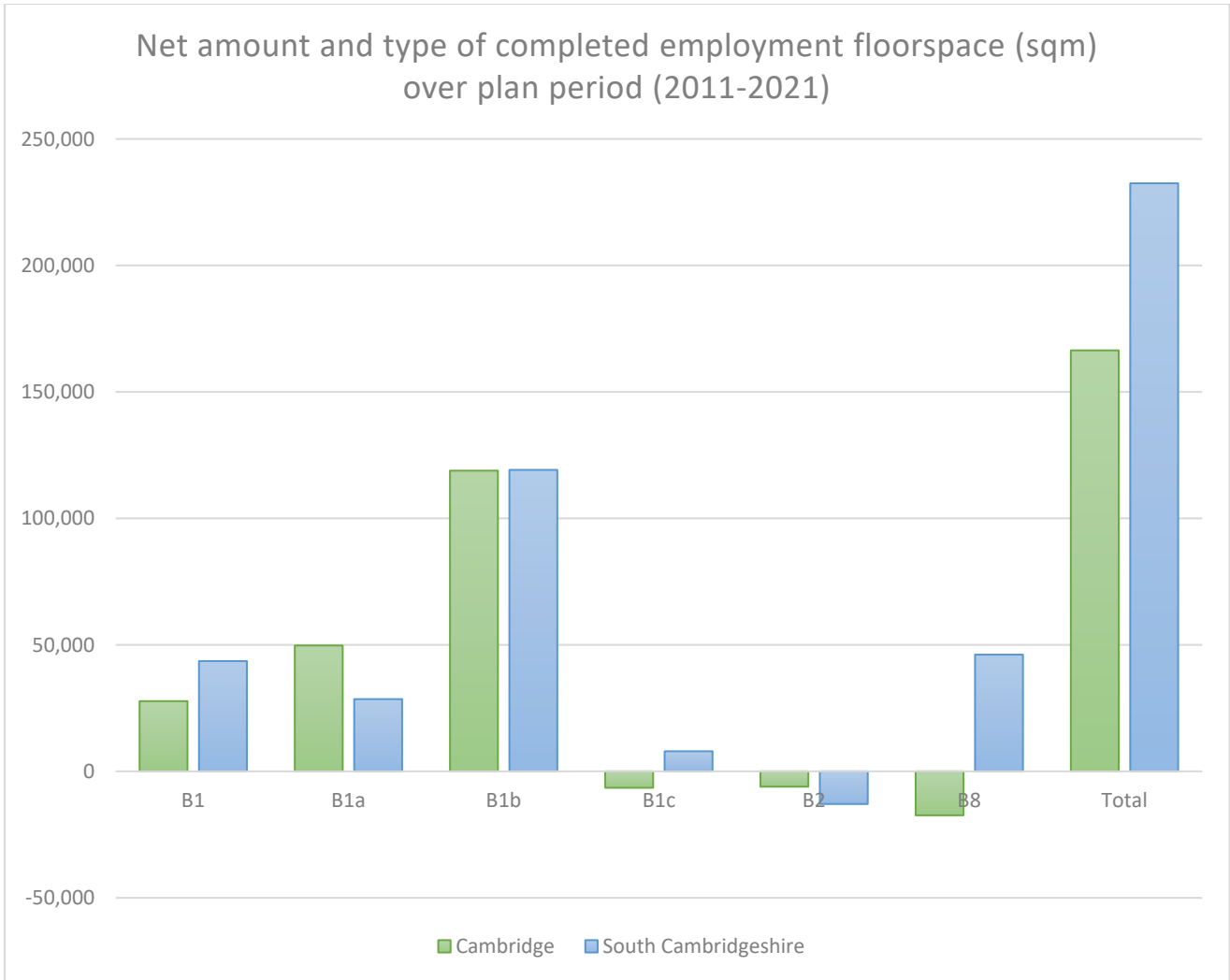
Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### South Cambridgeshire

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	0	-5,057	5,461	-104	-6,178	3,000	-2,878
2012-2013	4,467	-1,725	1,317	-3,717	-668	2,623	2,297
2013-2014	128	449	-13,495	-456	-22,668	6,819	-29,223
2014-2015	-432	1,268	33,569	458	-1,835	6,330	39,358
2015-2016	5,529	6,920	17,372	1,877	13,114	-5,757	39,055
2016-2017	1,043	2,055	5,243	439	2,245	6,429	17,454
2017-2018	8,305	6,636	9,703	7,005	9,106	10,881	51,636
2018-2019	4,954	5,877	36,716	2,283	4,890	4,900	59,620
2019-2020	17,935	11,986	3,165	-646	-2,411	8,337	38,366
2020-2021	1,660	149	20,120	798	-8,508	2,577	16,796
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,589</b>	<b>28,557</b>	<b>119,171</b>	<b>7,937</b>	<b>-12,913</b>	<b>46,138</b>	<b>232,480</b>

Table 41 – Net amount and type of completed employment floorspace (sqm) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council





## Gross Amount and Type of Completed Employment Land (Ha)

### Cambridge

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	0.00	0.50	2.07	0.00	0.16	0.20	2.93
2012-2013	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.50
2013-2014	0.00	0.68	0.00	0.31	0.43	0.22	1.65
2014-2015	0.01	0.62	0.22	0.07	0.00	0.31	1.23
2015-2016	0.29	1.09	0.75	0.98	0.08	0.83	4.02
2016-2017	0.00	0.76	0.00	0.10	0.66	0.00	1.52
2017-2018	0.00	10.37	1.83	0.00	0.45	0.45	13.09
2018-2019	0.00	0.01	11.88	0.00	0.00	0.84	12.74
2019-2020	2.32	0.25	1.43	0.01	0.00	0.00	4.01
2020-2021	0.44	0.95	0.06	0.09	0.02	0.00	1.56
<b>Total</b>	3.06	15.67	18.24	1.56	1.81	2.91	43.24

Table 42 – Gross amount and type of completed employment land (ha) in Cambridge  
Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

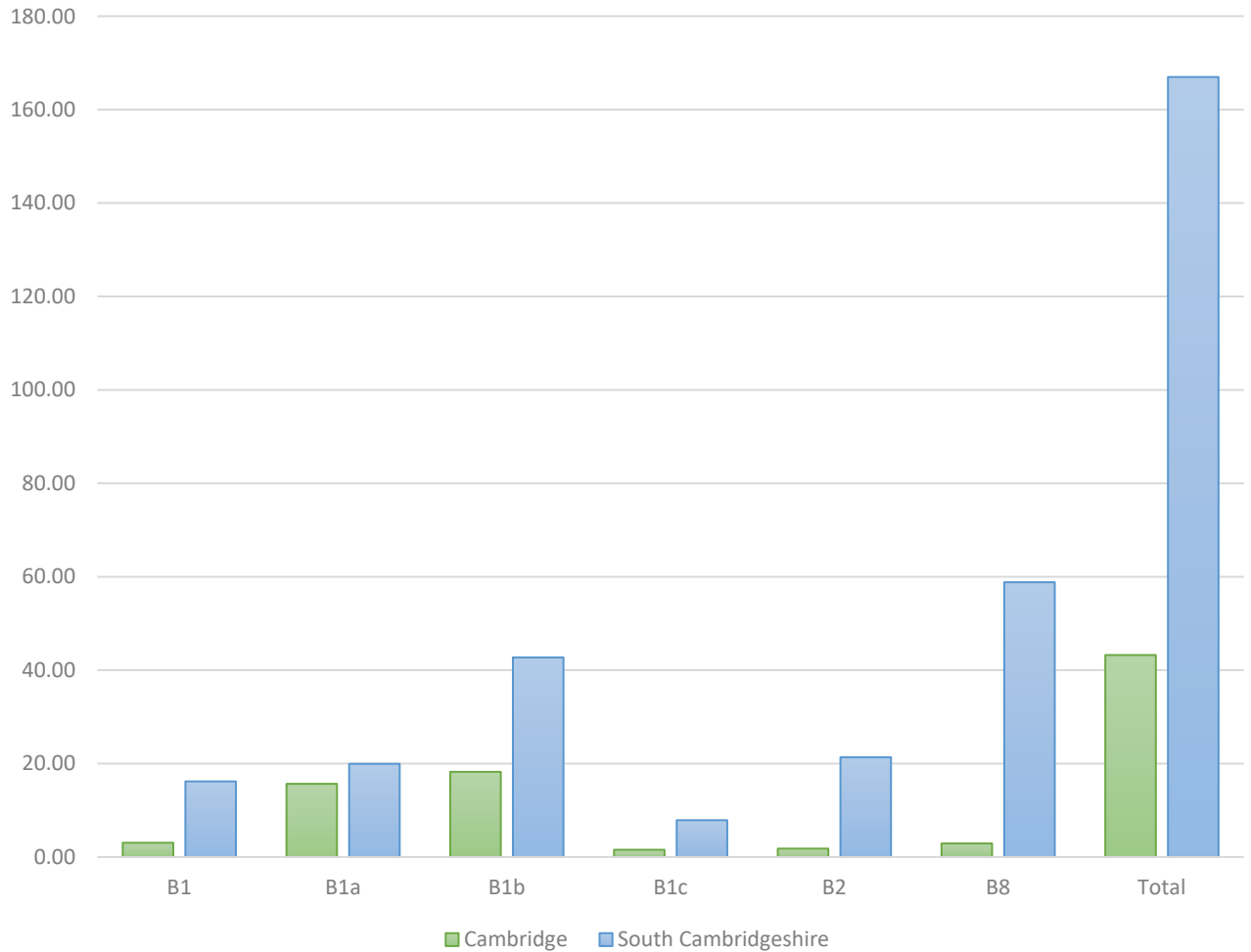
### South Cambridgeshire

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	0.00	0.88	2.83	0.02	2.50	25.98	32.21
2012-2013	1.66	0.53	0.08	0.84	1.65	2.02	6.78
2013-2014	0.03	0.77	1.41	0.63	0.10	2.03	4.96
2014-2015	0.02	1.06	8.23	0.79	2.78	4.02	16.91
2015-2016	7.94	3.96	4.90	0.93	4.16	7.04	28.92
2016-2017	0.56	2.11	1.67	0.45	4.44	3.17	12.41
2017-2018	0.75	6.38	2.23	2.26	2.16	5.46	19.24
2018-2019	1.38	0.78	12.75	1.15	1.96	4.16	22.18
2019-2020	3.11	2.40	0.29	0.08	0.00	3.48	9.37
2020-2021	0.74	1.09	8.35	0.73	1.62	1.47	13.99
<b>Total</b>	16.19	19.96	42.74	7.89	21.37	58.82	166.98

Table 43 – Gross amount and type of completed employment land (ha) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

Total Gross amount and type of completed employment land (Ha)  
over plan period 2011-2021



## Net Amount and Type of Completed Employment Land (Ha)

### Cambridge

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	-0.09	-4.13	-1.50	-3.68	0.01	0.04	-9.35
2012-2013	0.00	-1.53	0.00	-0.27	-0.58	0.04	-2.34
2013-2014	-0.02	-3.75	-0.26	-0.13	0.26	-0.94	-4.85
2014-2015	0.01	-1.54	-0.01	-0.04	-0.18	-2.16	-3.92
2015-2016	0.29	-7.77	0.75	0.81	0.08	-0.81	-6.66
2016-2017	0.00	0.41	0.00	0.06	0.63	-1.01	0.09
2017-2018	-0.59	9.31	0.54	0.00	-0.46	-1.16	7.65
2018-2019	0.00	-3.72	11.23	-0.81	-1.13	0.77	6.35
2019-2020	2.32	-0.90	0.86	0.01	0.00	-0.01	2.28
2020-2021	0.44	0.08	0.06	0.06	-0.25	-0.24	0.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>-13.56</b>	<b>11.67</b>	<b>-3.99</b>	<b>-1.63</b>	<b>-5.47</b>	<b>-10.61</b>

Table 44 – Net amount and type of completed employment land (ha) in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

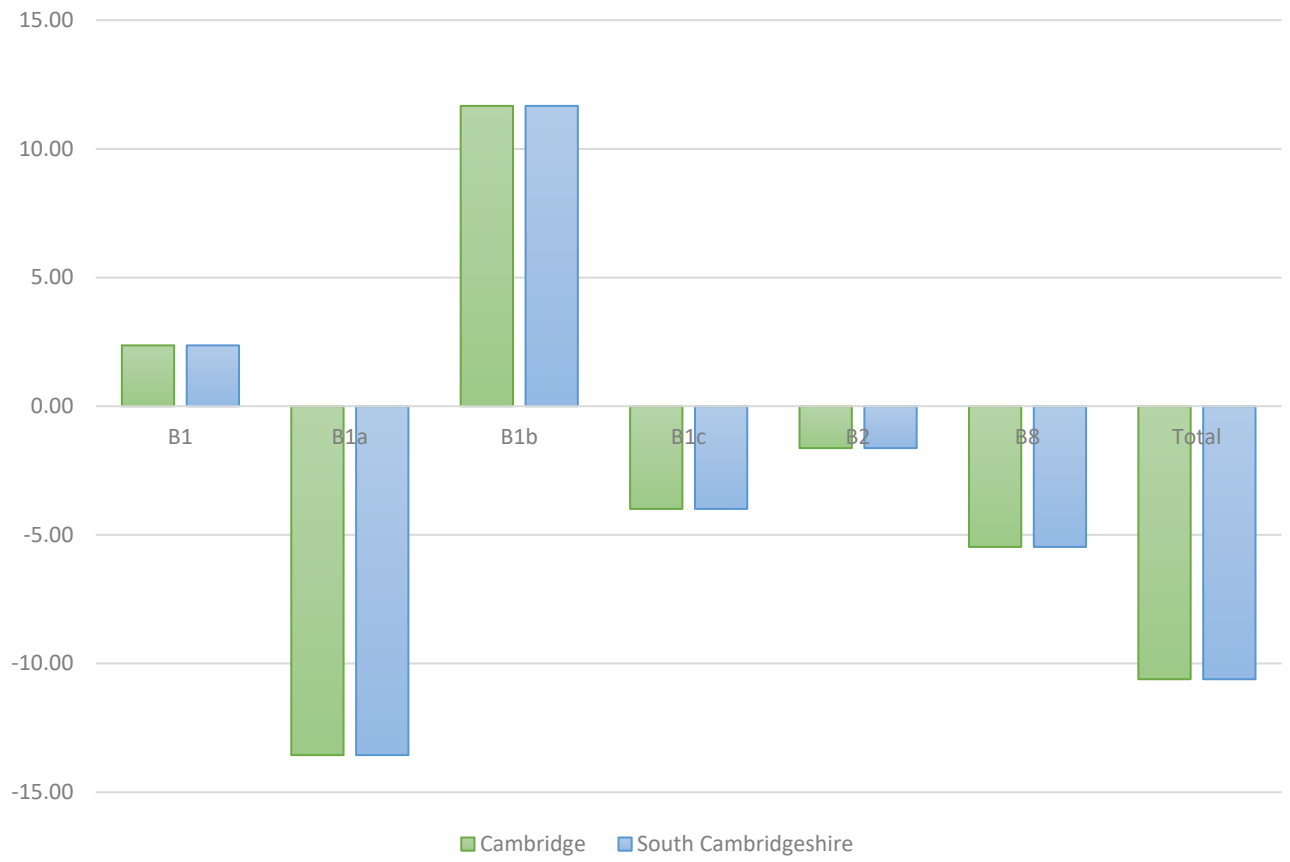
### South Cambridgeshire

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	0.00	-3.62	2.83	-0.12	0.05	25.04	24.18
2012-2013	1.60	-1.28	0.07	-0.01	-1.41	0.05	-0.98
2013-2014	0.03	0.48	-14.79	-0.17	-12.97	1.20	-26.23
2014-2015	-0.10	0.03	7.85	0.10	0.38	2.27	10.54
2015-2016	7.94	3.12	4.90	0.64	3.95	3.76	24.31
2016-2017	0.56	-0.60	0.65	0.32	3.41	2.15	6.50
2017-2018	0.75	3.39	2.23	2.14	1.20	4.73	14.45
2018-2019	-1.04	0.48	12.75	0.89	1.96	2.72	17.76
2019-2020	2.84	1.76	0.29	-0.22	-2.13	2.04	4.59
2020-2021	0.74	-0.66	8.35	0.43	-2.33	1.05	7.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.32</b>	<b>3.12</b>	<b>25.12</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>-7.87</b>	<b>45.01</b>	<b>82.69</b>

Table 45 – Net amount and type of completed employment land (ha) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Net amount and type of completed employment land (Ha) over plan period (2011-2021)



## Gross Amount and Type of Committed Employment Floorspace by status, March 2021

### Cambridge

Permission type	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Outline planning permission	0	231	131,253	0	0	0	131,484
Detailed planning permission - not started	1,486	15,255	23,874	2,237	124	3,996	46,972
Detailed planning permission - under construction	0	1,483	0	0	0	0	1,483
Allocated, with no planning permission	3,405	23,159	11,084	0	2,432	0	40,080

Table 46 – Gross amount and type of committed employment floorspace (sqm) in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

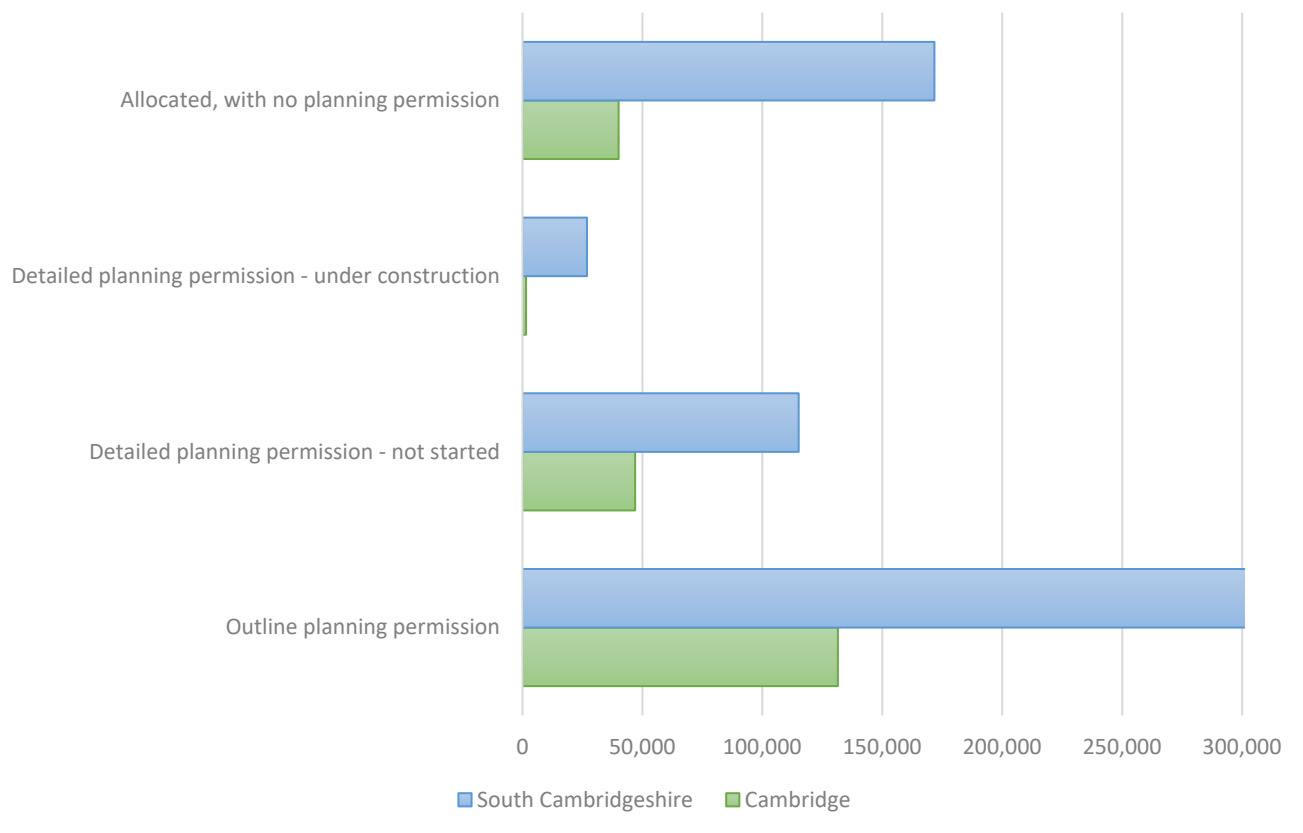
### South Cambridgeshire

Permission type	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Outline planning permission	108,570	30,026	49,816	8,526	55,350	55,054	307,342
Detailed planning permission - not started	6,846	20,340	58,722	7,709	6,933	14,577	115,127
Detailed planning permission - under construction	334	7,140	0	8,347	5,560	5,507	26,888
Allocated, with no planning permission	70,808	22,900	43,685	2,323	14,092	17,914	171,722

Table 47 – Gross amount and type of committed employment floorspace (sqm) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Gross amount and type of committed employment floorspace by status, at March 2021



Net Amount and Type of Committed Employment Floorspace by status,  
March 2021

**Cambridge**

Permission type	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Outline planning permission	0	231	131,253	0	0	0	131,484
Detailed planning permission - not started	1,486	-4,815	23,874	1,644	124	2,535	24,849
Detailed planning permission - under construction	0	-2,052	0	0	0	-157	-2,209
Allocated, with no planning permission	-597	13,047	11,084	-425	-28,041	-4,491	-9,423

Table 48 – Net amount and type of committed employment floorspace (sqm) in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

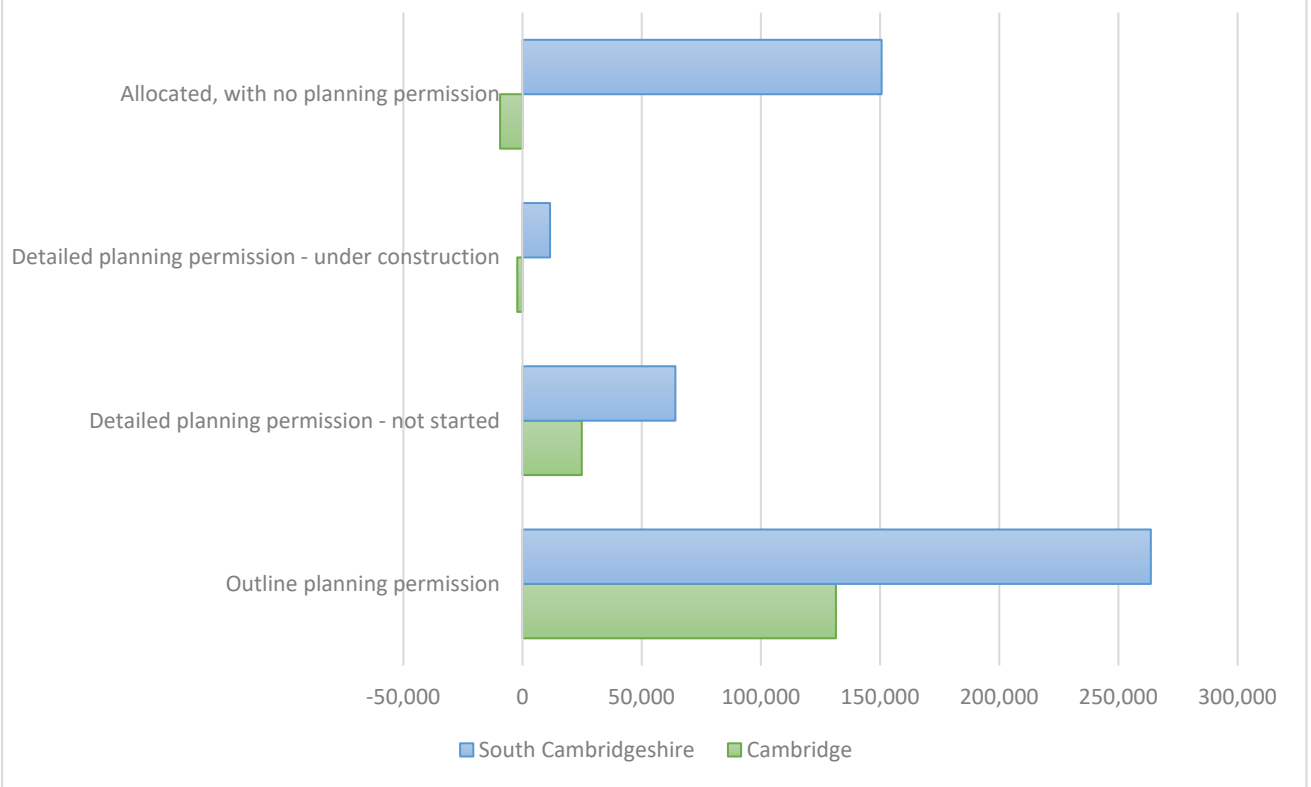
**South Cambridgeshire**

Permission type	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Outline planning permission	106,873	29,664	49,816	8,261	14,394	54,588	263,596
Detailed planning permission - not started	6,647	17,655	57,517	5,682	-33,204	9,828	64,126
Detailed planning permission - under construction	-315	6,906	0	8,347	1,566	-4,960	11,544
Allocated, with no planning permission	56,481	22,900	43,685	2,323	10,722	14,544	150,655

Table 49 – Net amount and type of committed employment floorspace (sqm) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Net Amount and Type of Committed Employment Floorspace by status, March 2021





Gross Amount and Type of Committed Employment Land (Ha) by status,  
March 2021

**Cambridge**

Permission type	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Outline planning permission	0.00	0.15	14.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.59
Detailed planning permission - not started	0.25	1.34	7.20	0.60	0.00	0.00	9.39
Detailed planning permission - under construction	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19
Allocated, with no planning permission	0.50	2.88	1.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.01

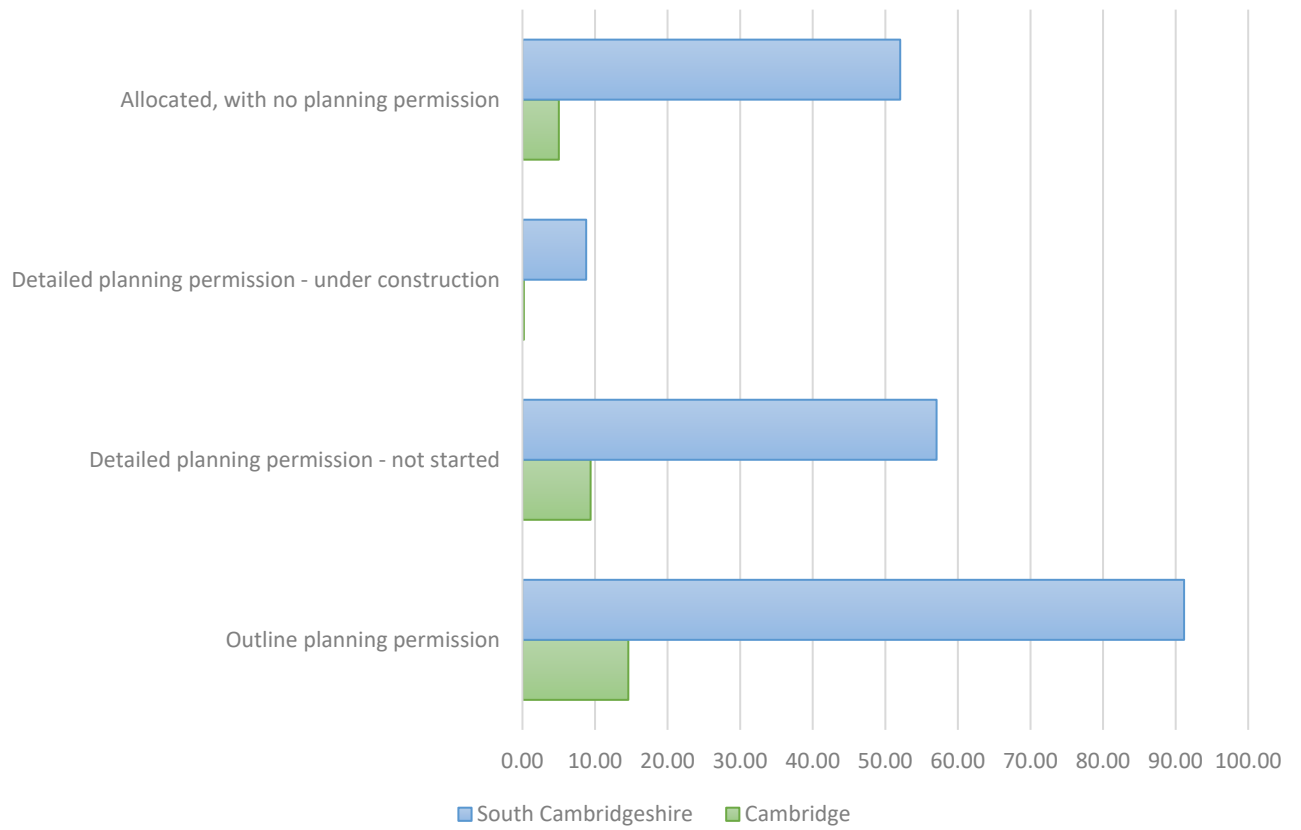
Table 50 – Gross amount and type of committed employment land (ha) in Cambridge  
Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

**South Cambridgeshire**

Permission type	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Outline planning permission	10.65	6.77	25.56	11.92	13.50	22.76	91.17
Detailed planning permission - not started	2.89	13.23	13.24	13.66	1.67	12.36	57.06
Detailed planning permission - under construction	0.53	1.66	0.00	2.29	2.30	2.00	8.78
Allocated, with no planning permission	18.10	8.79	15.97	0.94	3.63	4.63	52.05

Table 51 – Gross amount and type of committed employment land (ha) in South Cambridgeshire  
Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Gross amount and type of committed employment land (Ha) by status, at March 2021



## Net Amount and Type of Committed Employment Land by status, March 2021

### Cambridge

Permission type	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Outline planning permission	0.00	0.15	14.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.59
Detailed planning permission - not started	0.25	-1.72	7.20	0.15	0.00	-0.27	5.62
Detailed planning permission - under construction	0.00	-0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-0.40
Allocated, with no planning permission	-0.38	1.84	1.63	-0.85	-7.16	-0.92	-5.83

Table 52 – Net amount and type of committed employment land (ha) in Cambridge  
Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

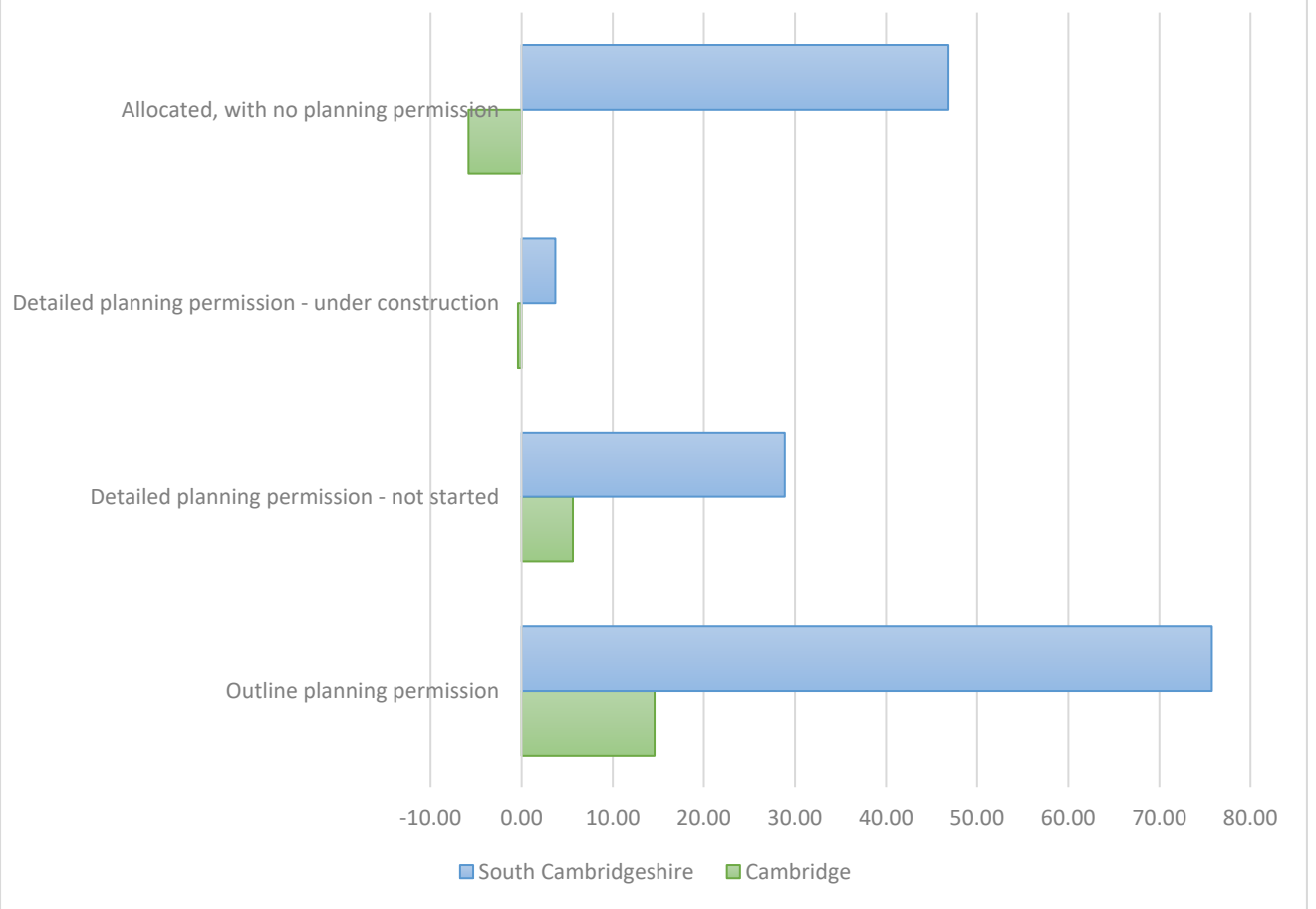
### South Cambridgeshire

Permission type	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Outline planning permission	17.32	6.68	25.56	11.46	-2.65	17.38	75.76
Detailed planning permission - not started	2.87	10.78	13.03	12.80	-17.06	6.47	28.89
Detailed planning permission - under construction	-0.25	1.61	0.00	2.29	0.28	-0.23	3.70
Allocated, with no planning permission	14.60	8.79	15.97	0.94	2.78	3.78	46.85

Table 53 – Net amount and type of committed employment land (ha) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Net Amount and Type of Committed Employment Land by status, March 2021



## Amount of employment land (B uses) lost to other non-employment uses

### Amount of employment land (ha) lost to non-employment uses\*

Area	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
within Cambridge	-0.80	-1.46	-5.06	-1.07	-5.37	-0.80	-1.46	-0.28	-0.45	-1.06	-17.81
within South Cambs	-7.65	-4.38	-5.10	-1.12	-2.66	-2.59	-4.40	-0.88	-2.61	-2.98	-34.37
within development frameworks in South Cambs	-3.54	-1.28	-3.92	-0.96	-1.97	-1.26	-1.57	-0.83	-2.29	-2.92	-20.54

Table 54 – Amount of employment land (ha) lost to non-employment uses\*

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

\* Cambridge figures exclude business land lost on land allocated for alternative uses as this has been accounted for, see final section of Policy 41

2013-2014 in Cambridge includes: change of use of Compass House to educational use (3.48ha, 13/0992/FUL) which was in accordance with policy at the time of consideration of planning application

2015-2016 in Cambridge includes: conversion of Castle Court to student accommodation via prior approval (0.582 ha, C/01703/15), and change of use of Elizabeth House to education use and student rooms (1.908ha, 13/1305/FUL, principle of change of use established through earlier permission approved in December 2012)

2011-2012 in South Cambs includes: demolition of SCA Packaging (2.4ha, S/2530/11) which was vacant and marketing had deemed the use of the site for other purposes acceptable (proposal for residential development on the site completed), and prior notification for demolition of Syngenta building (1.5ha, S/1867/11) as office building no longer economically viable

2013-2014 in South Cambs includes: demolition of Monsanto buildings to enable Trumpington Meadows (0.76 ha) and prior notification of demolition of former concrete products factory in Sawston (2.65 ha, S/2646/13/PD) which was redundant

2019-2020 in South Cambs includes: Prior Notification for Demolition of Printworks, Garages, Houses and Remediation of Soils on land between Church Lane and Ermine Street South, Papworth Everard (2.13ha) (S/2417/16/PN)

2020-2021 in South Cambs includes: demolition of existing industrial and office units and 5 dwellings and the erection of up to 90 dwellings together with all associated works at Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay (2.69ha) (S/4085/19/RM)

#### Amount of employment land (ha) lost to residential development

Area	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
within South Cambs	-1.62	-2.69	-1.79	-0.87	-2.36	-2.23	-2.17	-0.85	-0.48	-2.98	-18.04

Table 55 – Amount of employment land (ha) lost to residential development

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Amount and type of completed employment floorspace on previously developed land

### Gross amount and type of completed employment land (ha) on brownfield sites in Cambridge

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	0	0.50	2.07	0	0.16	0.20	2.93
2012-2013	0	0.44	0	0	0.01	0.05	0.50
2013-2014	0	0.43	0	0.31	0.43	0.22	1.40
2014-2015	0.01	0.62	0	0.07	0	0.31	1.01
2015-2016	0.29	1.09	0.75	0.98	0.08	0.83	4.02
2016-2017	0	0.76	0.00	0.10	0.66	0	1.52
2017-2018	0	8.83	0.58	0	0.45	0.45	10.31
2018-2019	0	0.01	0	0	0	0.69	0.70
2019-2020	2.32	0.25	1.43	0.01	0	0	4.01
2020-2021	0.44	0.95	0.06	0.09	0.02	0	1.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>13.88</b>	<b>4.89</b>	<b>1.56</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>27.95</b>

Table 56 – Gross amount and type of completed employment land (ha) on brownfield sites in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

Gross amount and type of completed employment land (ha) on brownfield sites in South Cambridgeshire

Year	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
2011-2012	-	0.76	2.83	0.02	0.57	25.98	30.17
2012-2013	1.66	0.15	0.08	0	1.65	2.02	5.56
2013-2014	0.03	0.25	0.27	0.48	0.10	0.79	1.92
2014-2015	0.02	1.06	5.54	0.52	1.89	0.91	9.94
2015-2016	7.74	1.54	2.63	0.05	4.16	5.98	22.10
2016-2017	0	0.15	1.67	0.00	4.14	1.47	7.44
2017-2018	0.75	6.38	0	0.65	0.55	2.39	10.73
2018-2019	1.29	0.66	4.32	0.62	1.07	2.95	10.91
2019-2020	2.65	1.30	0.29	0.08	0	0.07	4.39
2020-2021	0.65	0.46	1.29	0.73	0.24	0.94	4.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.80</b>	<b>12.72</b>	<b>18.93</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>14.37</b>	<b>43.50</b>	<b>107.47</b>

Table 57 – Gross amount and type of completed employment land (ha) on brownfield sites in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council



## Completions and Commitments at Cambridge Science Park

### Commitments for Cambridge Science Park (SQM) at March 2021 (South Cambridgeshire only)

Site	B1	B1a	B1b	B2	B8	Retail
Cambridge Science Park	3,521	9,270	415	2,560	2,675	911

Table 58 – Commitments for Cambridge Science Park at March 2021 (South Cambridgeshire only)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Gross completions at Cambridge Science Park (SQM) (South Cambridgeshire only)

Use	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
B1a	0	0	0	0	0	260	3,587	0	0	3,847
B1b	504	0	4,184	4,177	4,991	0	0	1,584	0	15,440
B1 (unknown)	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,237	16,810	0	28,047
C1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,940	9,940
Retail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	160
Total	504	0	4,184	4,177	4,991	260	14,824	18,394	10,100	57,434

Table 59 – Gross completions at Cambridge Science Park (SQM) (South Cambridgeshire only)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## The labour market

### Employment by industry (%) in South Cambridgeshire

Industry	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2020
1: Agriculture, forestry & fishing (A)	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.3	1.9	2.2
2: Mining, quarrying & utilities (B,D and E)	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8
3: Manufacturing (C)	14.1	14.5	12.5	12.5	12.1	11.2
4: Construction (F)	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	6.6	5.6
5: Motor trades (Part G)	2.1	1.8	2.5	2.0	2.2	2.2
6: Wholesale (Part G)	5.6	5.1	4.4	3.4	3.3	3.9
7: Retail (Part G)	6.3	5.8	5.6	4.5	4.4	5.1
8: Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)	4.2	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.2
9: Accommodation & food services (I)	4.2	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.9	4.5
10: Information & communication (J)	6.3	7.2	6.2	8.0	8.8	9.0
11: Financial & insurance (K)	1.8	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
12: Property (L)	1.4	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.0
13: Professional, scientific & technical (M)	16.9	18.8	22.5	22.7	25.3	23.6
14: Business administration & support services (N)	4.9	5.8	5.6	5.7	6.6	7.9
15: Public administration & defence (O)	2.1	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.4
16: Education (P)	8.5	7.2	6.2	8.0	7.7	6.7
17: Health (Q)	9.9	10.1	12.5	11.4	7.7	9.0
18: Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R,S,T and U)	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.4
All industries	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	<b>100.0</b>

Table 60 – Employment by industry (%) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, ONS (via NOMIS)

### The claimant count in Cambridge

Month/Year	Claimant count	Claimants as a % of residents aged 16-64
March 2010	1,905	2.2
March 2011	1,725	1.9
March 2012	1,830	2.1
March 2013	1,660	1.9
March 2014	1,150	1.3
March 2015	780	0.9
March 2016	755	0.9
March 2017	750	0.8
March 2018	765	0.9
March 2019	1,000	1.2
March 2020	1,425	1.6
March 2021	3,560	4.1
August 2021	2,890	3.3

Table 61 – (See Table 62 for note)

### The claimant count in South Cambridgeshire

Month/Year	Claimant count	Claimants as a % of residents aged 16-64
March 2010	1,515	1.6
March 2011	1,300	1.4
March 2012	1,380	1.5
March 2013	1,290	1.4
March 2014	780	0.8
March 2015	545	0.6
March 2016	485	0.5
March 2017	465	0.5
March 2018	495	0.5
March 2019	655	0.7
March 2020	1,035	1.1
March 2021	3,090	3.2
August 2021	2,430	2.5

Table 62 – The claimant count in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

Note: the claimant count includes the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek work and be available for work and replaces the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance as the headline indicator of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed.

Although beyond the timeframe of this AMR, data has been included for August 2021 to demonstrate the on-going impact of Coronavirus post March 2021.

Source: The claimant count, ONS (via NOMIS)

### Residents aged 16-64 in employment and working within 5km of home or at home (%)

Area	2011
South Cambridgeshire	35%
East of England	43%

Table 63 – Residents aged 16-64 in employment and working within 5km of home or at home (%)

Source: 2011 Census of Population (via NOMIS)

### Economic activity rates for population aged 16-64

Year	Cambridge	South Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire
2011-2012	74.8	85.0	79.6
2012-2013	80.6	84.1	81.2
2013-2014	81.0	80.6	81.9
2014-2015	80.7	84.7	83.3
2015-2016	80.9	83.6	82.4
2016-2017	74.2	84.1	80.8
2017-2018	82.4	84.8	82.3
2018-2019	79.1	86.7	83.4
2019-2020	82.9	82.1	80.4
2020-2021	81.0	78.0	80.6

Table 64 – Economic activity rates for population aged 16-64

Source: Annul Population Survey, ONS (via NOMIS)

## Business demography

### Births, deaths and net change in business population in South Cambridgeshire

<b>Year</b>	<b>Enterprise births</b>	<b>Enterprise deaths</b>	<b>Active enterprises</b>	<b>Net change</b>
2011	675	655	7,310	-25
2012	755	685	7,390	80
2013	945	640	7,635	245
2014	910	645	7,915	280
2015	935	805	8,220	305
2016	920	855	8,385	165
2017	920	840	8,518	298
2018	1,080	875	8,805	287
2019	1,060	895	9,050	245
2020	825	915	8,920	-130

Table 65 – Births, deaths and net change in business population in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Business Demography, UK (ONS)

## Climate change data

### Water consumption per household per year

#### Water consumption per head per day (litres) in South Cambridgeshire

Measured/ unmeasured	2010- 2011	2011- 2012	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021
Un-measured	154	150	141	146	143	163	175	179	134	162	162
Measured	131	129	123	125	122	117	120	128	165	118	118
Average	141	138	130	133	131	133	137	145	149	131	131

Table 66 – Water consumption per head per day (litres)

Source: South Staffs Water

## Renewable energy installed by type

### Installed capacity (megawatts) – Cambridge

Type	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Wind	0.0055	2.4000	1.0000	0.0000	3.8500	0.0000	0.2090	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	7.4645
Biomass	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Landfill gas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sewage gas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Photovoltaic	6.6318	23.4393	19.0038	28.0732	25.4147	12.1727	0.3673	0.3685	0.0000	0.0000	115.4713
Hydro-power	0.0001	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0001
<b>Total</b>	6.6374	25.8393	20.0038	28.0732	29.2647	12.1727	0.5763	0.3685	0.0000	0.0000	122.9359

Table 67 – Installed capacity (megawatts) in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Installed capacity (megawatts) – South Cambridgeshire

Type	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Wind	0.0702	30.2300	0.0250	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0050	0.0000	0.0000	30.3302
Biomass	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.3010	0.2000	0.1980	0.9950	2.0000	0.0000	3.6940
Landfill gas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sewage gas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Photo voltaic	5.9054	26.4051	5.8756	89.0406	70.0008	42.4472	22.9476	1.1571	0.4043	0.0000	264.1837
Hydro-power	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
<b>Total</b>	5.9756	56.6351	5.9006	89.0406	70.3018	42.6472	23.1456	2.1571	2.4043	0.0000	298.2078

Table 68 – Installed capacity (megawatts) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council



## Renewable energy commitments

### Potential Installed Capacity (Mw) As At 31/03/2021 – Cambridge

Type	Outline	Under Construction	Unimplemented	Allocated	Total
Wind	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Biomass	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Landfill gas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sewage gas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Photovoltaic	0.0000	0.0200	0.0010	0.0000	0.0210
Hydro-power	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
<b>Total</b>	0.0000	0.0200	0.0010	0.0000	0.0210

Table 69 – Renewable energy commitments in Cambridge at 31/03/2021.

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### Potential Installed Capacity (Mw) As At 31/03/2021 – South Cambridgeshire

Type	Outline	Under Construction	Unimplemented	Allocated	Total
Wind	0.0000	0.0000	0.0100	0.0000	0.0100
Biomass	0.0000	0.5970	0.1000	0.0000	0.6970
Landfill gas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sewage gas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Photovoltaic	0.0000	0.0495	1.8820	0.0000	1.9315
Hydro-power	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
<b>Total</b>	0.0000	0.6465	1.9920	0.0000	2.6385

Table 70 – Renewable energy commitments in South Cambridgeshire at 31/03/2021. Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence or water quality grounds

Area	Defence type	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
South Cambridgeshire	Flood Defence	8	8	4	7	2	9	2	0	0	0
South Cambridgeshire	Water Quality	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridge City	Flood Defence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridge City	Water Quality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 71 – Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence or water quality grounds

Source: Environment Agency

## Air Quality

Annual average concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )  
(at monitoring points)

### South Cambridgeshire

Site	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Annual Objective
Bar Hill	43	39	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<40.0
Impington	31	31	27	23	22	23	23	19	16	13	<40.0
Orchard Park School	25	21	22	19	18	18	18	14	15	11	<40.0
Girton Road	N/A	27	26	25	24	23	23	18	17	12	<40.0

Table 72 – Annual average concentration of nitrogen dioxide ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) in South Cambridgeshire

Source: South Cambridgeshire District Council 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report

### Cambridge

Site	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	Annual objective
Gonville Place	37	35	36	31	30	28	20	40.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Montague Road	24	23	27	24	25	22	16	40.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Newmarket Road	26	25	24	26	25	22	18	40.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Parker Street	40	39	39	32	33	33	24	40.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Regent Street	39	34	32	29	26	27	22	40.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Table 73 – Annual average concentration of nitrogen dioxide ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) in Cambridge

Source: Cambridge City Council 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report

Annual number of Days when PM10 levels exceeded a daily mean of 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

**South Cambridgeshire**

Site	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Annual Objective
Bar Hill	26 days	0 days	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No more than 35 days
Impington	119 days	180 days	21 days	4 days	2 days	1 day	2 days	1 day	2 days	0 days	No more than 35 days
Orchard Park School	10 days	4 days	7 days	7 days	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	0 days	No more than 35 days
Girton Road	N/A	16 days	23 days	2 days	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	3 days	0 days	No more than 35 days

Table 74 – Annual number of days when PM10 levels exceeded a daily mean of 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>\*-South Cambridgeshire

Source: South Cambridgeshire District Council 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report

**Cambridge**

Site	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	Annual objective
Gonville Place	5 days	2 days	1 day	3 days	1 day	2 days	0 days	No more than 35 days
Montague Road	4 days	4 days	2 days	3 days	1 day	6 days	0 days	No more than 35 days
Parker Street	5 days	4 days	4 days	4 days	1 day	5 days	0 days	No more than 35 days

Table 75 – Annual number of days when PM10 levels exceeded a daily mean of 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>\*- Cambridge

Source: Cambridge City Council 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report

## Annual average concentration PM10 levels

### Annual average concentration of PM10 levels (µg/m3) – South Cambridgeshire

Site	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Impington	18	17	16	17	16	15
Orchard Park School	16	16	14	14	14	12
Girton Road	11	17	17	17	17	14

Table 76 – Annual average concentration of PM10 levels (µg/m3)

Source: South Cambridgeshire District Council 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report

### Annual average concentration of PM10 levels (µg/m3) –Cambridge

Site	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	Annual objective
Gonville Place	19	21	20	18	19	19	15	50µg/m3
Montague Road	20	22	22	20	21	22	19	50µg/m3
Parker Street	22	23	22	21	23	21	17	50µg/m3

Table 77 – Annual average concentration of PM10 levels (µg/m3)

Source: Cambridge City Council 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report

## Gas consumption (Gwh) per home per year

### Kwh of gas consumed per consumer per year\*

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019**
South Cambridgeshire	15,047	15,060	14,576	13,953	14,254	14,150	14,362	13,955	13,943
Cambridge	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13,606	13,489	13,615	13,316	13,318

Table 78 – KWh of gas consumed per consumer per year

Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (December 2020)

\*Data from 2015-2018 revised to reflect most up to date information available.

\*\*Data for 2020 unavailable at time of publication

## Electricity consumption (KwH) per home per year

### KwH of electricity consumed per consumer per year\*

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019**
South Cambridgeshire	5,000	4,940	4,823	4809	4,752	4,703	4,646	4,545	4,537
Cambridge	3,951	3,952	3,949	3,971	3,956	3,965	4,010	3,926	3,973

Table 79 – KWh of electricity consumed per consumer per year

Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (December 2020)

\*Data from previous years revised to reflect most up to date information available.

\*\*Data for 2020 unavailable at time of publication

## % of surface waters meet the Water Framework Directive 'good' status or better for water quality

### Ecological Status % length of main rivers\*

Standard	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016**	2019***
High	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Good	7%	7%	10%	3%	6%	2%	2%	7%	0%
Moderate	72%	55%	50%	54%	50%	62%	84%	84%	89%
Poor	20%	36%	37%	41%	43%	34%	14%	10%	11%
Bad	0%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%

Table 80 – Ecological Status % length of main rivers Source: Environment Agency \*

\* In 2016, the EA took the decision to run WB classifications on a tri-annual basis therefore no new data will be available until 2022.

\*\*Some numbers previously rounded up/down incorrectly so figures have been amended

\*\*\* There has however been a change in the way the EA monitor PBDEs (Polybrominated diphenyl ethers). This Chemical status failure means that overall waterbody statuses are now limited to Moderate. This explains the reason why the 3 waterbodies previously at Good status have seemingly deteriorated.

## Household waste collected per household per year

### Household waste collected per household per year (KG)

Area	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
South Cambridgeshire	419.9	435	401.2	397	398	449	449	420	408	425

Table 81 – Household waste collected per household per year (KG)

Source: Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service

## % of household waste collected which is recycled in South Cambridgeshire

Type	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Composted	31%	30%	32%	33%	33%	28%	29%	28%	28%	27%
Recycled	27%	26%	26%	25%	23%	18%	22%	23%	24%	24%

Table 82 – % of household waste collected which is recycled

Source: Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service

## Carbon Dioxide emissions per dwelling per year

### Carbon Dioxide emissions from domestic sources (kilo tonnes)\*

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
South Cambridgeshire	315	339	330	281	273	259	243	243	237
Cambridge	204	221	218	184	181	175	164	163	157

Table 83 – Carbon Dioxide emissions from domestic sources (kilo tonnes)

Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (June 2021) (figures rounded to nearest whole number)

### Carbon Dioxide emissions per capita from domestic sources (tonnes)

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
South Cambridgeshire	9.1	9.6	9.4	8.7	8.5	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.6
Cambridge	5.6	6.1	5.9	5.1	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9

Table 84- Carbon Dioxide emissions per capita from domestic sources (tonnes)

Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (June 2021)



## Carbon Dioxide emissions by sector and per capita

### Carbon Dioxide emissions by sector and per capita in South Cambridgeshire

Sector	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Industry and Commercial Electricity	189.7	240.3	219.5	189.9	161.4	129.7	117.6	113.5	98.6
Industry and Commercial Gas	72.2	79.3	39.1	70.0	83.3	81.6	72.7	81.5	82.0
Large Industrial Installations	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Industrial and Commercial Other Fuels	107.3	98.3	87.5	92.2	89.9	89.5	83.5	84.9	83.2
Agriculture	20.7	20.0	17.5	19.7	19.5	19.7	19.6	19.2	22.0
Industry and Commercial Total	389.9	438.0	403.8	372.0	354.3	320.6	293.4	299.2	285.9
Transport Total	578.8	572.9	570.0	573.4	600.9	618.1	631.5	615.4	601.0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1391.4</b>	<b>1460.7</b>	<b>1412.0</b>	<b>1328.3</b>	<b>1327.5</b>	<b>1295.1</b>	<b>1258.6</b>	<b>1247.7</b>	<b>1213</b>
<b>Per Capita Emissions</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.6</b>

Table 85 – Carbon Dioxide emissions by sector and per capita Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (June 2021)

## Biodiversity data

### Total area designated as SSSIs (Ha)

Area	South Cambridgeshire	Cambridge City
2011	952	15.03
2012	952	15.03
2013	952	15.03
2014	952	15.03
2015	952	15.03
2016	952	15.03
2017	948	15.03
2018	951.2	15.03
2019	951.2	15.03
2020	951.2	15.03

Table 86 – Total area designated as SSSIs (ha) Source: CPERC

### % of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
South Cambridgeshire	83	88	88	89	86	96	96	92	92	92
Cambridge	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5
Cambridgeshire	72	79	78	76	80	80	81	80	78	78

Table 87 – % of SSSIs in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition Source: CPERC

### Change in area of sites of biodiversity importance (SPA, SAC, RAMSAR, SSSI, NNR, LNR, CWS)

#### Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within South Cambridgeshire

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021
SAC area in South Cambridgeshire (ha)	67.1	66.2	66.3

Table 88 – SAC within South Cambridgeshire Source: CPERC \* There are no SACs within Cambridge City

## Local Nature Reserves within Greater Cambridge

Category	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
LNR area in Cambridge City (ha)	77.1	77.1	77.1	77.1	77.06	77.06	77.06	77.06	77.06	77.06
LNR area in South Cambridgeshire (ha)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36.88	36.88	36.88

Table 89 – Local Nature Reserves within Greater Cambridge Source: CPERC County Wildlife

## Sites (CWS) within Greater Cambridge

Category	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Cambridge (ha)	N/A	95.31	95.31	95.31	95.31	96.91	96.91	96.91	96.91	96.91
South Cambridge shire (ha)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1702.8	1702.8	1774.1

Table 90 – Total area of County Wildlife Sites (CWS) within Greater Cambridge (ha)

Source: CPERC

## City Wildlife Sites (CiWS) within Cambridge

Category	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of CiWS	51	51	51	50	50	49	49	49	49	49
Total Area of CiWSs (ha)	168.6	168.6	168.6	164.74	164.74	163.14	163.14	163.14	163.14	163.14

Table 91 – City Wildlife Sites (CiWS) within Cambridge Source: CPERC \* there are no CiWS in South Cambridgeshire

## Local Geological Sites (LGS) in Cambridge

Category	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Total Area of LGSs in Cambridge (ha)	-	-	-	-	8.08	9.26	9.26	9.26	9.26	9.26

Table 92 – Local Geological Sites (LGS) in Cambridge Source: CPERC \* there are no Local Geological Sites in South Cambridgeshire

## Community and Leisure Facilities and Local Service

### Delivery of community and leisure facilities (Gross completed floorspace) in Cambridge

Year	D1*	D2*
2011-2012	12,049	351
2012-2013	29,342	2,054
2013-2014	-3,292	11,426
2014-2015	3,431	4,712
2015-2016	94,808	1,595
2016-2017	8,579	4,696
2017-2018	21,855	1,202
2018-2019	45,949	1,379
2019-2020	4,626	872
2020-2021	11,852	2,118
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,199</b>	<b>30,405</b>

Table 93 – Delivery of community and leisure facilities (Gross completed floorspace in sqm) in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

Definitions from [The Planning Portal](#)

\*D1 uses (Non-residential institutions) include Clinics, health centres, crèches, day nurseries, day centres, schools, art galleries (other than for sale or hire), museums, libraries, halls, places of worship, church halls, law court. Non-residential education and training centres

\*D2 uses (Assembly and leisure) include Cinemas, music and concert halls, bingo and dance halls (but not night clubs), swimming baths, skating rinks, gymnasiums or area for indoor or outdoor sports and recreations (except for motor sports, or where firearms are used).

Note: Changes to the Use Classes Order came into effect on 1 September 2020. □ Class D has been revoked:

- ⌚ D1 is split out and replaced by the new Classes E(e-f) and F1
- ⌚ D2 is split out and replaced by the new Classes E(d) and F2(c-d) as well as several newly defined 'Sui Generis' uses.

These changes will have implications for monitoring future years.

## Delivery of community and leisure facilities (Net completed floorspace) in Cambridge

Year	D1*	D2*
2011-2012	6,314	2,468
2012-2013	5,055	737
2013-2014	1,852	2,018
2014-2015	-1,136	325
2015-2016	1,234	15,710
2016-2017	1,080	1,805
2017-2018	243	4,768
2018-2019	559	3,574
2019-2020	3,502	872
2020-2021	6,831	1,726
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,533</b>	<b>34,003</b>

Table 94 – Delivery of community and leisure facilities (Net completed floorspace in sqm) in Cambridge

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

Definitions from [The Planning Portal](#)

\*D1 uses (Non-residential institutions) include Clinics, health centres, crèches, day nurseries, day centres, schools, art galleries (other than for sale or hire), museums, libraries, halls, places of worship, church halls, law court. Non-residential education and training centres

\*D2 uses (Assembly and leisure) include Cinemas, music and concert halls, bingo and dance halls (but not night clubs), swimming baths, skating rinks, gymnasiums or area for indoor or outdoor sports and recreations (except for motor sports, or where firearms are used).

Note: Changes to the Use Classes Order came into effect on 1 September 2020. □ Class D has been revoked:

- ⊙ D1 is split out and replaced by the new Classes E(e-f) and F1
- ⊙ D2 is split out and replaced by the new Classes E(d) and F2(c-d) as well as several newly defined 'Sui Generis' uses.

These changes will have implications for monitoring future years.

## Open space in Cambridge City at May 2020

Area	Total Area (Ha) *	Semi-Natural Woodland (Ha)	No. of Play Areas
Clay Farm	10.37	3.54	2
Glebe Farm	2.61	0	4
Orchard Park	2.49	0	1
Trumpington Meadows	3.99	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.45</b>	<b>3.54</b>	<b>8</b>

Table 95 – Open Space in Cambridge City at May 2020

Source: this information is collected using aerial photography alone and has not been subject to a site visit so may be revised in future. The data provided will be used to provide a baseline to compare against future years and we will work to improve the data available in future years.

### NOTES:

\* new areas identified since 2011 Open Space and Recreation Strategy. Some of these are existing sites that haven't previously been assessed. Some of these are new sites that have been provided as part of new development. Areas include amenity areas either side of pathways.

Aerial Photography for Eddington is too limited to identify the majority of new areas therefore no summary is provided. Similarly, there are parts of Clay Farm & Trumpington Meadows that can't be identified by the latest Aerial Photography.

## Retail data

### Completed (gross) retail floorspace

#### Cambridge

Year	Retail - convenience	Retail - durable	Retail - unknown	Total Retail
2011-2012	265	1,695	0	1,960
2012-2013	346	1,673	636	2,655
2013-2014	73	2,987	350	3,410
2014-2015	332	1,499	457	2,288
2015-2016	1,985	871	474	3,330
2016-2017	4,362	0	730	5,092
2017-2018	2,936	209	268	3,413
2018-2019	661	441	0	1,102
2019-2020	40	228	75	343
2020-2021	398	0	175	573
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,398</b>	<b>9,603</b>	<b>3,007</b>	<b>24,166</b>

Table 96 – Completed (gross) retail floorspace in Cambridge (sqm)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council



## South Cambridgeshire

Year	Retail - convenience	Retail - durable	Retail - unknown	Total Retail
2011-2012	118	387	75	580
2012-2013	537	674	0	1,211
2013-2014	658	1,038	97	1,793
2014-2015	2,248	1,309	499	4,056
2015-2016	223	2,472	90	2,785
2016-2017	881	1,068	0	1,949
2017-2018	166	604	498	1,268
2018-2019	395	456	45	896
2019-2020	291	444	742	1,477
2020-2021	337	0	374	711
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,854</b>	<b>8,453</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>16,727</b>

Table 97 – Completed (gross) retail floorspace in South Cambridgeshire (sqm)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Completed (net) retail floorspace

### Cambridge

Year	Retail - convenience	Retail - durable	Retail - unknown	Total Retail
2011-2012	165	68		233
2012-2013	-412	-2,856	636	-2,632
2013-2014	-629	-613	209	-1,034
2014-2015	-3,681	462	457	-2,762
2015-2016	-85	-320	235	-170
2016-2017	3,683	-185	702	4,200
2017-2018	1,387	-112	-29	1,246
2018-2019	-1,684	-643	-717	-3,044
2019-2020	-230	36	-769	-963
2020-2021	197	-540	-2460	-2,803
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1,289</b>	<b>-4,703</b>	<b>-1,736</b>	<b>-7,729</b>

Table 98 – Completed (net) retail floorspace in Cambridge (sqm)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## South Cambridgeshire

Year	Retail - convenience	Retail - durable	Retail - unknown	Total Retail
2011-2012	-61	-938	75	-924
2012-2013	147	534	0	681
2013-2014	559	595	66	1,220
2014-2015	1,756	1,159	499	3,414
2015-2016	-247	2,472	81	2,306
2016-2017	-126	-21	0	-147
2017-2018	71	-582	235	-276
2018-2019	187	129	16	333
2019-2020	145	16	742	903
2020-2021	273	0	-5	268
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>3,365</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>7,778</b>

Table 99 – Completed (net) retail floorspace in South Cambridgeshire (sqm)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Gross committed retail floorspace in March 2021

### Cambridge

Permission type	Retail - convenience	Retail - durable	Retail - unknown	Total
Outline	506	0	14,522	15,028
Not started	1,412	554	2,001	3,967
Under construction	612	0	416	1,028
Allocated floorspace	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>16,939</b>	<b>20,023</b>

Table 100 – Gross committed retail floorspace in April 2021 – Cambridge (sqm)  
Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### South Cambridgeshire

Permission type	Retail - convenience	Retail - durable	Retail - unknown	Total
Outline	10,737	25,000	7,742	43,479
Not started	1,302	1,272	1,341	3,915
Under construction	963	360	0	1,323
Allocated floorspace	390	0	2,850	3,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,392</b>	<b>26,632</b>	<b>11,933</b>	<b>51,957</b>

Table 101 – Gross committed retail floorspace in March 2020 - South Cambridgeshire (sqm)  
Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Net committed retail floorspace in March 2021

### Cambridge

Permission type	Retail - convenience	Retail - durable	Retail - unknown	Total
Outline	506	0	14,522	15,028
Not started	601	-379	-1,168	-946
Under construction	493	0	55	548
Allocated floorspace	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>-379</b>	<b>13,409</b>	<b>14,630</b>

Table 102 – Net committed retail floorspace in March 2020 – Cambridge (sqm)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

### South Cambridgeshire

Permission type	Retail - convenience	Retail - durable	Retail - unknown	Total
Outline	10,690	25,000	7,742	43,432
Not started	1,218	1,272	1,238	3,728
Under construction	963	360	0	1,323
Allocated floorspace	390	0	2,850	3,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,261</b>	<b>26,632</b>	<b>11,830</b>	<b>51,723</b>

Table 103 – Net committed retail floorspace in March 2020 - South Cambridgeshire (sqm)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Completed hotel floorspace in Cambridge

Year	Gross	Net
2011-2012	557	-175
2012-2013	1,134	-37
2013-2014	7,951	7,863
2014-2015	1,364	316
2015-2016	0	-4,328
2016-2017	6,621	6,621
2017-2018	2,982	2,816
2018-2019	2,244	1,041
2019-2020	10,965	10,965
2020-2021	301	-738
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,119</b>	<b>24,344</b>

Table 104 – Increase in completed hotel floorspace in Cambridge (sqm)

Source: Research & Monitoring - Cambridgeshire County Council

## Proportion of A1 uses within district centres in Cambridge

District Centre	2013	2019	2020	Target
Arbury Court	50%	67%	67%	55%
Cherry Hinton High Street	39	52%	41%	55%
Histon Road	70%	60%	52%	55%
Mill Road East	42%	57%	57%	55%
Mill Road West	37%	49%	49%	55%
Mitchams Corner	36%	48%	48%	55%

Table 105 – % of units in A1 uses in District Centres in Cambridge

Source: Greater Cambridge Shared Planning team surveys and Cambridge Retail and Leisure Study Update (2013)

## Design and Conservation data

### Number of Buildings of Local Interest (BLIs) in Cambridge

Area	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015 -16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Cambridge	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,043	455	452	460	467	465	465

Table 106 – Number of Buildings of Local Interest (BLIs) in Cambridge

Note: in some cases a single entry is used to cover more than one building. The significant reduction in the number of BLIs between 2014/15 and 2015/16 was as a result of consolidating entries meaning that a single entry is sometimes used to cover more than one building

Source: Conservation Team- Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

### Number of listed buildings and number that are at risk in South Cambridgeshire

Listed Buildings	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015 -16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of listed buildings	2,672	2,672	2,660	2,675	N/A	N/A	2,687	2,692	2,693	2,695
Number at risk	46	69	52	52	N/A	N/A	N/A	15*	9	9
% of listed buildings at risk	1.7%	2.6%	2%	1.9%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%

Table 107 – Number of listed buildings and number that are at risk in South Cambridgeshire

Note: \* There is significant reduction in the number of Listed Buildings at risk reported in 2018-2019 in comparison to when last previously reported in 2014-2015 as a result of an internal review of the register which found a large number of listings were no longer 'at risk'.

Source: Conservation Team – Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

## Other heritage assets at risk in South Cambridgeshire

Heritage assets	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Buildings and Structure	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Place of Worship	1	1	1	4	5	5	5	3	6	8	6
Archaeology / Scheduled Monuments	24	25	24	24	22	21	20	20	18	14	13
Registered Parks and Garden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Registered Battlefield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wreck Site	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conservation Area	11	10	11	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5

Table 108 – Other heritage assets at risk in South Cambridgeshire

Source: 'Heritage at Risk: East of England Register, 2021' Historic England



## Transport data

### Vehicles crossing the Cam - April and October 2019

Vehicle type	April - 12 Hr flow	April - Modal split	October – 12 hr flow	October – Modal Split
Motorcycles	797	2%	1,411	2%
Cars & Taxis	14,246	37%	37,071	41%
Light goods	3,460	9%	6,653	7%
Heavy goods	420	1%	1115	1%
Bus & coach	460	1%	1,268	1%
<b>All motor vehicles</b>	<b>19,383</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>47,518</b>	<b>53%</b>
Pedal cycles	8,109	21%	18,862	21%
Pedestrians	11,258	29%	24,011	27%
Total (all modes)	38,750	100%	90,390	100%

Table 109 – Vehicles crossing the Cam - April 2019 Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Traffic Monitoring Report 2020  
 \* Survey by Cambridgeshire County Council of all vehicle crossing the River Cam (all bridges into the city centre) in April and October 2020

## Traffic growth on urban River Cam screenline\*

Vehicle type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Apr-20	Oct-20**	Change Oct 2020 - 2019	Change Oct 2020 - April 2020
Motorcycle	120	106	115	80	118	124	84	75	-46%	-10%
Car & taxi	93	91	90	93	89	93	29	104	10%	258%
Light goods	99	97	97	97	94	95	54	98	-4%	82%
Heavy goods	71	71	77	82	58	112	37	73	-30%	98%
Bus & Coach	86	94	83	84	77	83	26	80	-11%	202%
All motor vehicles	93	92	91	93	89	94	33	85	-11%	161%
Pedal cycles	185	165	171	177	164	152	37	149	-8%	303%

Table 110 – Traffic growth on urban River Cam screenline Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Traffic Monitoring Report 2020

\*Traffic is monitored comprehensively in Cambridge by Cambridgeshire County Council along 2 screenlines. The Urban River screenline runs along the river Cam. Vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists crossing all bridges in the city centre are counted every Spring.

A second count was done in October 2020

## % of residents aged 16-74 in employment and working within 5km of home or at home

Area	2011
South Cambridgeshire	35%
East of England	43%

Table 111 – % of residents aged 16-74 in employment and working within 5km of home or at home Source: Census data – will be updated when more up to date information becomes available

## Vehicle flows across the South Cambridgeshire – Cambridge City boundary over 12-hour period

Vehicle type	12 hours	modal split
Motorcycles	1,009	1%
Cars	133,601	76%
Light goods vehicles	21,115	12%
Heavy goods vehicles	4,653	3%
Bus & coach	1,345	1%
<b>All motor vehicles</b>	<b>161,907</b>	<b>92%</b>
Pedal cycles	8,856	5%
Pedestrians	4,205	2%
<b>Total (all modes)</b>	<b>175,830</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 112 – Traffic Growth on the Cambridge Radial Cordon Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Traffic Monitoring Report 2020

## Traffic growth on the Cambridge Radial Cordon\*

Vehicle type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	change 19-20
Motorcycle	92	96	103	82	90	81	56	-31%
Car & taxi	108	111	111	109	108	110	85	-23%
Light goods	99	102	101	111	111	99	100	0%
Heavy goods	99	139	142	102	116	138	139	1%
Bus & Coach	77	104	103	85	79	79	59	-25%
All motor vehicles	107	110	110	109	108	109	87	-20%
Pedal cycles	152	161	180	150	166	164	119	-27%

Table 113 – Traffic growth on urban River Cam screenline Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Traffic Monitoring Report 2018

\* Traffic is monitored comprehensively in Cambridge by Cambridgeshire County Council along 2 screenlines. The Cambridge Radial Cordon monitors vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists on every entry and exit route to Cambridge. Seven sites are also monitored to count cyclists and pedestrians on paths between the radial routes This is counted in the Autumn.

Index (2008 = 100)

## Congestion – average journey time per mile during the am peak environment

Sept 2011 - August 2012	Sept 2012 - August 2013	Sept 2013 - August 2014	Sept 2014 - August 2015	Sept 2015 - August 2016	Sept 2016 - August 2017
3.84 minutes	3.78 minutes	4.45 minutes	4.87 minutes	4.87 minutes	4.75 minutes

Table 114 – Congestion - average journey time per mile during the am peak environment Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Traffic Monitoring Report 2018

## People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents

### South Cambridgeshire Casualty Trends

<b>Year</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Slight</b>	<b>Total</b>
2011	7	81	486	574
2012	9	61	463	533
2013	5	70	428	503
2014	5	78	438	521
2015	9	63	426	498
2016	11	84	477	572
2017	11	94	381	486
2018	7	81	249	337
2019	3	58	179	240
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>3,527</b>	<b>4,264</b>

Table 115 – People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents Source: ONS

## Health and Wellbeing data

### Life expectancy at birth

Gender	Area	2010-12	2011-13	2012-14	2013-15	2014-16	2015-17	2016-18	2017-19	2018-20
Males	South Cambridgeshire	82.8	83.0	82.7	82.1	82.3	82.3	82.8	83.5	83.1
Males	Cambridge	79.8	79.9	79.8	80.2	80.5	80.9	81.0	80.9	80.9
Males	England	79.2	79.4	79.3	79.5	79.5	79.6	79.6	79.8	79.4
Females	South Cambridgeshire	85.9	85.9	85.6	85.2	85.2	85.5	85.7	85.8	85.9
Females	Cambridge	84.4	84.3	84.0	84.0	84.0	83.6	83.6	84.3	84.5
Females	England	83.0	83.1	83.0	83.1	83.1	83.1	83.2	83.4	83.1

Table 116 – Life expectancy at birth

Source: Public Health England

### Exercise levels

Area	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
South Cambridgeshire	68.3	73.0	74.9
Cambridge	80.1	75.2	75.0
East of England	65.4	66.9	67.3

Table 117 – Percentage of physically active adults in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

Source: Public Health England

## Recorded Crimes per 1,000 people

Area	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
South Cambridgeshire	32.9	31.2	30.8	31.1	31.6	36.8	48.7	47.2	47.5	41.0
Cambridge	55.3	48.9	46.4	47.8	49.0	69.5	66.4	122.0	123.1	92.9

Table 118 – Recorded crimes per 1000 people

Source: Cambridgeshire Constabulary data from Cambridgeshire Insight

## Percentage of residents with a long-term limiting illness

Area	2011
South Cambridgeshire	14%
Cambridge	14%

Table 119 – Percentage of residents with a long-term limiting illness

Source: Census of Population, 2011

## English Indices of Deprivation

### South Cambridgeshire

Indicator	2000	2004	2007	2010	2013	2019
Income Deprivation Rank	298th	294th	275th	254th	249th	246th
Employment Deprivation Rank	275th	286th	276th	260th	250th	244th
Overall Deprivation Rank	342nd	345th	350th	322th	316th	300th
Average Deprivation Score	7.33	6.39	6.55	7.11	8.05	8.49

Table 120 – Indices of deprivation – South Cambridgeshire

Note: The most deprived Local Authority is ranked 1

Source: English Indices of Deprivation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)

## Key Stage 4 attainment results

### South Cambridgeshire

Standard	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
% pupils achieving the standard pass (a grade 4 or above) in English and mathematics	76.4	77.6	75.9	76.1	80.1	81.3
% pupils achieving the strong pass (a grade 5 or above) in English and mathematics	-	59.9	57.8	58.2	63.3	64.7
Ebacc Average Points Score	-	-	4.94	5.05	5.19	5.19
Attainment 8	56.6	54.4	53.8	55.0	56.9	57.1
Progress 8	0.40	0.41	0.43	0.42	N/A	N/A

Table 121a – Key Stage 4 attainment results

Source: Department for Education (via Cambridgeshire County Council)

### Cambridgeshire

Standard	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
% pupils achieving the standard pass (a grade 4 or above) in English and mathematics	67.7	67.0	66.2	67.9	72.8	74.3
% pupils achieving the strong pass (a grade 5 or above) in English and mathematics	-	46.7	46.1	47.7	51.2	55.5
Ebacc Average Points Score	-	-	4.26	4.36	4.54	4.71
Attainment 8	51.5	47.7	48	49.2	51.3	52.7
Progress 8	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.17	N/A	N/A

Table 121b – Key Stage 4 attainment results

Source: Department for Education (via Cambridgeshire County Council)



## England

Standard	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
% pupils achieving the standard pass (a grade 4 or above) in English and mathematics	63.3	63.9	64.2	64.6	71.8	72.2
% pupils achieving the strong pass (a grade 5 or above) in English and mathematics	-	42.6	43.3	43.2	50.1	51.9
Ebacc Average Points Score	-	-	4.04	4.07	4.41	4.45
Attainment 8	50.1	46.3	46.5	46.7	50.3	50.9
Progress 8	-0.03	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	N/A	N/A

Table 121c – Key Stage 4 attainment results

Source: Department for Education (via Cambridgeshire County Council)

### Covid-19 Caveats

All data released as part of the DfE's KS4 Performance 2021. Publication is publicly available for all on the DfE website:

Key stage 4 performance (revised), Academic year 2020/21

**2020/21 data should not be directly compared to attainment data from previous years for the purposes of measuring year on year changes in student performance.**

Instead, for 2020/21, pupils were only assessed on the content they had been taught for each course. Schools were given flexibility to decide how to assess their pupils' performance, for example, through mock exams, class tests, and non-exam assessment already completed. GCSE grades were then determined by teachers based on the range of evidence available and they are referred to as teacher-assessed grades, or TAGs.

This is a different process to that of 2019/20 when pupils were awarded either a centre assessment grade (known as CAGs, based on what the school or college believed the pupil would most likely have achieved had exams gone ahead) or their calculated grade using a model developed by Ofqual - whichever was the higher of the two.

The changes to the way GCSE grades have been awarded over the last two years (with CAGs and TAGs replacing exams) mean 2020/21 pupil attainment data should not be directly compared to pupil attainment data from previous years for the purposes of measuring year on year changes in pupil performance.

This release includes all characteristics and geographical breakdowns that are usually published in January's 'revised' release.

The schools checking exercise was cancelled this year, which means that the usual publication schedule of 'provisional' and 'revised' data does not apply. This data has not been checked or confirmed by schools.

School level information will not be published in 2021.

The increases seen in the headline statistics likely reflect the changed method for awarding grades rather than demonstrating a step change improvement in standards.

Given the unprecedented change in the way GCSE results have been awarded in the summers of 2020 and 2021 and the resulting significant changes to the distribution of the grades received (in comparison to exam results), pupil level attainment in 2020/21 is not comparable to that in 2019/20 and to that of the previous exam years for the purposes of measuring changes in pupil performance.

For further information, please [click here](#) to see the DfE's full publication, including a methodology paper.

## S106 data

Investment secured for infrastructure and community facilities through developer contributions

### S106 contributions secured in Cambridge

Year	Amount secured by Cambridge City Council	Amount secured by Cambridgeshire County Council	Total amount secured in Cambridge
2014-2015	unknown	£4,850,668	unknown
2015-2016	£389,561	£232,122	£621,683
2016-2017	£609,946	£1,169,524	£1,779,470
2017-2018	£984,813	£1,663,813	£2,648,626
2018-2019	£1,014,817	£1,990,544	£3,005,361
2019-2020	£3,169,190	£2,210,226	£5,379,416
2020-2021	£2,158,854	£15,039,555	£17,198,409

Table 122 – S106 contributions secured and received in Cambridge

Source: Development Contributions Monitoring Officer at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

### S106 contributions received in Cambridge

Year	Amount received by Cambridge City Council	Amount received by Cambridgeshire County Council	Total amount received in Cambridge
2014-2015	£5,568,982	£20,823,607	£26,392,589
2015-2016	£3,748,873	£19,853,789	£23,602,662
2016-2017	£1,606,471	£6,753,430	£8,359,901
2017-2018	£2,782,309	£13,296,026	£16,078,335
2018-2019	£1,614,664	£5,350,950	£6,965,614
2019-2020	£2,029,300	£11,819,417	£13,848,717
2020-2021	£1,812,614	£1,819,896	£3,632,510

Table 123 – S106 contributions secured and received in Cambridge

Source: Development Contributions Monitoring Officer at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

## Investment secured for South Cambridgeshire District Council

Year	Amount secured by South Cambridgeshire District Council	Amount secured by Cambridgeshire County Council	Total amount secured in South Cambridgeshire
2011-2012	£3,420,858	£12,283,691	unknown
2012-2013	£2,695,859	£1,834,895	£4,530,754
2013-2014	£2,064,069	£1,095,879	£3,159,948
2014-2015	£6,884,121	£28,931,394	£35,815,515
2015-2016	£1,500,653	£2,812,814	£4,313,467
2016-2017	£5,622,068	£3,453,030	£9,075,098
2017-2018	£6,461,238	£54,554,352	£61,015,590
2018-2019	£2,142,866	£1,042,232	£3,185,098
2019-2020	£4,027,031	£100,575,441	£104,602,472
2020-2021	£1,131,469	£13,740,332	£14,871,801

Table 124 – S106 contributions secured in South Cambridgeshire for open space, community facilities and transport

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

## Money Received for South Cambridgeshire District Council

Year	Amount received by South Cambridgeshire District Council	Amount received by Cambridgeshire County Council	Total amount received in South Cambridgeshire
2011-2012	£505,461	£1,581,048	£2,086,509
2012-2013	£2,628,228	£586,509	£3,214,737
2013-2014	£3,179,086	£2,736,447	£5,915,533
2014-2015	£2,411,967	£7,286,983	£9,698,950
2015-2016	£2,980,441	£4,013,867	£6,994,308
2016-2017	£2,895,392	£1,368,210	£4,263,602
2017-2018	£1,287,849	£18,660,712	£19,948,561
2018-2019	£1,778,734	£12,301,571	£14,080,305
2019-2020	£18,456,568	£10,187,264	£28,643,832
2020-2021	£1,793,180	£6,833,427	£8,626,607

Table 125 – S106 Money received by South Cambridgeshire District Council for open space, community facilities and transport

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

## Cambridge Southern Fringe

### Investment secured from Cambridge Southern Fringe

Year	Amount secured by South Cambridgeshire District Council	Amount secured by Cambridgeshire County Council
2011-2012	N/A	N/A
2012-2013	N/A	N/A
2013-2014	N/A	N/A
2014-2015	N/A	N/A
2015-2016	N/A	N/A
2016-2017	N/A	N/A
2017-2018	N/A	N/A
2018-2019	N/A	N/A
2019-2020	N/A	N/A
2020-2021	N/A	N/A

Table 126 – Investment secured by Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council from Cambridge Southern Fringe

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

Outline planning permission for Cambridge Southern Fringe - Trumpington

Meadows was approved in 2009-2010, and therefore the investment secured was in that year.

### Money received from Cambridge Southern Fringe

Year	Amount received by South Cambridgeshire District Council	Amount received by Cambridgeshire County Council
2011-2012	£0	£2,374,503
2012-2013	£3,585	£5,817,617
2013-2014	£0	£1,461,362
2014-2015	£45,952	£3,489,230
2015-2016	£46,525	£838,691
2016-2017	£16,102	£27,584
2017-2018	£8,301	£4,779,465
2018-2019	£0	£1,308,261
2019-2020	£0	£62,492
2020-2021	£0	£0

Table 127 – Money received by Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council from Cambridge Southern Fringe

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

## Northstowe

### Investment secured from Northstowe

Year	Amount secured by South Cambridgeshire District Council	Amount secured by Cambridgeshire County Council
2011-2012	N/A	N/A
2012-2013	N/A	N/A
2013-2014	N/A	N/A
2014-2015	A total of £30 million has been secured for the development of Northstowe Phase 1.	A total of £30 million has been secured for the development of Northstowe Phase 1.
2015-2016	N/A	N/A
2016-2017	A total of £70 million has been secured for the development of Northstowe Phase 2.	A total of £70 million has been secured for the development of Northstowe Phase 2.
2017-2018	N/A	N/A
2018-2019	N/A	N/A
2019-2020	N/A	N/A
2020-2021	N/A	N/A

Table 128 – Investment secured by Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council from Northstowe

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

### Money received from Northstowe

Year	Amount received by South Cambridgeshire District Council	Amount received by Cambridgeshire County Council
2011-2012	N/A	N/A
2012-2013	N/A	N/A
2013-2014	N/A	N/A
2014-2015	N/A	N/A
2015-2016	£386,766	£123,149
2016-2017	£0	£0
2017-2018	£559,263 (£172,497 for phase 1 and £386,766 for phase 2)	£16,672,466 (£925,599 for phase 1 and £15,746,867 for phase 2)
2018-2019	£127,433	£10,270,621
2019-2020	£16,642,114	£6,590,444
2020-2021	£0	£2,798,947

Table 129 – Money received by Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council from Northstowe

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

## North West Cambridge

### Investment secured from North West Cambridge

Year	Amount secured by South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridge City Council	Amount secured by Cambridgeshire County Council
2011-2012	N/A	N/A
2012-2013	£725,061 (does not include waste contribution annual payments or bus stop maintenance payments)	£18,735,409
2013-2014	N/A	N/A
2014-2015	N/A	N/A
2015-2016	N/A	N/A
2016-2017	N/A	N/A
2017-2018	N/A	N/A
2018-2019	N/A	N/A
2019-2020	N/A	N/A
2020-2021	N/A	N/A

Table 130 – Investment secured by Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council/Cambridge City Council from North West Cambridge

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council, Development Contributions Monitoring Officer at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

### Money received from North West Cambridge

Year	Amount received by South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridge City Council	Amount received by Cambridgeshire County Council
2011-2012	N/A	N/A
2012-2013	N/A	N/A
2013-2014	£36,238	£0
2014-2015	£18,105	£0
2015-2016	£72,293	£318,416
2016-2017	£20,230	£209,093
2017-2018	£265,639	£543,081
2018-2019	£134,741	£0
2019-2020	£84,372	£0
2020-2021	£0	£0

Table 131 – Money received by Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council/Cambridge City Council from North West Cambridge

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council, Development Contributions Monitoring Officer at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

## Cambridge East

### Investment secured from Cambridge East

Year	Amount secured by South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridge City Council	Amount secured by Cambridgeshire County Council
2011-2012	N/A	N/A
2012-2013	N/A	N/A
2013-2014	N/A	N/A
2014-2015	N/A	N/A
2015-2016	N/A	N/A
2016-2017	£746,300	£17,644,837
2017-2018	N/A	N/A
2018-2019	N/A	N/A
2019-2020	N/A	N/A
2020-2021	£1,873,431	£14,706,075

Table 132 – Investment secured by Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council/Cambridge City Council from Cambridge East

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council, Development Contributions Monitoring Officer at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council

### Money received from Cambridge East

Year	Amount received by South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridge City Council	Amount received by Cambridgeshire County Council
2011-2012	N/A	N/A
2012-2013	N/A	N/A
2013-2014	N/A	N/A
2014-2015	N/A	N/A
2015-2016	N/A	N/A
2016-2017	N/A	N/A
2017-2018	£269,919	£0
2018-2019	£0	£0
2019-2020	£0	£1,011,484
2020-2021	£0	£83,956

Table 133 – Money received by Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council/Cambridge City Council from Cambridge East

Source: S106 Officer South Cambridgeshire District Council, Development Contributions Monitoring Officer at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and Capital and Funding Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council



# Appendix 3: Greater Cambridge Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020-2021

## NOTES:

- The final published version of 'Investment in community facilities and infrastructure secured by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service' document that forms the first part of this appendix will be designed (desktop published) and include photos or images alongside the case studies.
- The 'Cambridge City Council Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020-2021' and the 'South Cambridgeshire District Council Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020-2021' that form the second part of this appendix are already published on the Councils websites and are the formal statements that the Councils are required to prepare and publish by 31 December each year to meet the regulations. However for comprehensiveness they will also be incorporated into the AMR

**Investment in community facilities and  
infrastructure secured by the Greater Cambridge  
Shared Planning Service document**



## **Investment in community facilities and infrastructure secured by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service**

An overview of Section 106 funding in Greater Cambridge, 2020-2021

## How are new services and infrastructure agreed and funded as part of the development process?

When planning applications are granted, investment in infrastructure (such as new libraries, schools, health facilities or improvements to road networks) is secured through the use of planning obligations, also known as Section 106 (or S106) agreements. This requires developers to meet the specific needs set out in the S106 agreement. The delivery of these obligations for new or improved infrastructure or services is key in ensuring that any growth in Greater Cambridge is sustainable and that new and existing communities' needs will be catered for.

## How do developments contribute to new infrastructure?

The contribution may be spent on infrastructure within the development site or on off-site infrastructure such as school extensions and new cycleways. It may be a payment of money to a local authority or a third party, such as NHS England, to carry out specific projects. Or it may be an agreement for the infrastructure work to be carried out by the developer themselves. For example, money could be given to Councils to improve local roads, or the developer might provide new transport infrastructure as part of their own development.

## How is the infrastructure funding required from developers decided?

The planning obligations for each development are assessed on a case by case basis by the planning officer looking at the size of the proposed development and how it is likely to impact existing infrastructure.

Planning officers will consult with key infrastructure providers in the area, such as officers across **Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils** (about the provision of affordable housing, or contributions towards open space and play space, or community development and facilities); **Cambridgeshire County Council** (in relation to contributions towards nurseries, schools, libraries, roads, cycleways and footpaths and waste recycling centres); **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group** (about contributions to primary healthcare services including new or expanded GP practices); and **Parish Councils in South Cambridgeshire**, which typically secure contributions towards children's play equipment, community orchards, sports facilities and village halls. Developers can negotiate on the officer's initial assessment before the S106 agreement is finalised.

## Infrastructure secured and delivered in Greater Cambridge in 2020-2021

The following pages set out the monetary and non-monetary contributions secured or delivered towards services and infrastructure in Greater Cambridge during the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, through planning applications approved.

In the financial year 2020-2021, around £3.2 million has been secured for future investment through new S106 agreements by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, with £3.5 million received during the year to fulfil existing agreements as triggers were met.

### **Cambridge City Council, through the use of S106 legal agreements:**

- secured over £2.1m of contributions
- secured 382 new affordable homes
- received over £1.8m as triggers in agreements were met

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council, through the use of S106 legal agreements:**

- secured over £1.1m of contributions
- secured 284 new affordable homes
- received over £1.7m as triggers in agreements were met

Additional substantial funding was secured through the S106 agreements by Cambridgeshire County Council towards county matters such as highways and schools.

### **What type of service or infrastructure are usually funded?**

The list below shows some of the most common types of infrastructure which are funded through S106 agreements. You can read a number of short case studies showing how contributions are being delivered across Greater Cambridge on the following pages.

- Affordable housing – page 4
- Children’s play spaces – page 5
- Open spaces – page 6
- Sport facilities – page 7
- Allotments and orchards – page 8

- Community facilities – page 9
- Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure – page 10
- Public realm and public art – page 11
- Education – page 12
- Highways and public transport – page 13
- Libraries – page 14
- Healthcare – page 15

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## Affordable housing

It is essential that new developments deliver homes to meet the needs of a wide variety of households so that within Greater Cambridge we can create mixed and balanced communities. The Councils require a mix of housing on-site within new developments, including a variety of tenures of affordable housing. S106 agreements are used to secure the provision of affordable housing on-site, or in some cases secure financial contributions towards the provision of affordable housing on an alternative site.

S106 agreements signed in 2020-2021 secured 142 affordable homes in five developments in Cambridge and 44 affordable homes in five developments in South Cambridgeshire. A further 480 affordable homes have been secured on the cross-boundary new development north of Cherry Hinton. As well as securing future delivery of affordable homes, in 2020-2021 100 new affordable homes were completed across 10 developments in Cambridge and 314 new affordable homes were completed across 19 developments in South Cambridgeshire.

## Clay Farm

Clay Farm is a mixed use development on the southern edge of Cambridge. The first homes were completed in 2012-2013. The new homes have been delivered by a variety of housebuilders, including Cambridge City Council. The majority of the homes have now been completed, with 1,223 market homes and 913 affordable homes completed by March 2021. In 2020-2021, 33 affordable homes were completed.

## Land west of Grace Crescent, Hardwick

This site is a new development of 98 homes on the south western edge of Hardwick that includes 39 affordable homes. The first homes were completed in 2019-2020. The new homes have been delivered by Hill Residential, and South Cambridgeshire

District Council's New Build team has taken on the affordable homes. 50 market homes and 32 affordable homes have been completed so far. The affordable homes provided are a mixture of affordable rent and shared ownership, and the shared ownership homes have been part-funded through the use of S106 contributions received in lieu of affordable housing on other developments.

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## Children's play spaces

This year new play spaces were secured at the new development north of Cherry Hinton and contributions were also secured or received for a range of other sites across Greater Cambridge, with an additional £111,623 secured and £180,538 received for off-site improvements. A number of projects were completed this year too, including improvements at Holbrook Road, Cherry Hinton Hall, Trumpington Meadows, and a new play area opened at Robinson Gardens in Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth.

### Cherry Hinton Hall play area

A new, redeveloped play area at Cherry Hinton Hall opened in spring 2021 after consultation with the local community in autumn 2020. The new play area provides a wide range of imaginative play opportunities for children aged 0 to 14 to swing, climb and balance, spin and slide, including a pirate ship, zip wire and woodland trail.

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## Open spaces

Informal open spaces are used by people of all ages for informal unstructured recreation such as walking, relaxing, or as a focal point. They range from formal planted areas and meeting places to wilder, more natural spaces, including some green linkages.

On-site informal open space provision was secured as part a wide range of sites gaining planning permission this year, including at the new development north of Cherry Hinton and at villages such as Fowlmere, Over and Waterbeach. £37,663 in contributions were secured this year and £1,320,638 was received from contributions to off-site improvements, including at Great Eastern Street in Cambridge, Dovecote Field in Foxton, and Homefield Park and Manor Park field in Histon.

## Nightingale Avenue Recreation Ground

Funding was secured towards footway improvements at Nightingale Avenue Recreation Ground to enable better access to the community garden. The project was completed in February 2021.

## Land to the East of New Road, Melbourn

When planning permission was granted for 199 dwellings and a care home in 2014, a strategic green buffer along the southern boundary and part of the western boundary was secured to create a sensitive green edge to the village, but also to provide informal open space with pathways and seating. The strategic landscaping area has now been delivered along the southern edge of the site, with a footpath for residents. There is also a play area and other pockets of open space which have been constructed on-site.

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## Sports facilities

This year outdoor space for sport was secured at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus development and at the new development north of Cherry Hinton. Contributions were secured or received for a range of indoor and outdoor sports projects, with £737,394 secured and £735,156 received.

Examples in Cambridge include improvement of outdoor sports pitches and artificial cricket nets at North Cambridge Academy, and improvement to the athletics facilities at Wilberforce Road Athletics Track. Significant contributions were also received towards improvement of facilities at Abbey Pool.

In South Cambridgeshire funding was secured towards Willingham Road Sports Pavilion in Over, and received towards the cost of building a new multipurpose pavilion on the site of Cambridge City Football Club (in the Parish of Sawston).

Completed projects this year include the New Nightingale Recreation Ground pavilion in Cambridge, improvements to Chesterton Recreation Ground pavilion and the transfer of land for a new recreation ground in Orwell.

## Chesterton Recreation Ground pavilion

Construction is underway for a new extension at Chesterton Recreation Ground Pavilion almost doubling its size and expanding kitchen and storage facilities and refreshing shower and changing facilities. Contributions from the development of Cambridge City Football Ground are directly funding the improvements.



## Hauxton sports pavilion

When redevelopment of the former Bayer Cropscience site at Hauxton was approved in 2010, the S106 agreement required the transfer of 1.5 hectares of land to the Parish Council for use as a new sports ground along with sums of money for its upkeep and for temporary toilet and changing facilities. The construction of phase 1 of a new Sports Pavilion on the sports ground land was completed in September 2020, paid for by the Premier League, the FA Facilities Fund and Amey. A further £50,000 from S106 funds has been secured during 2020-2021 towards phase 2 of the Sports Pavilion. This will include a club room, kitchen and public toilets.

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## Allotments and orchards

Allotments and community orchards are important and valued forms of green space and should be included in new housing developments. Allotments provide fresh local fruit and vegetables as well as invaluable exercise and encourage a healthier lifestyle. This year allotments were secured at the new development north of Cherry Hinton and the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus at Hinxton. Contributions were secured or received for a range of sites, including at Trumpington Meadows.

Orchards provide a range of benefits, including biodiversity, landscape enhancement, fruit for local communities and are a catalyst for the community to come together. On-site community orchards have been provided at sites in Melbourn and Great Abington.

### Allotments at Land North of Cherry Hinton

Outline planning permission was granted for the new development north of Cherry Hinton in May 2020. The S106 agreement secured over one hectare of land on-site for allotments, with one parcel to be completed no later than when the 600<sup>th</sup> home is occupied and the second parcel no later than when the 1,000<sup>th</sup> home is occupied. A planning condition also secures the requirement for an Allotment Management Strategy.

### New allotments at Trumpington Meadows

The Trumpington Meadows allotments opened in March 2019, and are located at the northern end of the country park. This year, additional funding for maintenance has been secured. There are 63 plots available for residents of the Trumpington Meadows development, who can apply to the City Council for an allotment. They have been so popular that there is already a waiting list.

As part of the public art strategy for the Trumpington Meadows site, which received developer funding, a feasting table was designed to be at the centre of the allotment.

## Community facilities

Indoor community facilities, including village halls, community halls, church halls and other publicly accessible buildings, play a crucial role in maintaining a sense of local identity, as well as providing a base for a variety of different groups and activities.

In 2020-2021, a number of new facilities were secured on-site for new developments. These include a new accessible and sustainable community facility at Campkin Road in Arbury; a new highly sustainable community centre at The Meadows, also in Arbury; and both temporary and permanent new facilities as part of the Wellcome Genome Campus development in Hinxton.

£544,896 has been secured and £498,068 has been received this year which will help to fund improvements to the fabric of village halls, community centres, sports pavilions and scout huts across Greater Cambridge, as well as funding accessibility improvements and new equipment. Examples include contributions to the creation of new or extended facilities at Babraham, Cottenham and Swavesey.

S106 contributions have helped to fund several community projects in 2020-2021 from, for example, an additional meeting space to an accessible toilet. Funding for Nightingale Community Garden in Cambridge supported the creation of an experimental green roof for the garden hut where new habitats for insects and particularly bees have been created and a variety of new and existing plant species have been planted.

### Cottenham Village Hall

In previous years over £550,000 of S106 contributions were secured, which have helped to pay for a new village hall in Cottenham which opened in spring 2021. The new two storey Village Hall, which replaced an existing one storey building, offers a range of spaces for activities, events and meetings including a large first floor balcony room with views across the village's recreation ground.

### Community development at Land North of Cherry Hinton

The new development north of Cherry Hinton has secured funding to support a range of community development projects, including a new multi-use community facility, plus: the co-ordination of support for new families; community development, child and family workers and equipment; the delivery of events and activities and support for the establishment of community groups; mental health support and increased health visitor capacity; and the delivery of healthy new town initiatives.

## Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a strategic, multi-functional network of public green spaces and routes, landscapes, biodiversity and heritage which includes country parks, wildlife habitats, rights of way, bridleways, commons and greens, nature reserves, waterways and bodies of water, and historic landscapes and monuments.

This year green infrastructure was secured on the new development north of Cherry Hinton, and contributions were secured towards the River Great Ouse improvement project at Over and improvements to Fowlmere Round Moat.

### Green Infrastructure at land north of Cherry Hinton

On and off-site S106 contributions have been secured for green infrastructure at this development. On-site provision includes a range of measures to enhance biodiversity, including improvements to the stream, native planting and hedgerows. In addition, £121,500 has been secured towards off-site improvements to biodiversity at Fulbourn Fen to offset the ecological impact of the development. This contribution must be paid to the City Council before the first dwelling is occupied.

## Public realm

A well-designed public realm aims to achieve an environment that is attractive, distinctive, accessible and inclusive. Public realm areas where people congregate or move through should be both inviting and functional. This will require high quality finishes, places for sitting or being active, as well as being safe and permeable spaces.

Planning obligations were secured for improvements to urban public spaces within the new development north of Cherry Hinton, including improvements to Coldham's Lane junction in Cambridge, and payments were received to fund a new tree and tree pit and its ongoing maintenance at Mitcham's Corner. Romsey town square public realm improvements were also completed during 2020-2021.

## Public art

Developments can provide opportunities to incorporate public art to contribute to the character and quality of the area. Whilst public art tends to be delivered and managed as part of the planning permission by condition, there are occasions when

it is secured through S106 agreements. There are also ongoing projects which are funded through previously collected financial contributions.

During 2020-2021, the developer of the new development north of Cherry Hinton has committed to preparing a site-wide public art strategy along with a maximum budget for public art of £480,000. Payment was also received towards funding a performance arts space and facilities within a new Babraham Village Hub.

A number of the public art projects that have been funded through planning obligations also reached the delivery stage in 2020-2021, including 'To the River' celebrating and promoting the story of the River Cam and its role in shaping Cambridge, the Women+ at Work 100th anniversary of votes for women commemoration, and the Cambridge Rules sculpture on Parker's Piece.

### Cambridge Rules sculpture

165 years after a group of students from Cambridge University first nailed their rules of the game of football to a tree, the City Council funded a public art commission to celebrate the 'Cambridge Rules'. One single large stone was cut into nine equal pieces. Each cut face was engraved with the laws of the game in numerous languages and fonts. Four of the pieces remain as a permanent marker on Parker's Piece. The other five have been sent as 'tokens of exchange' to five countries all over the globe in locations with both historical and contemporary football stories.

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## Education

On major sites land is secured for new education sites, and contributions are sought to address education needs for early years, primary and secondary education. These section 106 agreements are with the County Council as Local Education Authority.

### Marleigh Primary Academy

Planning approval was granted for the Marleigh Primary Academy and nursery in November 2020. The new primary school will accommodate approximately 420 children who will be able to walk and cycle from their new homes in the Marleigh development (north of Newmarket Road) in Cambridge. Transfer of the land for the school and payment for its construction was included the S106 agreement attached to the planning permission for the overall Marleigh development in 2016. Work to build the school has begun and it is planned to open in September 2022.

## Highways and public transport

Contributions are sought by the County Council for public transport, cycling and walking, highways, parking management, and travel planning.

### Dutch-style roundabout, Cambridge

The new Dutch-style roundabout at the junction of Queen Edith's Way, Fendon Road and Mowbray Road which opened in Cambridge in July 2020 is the first of its kind in the UK. The roundabout has a range of features to improve cyclist safety, including an outer ring in a contrasting red surface to give cyclists equal priority with pedestrians over oncoming vehicles, and parallel crossings for pedestrians and cyclists. The funding of the project was complemented by £250,000 of local funding from S106 contributions.

### Wellcome Genome Campus

The expansion of the Wellcome Genome Campus was approved in December 2020 and includes up to 150,000 m<sup>2</sup> of new employment space and up to 1,500 new homes as well as a range of supporting community and other uses. Significant contributions to improvements to transport infrastructure, both on-site and in the surrounding area, were required through the S106 agreement to mitigate the impact of the increased number of people living or working on the site. These include:

- improvements to several road junctions
- improvements that encourage the use of public transport, for example at Whittlesford Park Station and along the A1307
- cycling and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, for example along the A505, and funds for off-site cycleways
- reducing trips to and from the site through the creation and implementation of individual and site-wide travel plans and the employment of a Travel Plan Manager

## Libraries

### Sawston Library

A new Sawston Library was opened in August 2020. The new building forms part of the new Sawston Community Hub and will also house other services including the

relocated Children's Centre, multipurpose spaces, and an outdoor play area on the Sawston Village College site.

A fire burnt down the previous library (based in the Morris Wing of Sawston Village College) in 2012 and a temporary library had been on the site since. A S106 contribution to the County Council from development on land north of Babraham Road has helped to bring the new library into being.

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## Healthcare

### Arbury

The new residents of two affordable housing sites in Arbury, at Buchan Street and the Meadows, will need to access GP and other healthcare services locally.

S106 contributions were secured by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group from these two developments during 2020-2021 which will go towards the provision of additional health facilities at, and/or improvements or extension of facilities at, one or more of the sites at Nuffield Road Medical Centre, York Street Surgery and/or East Barnwell Health Centre. Payments have also been secured for Nuffield Road Medical Centre and/or Arbury Road Surgery from development at 68-70A Campkin Road.

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## How do I find out more?

Both Councils have published formal Infrastructure Funding Statements, which provide detailed information on developer funding secured and received:

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council**

[Web icon] [www.scambs.gov.uk/infrastructure-funding-statement](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/infrastructure-funding-statement)

### **Cambridge City Council**

[Web icon] [www.cambridge.gov.uk/infrastructure-funding-statement](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/infrastructure-funding-statement)

Cambridgeshire County Council is also required to publish its own formal Infrastructure Funding Statement:

[Web icon] [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/developing-new-communities/infrastructure-funding-statement](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/developing-new-communities/infrastructure-funding-statement)

Or find out more about planning applications, the Local Plan, and the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service online:

[Web icon] [www.greatercambridgeplanning.org](http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org)

# **Cambridge City Council Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020-2021**



Cambridge City Council  
Infrastructure Funding Statement  
2020/21

Published December 2021



The Infrastructure Funding Statement provides information on the monetary (and non-monetary) contributions sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure to support development in city of Cambridge, and the subsequent use of those contributions by Cambridge City Council. The report covers the financial year 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.

Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, commonly known as “section 106 agreements”, are a mechanism used to make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms. They are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of development by way of either the direct provision of infrastructure (both on and off site of the development) and through the payment of financial contributions to the local planning authority.

A planning obligation may only constitute a reason for granting planning permission if it is

- (i) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms (i.e. the basis for the request must be obligations to be articulated through the local, regional, or national planning policies)
- (ii) directly related to the development (i.e. there must be a functional or geographical link between the development and the item being provided as part of the developer's contribution)
- (iii) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development (i.e. developers are only expected to pay for or contribute to the cost of all infrastructure provision proportionate to the impact of that development)

Cambridge City Council secures contributions in relation to infrastructure which it will deliver but also on behalf of third parties including NHS England. This will typically comprise contributions towards indoor and outdoor sports, informal open spaces, children's play areas and community facilities.

Cambridgeshire County Council secures contributions in relation to infrastructure including education, transport, highways, libraries and household recycling centres. Direct improvements and provision of new highway infrastructure may also be required from the planning permission which are not reported here.

The necessary information for the reporting year is contained within Appendix A, with Appendix B detailing the developments against which monies have been secured and Appendix C detailing the developments where contributions have been received.

During 2020/21 the Council through the use of s106 legal agreements:

- Secured over £2.1m of contributions
- Secured 382 new affordable homes
- Received over £1.8m.

Appendix A: Infrastructure Funding Statement Regulatory Requirements (R121A)

Reporting requirement	Sum / Details
3 (a). the total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations which were entered into during the reported year;	£2,158,854.00
3 (b). the total amount of money under any planning obligations which was received during the reported year;	£1,812,614.08
3 (c). the total amount of money under any planning obligations which was received before the reported year which has not been allocated by the authority;	£2,722m
3 (d). summary details of any non-monetary contributions to be provided under planning obligations which were entered into during the reported year, including details of—  (i) in relation to affordable housing, the total number of units which will be provided;  (ii) in relation to educational facilities, the number of school places for pupils which will be provided, and the category of school at which they will be provided;	382 affordable dwellings  n/a
3 (e). the total amount of money (received under any planning obligations) which was allocated but not spent during the reported year for funding infrastructure;	£1,812,614.58
3 (f). the total amount of money (received under any planning obligations) which was spent by the authority (including transferring it to another person to spend);	£2,265,763.00
3 (g). in relation to monies (received under planning obligations) which were allocated by the authority but not spent during the reported year, summary details of the items of infrastructure on which the money has been allocated, and the amount of allocated to each item;	Community facilities £1,781,673 Formal open space £621,556 Indoor sports £350,292 Informal open space £672,774 Miscellaneous £334,644 Monitoring £361,391 Nature conservation £114,437 Outdoor sports £538,490 Play provision £146,663 Public art £205,405 Public realm £20,966 Waste facilities £90,025 Total £5,238,315

<p>3 (h). in relation to monies (received under planning obligations) which were spent by the authority during the reported year (including transferring it to another person to spend), summary details of—</p> <p>(i) the items of infrastructure on which monies (received under planning obligations) were spent, and the amount spent on each item;</p> <p>(ii) the amount of monies (received under planning obligations) spent on repaying money borrowed, including any interest, with details of the items of infrastructure which that money was used to provide (wholly or in part);</p> <p>(iii) the amount of monies (received under planning obligations) spent in respect of monitoring (including reporting under regulation 121A) in relation to the delivery of planning obligations.</p>	<p>See Appendix 2 below.</p> <p>£0.00</p> <p>£4,540.00</p>
<p>3 (i). the total monies (received under any planning obligations) during any year which were retained at the end of the reported year, and where any of the retained monies have been allocated for the purposes of longer term maintenance (“commuted sums”), also identify separately the total amount of commuted sums held.</p>	<p>£1,253,075.08</p>

Appendix B: Monies secured through section 106

App Ref	Site / Address	Area	Ward	Facility	Project contribution	Clause type	Amount Secured	Date of s106
19/1757/FUL	Land at Buchan Street	N	KHE	Nuffield Road Medical Centre, York Street Surgery, East Barnwell Health Centre	Towards the provision of additional health facilities at and/or improvements to the development / extension of facilities at one or more of the sites at:	NHS	£10,598	22/01/2021
19/1756/FUL	Land at The Meadows	N	ARB	Nuffield Road Medical Centre, York Street Surgery, East Barnwell Health Centre	Towards the provision of additional health facilities at and/or improvements to the development / extension of facilities at one or more of the sites at:	NHS	£37,851	05/11/2020
19/1734/FUL	Clerk Maxwell Road	WC	NEW	Cobbetts Corner	Provision of and/or improvement of and/or access to the Informal Open Space at Cobbetts Corner, Grange Road, Cambridge.	IOS	£8,415	27/10/2020
19/1734/FUL	Clerk Maxwell Road	WC	NEW	Penarth Place	Provision of and/or improvement of and/or access to the Informal Open Space at Penarth Place, Gough Way, Cambridge.	IOS	£8,415	27/10/2020

19/1734/FUL	Clerk Maxwell Road	WC	NEW	Penarth Place play area	Toward the provision of and/or improvement to, and / or access to, the children's play area at Penarth Place play area, Gough Way.	PCT	£13,167	27/10/2020
19/1734/FUL	Clerk Maxwell Road	WC	NEW	Chesterton Sports Centre	Towards the provision of and/or improvement of, and/or upgrading of equipment and/or access to, indoor sports facilities to include improvements and upgrading of the sports hall, gym and changing rooms at Chesterton Sports Centre, Gilbert Road.	ISF	£25,017	27/10/2020
19/1734/FUL	Clerk Maxwell Road	WC	NEW	Wilberforce Road Outdoor Centre	Towards the provision of and/or improvement to the athletics facilities and running track along with supporting facilities at Wilberforce Road Athletics Track, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge.	OSF	£22,134	27/10/2020
19/1734/FUL	Clerk Maxwell Road	WC	NEW	Akeman Street Community House	Provision of and/or improvement of and/or access to the community facilities and equipment at Akeman	CFAC	£55,854	27/10/2020

					Street Community House			
19/1734/FUL	Clerk Maxwell Road	WC	NEW	Huntingdon Road Surgery	Towards the provision of additional health facilities at and/or improvements to the Huntingdon Road Surgery, Cambridge.	NHS	£12,696	27/10/2020
19/1616/FUL	67 - 97A Campkin Road	N	KHE	North Cambridge Academy	Towards the provision and/or improvement of outdoor sports pitches and in particular artificial cricket nets and wicket at North Cambridge Academy.	OSF	£15,589	28/05/2020
19/1616/FUL	67 - 97A Campkin Road	N	KHE	North Cambridge Academy	Towards the provision of and/or improvement to indoor sports facilities and equipment and in particular a Scoreboard, PA, AV and displays at North Cambridge Academy.	ISF	£17,619.50	28/05/2020
19/1616/FUL	67 - 97A Campkin Road	N	KHE	Nuns Way Recreation Ground	Towards the provision of and/or improvement of and/or access to the Informal Open Space facilities at Nun's Way Recreation Ground.	IOS	£15,851	28/05/2020

19/1616/FUL	67 - 97A Campkin Road	N	KHE	Nuns Way play area	Towards the provision of and/or improvement of the children's play area facilities at Nun's Way Play Area.	PCT	£1,264	28/05/2020
19/1616/FUL	68 - 97A Campkin Road	N	KHE	Arbury Road Surgery and/or Nuffield Road Medical Centre	Provision of additional health facilities at and/or improvements by way of extension, reconfiguration, refurbishment and/or relocation at either or both Arbury Road Surgery and / or Nuffield Road Medical Centre. Such projects to be agreed in writing between the City Council and NHS CCG.	NHS	£10,400	28/05/2020
19/1098/FUL	121 - 125 Chesterton Road	N	WCH	Mitchams Corner Public Realm	Arboricultural Improvements at Mitchams Corner Public Realm	PR	£7,000	16/03/2021
19/1098/FUL	121 - 125 Chesterton Road	N	WCH	Cambridge City (Aff Hsg)	Viability overage payment for Aff Hsg	AH	£1,029,995	16/03/2021
18/1679/FUL	212-214 Newmarket Road	E	ABB	Abbey Sports Centre & Gym	Towards the provision of and/or improvement to indoor sports provision in Cambridge and more particularly the	ISF	£5,649	10/06/2020

					gymnasium studio and or gymnasium equipment at Abbey Sports Centre and Gymnasium, Whitehill Road, Cambridge CB5 8NT			
18/1679/FUL	212-214 Newmarket Road	E	ABB	St Matthew's Piece	Towards the provision of and/or improvement of and/or access to the Informal Open Space facilities at St Matthew's Piece.	IOS	£5,082	10/06/2020
18/1679/FUL	212-214 Newmarket Road	E	ABB	St Matthew's Piece	Towards the provision of and/or improvement of the children's play area facilities at St Matthews Piece play area.	PCT	£1,896	10/06/2020
18/1679/FUL	212-214 Newmarket Road	E	ABB	Stourbridge Common	Towards the improvement to and enhancement of the outdoor sports facilities at Stourbridge Common, Cambridge.	OSF	£4,998	10/06/2020
18/1679/FUL	212-214 Newmarket Road	E	ABB	Museum of Technology	Towards the provision of and / or improvement to the community facility and or equipment as part of the Museum of Technology, The Old Pumping Station,	CFAC	£16,328	10/06/2020



					Cheddars Lane, Cambridge			
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH Community facility	Community Facility Start Up Costs	CFAC	£38,850	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	Within the vicinity of the LNCH development	Provision of additional primary healthcare provision within the vicinity of the development	NHS	£435,291	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH - on site	Cardboard skips contribution	WC	£12,500	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	Fulbourn Fen	Biodiversity Contribution	NAT	£121,500	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	Children's Centre - LNCH	Children Centre Equipment contribution - towards the costs of provision of equipment and activities within a children's centre whose work involves or is associated (in whole or part) with children's activities on the Site or associated with the Site	CFAC	£15,000	14/12/2020

18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	Children's Centre - LNCH	Children Centre Staff contribution - towards the costs of full-time and/or part-time staff for a children's centre whose work involves or is associated (in whole or part) with children's activities on the Site or associated with the Site;	CFAC	£33,146	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community chest	Community Chest Fund - towards the cost of kick-starting community activities on the Development	CFAC	£3,500	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Specialist Community Development Worker (CDW) - towards the costs of full-time and/or part-time community development workers whose work involves or is associated (in whole or part) in community development, sports and youth services on the Site or associated with the Site;	CFAC	£80,000	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	IDAA Kick start funding contribution	CFAC	£2,160	14/12/2020

18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Health Visiting Contribution	CFAC	£8,250	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Healthy New Towns Initiative contribution	CFAC	£15,000	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Healthy New Towns Initiative Kickstart Funding contribution	CFAC	£6,720	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Kickstart and Activity funding (multi agency team)	CFAC	£3,500	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Locality Staff contribution	CFAC	£90,000	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Mental Health Counselling Services contribution	CFAC	£1,920	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Mental Health Training contribution	CFAC	£8,160	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Multi-Agency co-ordination contribution	CFAC	£23,750	14/12/2020

18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH community	Project Worker - children and young peoples' activities	CFAC	£90,000	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH - Household waste receptacles	Household waste receptacles	WC	£120,000	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	LNCH - Refuse collection vehicle	Towards provision of refuse collection vehicles	WC	£74,004	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	Abbey Swimming Pool	Provision of and / or improvements to the swimming facilities (as identified in the Councils Swimming Facilities Investment Plan) at Abbey Pool, Whitehill Road, Cambridge CB5 8NT	ISF	£157,320	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH		Award Drain Maintenance contribution	MISC	£35,000	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	Monitoring Fees - LNCH	Monitoring Fees	MON	£50,000	14/12/2020

18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	Contamination Report Review contribution - LNCH	Towards the cost of appointing an independent consultant to undertake a third party review of the PFAS contamination preliminary scheme of investigation and remediation on the Site as part of the Development	MISC	£75,000	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH		Secondary School Sports Hall Upgrade	ISF	£212,300	14/12/2020
18/0481/OUT	Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)	E	CHH	On-site sports pitch	Physical improvements to proposed sports pitch (upgraded drainage) to allow for greater capacity of use and enable year-round use.	OSF	£160,559.50	14/12/2020
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>£3,199,249.00</b>	-

Appendix C: Section 106 Monies received

App Ref	Address	Area	Ward	Facility	Contribution Wording	Type	Amount Paid	Date Paid	Date of s106
08/0048/OUT	Trumpington Meadows	S	TRU	Trumpington Meadows allotments	Allotment maintenance	ALLOT	£14,192	13/11/2020	14/12/2010
17/1527/FUL	213 Mill Road	E	ROM	Mill Road Depot	Towards the provision and/or improvement of community facilities at the Mill Road depot site, Cambridge.	CFAC	£21,870	11/03/2021	19/12/2017
17/1372/FUL	291 Hills Road	S	QED	Clay Farm Community Centre	Towards the provision of and / or improvement of, and/or access to, the community facilities and equipment at Clay Farm Community Centre, Cambridge.	CFAC	£16,958	09/02/2021	11/07/2019
15/1020/FUL	141 Ditton Walk	E	ABB	East Barnwell Community Centre	Towards the provision of and/or improvement of the facilities and/or equipment at East Barnwell Community Centre, Newmarket Road, Cambridge.	CFAC	£29,346	24/09/2020	27/11/2017
17/2245/FUL	Mill Road Depot	E	PET	Great Eastern Street	Towards the provision and/or improvement of and/or access to the Informal Open Space	IOS	£32,912	22/09/2020	13/08/2019

					facilities at Great Eastern Street, Cambridge.				
17/1527/FUL	213 Mill Road	E	ROM	Romsey Recreation Ground	Towards the provision of and/or improvements to Informal Open Space at Romsey Recreation Ground, Cambridge.	IOS	£8,022	11/03/2021	19/12/2017
17/1372/FUL	291 Hills Road	S	QED	Nightingale Recreation Ground	Towards the provision of and/or improvement of and/or access to the Informal Open Space facilities at Nightingale Avenue Recreation Ground.	IOS	£5,445	09/02/2021	11/07/2019
15/1020/FUL	141 Ditton Walk	E	ABB	Ditton Fields Rec	The improvement of informal open space (including landscaping, paths, trees, benches, bins, and information signs) at Ditton Fields Rec.	IOS	£14,081	24/09/2020	27/11/2017
07/0620/OUT	Clay Farm	S	TRU	Clay Farm - onsite maintenance	Phases 1b, 2 & 5 (maintenance)	IOS	£171,197	12/01/2021	06/08/2010
07/0620/OUT	Clay Farm	S	TRU	Clay Farm - onsite maintenance	Hobson's Brook Green Corridor (maintenance)	IOS	£1,081,878	11/03/2021	06/08/2010
17/2245/FUL	Mill Road Depot	E	PET	Abbey Sports Centre	Towards the provision and/or improvement of and/or access to, indoor sports facilities at the Abbey Pool. The relocation	ISF	£103,834	22/09/2020	13/08/2019

					of the old Council stores building from Mill Road Depot and the fitting out of said stores building to form a sports hall and/or urban zone at the Abbey Sports Centre and Gym, Whitehill Road, Cambridge CB5 8NT.				
17/1527/FUL	213 Mill Road	E	ROM	Parkside Pool	Towards the provision of additional gym and exercise facilities at Parkside Pool in Cambridge	ISF	£8,917	11/03/2021	19/12/2017
17/1372/FUL	291 Hills Road	S	QED	Netherhall School	Towards the provision of and/or improvement of indoor sports facilities for an indoor gymnasium and studio (including equipment) at Netherhall School, St Ediths Way.	ISF	£6,052.50	09/02/2021	11/07/2019
17/0412/S73	149B Histon Road	N	ARB	Chesterton Community College	Towards the provision and/or improvement of indoor sports and leisure facilities at Chesterton Community College, Gilbert Road, Cambridge. CB4 3NY	ISF	£10,102.00	26/02/2021	30/10/2017
15/1020/FUL	141 Ditton Walk	E	ABB	Abbey Sports Centre & Gym	Towards the provision and/or improvement to the gym studio and/or gym equipment at Abbey Sports	ISF	£13,848	24/09/2020	27/11/2017



					Centre and Gym, Whitehill Road, Cambridge CB5 8NT				
07/0003/OUT	Darwin Green	WC	CAS	Darwin Green bus shelters	Bus shelters maintenance	MISC	£2,957	30/10/2020	18/12/2013
07/0003/OUT	Darwin Green	WC	CAS	Darwin Green performance monitoring	Section 106 monitoring of Darwin Green	MON	£19,736	30/10/2020	18/12/2013
17/2245/FUL	Mill Road Depot	E	PET	Petersfield Medical Practice	Towards the provision of additional health facilities at and/or improvements to the Petersfield Medical Practice by way of extension, reconfiguration, refurbishment and/or relocation.	NHS	£67,522	22/09/2020	13/08/2019
17/2245/FUL	Mill Road Depot	E	PET	Coldham's Common	Towards the provision of and/or improvement to the outdoor facilities comprising the artificial grass carpet (from sand to rubber crumb) at Coldham's Common.	OSF	£91,868	22/09/2020	13/08/2019
17/1527/FUL	213 Mill Road	E	ROM	Donkey Common	Towards the provision and/or improvement of outdoor fitness equipment at Donkey Common, Mill Road, Cambridge.	OSF	£7,890	11/03/2021	19/12/2017

17/1372/FUL	291 Hills Road	S	QED	Nightingale Recreation Ground	Towards the provision of and/or improvement to and/or access to, the outdoor sports facilities comprising the grass sports pitch provision at Nightingale Avenue Recreation Ground.	OSF	£5,355	09/02/2021	11/07/2019
17/0412/S73	149B Histon Road	N	ARB	Chesterton Community College	Towards the provision and/or improvement of outdoor sports facilities at Chesterton Community College playing fields, off Courtney Way Cambridge. (CB4 2EE)	OSF	£8,938	26/02/2021	30/10/2017
15/1020/FUL	141 Ditton Walk	E	ABB	Abbey Sports Centre & Gym	Towards the provision and/or improvement of or access to outdoor sports facilities comprising an artificial training pitch and/or training pitch improvements and drainage and/or a floodlit training area on the grass pitch at Abbey Sports Centre and Gym, Whitehall Road, Cambridge CB5 8NT.	OSF	£14,731	24/09/2020	27/11/2017
17/2245/FUL	Mill Road Depot	E	PET	Petersfield Play Area	Toward the provision of and/or improvement of the play area equipment and	PCT	£30,757	22/09/2020	13/08/2019

					facilities at Petersfield play area.				
17/1527/FUL	213 Mill Road	E	ROM	Romsey Recreation Ground	Towards the improvement of play area equipment and/or facilities at Romsey Recreation Ground play area	PCT	£8,877	11/03/2021	19/12/2017
17/1372/FUL	291 Hills Road	S	QED	Nightingale Recreation Ground	Towards the provision of and/or improvement to, and/or improvement to and/or access to, the children's play area at Nightingale Avenue play area.	PCT	£3,792	09/02/2021	11/07/2019
15/1020/FUL	141 Ditton Walk	E	ABB	Ditton Fields Rec	Improvement of the Ditton Fields Rec play area	PCT	£11,537	24/09/2020	27/11/2017
	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>£1,812,614.58</b>	-	-

**South Cambridgeshire District Council  
Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020-2021**



South Cambridgeshire District Council  
Infrastructure Funding Statement  
2020/2021

Published December 2021

The Infrastructure Funding Statement provides information on the monetary (and non-monetary) contributions sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure to support development in South Cambridgeshire, and the subsequent use of those contributions by South Cambridgeshire Council. The report covers the financial year 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, commonly known as “section 106 agreements”, are a mechanism used by the Council to make a development proposal acceptable. They are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of development by way of direct provision of infrastructure (both on and off site of the development) and through the payment of financial contributions to the local planning authority.

A planning obligation may only constitute a reason for granting planning permission if it is

- (iv) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms (i.e. the basis for the request must be obligations to be articulated through the local, regional or national planning policies)
- (v) directly related to the development (i.e. there must be a functional or geographical link between the development and the item being provided as part of the developer's contribution)
- (vi) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development (i.e. developers are only expected to pay for or contribute to the cost of all infrastructure provision proportionate to the impact of that development)

South Cambridgeshire District Council secures contributions in relation to infrastructure which it will deliver but also on behalf of third parties including Parish Councils and NHS England. This will typically comprise contributions towards children's play equipment, community orchards, sports facilities, surgeries and village halls.

Cambridgeshire County Council secures contributions in relation to infrastructure including education, transport, highways, libraries and household recycling centres. Direct improvements and provision of new highway infrastructure may also be required from the planning permission which are not reported here.

The necessary information for the reporting year is contained within Appendix A, with Appendix B detailing the developments against which monies have been secured and Appendix C detailing the developments where contributions have been received.

During 2020/21 the Council through the use of s106 legal agreements:

- Secured over £1.1m of contributions
- Secured 284 new affordable homes
- Received over £1.7m of contributions

Appendix A: Infrastructure Funding Statement Regulatory Requirements (R121A)

Reporting requirement	Sum / Details
3 (a). the total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations which were entered into during the reported year;	£1,131,469
3 (b). the total amount of money under any planning obligations which was received during the reported year;	£1,793,180
3 (c). the total amount of money under any planning obligations which was received before the reported year which has not been allocated by the authority;	£1,601,902
3 (d). summary details of any non-monetary contributions to be provided under planning obligations which were entered into during the reported year, including details of—  (iii) in relation to affordable housing, the total number of units which will be provided;  (iv) in relation to educational facilities, the number of school places for pupils which will be provided, and the category of school at which they will be provided;	284 affordable dwellings  N/a
3 (e). the total amount of money (received under any planning obligations) which was allocated but not spent during the reported year for funding infrastructure;	£578,945
3 (f). the total amount of money (received under any planning obligations) which was spent by the authority (including transferring it to another person to spend);	£1,214,234
3 (g). in relation to monies (received under planning obligations) which were allocated by the authority but not spent during the reported year, summary details of the items of infrastructure on which the money has been allocated, and the amount of allocated to each item;	£122,062.20 to be used towards delivering Affordable Housing  £61,922.34 for the funding of community development workers at the development known as Marleigh  £7,293.85 towards an extension to Harston Surgery  £26,421.85 towards increasing GP services

	£46,682.24 towards the construction of a ramp on the Melbourn side of Meldreth Station
<p>3 (h). in relation to monies (received under planning obligations) which were spent by the authority during the reported year (including transferring it to another person to spend), summary details of—</p> <p>(iv) the items of infrastructure on which monies (received under planning obligations) were spent, and the amount spent on each item;</p> <p>(v) the amount of monies (received under planning obligations) spent on repaying money borrowed, including any interest, with details of the items of infrastructure which that money was used to provide (wholly or in part);</p> <p>(vi) the amount of monies (received under planning obligations) spent in respect of monitoring (including reporting under regulation 121A) in relation to the delivery of planning obligations.</p>	<p>Affordable Housing £122,062.20  Education £538.94  Other £206,000.74  Transport and travel £349,265.26  Open space and leisure £603,733.91  Community facilities £467,712.35  Section 106 monitoring fees  £10,151.71</p> <p>£0</p> <p>£30,000</p>
3 (i). the total monies (received under any planning obligations) during any year which were retained at the end of the reported year, and where any of the retained monies have been allocated for the purposes of longer term maintenance (“commuted sums”), also identify separately the total amount of commuted sums held.	£0



Appendix B: Monies secured through section 106

Planning application number	Date permission granted	Date S106 Completed	Parish	Address	Clause Type	Clause Amount
S/3182/19/FL	09-Dec-20	26-Nov-20	Eltisley	Land at Potton End	Community Facility	£5,020.16
S/3182/19/FL	09-Dec-20	26-Nov-20	Eltisley	Land at Potton End	Public Open Space - Play Contribution	£17,232.17
S/3182/19/FL	09-Dec-20	26-Nov-20	Eltisley	Land at Potton End	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£11,057.61
20/01209/FUL	01-Mar-21	01-Mar-21	Fowlmere	Chrishall Road	Community Facility	£5,936.00
20/01209/FUL	01-Mar-21	01-Mar-21	Fowlmere	Chrishall Road	Green Infrastructure Contribution	£1,600.00
20/01209/FUL	01-Mar-21	01-Mar-21	Fowlmere	Chrishall Road	Public Open Space - Play Contribution	£19,244.40
20/01209/FUL	01-Mar-21	01-Mar-21	Fowlmere	Chrishall Road	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£13,074.88
S/2184/16/OL	29-Jan-21	15-Jan-21	Hauxton	Former Waste Water Treatment for	Community Facility	£22,522.88

				Cambridge Road		
S/2184/16/OL	29-Jan-21	15-Jan-21	Hauxton	Former Waste Water Treatment for Cambridge Road	Public Open Space - Sports Land Contribution	£49,609.92
S/4329/18/OL	18-Dec-20	17-Dec-20	Hinxton	Land at Wellcome Genome Campus	Community Chest Fund	£20,000.00
S/4329/18/OL	18-Dec-20	17-Dec-20	Hinxton	Land at Wellcome Genome Campus	Community Facility - Hinxton Village Hall Contribution	£568,284
S/4329/18/OL	18-Dec-20	17-Dec-20	Hinxton	Land at Wellcome Genome Campus	Waste Vehicle Contribution	£92,500.00
20/02477/FUL	15-Feb-21	12-Feb-21	Over	Land at Fen End	Community Facility	£9,145.68
20/02477/FUL	15-Feb-21	12-Feb-21	Over	Land at Fen End	Public Open Space - Childrens Play Space Contribution	£27,808.16
20/02477/FUL	15-Feb-21	12-Feb-21	Over	Land at Fen End	Public Open Space - Green	£2,000.00

					Infrastructure Contribution	
20/02477/FUL	15-Feb-21	12-Feb-21	Over	Land at Fen End	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£20,144.65
S/1887/18/OL	24-Jun-20	23-Jun-20	Steeple Morden	Land between 12 & 14 Station Road	Affordable Housing - Commuted Sum	£61,000
S/4744/18/FL	04-Feb-21	14-Aug-20	Waterbeach	Land North of Bannold Road	Community Facility	£10,133.60
S/4744/18/FL	04-Feb-21	14-Aug-20	Waterbeach	Land North of Bannold Road	Public Open Space - Children Play Space Contribution	£31,010.98
S/4744/18/FL	04-Feb-21	14-Aug-20	Waterbeach	Land North of Bannold Road	Public Open Space - Off-Site Sports Space	£22,320.69

Appendix C: Section 106 Monies received

Planning application number	Date S106 Completed	Parish	Address	Clause Type	Amount Received
S/3729/18/FL	23-Aug-19	Babraham	Land North of Babraham Road	Community Facility	£72,530.82
S/3729/18/FL	23-Aug-19	Babraham	Land North of Babraham Road	Public Art - Contribution	£20,171.37
S/3729/18/FL	23-Aug-19	Babraham	Land North of Babraham Road	Public Open Space - Play Space Contribution	£40,342.73
S/3729/18/FL	23-Aug-19	Babraham	Land North of Babraham Road	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£159,759.40
S/1959/16/FL	12-Apr-17	Balsham	7 High Street	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£37,818.71
S/1959/16/FL	12-Apr-17	Balsham	7 High Street	Community Facility	£12,593.02
S/0255/17/OL	03-Oct-17	Balsham	Land West of Linton Road	Community Facility	£19,460.98
S/0255/17/OL	03-Oct-17	Balsham	Land West of Linton Road	Public Open Space - Play Space Contribution	£60,157.76
S/0255/17/OL	03-Oct-17	Balsham	Land West of Linton Road	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£42,865.44

S/1606/16/OL	30-Nov-17	Cottenham	Land at Oakington Road	Community Facility	£139,771.24
S/2413/17/OL	09-Aug-17	Cottenham	Land at Rampton Road	Monitoring Contribution	£3,231.11
S/2682/13/OL	30-Nov-16	Fen Ditton	Land North of Newmarket Road - Marshalls Site	Air Quality Monitoring	£2,814.65
S/2682/13/OL	30-Nov-16	Fen Ditton	Land North of Newmarket Road - Marshalls Site	Award Drain	£9,210.64
S/2682/13/OL	30-Nov-16	Fen Ditton	Land North of Newmarket Road - Marshalls Site	Community Development Workers	£61,922.34
S/2148/16/OL	22-Mar-17	Foxton	Land to the Rear of 7-37 Station Road	Health Contribution	£7,293.85
S/2148/16/OL	22-Mar-17	Foxton	Land to the Rear of 7-37 Station Road	Public Open Space - Dovecote Field Contribution	£5,514.95
S/2148/16/OL	22-Mar-17	Foxton	Land to the Rear of 7-37 Station Road	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£24,835.31
S/3543/16/FL	25-Apr-18	Great Abington	Land to the south of Linton Road	Community Facility	£23,139.28
S/3543/16/FL	25-Apr-18	Great Abington	Land to the south of Linton Road	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£50,967.54

S/1694/16/OL	18-Oct-17	Hardwick	Land at Grace Crescent	Community Transport Contribution	£10,672.51
S/2308/06/O	12-Feb-10	Hauxton	The Former Bayer Cropsience Ltd Site	Bus Service	£291,910.51
S/2308/06/O	12-Feb-10	Hauxton	The Former Bayer Cropsience Ltd Site	Off-Site NEAP Commuted Sum	£22,358.88
S/0783/17/FL	19-Apr-18	Histon	Former Station Site	Affordable Housing - Commuted Sum	£44,517.29
S/0783/17/FL	19-Apr-18	Histon	Former Station Site	Community Facility	£3,819.42
S/0783/17/FL	19-Apr-18	Histon	Former Station Site	Libraries and Lifelong Learning	£538.94
S/0783/17/FL	19-Apr-18	Histon	Former Station Site	Public Open Space - Informal Open Space Contribution	£1,588.12
S/0783/17/FL	19-Apr-18	Histon	Former Station Site	Public Open Space - Play Space Contribution	£2,715.81
S/0783/17/FL	19-Apr-18	Histon	Former Station Site	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£8,414.70
S/2941/18/FL	06-Mar-19	Melbourn	Land North of Melbourn Science Park, Cambridge	Community Facility - Hub Contribution	£96,704.05

			Road (Birchwood Fields)		
S/2941/18/FL	06-Mar-19	Melbourn	Land North of Melbourn Science Park, Cambridge Road (Birchwood Fields)	Meldreth Station Ramp Contribution	£46,682.24
S/3190/15/OL	24-Mar-17	Orwell	Land at Hurdleditch Road	Public Open Space - Sports Contribution	£55,512.15
S/2224/16/OL	22-May-17	Shingay-cum-Wendy	Monkfield Nutrition High Street	Affordable Housing - Commuted Sum	£77,544.91
S/1329/13/FL	01-Apr-15	Swavesey	Land Rear of Cygnus Business Park, Middlewatch	Community Facility	£8,134.51
S/0875/15/OL	19-Feb-16	Swavesey	Land Rear of 18 Boxworth End	Community Facility	£16,103.52
S/1329/13/FL	01-Apr-15	Swavesey	Land Rear of Cygnus Business Park, Middlewatch	Public Open Space - Contribution	£45,253.71
S/2833/15/OL	19-May-17	Willingham	Land off Rockmill End & Meadow Road	Community Facility	£37,636.80
S/2833/15/OL	19-May-17	Willingham	Land off Rockmill End & Meadow Road	Health Contribution	£26,421.85

S/2833/15/OL	19-May-17	Willingham	Land off Rockmill End & Meadow Road	Public Open Space Contribution	£83,447.41
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# Agenda Item 10



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	7 February 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins - Lead Cabinet Member for Planning	
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Stephen Kelly - Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development	

## Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document

### Executive Summary

1. The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was first brought before this Committee in June 2021 with the recommendation to Cabinet to proceed to public consultation. Cabinet agreed to this and public consultation was undertaken between 23 July and 17 September 2021.
2. A range of feedback was received from members of the public and organisations. Responses have been carefully assessed by officers, and a number of modifications to the draft SPD are proposed. This report recommends that the SPD is supported and requests Cabinet adopt it, so that it can be used as a material consideration in planning decisions supporting implementation of the adopted Local Plan.

### Recommendations

3. This Advisory Committee is recommended to:
  - a) Consider the main issues raised in the public consultation, and responses to the representations received and the proposed changes to the SPD as set out in the Statement of Consultation (Appendix 1 of this report);
  - b) subject to (a), recommend the amended Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD to Cabinet (appendix 2 of this report) with authority to make any necessary editing changes to the SPD prior to publication be delegated to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning Policy and Delivery.

### Reasons for Recommendations

4. To review and recognise the comments received in response to consultation on a draft document and to amend it as proposed to reflect those comments, and to ensure the Council has up to date guidance in place for its communities and developers relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity at development sites. The SPD promotes a more sustainable and more nature-friendly approach to development.

## Details

5. Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted local plan. As they do not form part of the development plan, they cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. They are however a material consideration in decision-making.
6. Due to ongoing climate and biodiversity emergencies, the Councils need current, up to date and accurate guidance for development schemes in order that development does not leave biodiversity in a worse condition than prior to development but improves the condition and / or increases the area of habitats which can support biodiversity.
7. The SPD was initially drafted in early 2021. Engagement with members was in place from the outset and prior to a public consultation in July, the draft version of the SPD came before members of both Councils during committee meetings in June for approval to take to consultation. The public consultation period ran between 17 July and 23 September 2021 and met the requirements of the Councils' Statement of Community Involvement.
8. Around 40 responses were received from many local interest groups, members of the public, and interested organisations providing recommendations and feedback. The Statement of Consultation (appendix 1 to this report) details the comments received, provides a summary of the main issues raised, and how they have been taken into account. It includes details of modifications proposed to the consultation version that have been included in the version now proposed to be adopted.
9. In addition to responding to the consultation responses, factual changes to text have also been applied to the SPD to reflect that the Environment Bill has now passed through the democratic UK Parliamentary process and has received Royal Assent, becoming the Environment Act as of 9 November 2021.
10. The consultation draft Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment screening, and in both cases the requirement for further reassessment was screened out. The amendments now proposed do not change these conclusions, and an updated screening report has been prepared (appendix 3). They also are not considered to change the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) that accompanied the consultation (appendix 4).
11. Once adopted, this Biodiversity SPD will supersede the current South Cambridgeshire SPD covering biodiversity, (2009) and (subject to the decision by Cambridge City Council) will become a joint SPD for biodiversity for Greater Cambridge.

## Options

12. The Committee can choose to:

- Recommend to SCDC Cabinet adoption of the Biodiversity SPD as amended
- Recommend to SCDC Cabinet not to adopt the Biodiversity SPD, but seek further amendments

## **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 might be noted; By choosing to adopt the SPD, the Council will allow its immediate use a material consideration for planning and development across South Cambridgeshire / Greater Cambridge LPA. Adopting a new SPD which covers the topic of biodiversity and includes the most up-to-date national policies will signal the Councils intention to back its Doubling Nature and Green to the Core agendas.

## **Risks/Opportunities**

14. There is a risk if we do not adopt of having out of date guidance, which would miss the opportunities to shape the way our biodiversity planning policies are implemented to achieve the best outcomes.

## **Climate Change**

15. Positive impact (through the strengthening of guidance on the provision of biodiversity and its associated habitats.

## **Health & Wellbeing**

16. Positive impact (through the strengthening of guidance on the provision of biodiversity and its associated habitats. This is often linked to the provision of green space across Greater Cambridge, which can positively impact mental health and wellbeing.

## **Consultation responses**

17. The consultation approach is set out in the main report; Appendix 1 sets out the representations received and responses and suggested actions to address the comments made. The communication of the results of the consultation, and of the final adopted document will follow standard procedure for Supplementary Planning Documents and will be in keeping with expectations and agreed approaches of both Councils.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **Being green to our core**

18. The SPD promotes a more sustainable and more nature-friendly approach to development which will bring many positive direct impacts, as well as many indirect positive impacts. The adoption of the Biodiversity SPD will ensure that developers and communities have access to up to date and accurate guidance on existing policy and legislation relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity at development sites.

### **Background papers**

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Draft July 2021  
<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2316/gcsp-biodiversity-planning-doc.pdf>

Draft Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Statement of Consultation - July 2021  
[https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2318/consultation-statement\\_july\\_21.pdf](https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2318/consultation-statement_july_21.pdf)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report  
[https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2319/greater-cambridge-biodiversity-spd-sea\\_hra-screening-report\\_2021\\_final-copy.pdf](https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2319/greater-cambridge-biodiversity-spd-sea_hra-screening-report_2021_final-copy.pdf)

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA): Draft Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document  
<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2317/bspd-eqia-july-2021.pdf>

### **Appendices**

Appendix A. Statement of Consultation

Appendix B. Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (for adoption)

Appendix C. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening (updated)

Appendix D. Equalities Impact Assessment (updated)

**Report Author:**

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# Appendix A

## Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

### Statement of Consultation – Version 2 – Adoption Stage - January 2022

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## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 requires a local planning authority to consult the public and stakeholders before adopting a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Regulation 12(a) requires a Statement to be prepared setting out who has been consulted while preparing the SPD; a summary of the main issues raised; and how these issues have been addressed in the final SPD. Regulation 12(b) requires that Statement to also be published as part of the formal consultation on the SPD.

## **2. Background**

2.1 The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD has been prepared to assist with the implementation of policies within the adopted Local Plans covering the Greater Cambridge area, namely the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (September 2018) and the Cambridge Local Plan (October 2018). The document expands and provides guidance on the application of policies specifically relating to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. The SPD supersedes the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity SPD 2009.

## **3. Preparation of the draft SPD**

3.1 In preparing the draft SPD, informal consultation was carried out with a range of officers from within the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service including representatives from Development Management, Built and Natural Environment and Policy teams. Once drafted, sections of the SPD were reviewed by relevant technical officers within the service, with suggested amendments incorporated into the draft document.

## **4. Public consultation on the Draft Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD**

4.1 To actively engage with the local community and key stakeholders, the draft SPD was subject to an 8-week public consultation during the period 23 July 2021 to 17 September 2021, in accordance with the [Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement \(2019\)](#), (including the [Updated Addendum \(December 2020\)](#) prepared in response to restrictions related to the Coronavirus pandemic).



4.2 The associated supporting documents made available with the Draft SPD were:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Consultation Statement (Draft SPD stage)

4.3 A range of specific and general consultation bodies and other relevant stakeholders were directly notified via email of the consultation arrangements for the draft SPD. A list of the organisations notified is attached at Appendix A. In summary the organisations and bodies contacted included, but were not limited to:

- Local Parish Councils
- Local Members
- Specific Consultation Bodies
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Greater Cambridge Partnership
- Adjacent Local Authorities
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Delivery partners, including infrastructure and transport providers
- Community organisations
- General Consultation Bodies, including groups which represent the interests of different diversity groups based upon age, race, religion, disability.

4.4 In addition to statutory consultees and organisations, over 400 individuals who have expressed a wish to be kept informed of Planning Policy consultations via the Greater Cambridge Planning Service Consultation database were informed of the consultation via email, or by post where no email address was available.

4.5 To engage more widely with residents and businesses in the Greater Cambridge area, the consultation was publicised on both Councils' webpages and on social media platforms. A public notice was published in the Cambridge Independent newspaper week commencing 21 July 2021.

## **5. Consultation Methodology**

5.1 Consultation on the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Draft SPD took place from 9 am on Friday 23 July 2021 to 5pm on Friday 17 September 2021.

5.2 During the consultation period the draft SPD and associated supporting documents were available to view on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

website at: [www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/biodiversity](http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/biodiversity), and respondents were invited to complete an online questionnaire. A copy of the online questionnaire is attached at Appendix B. Respondents were also able to submit comments via email.

5.3 A contact email address and telephone number for the Natural Environment Team was included on all publicity materials allowing those experiencing difficulties accessing the documents online to seek assistance. Officers were able to facilitate alternative methods for viewing the documents and for comments to be submitted.

5.4 Alternative formats of the consultation documents were made available upon request (e.g., braille, translations into other languages and large print).

5.5 Respondents were able to request to be notified of the adoption of the SPD.

## **6. Representations received**

6.1 23 separate individuals or organisations responded to the online questionnaire during the consultation. Six further online questionnaires were received; however, these were incomplete with no contact details supplied.

6.2 Graphs showing the overall percentage responses received to the first three questions of the questionnaire are attached as Appendix C. This analysis shows most of those responding to the questionnaire felt the guidance in the draft SPD was clear (62%). 79% thought the SPD will help in achieving positive outcomes for biodiversity as required by national legislation and adopted Local Plans. 67% of respondents thought the SPD included all relevant policy and legislation, with the remainder suggesting additional legislation to be incorporated into the final version of the document.

6.3 Comments submitted in response to the online questionnaire are set out in the schedule attached as Appendix D, along with the Councils' assessment of the issues, and where necessary, proposed modifications to the SPD.

6.4 During the consultation 16 separate individuals or organisations submitted comments on the draft SPD or supporting documents via email. These are recorded in the schedule attached as Appendix E, which includes assessment of points raised and any proposed modifications to the SPD.

6.5 Overall, 268 comments were received in response to the consultation from a total of 39 separate individuals or organisations. The majority of comments received were detailed, and suggested amendments to specific sections or paragraphs within the SPD. Where considered appropriate such suggested amendments have been

incorporated into the final version of the document. These specific and detailed observations were identified alongside five other common themes, which are set out in the following section along with a summary of how they have been addressed..

## **7. Main issues raised during consultation and how they have been addressed**

### **7.1 Theme 1: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Percentage**

Several respondents raised concerns about the Councils aspirational 20% BNG described within the SPD. Whilst some consultees supported this aspiration, others stressed that this could not be set as a minimum target, due to the potential significant impacts on viability and land allocations. This would therefore be deemed creation of new policy and require assessment through a local plan adoption process.

Since publication of the draft SPD the Environment Act has received Royal Assent and the minimum mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is now a requirement and is referenced within the revised SPD. The Local Planning Authorities agree that the additional +10% BNG aspiration is not a set requirement within the SPD and that any percentage above the now mandatory 10% BNG will require testing within the evidence of the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan. However, in recognition of the Councils' declared Biodiversity Emergencies and low baseline of protected and priority habitats within Greater Cambridge, the aspiration within the SPD has been retained to support and encourage developments to maximise opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.

Themed response covers unique ID references: 8, 9, 10, 13, 21, 22, 24, 30, 39, 50, 51, 66, 67, 77, 78, 101, 104, 105, 106, 109, 194, 195, 196, 203, 205, 211, 212, 225, 276

### **7.2 Theme 2: Biodiversity Net Gain Mechanism**

Several respondents requested further guidance within the SPD on a delivery mechanism for providing offsite BNG in Greater Cambridge. At the time of drafting the SPD there is no formal national or local mechanism in place to enable developers to purchase offsite BNG credits for local authority 'approved' BNG schemes and providers. Since drafting the SPD the Environment Act has now been given Royal Assent and provides clearer guidance on how BNG should be planned

and secured, however, full details on mechanism and the proposed BNG site register are not scheduled until Spring 2023.

In the interim any proposed offsite BNG will be required to identify and propose suitable sites and provide detailed management prescriptions for a minimum of 30 years. These schemes will need to demonstrate that BNG best practice has been followed and that an appropriate S106 legal agreement can be agreed between all parties that secures the ongoing management and monitoring of the BNG. The Councils recognise that an offsite BNG policy and mechanism is required to implement the aspirations of both councils within the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Strategic sites for BNG investment are being identified through the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan evidence base and stakeholder consultation. This work will include a proposed local mechanism for prioritisation and delivery of offsite BNG provision. In the interim period the Local Planning Authorities will produce an offsite BNG position statement to provide guidance for applicants and potential BNG providers around appropriate off site BNG provision and how this will be assessed as part of a planning application.

Themed response covers unique ID references numbers: 20, 29, 34, 37, 38, 40, 42, 48, 110, 115, 116, 117, 119, 120, 123, 139, 207, 218

### **7.3 Theme 3: Requests for additional detail versus requirement for succinctness**

A number of respondents requested more detail within the SPD on potentially relevant plans and case studies, whilst others felt the SPD was already too long and technical to provide clear and concise guidance. The Councils have made the decision to not reference all related plans and strategies since the list would be very long as biodiversity is integral to a diverse range of disciplines, services, and associated documents. The main framework of legislation and policies have been outlined and the SPD references general links to local documents such as neighbourhood plans. This referencing via websites allows for additions and updates to plans to be accessible during the lifespan of the SPD.

For succinctness the purpose of the SPD is to provide guidance on planning policy and process rather than be a design guide for creation of biodiversity habitats, species enhancement and ongoing management. Good practice and design are well covered in existing guidance from statutory and non-statutory bodies and are best referenced direct from source to ensure the guidance is maintained and up to date.

The Councils agree that good practice and design case studies are beneficial to applicants, and their agents, and commit to collating good examples to share on the

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website in support of the SPD. These will not be embedded within the SPD, to allow greater flexibility to update the case studies as appropriate.

Themed response covers unique ID references numbers: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, 16, 23, 28, 43, 46, 47, 49, 54, 56, 57, 68, 71, 83, 217, 230, 237, 240, 249, 252

#### **7.4 Theme 4: Proportionality for scales of development site**

A small number of respondents felt the SPD should provide more proportionality of ecological requirements with regard site size. The Environment Act is clear that the mandatory 10% BNG applies to all developments that require a planning application to be submitted. The proportionality and reasonableness of required survey information would be considered by officers during pre-application discussions and determination. However, this will not be based on site size alone, but rather existing and adjacent habitats and likelihood for protected species to be impacted by the proposals. However, sound decisions require appropriate, up to date data to allow consideration against national and local policies, including the mitigation hierarchy and BNG requirements.

The DEFRA small site BNG calculator is now available and is referenced in the final version of the SPD. This provides a more simplistic tool for assessing loss and gains on smaller sites.

Themed response covers unique ID references numbers: 19, 63

#### **7.5 Theme 5: General comments or statements of support for the draft SPD**

Where comments were general in nature, often in support of the proposed content, these were noted and amendments to the SPD were proposed where considered appropriate.

Themed response covers unique ID references: 1, 11, 18, 26, 27, 31, 35, 45, 52, 55, 59, 60, 62, 70, 73, 75, 80, 85, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 112, 118, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 133, 135, 137, 142, 143, 144, 145, 151, 155, 156, 162, 184, 186, 189, 191, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 204, 206, 209, 213, 214, 215, 216, 219, 223, 226, 228, 253, 254, 256, 257, 258

## **7.6 Theme 6: Specific reference amendment proposals to the draft SPD**

Where respondents made specific reference to paragraphs and suggested amendments to provide greater clarity, detail or avoid confusion, these were reviewed and, where the proposed changes were considered appropriate, have been amended in the final version of the SPD. Approximately 30 suggestions were accepted and are incorporated within the final SPD.

Themed response covers unique ID references: 15, 17, 32, 33, 36, 41, 53, 58, 61, 64, 65, 72, 74, 76, 79, 81, 82, 84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 99, 100, 102, 103, 111, 113, 114, 121, 122, 130, 131, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 141, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 152, 153, 154, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 185, 187, 188, 190, 192, 193, 208, 210, 220, 221, 222, 224, 227, 229, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 238, 239, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 250, 251, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 277.

## **9. Amendments to Consultation draft**

9.1 All modifications to the SPD following consultation on the draft version are shown as tracked changes on the document attached as Appendix F. These will be incorporated into the final adopted version of the SPD.

## Appendix A – List of organisations consulted

The following organisations were directly notified of the draft Biodiversity SPD via email, or by post where no email address was available. Individuals are not listed. It should be noted that other individuals and organisations were also contacted that do not appear on this list.

All Parish Councils and Residents Associations  
Abellio Greater Anglia  
Accent Nene Housing Society Limited  
Addenbrooke's Equalities Officer  
Adjacent Local Authorities  
Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers (ACERT)  
Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough  
Airport Operators Association  
Amusement Catering Equipment Society (ACES)  
Anglia Ruskin University  
Anglian Water  
Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board  
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association  
British Gas  
British Horse Society  
British Romani Union  
BT Group Plc  
Building Research Establishment  
Cam Health  
Cambridge and County Developments (formerly Cambridge Housing Society)  
Cambridge Area Bus Users  
Cambridge Campaign for Better Transport  
Cambridge and District Citizens Advice Bureau  
Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service  
Cambridge Crown Court  
Cambridge Cycling Campaign  
Cambridge Dial a Ride  
Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum  
Cambridge Fire and Rescue Service  
Cambridge Friends of the Earth  
Cambridge Ramblers  
Cambridge Inter-Faith Group  
Cambridge Past, Present & Future  
Cambridge Peterborough & South Lincolnshire (CPSL) Mind  
Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre  
Cambridge Regional College

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
Cambridge Water  
Cambridge Women's Aid  
Cambridge Women's Resource Centre  
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust  
Cambridgeshire ACRE  
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils  
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Campaign to Protect Rural England  
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group  
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority  
Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce  
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation  
Cambridgeshire Constabulary  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council  
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Cambridgeshire Football Association  
Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board  
Cambridgeshire Race Equality & Diversity Service  
Care Network Cambridgeshire  
Centre 33  
Children & Young People's Participation Service (ChYpPS)  
Church Commissioners for England  
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)  
Confederation of British Industry - East of England  
Conservators of the River Cam  
Country Land & Business Association  
CPSL Mind  
Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure LTD (CTIL)  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
Department for Business Innovation and Skills  
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Transport  
Design Council  
Disability Cambridgeshire  
East West Rail  
Eastern Region Rowing Council  
EDF Energy  
Education and Skills Funding Agency  
EE  
Ely Diocesan Board  
Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards  
Encompass Network  
Energy Assets Networks Ltd



Environment Agency  
Equality and Human Rights Commission  
ESP Utilities Group  
Federation of Small Businesses  
Fields in Trust  
Flagship Homes  
Forestry Commission  
Friends, Families and Travellers  
Greater Cambridge Partnership  
Harlaxton Energy Networks Ltd.  
Hastoe Housing Association Ltd.  
Hazardous Installations Inspectorate  
Health and Safety Executive  
Healthwatch Cambridgeshire  
Highways England  
Historic England  
Home Builders Federation (HBF)  
Homes England  
Hundred Houses Society Limited  
Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport (HACT)  
Iceni Homes  
Indigo Networks  
Institute of Directors - Eastern Branch  
Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)  
Logistics UK (formerly Freight Transport Association)  
Marine Management Organisation  
National Grid plc  
National House Building Council  
National Housing Federation  
Natural Cambridgeshire  
Natural England  
Network Rail  
NHS England  
Office of Rail and Road  
Openreach  
Ormiston Children's and Family Trust  
Over and Willingham Internal Drainage Board  
Planning Inspectorate  
Post Office Property  
Road Haulage Association Ltd.  
Royal Mail  
RSPB  
Sanctuary Housing Association  
Shelter

South Cambridgeshire Youth Council  
Sport England  
SSE  
Stagecoach East  
Sustrans (East of England)  
Swavesey Internal Drainage Board  
The Association of Circus Proprietors of Great Britain  
The Association of Independent Showmen (AIS)  
The Coal Authority  
The Crown Estate  
The Kite Trust  
The Lawn Tennis Association  
The Magog Trust  
The National Trust  
The Showman's Guild of Great Britain  
The Society of Independent Roundabout Proprietors  
The Theatres Trust  
The Traveller Movement  
The Wildlife Trust  
Transport for London  
Travel for Work Partnership  
Traveller Liaison  
The Traveller Movement  
UK Power Networks  
University of Cambridge  
Utility Assets  
Virgin Media  
Woodland Trust

## **Appendix B – Draft Biodiversity SPD consultation online questionnaire**

### **Question 1**

The first four chapters of the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) set the context of relevant policy and legislation which the SPD needs to comply with. Do you think that we have omitted any important, relevant policies or legislation?

- Yes
- No

### **Question 2**

Do you think that the guidance in this SPD is clear?

- Very clear
- Mostly clear
- Neither clear nor unclear
- Not very clear
- Not at all clear

### **Question 3**

Do you think that this SPD will help us achieve the positive outcomes for biodiversity required by national legislation and our adopted Local Plans?

- Yes
  - Somewhat
  - No
- (Please explain your answer)

### **Question 4**

Can you tell us of any case studies (from an English Local Planning Authority) which demonstrate good examples of how Biodiversity Net Gain is being used, or other best practice that we could incorporate into this SPD to add value?

### **Question 5**

Please tell us what you liked or didn't like about this SPD.

### **Question 6**

Do you have any comments about the Equalities Impact Assessment published alongside the draft SPD?

### **Question 7**

Do you have any comments about the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report published alongside the draft SPD?

### **Question 8**

What is your name?

### **Question 9**

Are you answering as:

- An individual
- On behalf of an organisation or company (please state below)

### **Question 10**

Please enter your email address

### **Question 11**

Do you want to be informed about the outcome of this consultation?

- Yes
- No

### **Question 12**

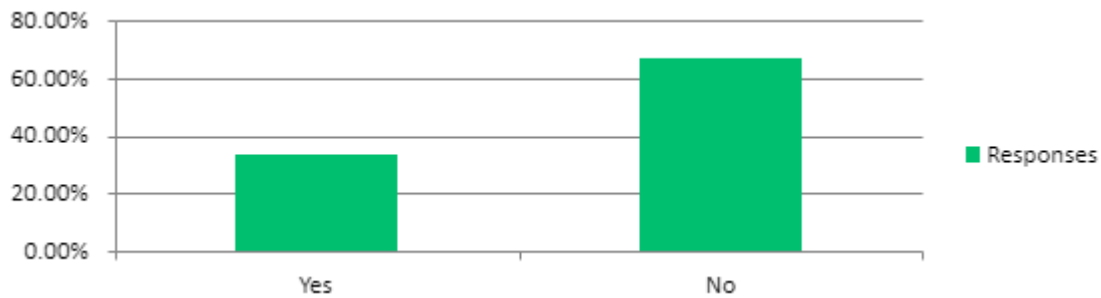
Do you want to be informed about future consultations on planning policy and guidance held by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, the shared service for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils?

- Yes
- No

## Appendix C – Overall percentage responses to Questions 1, 2 & 3 of online questionnaire

### Question 1

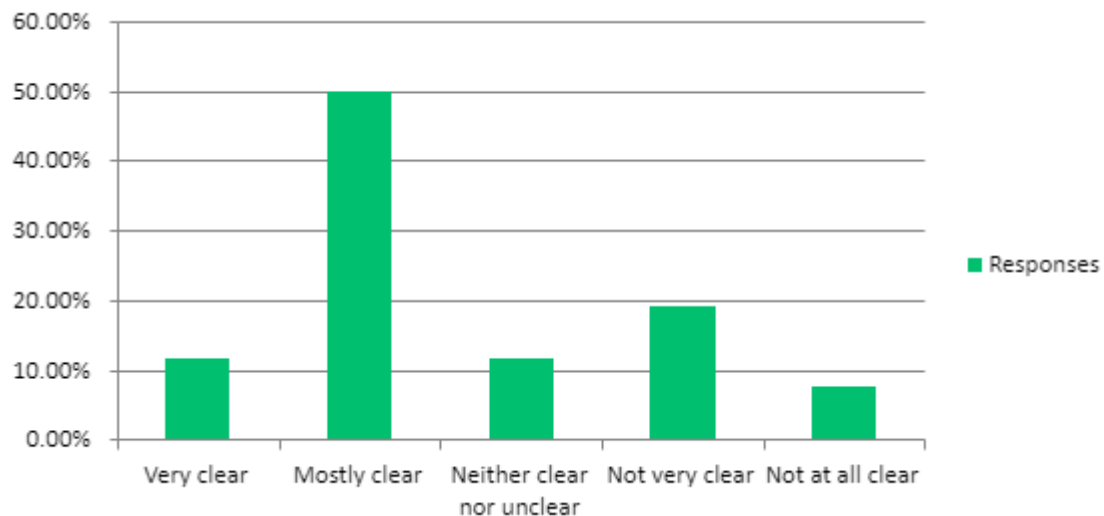
The first four chapters of the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) set the context of relevant policy and legislation which the SPD needs to comply with. Do you think that we have omitted any important, relevant policies or legislation?



### Question 2

Do you think that the guidance in this SPD is clear?

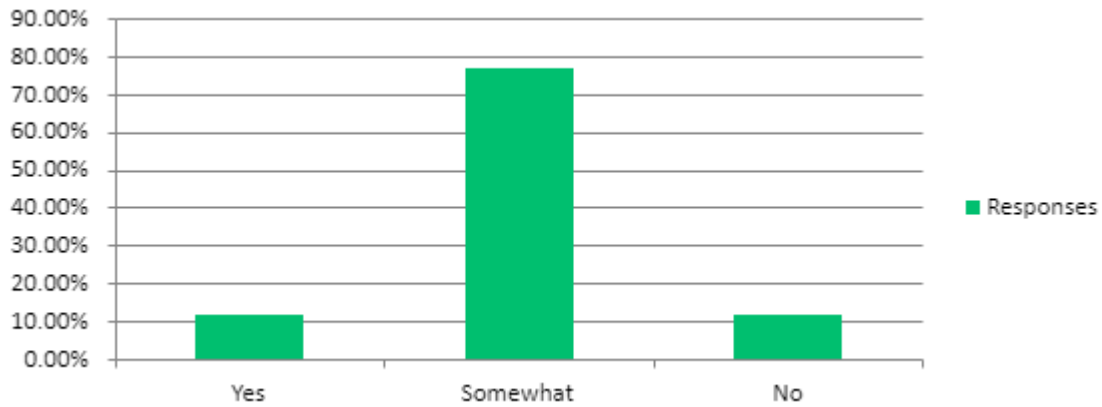
- Very clear
- Mostly clear
- Neither clear nor unclear
- Not very clear
- Not at all clear



### Question 3

Do you think that this SPD will help us achieve the positive outcomes for biodiversity required by national legislation and our adopted Local Plans?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No



## Appendix D – Online survey representations and responses in survey question order

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
5	1	Action for Swifts, Fulbourn Swifts and Over & Swavesey Swift Conservation Project 2020 / General comment	<p>We think that reference to the following policy documents would be beneficial: 1. Design Codes New National Design Code Guidance was announced recently together with changes to the NPPF: Vision for building beautiful places set out at landmark design event - GOV.UK (<a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>) 'The National Model Design Code - a toolkit to enable every council and community to create their own local design requirement. Guidance is provided across all aspects of new development including tree-lined streets, sustainable drainage and design to support walking and cycling' 'The changes to the National Planning Policy Framework set an expectation that good quality design should be approved, while poor quality should be rejected and includes an environmental commitment to ensure that all streets are lined with trees' 'Nature' starts on page 17 of Part 2 of the Guidance Notes: National Model Design Code: Part 2 - Guidance Notes (<a href="http://publishing.service.gov.uk">publishing.service.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>2. Re: Listing of SCDC SPDs in the Draft Biodiversity SPD Section 3.5 In paragraph 3.5.2 this listing does not include reference to the Village Design Statement SPDs for Caldecote, Fulbourn, Gamlingay, Over, Papworth Everard, Sawston and Swavesey. The Fulbourn Village Design Statement certainly contains information on local biodiversity.</p>	3 / Noted.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
6	1	British Horse Society / General comment	Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan. There are many references to well being and access to the countryside yet no reference to the RoWIP.	3 / Noted. The Councils consider that rights of way are related but not central to the SPD. Green Infrastructure evidence supporting the Greater Cambridge Local Plan incorporates consideration of Rights of Way.
	1	Cottenham Parish Council / General comment	On page 18, where you mention supplementary planning documents, there is no mention of either the Cottenham or Histon Neighbourhood Plans.	3 / Noted. Section 3.4 includes information on neighbourhood plans and links to where they can be found on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website.



Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
9	1	Hill Residential Ltd / General comment	<p>The NPPF and Planning Practice Guide are clear that development plans should set out the contributions expected from development, including for green infrastructure. There is no reference to that important legislation, policy and guidance. That is fundamental to the SPD, because the SPD seeks to introduce a new policy approach which has not been tested via the development plan process. This is particularly important because the adopted local plans have been put in place and tested for their impact on the capacity of sites and viability. This SPD is not accompanied by any assessments which examine either of those issues. There is no evidence presented as to the costs of imposing a 10% or 20% gain in habitat units on site. Similarly, there are no assessments of the impact on development capacity of delivering a 10% or 20% gain in biodiversity units on site. The local plans have sites within them where development capacity has been tested, but there is no evidence that those capacities cannot be delivered alongside the level of habitat gain sought. There is no reference to policy or guidance on viability and viability testing. No assessment has been made as to the increased costs of provision or maintenance. Additional costs could impact on the delivery of affordable housing or other community benefits.</p>	1 / Noted. As addressed by the theme response, the SPD does not seek to impose new policy. Amendments have been made to clarify this point.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
276	1	Hill Residential Ltd / General comment	Throughout the document refers to DEFRA Metric 2, but on 7th July that Metric was updated to version 3. Whilst we support the use of a consistent approach to assessing biodiversity gains, we have concerns regarding the Metric as it stands as it is known to include errors within its spreadsheets and does not take into all biodiversity measures in assessing gains. It remains a draft and subject to testing and therefore a more rounded approach to assessing biodiversity gains is required. Assessment of the biodiversity impact and measures proposed needs, in our view, to be undertaken drawing on a number of sources. The use of DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 3 could be part of that, but acknowledging that the Metric's website clearly states that "errors or problems identified in the materials or function" of Metric 3 will be addressed over the next two years, that it is based on an assessment of habitat as a proxy for biodiversity, and that the Metric does not score non-habitat biodiversity measures, an assessment of gain requires the application of professional knowledge and judgement to come to a conclusion on biodiversity enhancement and gain.	1 / Noted. All references to the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 2 within the SPD have been updated to Version 3. The SPD requires production of a Biodiversity Gain Plan for all major development. This would include BNG habitat based provision as well as non-habitat biodiversity measures.
1	1	Individual - name provided / General comment	The importance of retaining private gardens. Much of the emphasis in the document is for large developments and public areas which is very important. However, many forms of wildlife, trees and plant life can be found in even a small private garden. Building development, beyond small extensions, should not be allowed eg. putting several houses or flats on a relatively small plot	5 / Noted. Protecting garden land is not within the scope of the SPD which cannot set new policy; rather it explains how Local Plan policies should be interpreted and applied and provides guidance. The SPD at

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
				various points refers to supporting habitat provision in gardens.
2	1	Individual - name provided / General comment	I answered Yes but I don't really know, because I can't read through 72 pages. I just want to know the important things, as simple rules which are concise and intelligible. I want to see: 1) a strict limit on the number of close-boarded or other solid fences or walls so that the majority of properties in developments have gardens which are open for wild animals to traverse large distances away from the road but well within the curtilage of a village or town. I have not seen a live hedgehog in Whittlesford for nearly ten years. 2) an obligation for all developments to include wider grass verges separating the carriage of a road from the pedestrian footway both to increase safety and biodiversity, and for there to be a minimum, set by the Council in the local plan, for the number of trees present in such verges per number of properties. 3) a statutory minimum width of hedgerows and a minimum area of hedgerow defined in some meaningful way which ensures rural areas are lined with sufficient vegetation around fields that support biodiversity and provide protection for animals wishing to traverse the land 4) clear moves (and with incentives) to join up more of the small areas of disjointed woodland that is interspersed with agricultural land in order to decrease the risk of "islandisation" which causes species extinction. And guidelines for the creation of hedgerows around fields that allow areas of woodland to be joined up by better green corridors.	3 / Noted. 1) Not amended. Wildlife Friendly boundary treatments are referenced in section B5. 2) This is an SPD and cannot set new policy. 3) This is an SPD and cannot set new policy. 4) is outside the scope of the SPD but relevant to the emerging Strategic Green Infrastructure Initiatives included in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
4	1	Individual - name provided / General comment	3.2 National Policy and Guidance. Based on the revised NPPF in July. Need to revisit and check all paragraphs are correct. 3.5.2 3.5.2 3.5.2 Add Cambridge East: North of Cherry Hinton SPD Village Design Statement SPDs (Caldecote, Fulbourn, Gamlingay, Over, Papworth Everard, Sawston, Swavesey) Orchard Park Design Guidance SPD. 3.7.1 Part of para is repetitive. 4.5.2 Amend Fen Edge Chapter 4 - are there any important plants within the chalk streams that need protection or enhancement?	3 / References to the NPPF have been updated to reflect the 2021 version.
10	1	L&Q Estates and Hill / General comment	The SPD seeks use of the Biodiversity 2.0 Metric or its successor. In early July 2021, Defra and Natural England have now replaced this version with a Metric 3.0 although we are not yet convinced it is fit for purpose as it has come under criticism from several ecologists and academics. The NPPF and PPG expect that "Plans" should set out contributions expected from development, including green infrastructure. That text needs to be reflected in this section of the SPD. It is important that policies are set out in "Plans" where they can be tested for their impact on development for matters such as viability and capacity. Paragraph 1.3.2 says that the SPD does not create policy but seeking to negotiate a 10% or a 20% net gain in biodiversity is exactly that.	1 / Noted, addressed by theme response 1.
7	1	Mott Macdonald / General comment	Town Country Planning (EIA) Regulations not mentioned. This would appear to be a major omission given that any development which is likely to have significant effects will be subject to EIA. Nothing in the document about climate change policy – yet biodiversity has potential benefits in terms of increasing sequestration of carbon through different new habitat creation. Climate change is going to affect the viability of some species	3 / This is an SPD which provides practical advice and guidance on how to develop proposals that comply with the NPPF and the district-wide policies. The next Local

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
			<p>which are sensitive to climate and which are unlikely to survive in our region in the medium to long term as a result. Whilst it is probably not the role of the SPD to recognise the impact of climate change on species (and individual developers cannot change these facts) it might be useful to have a more forward looking approach to the effects of climate change. Protect what is most likely to survive a changing climate and put in measures to support new species that will arrive in the area in years to come. And, for example, don't promote habitat creation or tree planting with species that will struggle in 10/20/30 years time. This is particularly relevant given the 30 year span required for biodiversity net gain. We believe the SPD needs to be more forward looking and should be actively encouraging developers to think about how their developments can mitigate climate change by planting. There should be advice/guidance/references to sources of information on what biodiversity enhancements/mitigations are more likely to be resilient to climate change, and which will be effective at improving carbon sequestration</p>	<p>Plan will be acknowledging changing climate and its effects on biodiversity. This SPD seeks to protect, buffer, link and create new habitats that would allow species the best opportunity to survive, adapt and disperse in response to a changing climate.</p>
8	1	Vistry Group / General comment	<p>Although Vistry Group is mindful that the Environment Bill has not yet been finalised and that further planning reform is awaited. As such, the Council should acknowledge some flexibility may be required to address emerging issues.</p>	<p>1 / Noted. The Environment Bill has now been enacted. Paragraph 1.2.4 notes that the SPD will in time be updated to support the Greater Cambridge Local Plan when this is adopted.</p>

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
15	2	Action for Swifts, Fulbourn Swifts and Over & Swavesey Swift Conservation Project 2020 / Biodiversity Issue B5	<p>Re: Section 5.5, Biodiversity Issue B5: Native Tree and Shrub Planting The SPD should be more specific on exactly what the GC expectation is on the use of native tree and shrub planting within developments.</p> <p>In Paragraph 5.5.8 there is reference to the planting of mixed native species hedging with trees to define boundaries in open countryside and there is reference to 'street trees' in Paragraph 5.5.27. It is suggested that something further within Section 5.5 under Biodiversity Issue B5 on species choice in planting schemes to emphasise the preference for native planting of species of local provenance and the more limited use of non-native ornamental species chosen to benefit wildlife.</p>	6 / Noted. No amendment proposed. The detail of tree species is secured through landscape design based on suitability of tree species for a location, as well as their biodiversity value. As a rule, native species are favoured in more natural landscapes. Non-native species may also be appropriate where they are resilient to urban environments, the changing climate and pathogens.
259	2	Action for Swifts, Fulbourn Swifts and Over & Swavesey Swift Conservation Project 2020 / Biodiversity Issue B5	Point 5 of policy requirements under Biodiversity Issue B5: 'That appropriate new wildlife habitats will be incorporated into landscaping schemes and the general layout of the built environment. All fencing will be expected to be hedgehog friendly and hedgehog highways should be incorporated throughout the development' The wording of 'appropriate new wildlife habitats' seems rather vague.	6 / Noted. SPD is not a Design Guide and habitats will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
260	2	Action for Swifts, Fulbourn Swifts and Over & Swavesey Swift Conservation Project 2020 / 5.5	Relevant Guidance in the GC Sustainable Design & Construction SPD There is some useful guidance on green infrastructure and trees in particular in the GC Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020) and it is suggested that there is a need to cross reference to this from the Section 5.5 under Biodiversity Issue B5 or to repeat some of the key elements of guidance. In the Section of the GC SDC SPD headed 'Adaptation Strategies– the role of green infrastructure' on pages 61 to 65 there is useful content relating to trees which could easily be 'lost' in a document of 262 pages! Paragraph 3.4.21 on page 62 starts 'The quality of trees to be retained and planted on site is an important consideration' One of the factors listed below that relating to 'quality' is 'The use of native species of local provenance where possible in order to maximise benefits for biodiversity' Further supporting information is provided with our related response to Question 4. 2.	6 / Noted. No amendment proposed. The detail of tree species is secured through landscape design based on suitability of tree species for a location, as well as their biodiversity value. As a rule, native species are favoured in more natural landscapes. Non-native species may also be appropriate where they are resilient to urban environments, the changing climate and pathogens.
261	2	Action for Swifts, Fulbourn Swifts and Over & Swavesey Swift Conservation Project 2020 / 5.5	Re:Species Enhancement and Biodiversity Net Gain It is not clear how the species measures covered in the policy requirements under Biodiversity Issue B5 in Section 5.5 are to be assessed alongside the results of the Defra metric covered under Biodiversity Issue B7 in assessing overall net gain in biodiversity. In a recent interview on the BBC Countryfile programme, Dr Nick White of Natural England emphasised that the metric is one important factor in the overall consideration of biodiversity net gain but there must also be consideration of what is being done on species specific measures. We have concerns that with the focus within the context of biodiversity net gain being on the DEFRA metric, which is based only on green habitats, that there is a danger that	6 / Noted. Species specific measures are covered within Section B5. Species protection, mitigation and enhancement are considered separately in the planning process from BNG requirements and the associated metric.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
			important biodiversity opportunities for specific measures for species nest bricks, roosting bricks, hedgehog highways etc may be given less emphasis by developers. The significance of species-specific measures is emphasised by Government Guidance on the NPPF issued on 21 July 2019 (see below): <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/brookshire-orders-house-builders-to-protect-wildlife">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/brookshire-orders-house-builders-to-protect-wildlife</a> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment</a> Paragraph 23 of this Guidance headed 'How can biodiversity net gain be achieved?' includes at the end of the first sub paragraph 'Relatively small features can often achieve important benefits for wildlife, such as incorporating swift bricks and bat boxes in developments and providing safe routes for hedgehogs between different areas of habitat.' We suggest that the wording of the draft SPD be modified to emphasise the importance of species-specific measures within the umbrella of biodiversity net gain.	
20	2	Anglian Water / General comment	Targets and monitoring responsibilities – further details provided in email response.	2 / Noted. Refer to responses to email from this respondent. (Appendix E).
14	2	Cottenham Parish Council / General comment	There's a lot of what you want to do but not how it will be done	3 / Noted. The Councils consider that the SPD provides appropriate specific guidance informing applications while making relevant connections to



Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
				legislation and contextual policy.
22	2	Hill Residential Ltd / General comment	The first 31 pages of the SPD simply repeat existing legislation, policy and guidance. It adds very little to the local context and what is required in order to help achieve biodiversity gain. The document should, working with the development industry, focus on practical examples and means as to how to achieve biodiversity gain. In doing so it needs to recognise that there is to be a transitional period before the 10% gain within the Environment Bill becomes mandatory (should it pass through parliament) and that any potential for higher gains needs to be established through the Greater Cambridge Local Plan process, not SPD. The SPD is unclear because it includes a raft of emerging policy and guidance as well as existing policy. If the document is to progress to adoption it must, by law, only supplement existing adopted development plan policy.	1 / Noted. The Councils consider that the SPD provides appropriate specific guidance informing applications while making relevant connections to legislation and contextual policy. A modification has been included to reference the transitional period.
11	2	Individual - name provided / General comment	Almost all protection includes a clause saying that the habitat, trees etc. will not be destroyed unless there is over-riding benefit, however there is no indication what would constitute sufficient benefit to justify destroying irreplaceable ancient woodland etc	5 / Noted. No amendment. SPD sets out guidance against which proposals are considered.
12	2	Individual - name provided / General comment	Too long. Too much waffle. No sign of simple bullet points outlining sets of rules that the reader can absorb easily and quickly and relate to. There really is no way I am going to read all 72 pages in order to work out whether the Council is doing anything positive.	3 / Noted.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
13	2	Individual - name provided / General comment	There is some consideration of external dependencies, but they are, in effect, discounted undermining the logic and consistency of its assessment method and conclusions. On top of that the costs, trade-offs and options do not seem to be fully assessed.	1 / Noted.
17	2	Individual - name provided / 5.2.4	There is no box to tick which gives the answer I want, unfortunately. It is not that the guidance is not clear, it is that it is sometimes insufficient or wrong. In particular: section 5.2.4 emphasizes the value of CIEEM and its members. It is important to note that many consultants are not members of CIEEM, either because of the low values expected of its membership, disagreement with its guidelines, or both, and that many reports produced by CIEEM members are misleading or of poor quality; other sources of information should not be neglected	6 / Noted. Standards and benchmarking of professional qualifications (like CIEEM) are important, however where individuals can show capability and relevant expertise and experience this would be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.
18	2	Individual - name provided / General comment	I haven't tried to look for a particular topic rather than simply read the document from top to bottom, but each section seemed to contain relevant information in a concise form.	5 / Noted.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
262	2	Individual - name provided / 5.4.1	Section 5.4.1 suggests data search for protected and Priority species from the site boundary. Such a search is largely useless for detecting wildlife interest other than for vertebrates. Any search should include at least all species with any formal conservation status. Failure to do this could easily result in missing the presence of extreme rarities and species at their only known sites in the county. Priority lists are outdated and, for invertebrates especially, largely independent of actual interest. It is worth noting also that there is much information that CPERC do not have, or that they have not validated, and which therefore will not be supplied, and that they should not necessarily be regarded as the only source of information.	6 / Noted. The requested data search is the prescribed minimum desk top survey to inform a PEA. Professional judgement is required to interpret the data and appraise the site for likely species and necessary surveys, e.g. scarce plant or invertebrates on brownfield sites.
263	2	Individual - name provided / Appendix 2	Appendix 2 gives guidance on the timing of surveys. It suggests that preliminary ecological surveys can be undertaken at any time of year. They cannot if they are to be any good. Winter surveys can be extremely misleading. Such surveys should be undertaken during the growing season, and never in the immediate aftermath of management. The period for botanical surveys is given as June to August, with marginal opportunities in April, May and September. Communities with spring ephemerals are likely to peak in interest in April and may be perfectly surveyable in March; woodlands may be best surveyed in May, and all habitats are surveyable by the latter part of the month. No timings are given for invertebrate surveys: they should at least be included in general terms, and more specifically for obvious target groups such as aquatic invertebrates, butterflies, aculeates.	6 / Noted. Regarding preliminary ecological surveys - No amendments made. According to CIEEM guidance (Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management), a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – used to assess if further surveys are needed - can be undertaken at any time of year. Further surveys would need to be done at the appropriate time.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
				<p>Regarding botanical survey timings – no amendments made. The survey timings set out in Appendix 2 are at a high level; the botanical survey timings suggested are too detailed for an SPD.</p> <p>Regarding invertebrate surveys – agreed. Additional text added to state for invertebrates “Optimal survey time April to September”</p>
24	2	L&Q Estates and Hill / General comment	<p>Rather than comprising supplementary guidance, the draft SPD comprises a consolidation of adopted/ratified policy/legislation together with policy and legislation that is not adopted/ratified – presumably this is so that all information pertaining to biodiversity is available in the same place. We can see the merit in preparing such a document, but the fact remains, applications must be assessed against adopted policy and legislation, and should not be assessed against policy or legislation that has not been adopted/ratified. We therefore consider that consolidation of the information into one document is somewhat misleading and makes it difficult to isolate the advice that is genuinely supplementary. The information which is truly supplementary, particularly that which relates to net gain, appears very outline in nature and is lacking in detail as to how it</p>	<p>1, 2 / Noted. See other responses to specific comments made by this respondent.</p>

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
			<p>can and should actually be implemented. It essentially boils down to three pages of background about net gain, together with Greater Cambridge's aspirations for sites to achieve a 20% gain, rather than the proposed 10% made by the UK government. The guidance on this, however, is limited and the wording seems to infer a 20% net gain will be negotiated when clearly the impact of either target has not been tested on development viability through the local plan process nor has it been tested for its impact on the capacity of sites and hence the Councils' housing and employment land supplies. Further evidence is required as to how the Councils' have assessed the costs and impacts of its proposed approach. We recommend that the wording of the SPD be reviewed in light of this issue to avoid misinterpretation. We also consider the SPD needs to give greater clarity and guidance on how biodiversity net gain should be implemented. By example, Cheshire East Council's equivalent SPD comprises a 35-page document, 25-pages of which detail exactly how BNG can be implemented by a developer, including up to a predicted fee for each biodiversity unit needing to be "purchased" where on site mitigation cannot be achieved.</p>	
23	2	Madingley Road Area Residents' Association / General	<p>It is a long document that I could only review quickly. Some of the links I checked did not lead directly to the information they signposted.</p>	<p>3 / Noted. Links have been checked in preparing the proposed final version of the SPD.</p>

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
19	2	Mott Macdonald / General comment	There is a lot of useful information contained in the SPD which brings together many important sources of information related to biodiversity in the Greater Cambridge area. However it treats all development as the same in terms of potential impact. I think the document would be much more useful if it was structured so there was advice for small developments (ie. private landowners), medium developments and major developments. Again if you referenced the EIA regs you could build on the schedule of EIA development to help developers understand where they fit in the scheme of things. At present the SPD would require a small developer (private landowner) to go through the same process as a major development like, say, East West Rail. So to ensure there was proportionality in planning applications (to ease the burden on both developer and planning authority) it would help if the SPD was structured to suit different levels of development as to their risk to biodiversity	4 / Noted.
21	2	Persimmon Homes East Midlands / General comment	Para 5.5.19 Doubling Nature Strategy states that 20% BNG can only be achieved through local planning policy or national, and this should be noted through the SPD that the strategy is also aspirational and not policy.	1 / Noted.
16	2	Individual - name provided / General comment	Too reliant on BNG metric, not enough on species. Need for more detail on habitats and planting to be created.	3 / Noted. The SPD is necessarily focused on the planning process and not design.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
33	3	Action for Swifts, Fulbourn Swifts and Over & Swavesey Swift Conservation Project 2020 / Biodiversity Issue 5	Local Planning Authority should acknowledge that the housing market is increasingly becoming more aware of biodiversity opportunities and encourage developers to embrace this responsibility, which homebuyers are themselves encouraging. There is clear householder support for integral boxes for birds and bats. In conjunction with the RSPB, Sarah Roberts' research at the University of Gloucester has revealed evidence that houses with biodiversity opportunities for wildlife have become more attractive to buyers. Taylor Wimpey are working with local conservationists Action for Swifts in Cambourne and Northstowe to increase the ratio of integrated nest provision in their new brick built homes. For example, at Cambourne West 1.2, a parcel of 190 homes, Taylor Wimpey are installing 85 S Bricks, a universal integrated bird brick for Swifts and other small cavity-nesting birds. Although a smaller percentage (45%) than our recommendation (1:1), this is a significant improvement on previous development projects. Taylor Wimpey are also currently looking at a new in-house companywide biodiversity policy which includes considering a greater ratio of integrated nests per dwelling that would be higher than that required by the proposed new SPD.	6 / Noted. Biodiversity Issue B5 amended to reflect representation for additional integrated nest box provision.
38	3	Anglian Water / General comment	Need for clarity on targets and monitoring and consequent step up in targets and approach in new DPDs.	2 / Section 5.8 sets out the approach to management, monitoring and enforcement.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
36	3	British Horse Society / General comment	This document clearly supports the need for a good public rights of way network, the health benefit it provides and in particular, green corridors for their climate change benefits and carbon sequestration contribution. If Greater Cambridge is going to support this SPD then it needs to review its funding for rights of way in parallel. However, current local policy (e.g. the LCWIP) supports and encourages the creation of hard top / tarmac cycle paths. Increasingly, these paths are being created on existing bridleways and green paths e.g. • Rampton Byway – green corridor covered with motorway tarmac • Wilson’s Road – bridleway width reduced and hard topped • Mere Way Byway – green path due to be covered with tarmac path up to 4.1 metres wide • Bridleway 143/1 and 2 Landbeach – due to be hardtopped for their full width. The damaging effect of the loss of the green paths, the amenity value for those wanting to use the RoW network for other than speedy cycling and for whom a soft surface is far better, the loss of carbon sequestration and the impact on nature and wildlife is not taken into consideration in the overwhelming rush to provide cycle paths at any cost. There are other surfaces which could be used. CCC Highways Department need to be willing to consider alternatives not simply to default to tarmac	6 / Noted. Points raised considered to be outside the remit of the Biodiversity SPD.
31	3	Cottenham Parish Council / General comment	City and South Cambs are different beasts so getting the policies to work for both could lessen their impact.	5 / Noted. The Councils consider that the SPD provides guidance appropriate to the whole Greater Cambridge area.



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40	3	Hill Residential Ltd / 5.5	Developments are already, or should be, delivering biodiversity enhancements. That has been national policy for a long time. The local plans also include a policy requirement for enhancement. Future legislation seems likely to mandate biodiversity gain, and to achieve that will adopt a new approach to the issue, by taking “habitat units” as a proxy for biodiversity. It is important to recognise that approach is different to much current practice in delivering enhancements and for example, will require much greater areas of land to be devoted to habitat provision. It is also important to recognise that the approach to biodiversity gain and its measurement remains draft and a number of parties, not just developers, but also the RSPB for instance, have concerns with the current Metric methodology and whether it is fit for purpose. The SPD does little to aide applicants in proposing biodiversity gains. The development industry has been delivering biodiversity gains as part of development for a significant period of time. Applicants are all too aware of the need to address the issue and to propose measures. What the SPD needs to do is focus on what are the priorities for biodiversity and providing practical guidance and advice rather than simply repeating material everyone is already aware of. The SPD identifies off-site measures as a last resort. However, it maybe that the maximum gain of biodiversity can be achieved by focussing on large sites where the more extensive areas of habitats can be created and re-wilding can take place.	2 / Noted. The Councils consider that the SPD provides appropriate specific guidance informing applications while making relevant connections to legislation and contextual policy.
26	3	Individual - name provided /	I think the timescales could be shorter and to provide more density of cover.	5 / Noted.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
		General comment		
27	3	Individual - name provided / General comment	It has got to be emphasised to all who apply for planning permission and then rigidly enforced by the Planning Committee and officers.	5 / Noted.
28	3	Individual - name provided / General comment	I've got no idea. It's simply too long.	3 / Noted.
29	3	Individual - name provided / 5.7	The two paragraphs on the Construction Stage is insufficient, given the scale of some projects in the area. I live in Northstowe and have been trying to work with SCDC and the contractors on wildlife on site during the build phase (timescale of a decade or more). The final plans may be fine, but there needs to be far more assessment between them being drawn up (2014?) and being implemented (now) and also for habitats created by the construction activity. First case is the phase 1 lake, dug in 2015 and left for 5 years. Trees grew and a very biodiverse "pre-development fallow" developed (rich in butterflies, moths and grasshoppers especially). Then the landscaping plans were implemented - many of the trees were not where the plans had trees, so they were cut down (in mid-April, with birds breeding) and the same or similar species planted elsewhere round the lake (the trees cut down were up to 20cm diameter trunks and were	2 / Noted. A Construction environmental management plan (CEMP) will guide the construction process. Section 5.7.2 captures the conditions for ecological management plans and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). Larger phase developments should be mindful of ecological succession to ensure re-survey are undertaken every 2 years to guide phasing and

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			<p>on the northeast side so had minimal shading or leaf-fall effects on the lake and shielded the area from the busway). The pre-development fallow land was inevitably impacted by instating the paths, but the seeding works led to the whole area being tilled, breaking every invertebrate lifecycle in the whole area. No continuity area was left to hold species while the new planting established. An assessment before plans were implemented could easily have identified these issues, saving biodiversity and money. Second case is the Phase 2 flood, which attracted Little Ringed Plovers and Avocets to breed (both schedule 1 and legally protected, several interesting but not schedule 1 species also present). There didn't seem to be any assessment of this area, with the contractors apparently being surprised they had Shelduck on site (considerably larger and more obvious than Little ringed Plovers, and they bred the year before as well). I tried to give information as to what was on site, but one Little Ringed Plover nest was almost certainly driven over by construction work (borderline illegal). These species were not present before construction so would not be identified in the main survey phase (but similar things happened with A14 works with Little Ringed Plover nests destroyed inadvertently, but protection is against intentional or reckless disturbance) There are other planning issues with Northstowe related to the timescale (eg full cycle paths will be instated after the first set of kids have already left the secondary school!) and for the rest of Northstowe, Waterbeach and other sites such as Bourn Airfield the within-build planning really needs addressing on, several fronts.</p>	<p>proposed planning application amendments.</p>

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30	3	Individual - name provided / General comment	Without a more rounded assessment external pressures seem likely to overwhelm any groundwork laid in this SPD. The larger context, including the consequences of development pressure and the OxCam Arc, is essential to any realistic hope of achieving the required (and desired) outcomes	1 / Noted. The wider context referred to is outside the scope of the SPD.
32	3	Individual - name provided / 5.4	5.4 Pre application stage Could you include community or youth engagement within the planning process particularly for large residential developments. Good for educating the local community, taking ownership and understanding what measures have been undertaken and why. Money from applicants.	6 / Noted. Outside of scope of this SPD.
34	3	Individual - name provided / General comment	The real is yes, of course it will help, but not quite as much as it might. The real difficulty is that it pales into consideration of best practice and guidelines, and unless rigorously policed these don't work. Unless there is a mechanism for ensuring that practice is genuinely good, things will continue to slip through the net. None is stated	2 / Noted. Section 5.8 sets out the approach to management, monitoring and enforcement
35	3	Individual - name provided / General comment	I have high hopes for it, particularly if existing boundary hedges, unimproved grassland and trees are retained and varied habitat is introduced within the site. I think it would be even better if this was mandatory.	5 / Noted. It is not within the scope of the SPD to set new policy; rather it explains how Local Plan policies should be interpreted and applied and provides guidance.
43	3	Individual - name provided / 4.2	We are not clear if all locations of interest in the region have been considered in the report - in particular while the report mentions the area around Wimpole and the Eversdens there is no reference to the Bourn Brook Area or the Swards areas which are both very important natural	3 / Noted. Wimpole and Eversden are specifically referenced due to their SAC status. Designation of new

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			environments for biodiversity in our parish. It is hard to tell if the SPD has considered the Bourn Brook valley area which is monitored by the wildlife trust in this report or if it has been overlooked	biodiversity sites and the overarching approach to their protection is outside the scope of the SPD. Evidence supporting the Greater Cambridge Local Plan has sought to identify all designated and undesignated biodiversity sites.
264	3	Individual - name provided / 5.5.5	5.5.5 Could this be divided into large development sites - residential and commercial and smaller scale developments or single houses. Large sites - include examples like ponds, infiltration ponds. marginal species. Log piles, bug hotels, diverse tree species. wildflower meadows bee friendly amenity mixes, orchards.	6 / Noted. No amendment. This format was considered; however, all development sites are required to deliver many of these features so discounted this approach.
265	3	Individual - name provided / 5.5.8	5.5.8 Not sure bank and low nutrient substrates would be used in garden extension. Need to add this to a different para.	6 / Agreed. Text moved to 5.5.7.
266	3	Individual - name provided / 5.5.9	5.5.9 owl boxes?	6 / No amendment. Point addressed by bird boxes.

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267	3	Individual - name provided / Section 5	Chapter 5.0 - what about soils? Protecting and managing when undertaking large earthworks.	6 / No amendment. Details of soil protection, movement and storage would be covered by a specific planning condition.
268	3	Individual - name provided / 5.5.9	5.5.9 Green Brown and blue roofs?	6 / No amendment. Covered in Biodiversity Issue B6.
269	3	Individual - name provided / 5.5.13	5.5.13 More needs to be added. Rain gardens, swales, infiltration ponds, rills all measures where biodiversity could be enhanced examples required.	6 / No amendment. Covered in design guides referenced in 5.5.14.
270	3	Individual - name provided / 5.8	5.8 Management programmes. Do you have good examples and add as an appendix? What do you expect to see in a management plan?	6 / No amendment. The specific requirements for Landscape and Ecological Management Plans will be defined within a planning condition based on the referenced BS42020.

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42	3	L&Q Estates and Hill / 5.5	<p>We think the SPD needs to give greater clarity and guidance on how biodiversity net gain should be implemented. Once provided, this will give applicants a better steer on exactly how they can address biodiversity net gain within their proposals early on in the process. This is particularly important where additional compensatory land may be required or masterplan adjustments need to be made. If a 20% biodiversity net gain is sought this may render some schemes unviable and in turn reduce opportunities for development-led biodiversity improvements in the area. Seeking biodiversity net gain on existing sites/commitments may prove difficult especially where a 10% net gain was not factored in at Local Plan testing stage. The SPD cannot impose any specific percentage net gain as that is a policy decision. Therefore, in order to achieve the objective of doubling nature in future, the Council will need to look at large scale sites where it may be possible to achieve more significant levels of biodiversity net gain through comprehensive rewilding proposals and ecological enhancements. We have promoted such a site to the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan consultation (Form ID 40078), which comprises c.8,500 homes and an expansive wildlife area at Six Mile Bottom ('Westley Green), all within one ownership. Development at this scale can make a significant contribution towards both the Council's 'Doubling Nature' objective and its Strategic Green Infrastructure Network</p>	<p>2 / Noted. The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan is exploring delivery of net gain including via strategic projects – this issue is outside the scope of the SPD.</p>

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41	3	Madingley Road Area Residents' Association / 3.4	The Area Action Plans I looked up quickly are quite old and could probably do with updating (e.g. North-West Cambridge). It seems it is still up to a developer to access the existing biodiversity of a site. It seems in their interest to establish as low a level as possible. In the past we have seen low biodiversity or environmental importance reported in planning applications for sites where we as neighbours are aware of much more.	6 / Updating Area Action Plans is outside the scope of the SPD.
37	3	Mott Macdonald / General comment	The draft SPD is unclear how the various biodiversity strategies listed in the SPD work – and who would actually take responsibility for delivery of these strategies. We believe some better guidance on this key issue is important, or developers will find it difficult to know who to talk to, and where they will gain the most benefit for themselves. Experience of trying to engage with some of the parties mentioned in the SPD is that no-one who has produced the various plans listed, or who is promoting the listed strategies takes an active role in delivery, largely because they are not the land owners and so cannot make decisions on what is done. It seems to be left to developers to do something somehow. However, there is clear need for a governing body to be clearly identified who is responsible for making these strategies and plans a reality. At present there is no clarity on how a developer will help to achieve the positive outcomes required by legislation and the local plans. Even if developers do something locally there is nothing in the SPD to indicate who will make sure individual developer action resulted in some form of integrated or coordinated programme that delivers the strategies/plans etc. We believe the local authorities need to take a bold and positive step to taking	2 / Delivery of biodiversity strategies is outside the scope of the SPD. Through the preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan the Councils are engaging with relevant partners to progress this issue.



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			ownership of biodiversity net gain initiatives – this is going to be absolutely vital if long term BNG management is to be managed through planning mechanisms such as S 106 agreements. If this does not happen then moneys set aside for BNG delivery will sit unused and eventually returned to the developers – with the result that no benefits arise for BNG. We think the SPD could benefit by providing links to other SPDs that have complimentary objectives in relation to landscape character, water resources and flood risk and minerals planning (for example)	
39	3	Persimmon Homes East Midlands / General comment	The SPD highlights the 20% requirements however this is not in line with current policies. The SPD should note the requirements should meet those in the most up to date versions of the Environment Bill and the Local Plan. The SPD is useful to encourage net gain, however, requirements of net gain should be assessed through a local plan adoption process due to the significant impacts on viability which can only be appropriately tested through this format.	1 / Noted.
46	4	Action for Swifts, Fulbourn Swifts and Over & Swavesey Swift Conservation Project 2020 / Case study	Suggested Case Study from Cornwall Planning for Biodiversity Guide Integral nest boxes, Duchy of Cornwall Site at Nansledan. Page 59 Section 13.3 Cornwall planning for Biodiversity Guide - Cornwall Council An update on this project is available on the RSPB website: <a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news-original/news/stories/the-duchy-of-cornwall-giving-swifts-a-home/">https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news-original/news/stories/the-duchy-of-cornwall-giving-swifts-a-home/</a> . Also, the Duchy of Cornwall is supporting a project to monitor the species that take up these new nest places on sites including Nansledan.: <a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news/news/stories/the-big-birdbox-">https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news/news/stories/the-big-birdbox-</a>	3 / Noted. Examples of good practice and design case studies will be shared on the GCSP website.

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			<a href="#">survey/%20Action%20for%20Swifts:%20Duchy%20Big%20Bird%20Box%20survey%20202.</a>	
47	4	British Horse Society / Case study	Developments such as Cambourne with its rural green bridleway, Cambourne West with its promised peripheral bridleway network and links into other rights of way, Bourn development again with the RoW network for all designed in from the outset, the plans for Waterbeach and Alconbury - a new RoW network for all with links to the existing. Small gains but ones which instil a healthy lifestyle within the community, give pleasure and hopefully, develop into the type of community in which people can live happy, healthy, sustainable lives	3 / Noted. Examples of good practice and design case studies will be shared on the GCSP website.
49	4	L&Q Estates and Hill / Good practice	Please see Cheshire East Council's equivalent SPD (April 2021). <a href="https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s85129/Biodiversity%20Net%20Gain%20Draft%20SPD.pdf">https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s85129/Biodiversity%20Net%20Gain%20Draft%20SPD.pdf</a>	3 / Noted. Examples of good practice and design case studies will be shared on the GCSP website.
45	4	Individual - name provided / Case study	No. I think almost all the cases I am aware of have resulted in net loss of biodiversity and usually for the same reason - the pressures exerted by the larger context were never properly considered.	5 / Noted. The SPD's intention is to enhance guidance interpreting policy, to improve the biodiversity outcomes associated with development. The wider context is outside of the scope of the SPD.

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48	4	Mott Macdonald – Case study – Good practice	Not yet – this is an emerging area and all the engagement we have had with local planning authorities has left delivery of BNG to developers. The key challenges that need to be met are as much how to ensure long term management is delivered. We are aware of the County's own proposals to establish a landbank for developers to buy BNG credit through, and the County will then be responsible for ensuring the delivery of this. But for developers who include appropriate BNG in their proposals, how is the long term management over 30 years going to be made a compulsory requirement? If this is through S106 payments the burden then simply shifts to the County (or other planning authority) who may well struggle to ensure the management happens. In this case the BNG commitments of the developer will fail to materialise. It would be useful for the County to examine how HS2 Ltd are approaching this and possibly to enquire how Heathrow were planning to deliver long term BNG management.	2 / Noted.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
58	5	Action for Swifts, Fulbourn Swifts and Over & Swavesey Swift Conservation Project 2020 / 5.5	<p>We Like the Following Aspects of Section 5.5</p> <p>1.Hedgehog Friendly Fencing, Biodiversity Issue B5 Point 5 of policy requirements under Biodiversity Issue B5 states: 'That appropriate new wildlife habitats will be incorporated into landscaping schemes and the general layout of the built environment. All fencing will be expected to be hedgehog friendly and hedgehog highways should be incorporated throughout the development'</p> <p>The expected provision of hedgehog friendly fencing is welcome but it is of course only one part of a species saving solution: <a href="https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/">https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/</a>.</p> <p>2.Figure 9, 'Integrated Nesting Habitat for Birds or Bats', Biodiversity Issue B5 This Figure entitled 'Integrated nesting habitat for birds or bats', is a photo showing integrated swift bricks with the legend indicating that these bricks can be used by other species such as house sparrow. We do not recommend the sparrow terrace designs as they attract few sparrows, who prefer the integrated swift bricks. This is an important point that is often not appreciated by consultant ecologists working for developers. Perhaps it needs to be highlighted by inclusion within the text as well.</p> <p>3. Comment on Integrated Boxes, Biodiversity Issue B5 Paragraph 5.5.9 of Biodiversity Issue B5: 'In addition, the provision of integrated boxes (a combination of bird, bat &amp; insect boxes) will be required in new buildings for all types of development and should target protected, Priority and other species</p>	6 / Noted. B5 wording amended to reflect comments.

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			<p>associated with the built environment, such as Swift, as promoted by Action for Swifts, house sparrow, starling and pipistrelle bats. Where appropriate, high quality, durable boxes can also be provided on retained trees within the public realm'. We appreciate the specific mention of swifts here and the reference to Action for Swifts. As noted above, integrated swift boxes can be used by other species such as house sparrow and perhaps this should be mentioned here.</p> <p>We have some comments on the use of boxes in trees, which we think should be limited, and these are included under our 'We Do Not Like' points below.</p> <p>We Do Not Like the Following Aspects of Section 5.5</p> <p>A. Nest and Roost Boxes in Trees It is not considered a sustainable practice to place boxes in trees on new housing developments because of the problems of long-term maintenance and they are vulnerable to vandalism, degradation and decay. Integral boxes within the building structure are strongly to be preferred rather than those fixed externally to the walls, as these would need longer term maintenance and their appearance can deteriorate relatively quickly. Exceptions could be for specialist species such as owls and certain bat species where boxes made of durable materials should be securely fixed into healthy mature trees in wooded areas.</p> <p>B. Proposed Provision Level of Nesting/Roosting Sites, Biodiversity Issue</p>	

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
			<p>B5</p> <p>Our main concern is that the level of nest brick/roosting brick provision is no better than that in the existing SCDC Biodiversity SPD, which was produced way back in 2009. Since then, the standards for such provision have moved on such that good practice now is for the provision of one nest brick per dwelling, with the provision for roosting bats and insects being additional to this as appropriate to the site based on surveys and habitats present (details below).</p> <p>In the Draft SPD under 'Biodiversity provision in the design of new buildings and open spaces':</p> <p>'To meet policy requirements (HQ/1, NH/4, Policy 57 and Policy 59), the councils will expect:</p> <p>Point 2: 'That on all major housing developments 50% of the dwellings/units will have features such as integrated bird, bat or insect boxes provided in close association with the properties. On all other sites suitable provision for biodiversity enhancements shall be negotiated to achieve a similar standard'. This is particularly disappointing in the context of the statements in the Introduction Paragraph 1.1.2 in which it is stated that: ...'Both Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have declared a biodiversity emergency, and strongly support a step change in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Greater Cambridge'. This issue is particularly important because cavity nesting birds, which have nested for generations in older houses in holes and cavities under the eaves and in walls, are in dramatic decline – sparrows and starlings are Red Listed and although swifts are only Amber</p>	

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			<p>Listed this is on a technicality as data is required over 25 years and at the time of the last assessment this data was not available for swifts. Swifts have declined at an average rate of 5.4% per annum over the last 10 years and by 60% in the last 25 years, so we anticipate that the swift will move from the Amber to the Red list at the next BoCC revision expected in December 2021.</p> <p>We strongly suggest that in Biodiversity Issue B5:  the level of bird nest brick provision be increased to 1 per house and 1 per 2 flats in line with current good practice.  the level of bat roosting bricks be addressed separately and at the rate suggested in the Oxford City Council Guidance (reference below) subject to site location and features suitable for foraging.  Pollinator provision be addressed mainly through planting schemes.  Levels of provision of nest and roosting bricks for all types of building such as schools, student accommodation, hotels and offices be addressed rather than just the general 'all commercial applications' in point 4 of the expectations under Biodiversity Issue B5.</p> <p>Decline of Cavity Nesting Birds  The decline of swifts and other birds in the urban environment is highlighted in a recent report – the Environment Agency, Chief Scientists Group (2021) The state of the environment: the urban environment:  The state of the environment: the urban environment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)  One big factor in the decline of swifts, sparrows and starlings is likely to</p>	

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
			<p>be the loss of nesting sites through building renovation and insulation and more rigorous standards in new build homes. The inclusion of special nest bricks/integral boxes in all new houses is therefore an important step in helping to halt this decline. As noted in Figure 9 in Section 5.5, Biodiversity Issue B5 on page 43 of the Draft SPD integrated boxes designed for swifts will also be used by other birds such as house sparrow thus acting as a 'universal nest box'.</p> <p>Currently Accepted Good Practice</p> <p>At least a 1:1 ratio of nest bricks per dwelling is generally accepted now as good practice – a level of provision outlined in the award-winning Exeter City Council Residential Design Guide SPD (2010). Stephen Fitt of the RSPB South West Regional Office has been working with Exeter Planners over a period of 10 years on the implementation of the biodiversity requirements of this guide and there is acceptance that in many cases the most suitable box type for all cavity nesting birds is the swift brick. A number of planning authorities have adopted similar guidelines – for example Oxford (see details below), Cornwall, Brighton and Plymouth and South West Devon.</p> <p>A similar standard was adopted by the Town and Country Planning Association and the Wildlife Trusts in 2012 (reference below) and The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in 2013 (reference below). Planning for a Healthy Environment; Good Practice for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity. The Town and Country Planning Association and The Wildlife Trusts (2012)Gunnell, K., Murphy, B. and Williams, C., Designing for Biodiversity: A technical guide for new and</p>	



Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
			<p>existing buildings, RIBA Publishing &amp; Bat Conservation Trust (2013). The Duchy of Cornwall adopted the same principle of one nest site per dwelling in 2015, and a good example of the provision of a general type of integral box for all cavity nesting birds is the Nansledan development by The Duchy of Cornwall in Newquay: <a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news-original/news/stories/the-duchy-of-cornwall-giving-swifts-a-home/">https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news-original/news/stories/the-duchy-of-cornwall-giving-swifts-a-home/</a></p> <p>An excellent recent report produced by the NHBC Foundation from a collaboration between the RSPB and Barratt Developments gives significant guidance on these issues on page 42 onwards, which includes providing nest sites at a rate of one per house: 'Provision of integral nest sites for swifts is through hollow chambers fitted into the fabric of a building while in construction. Although targeting swifts they will also be used by house sparrows, tits and starlings so are considered a 'universal brick' and 'Fitting at a ratio of 1 nest brick per house across the development will ensure sufficient nest sites for colonial species. 3-5 can be located in one house, so helping locate them in suitable locations for access to foraging habitat' NHBC Foundation, Report NF 89, 'Biodiversity in new housing developments: creating wildlife-friendly communities' (April 2021). Available at: Biodiversity in new housing developments: creating wildlife-friendly communities - NHBC Foundation Our own local projects with developers (e.g. Taylor Wimpey and Hopkins Homes) at Northstowe, Cambourne West, Melbourn and elsewhere indicate an increasing willingness by some of them to engage on integral nest box projects and so we strongly suggest that the guidance on the level of</p>	

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			<p>integral nest site provision be increased in line with current good practice.</p> <p>Example from Oxford City Council Guidance. Within the OxCam Arc, Oxford City Council are leading the way with guidance on this issue. The recent Oxford City Council Technical Advice Note 8 on Biodiversity – Planning Application Guidance gives an ‘expected provision’ of bird nest sites in line with recommended good practice and additional provision of roost sites for bats and features for pollinators.</p> <p><a href="https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_policy/745/planning_policy_-_technical_advice_notes_tan">https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_policy/745/planning_policy_-_technical_advice_notes_tan</a></p> <p>In Section 12, ‘Ecological Enhancement’, under the heading ‘Artificial Nest/Roost Site’ on page 32 it states: ‘Installing artificial nesting and roosting sites for birds and bats is good practice as part of any development and such provision will be expected unless there are good reasons why such features cannot be accommodated in the design.... Table 1 below provides details of the expected box provision for building-dependent birds, bats and also for pollinators that are expected for various development types’</p> <p>In the Oxford City Council document Table 1 entitled ‘Expected provision of artificial features for different types of development’ gives an ‘expected provision of bird nest sites for building dependent birds’ at a rate of 1 per house and 1 per 2 flats, with separate provision for ‘bat roost sites’ at a rate of 1 per 5 houses and 1 per 10 flats.</p>	

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			<p>Provision of such artificial features in schools, student accommodation and hotels is addressed by a ratio of 1 bird nest site per 250 m2 floor space and 1 bat roost site per 500m2 floor space.</p> <p>There is additional guidance for 'pollinator provision' based on '1 bug hotel per 5 houses plus 25% of soft landscaping designed to provide nectar sources' and '1 bug hotel per 10 flats plus 25% of soft landscaping designed to provide nectar sources'</p> <p>On page 32 of the Oxford City Council document, it is noted that: 'Internal bricks and voids are less visually intrusive than external boxes. They are also more likely to be retained in the development long term and require less maintenance'. We conclude that provision of integral boxes, such as swift boxes, at a ratio of at least 1:1 per dwelling is the modern standard to accommodate a range of cavity nesting birds in new developments.</p> <p>Swift Bricks as Universal Nest Bricks Swift bricks or boxes are frequently used by other cavity-nesting small birds such as house sparrows, starlings, great tits and bluetits and occasionally tree sparrows and house martins.</p> <p>We refer to two articles on this subject:  <a href="http://actionforswifts.com/2020/12/swift-bricks-universal-nest-brick.html">actionforswifts.com/2020/12/swift-bricks-universal-nest-brick.html</a>  <a href="#">Swift Bricks: The 'Universal' Nest Brick – by Dick Newell   CIEEM</a></p>	

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			<p>At a Duchy of Cornwall development at Tregunnel Hill in Newquay, where an average of 1 swift box per residential home was installed, within a couple of years one third of the boxes were occupied by sparrows together with a pair of swifts:<a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news-original/news/stories/the-duchy-of-cornwall-giving-swifts-a-home/">https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news-original/news/stories/the-duchy-of-cornwall-giving-swifts-a-home/</a>  <a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news-original/news/stories/the-big-birdbox-survey/">https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news-original/news/stories/the-big-birdbox-survey/</a></p> <p>Sparrow boxes are smaller and usually produced as 3 nest chambers in one unit (sparrow terrace) – these are too small to be used by swifts or starlings – and there is evidence that they are rarely used by more than one pair of sparrows. Occupation by a single pair of great tits or bluetits is more common. While they are colonial breeders, single boxes at least a metre apart may be preferable for both sparrows and swifts. We conclude that swift boxes are the nearest there is to a general-purpose bird box for small cavity-nesting species including house sparrows, starlings, blue tits, great tits and occasionally other species such as house martins and tree sparrows. (Reference <a href="https://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/2020/12/swift-bricks-universal-nest-brick.html">https://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/2020/12/swift-bricks-universal-nest-brick.html</a>)</p> <p>Summary - We strongly suggest that in Biodiversity Issue B5 the level of bird nest brick provision be increased to 1 per house and 1 per 2 flats in line with current good practice. The level of bat roosting bricks be addressed separately and at the rate suggested in the Oxford City Council Guidance subject to site location and features suitable for</p>	

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			<p>foraging. Pollinator provision be addressed mainly through planting schemes. Levels of provision of nest and roosting bricks for all types of building such as schools, student accommodation, hotels and offices be addressed rather than just the general 'all commercial applications' in point 4 of the expectations under Biodiversity Issue B5.</p> <p>C. Bird/Bat Boxes on Smaller Developments in Biodiversity Net Gain, Biodiversity Issue B7 In paragraph 5.5.28 'For smaller developments (fewer than 10 residential units or an area less than 0.5 hectares) and householder applications' In the last sentence of this paragraph: 'However, until legislation and further guidance is available, small sites should aim to meet the details of B5 above with at least one integrated bird, bat or insect box, hedgehog friendly fencing and habitats as listed in 5.5.4 above'. This wording is not clear in the context of Point 3 of the 'expectations' under Biodiversity Issue B5: 'For minor and householder development, each dwelling/unit will have at least one integrated feature appropriate to the location of the development'. Hedgehog friendly fencing and any green infrastructure would be in addition to that.</p> <p>We strongly suggest that the wording of Paragraph 5.5.28 be amended so that it is consistent with the 'expectations' in Biodiversity Issue B5. Infill developments can contribute significantly to local biodiversity</p>	

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			<p>enhancements. Small local developments, advised by Action for Swifts, include 6 houses in Haddenham with 12 Swift bricks and a second one with 6 houses in Wilburton with 18 Swift bricks.</p> <p>D. Swifts and Ecological Assessment Reports in Section 5.4 Pre-application Stage            Within Paragraph 5.4.9 referring to Preliminary Ecological Assessment Reports: 'Identifying important ecological resources at the outset and avoiding impacts on them will limit the loss of biodiversity and reduce the need for mitigation and compensation measures. In many cases these reports will include recommendations for further survey, particularly in relation to protected and priority species'.</p> <p>Under Section 4.6 'Red List Species'. While the swift is not included at present in the UK Red List, which would normally have it included in the Priority Species List for Cambridgeshire, swifts have declined at an average rate of 5.4% per annum over the last 10 years and by 60% in the last 25 years, so we anticipate that the swift will move from the Amber to the Red List at the next BoCC revision expected in December 2021. However, it is on a 'Cambridgeshire Additional Species of Interest' list: Within Paragraph 4.6.2: 'There is no Cambridgeshire Red List, but there is a list of Additional Species of Interest, which provides comparable information ...'</p> <p>It is not clear whether there would be any requirement for consideration for swifts as a 'priority species' under the wording of paragraph 5.4.9</p>	

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			<p>referred to above. However, in the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD in Section 3.5 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' under the heading 'Submission requirements' in Paragraph 3.5.4:</p> <p>'...For developments that will either directly or indirectly impact a designated site of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, or a protected species or a priority species or priority habitat, a Ecological Impact Assessment and Protected Species Survey will need to be submitted with the application. This includes refurbishment works which may impact species using the existing building such as bats and swifts....'</p> <p>We suggest that wording be inserted in the Draft Biodiversity SPD within the survey section in line with this wording in the GC SDC SPD.</p> <p>At present Appendix 2 headed 'Guidance on protected species and ecological survey seasons' doesn't really cover this appropriately as under 'Breeding birds' it states: 'Six survey visits across the season from March to June. Marginal opportunity in July'</p> <p>This is important as swifts have a short breeding season between May and July and, as noted in the document 'Swift Bricks – the universal nest brick' produced by the Swifts Local Network, even if the survey is undertaken during this period 'they are elusive birds who enter and leave their nest sites in the nooks and crannies of buildings in the blink of an eye and so nest sites are very easy to overlook' To have a good chance of detecting the presence of swifts, it is important to do the survey at the right time of year and at an optimal time of day: between early June and mid July and during the last 1.5 hours of daylight.</p>	

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			<p>Ecologists would need to refer to information on 'Swift Mapper':  <a href="https://www.swiftmapper.org.uk/">https://www.swiftmapper.org.uk/</a>  Also, they should consult the local volunteer conservationists including Action for Swifts, who have a wealth of local knowledge, in addition to any reference to records held by the Cambridgeshire Environmental Records Centre. Contact details are available through the Action for Swifts website.</p> <p>E. The Lack of Focus on Planting of Native Species, Biodiversity Issue B5  We are not sure that the SPD makes clear what the GC expectation is on the use of native tree and shrub planting within developments. Point 5 of policy requirements under Biodiversity Issue B5: 'That appropriate new wildlife habitats will be incorporated into landscaping schemes and the general layout of the built environment. All fencing will be expected to be hedgehog friendly and hedgehog highways should be incorporated throughout the development'. The wording of 'appropriate new wildlife habitats' is rather vague.</p> <p>In Paragraph 5.5.8 there is reference to the planting of mixed native species hedging with trees to define boundaries in open countryside and there is reference to 'street trees' in Paragraph 5.5.27. Relevant Guidance in the GC SDC SPD - There is some useful guidance on green infrastructure and trees in particular in the GC Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020) and it is suggested that there is a need to cross reference to this from the Section 5.5 under Biodiversity Issue B5 or to repeat some of the key elements of guidance.</p> <p>In the Section of the GC SDC SPD headed 'Adaptation Strategies– the</p>	



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			<p>role of green infrastructure' on pages 61 to 65 there is useful content relating to trees which could easily be 'lost' in a document of 262 pages! Paragraph 3.4.21 on page 62 starts 'The quality of trees to be retained and planted on site is an important consideration' One of the factors listed below that relating to 'quality' is 'The use of native species of local provenance where possible in order to maximise benefits for biodiversity' It is suggested that something further within Section 5.5 under Biodiversity Issue B5 on species choice in planting schemes to emphasise the preference for native planting of species of local provenance and the more limited use of non-native ornamental species chosen to benefit wildlife.</p> <p>Landscaping Close to Homes for Bird Shelter</p> <p>Also, it is important to retain and provide quality native species green infrastructure (as opposed to miniature ornamentals) in the area immediately around new houses rather than houses being marooned in an area of largely hard landscaping separated from islands of higher value green space around the edges. On many new housing developments, the landscaping close to homes tends to consist mainly of miniature ornamentals. However, the enrichment of the habitat with some native species close to homes will attract a wider range of birds into gardens. For sparrows in particular hedges and shrubs for shelter are very important close to potential nest sites, such as new nest bricks. This would also provide a more pleasant environment to support the health and wellbeing of residents. There is some good guidance on these issues in the NHBC Report mentioned below. We suggest that there should be</p>	

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			<p>some reference to the need for native green infrastructure to be included in landscaping close to homes within Section 5.5 Biodiversity Issue B5.</p> <p>Supporting information  An excellent recent report produced by the NHBC Foundation from a collaboration with the RSPB and Barratt Developments gives significant guidance on these issues on page 29 onwards.  NHBC Foundation, Report NF 89, 'Biodiversity in new housing developments: creating wildlife-friendly communities' (April 2021).  Available at:  Biodiversity in new housing developments: creating wildlife-friendly communities - NHBC Foundation  The following taken from Section 12 on page 31 of the Oxford City Technical Advice Note 8 gives an example of what another Planning Authority has included:  'Give consideration to species choice in planting schemes: Seeds and plants should be from a Flora locale recognised source: see <a href="http://www.floralocale.org">www.floralocale.org</a>. While native planting of species of local provenance is encouraged, where ornamental planting is required give thought to species choice to benefit invertebrates. The Royal Horticultural Society 'Perfect for Pollinators' lists provide excellent advice on planting with pollinating insects in mind'  <a href="https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_policy/745/planning_policy_-_technical_advice_notes">https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_policy/745/planning_policy_-_technical_advice_notes</a></p>	

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61	5	British Horse Society / 3.7.8	3.7.8. Change of use applications can bring benefits if properly planned and sensitively managed. The use of grassland sites by horses for equestrian purposes can sustain their botanical interest. However, there is also much potential to damage the interest of grassland sites through overgrazing. Over-grazing may lead to the proliferation of certain undesirable species, increased soil erosion, and diffuse pollution. Development proposals for stabling or for Change of Use to paddock land will be subject to ecological assessment based on the likelihood of protected and Priority species being present and affected, as well as impacts on the local landscape character. Poor management can result in overgrazing by all sorts of livestock. There are stocking standards clearly stated by the British Horse Society and British Horseracing Association. If there is a requirement not to exceed these standards that should be sufficient. The cost of an ecological survey could be prohibitive for a private horse owner and could be a barrier to keeping a horse. The benefits of horse riding, the majority of horse riders are female, for women is well documented. It would be wrong to create a barrier which would impact far more on females (a protected characteristic under the Equality Act) when there is an opportunity to achieve the same outcome simply by requiring stocking standards to be met	6 / Noted. In order to prevent damage to potentially high biodiversity value grassland through inappropriate grazing it is deemed proportionate to request a professional survey where planning matters will impact on future management.
56	5	Cottenham Parish Council / General comment	It's a very weighty document and therefore not very user friendly/accessible. Also City and South Cambs are very different so not sure the policies will work for both. May want to consider having a village-focussed executive summary to aid use of the document	3 / Noted. The Councils consider that the SPD provides guidance appropriate to the whole Greater Cambridge area.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
66	5	Hill Residential Ltd / General comment	<p>Firstly, the SPD seeks to introduce new policy and subvert the development plan process. Local plans have been put in place and have tested the capacity and viability of sites based on the policies within them. An arbitrary, untested, addition of either 10% or 20% (or any other specified amount) does not accord with the tested local plans, legislation nor national policy. The SPD does little to offer practical guidance as to how biodiversity gain can be achieved. It simply tells people they need to achieve it, a matter which is well enshrined in policy. The SPD and its accompanying SEA do not robustly consider its potential ramifications. It seems to assume that there are no consequences of the approach. The SEA states that the approach would have no effect on human population. However, net gain in habitats area will increase land take, resulting in fewer homes per site and hence more sites and more land being needed to be released to meet identified development needs. Fewer homes being accommodated on a site will increase the cost of land and impact on house prices and affordability. There is no assessment of how much land take will be required for the approach. If that results in access to housing being worsened, with a reduced land supply or development rate, then that will have a negative impact on mental well-being and health as it is well-established that access to good quality, affordable, housing is a major determinant of people's health and well-being. Greater land take for habitat and development means the loss of more agricultural land to development. Not only does that result in the loss of productive land for food growing but impacts on the habitat of farmland birds. The SPD appears to treat this as an singular issue. The implications of the SPD</p>	1 / Noted. As addressed by the theme response, and elsewhere in this response to comments. The SPD does not seek to make local plan policy, but does seek to encourage opportunities to be taken to enhance biodiversity.

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			need to be tested for their impacts on viability of development and capacity of sites. Without that the document cannot be considered sound or to supplement existing policy. Any assessment of costs needs to consider not only the establishment costs, but the ongoing maintenance costs. An assessment if needed as to the impact on land take.	
52	5	Individual – anonymous / General comment	I liked the layout and language of the document	5 / Noted.
53	5	Individual - name provided / General comment	I would have liked to have seen location information for the photographs.	6 / Noted. Location information for photographs added.
54	5	Individual - name provided / General comment	It's long and doesn't appear to have handy summaries of clear and concise points which indicate the Council can and will do positive things. I don't want to read 72 pages	3 / Noted.
55	5	Individual - name provided / General comment	It sets out with good intentions so that is a positive. It then, sadly, let's itself down by being too narrow in its considerations and ignoring inconvenient truths	5 / Noted.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
57	5	Individual - name provided / General comment	Good examples required	3 / Noted.
59	5	Individual - name provided / General comment	Too much reliance on existing policies, guidelines, etc; not enough independent thought or detail	5 / Noted. It is not within the scope of the SPD to set new policy; rather it explains how Local Plan policies should be interpreted and applied and provides guidance.
60	5	Individual - name provided / General comment	The structure was good, and if everything in it is actually done we will all benefit.	5 / Noted.
68	5	Individual - name provided / 4.2	It was very difficult to identify when areas had been considered for their impact regarding biodiversity and planning and when they were not. A list of locations considered has been highlighted for major sites e.g. Wimpole however a longer list with more detailed information would have been helpful. It may be that as the Bourn Brook Valley area and the Swards do not fall into a specific category (SPA, SAC or RAMSAR sites) and they have been overlooked but is hard to tell from the report if this is the case. We would like both these areas to be included in any study by South	3 / Noted. For succinctness not all areas of existing habitat value have been mapped or referenced. Designation of biodiversity sites and the overarching approach to their protection is outside the scope of the SPD. Evidence supporting the

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
			Cambs into biodiversity in relation to the current situation and also future planning and development	Greater Cambridge Local Plan has sought to identify all designated and undesignated biodiversity sites.
67	5	L&Q Estates and Hill / Biodiversity Issue B7	The information which is supplementary is buried amongst information which is not supplementary. The SPD does not provide material guidance on how to meet net gain requirements in Cambridgeshire, even though large schemes are likely to require significant local authority input. Further, it requests a 10% increase over the likely national requirement without providing meaningful justification for why this is necessary, why developers should foot the bill for this, or that it has been tested as a viable proposal. It overlooks the significant opportunities for improvements to biodiversity that could be achieved by promoting a 10% gain, and the risk of losing these opportunities by making proposals unviable. We would reiterate here that the SPD cannot create policy and specific net gain targets need first to be tested through the Local Plan process.	1 / Noted. As addressed by the theme response, and elsewhere in this response to comments. The SPD does not seek to make local plan policy, but does seek to encourage opportunities to be taken to enhance biodiversity.
63	5	Mott Macdonald / General comment	There could be much better flagging of case studies – eg. the link to the Building with Nature could include reference to this site providing case studies that could help developers.	4 / Noted.

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271	5	Mott Macdonald / General comment	There needs to be a schedule of increasing risk to biodiversity – and thus what in the SPD is relevant to those developments which pose no real risk to biodiversity – again we are thinking of those private householders and not commercial developers.	6 / Noted. Protected species, BNG legislation and local policies apply to all development types and sizes. The constraints and opportunities for a site are defined by the initial Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.
272	5	Mott Macdonald / General comment	We believe there are risks associated with climate change and demands for water that will (already are) impacting biodiversity (eg. the River Cam catchment being overabstracted with impacts on the ecological status of the river system). These risks need to be flagged more to ensure a holistic approach to biodiversity is achieved.	6 / Noted. This is an SPD which provides practical advice and guidance on how to develop proposals that comply with the NPPF and the district-wide policies. The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan policies will seek to address a changing climate and its effects on biodiversity.
273	5	Mott Macdonald / General comment	Similarly, there is little linking cultural landscapes (character) with biodiversity challenges and opportunities. Particularly around historic settings the cultural landscape is often closely linked to biodiversity (Wicken Fen, the Magog Downs for example). We believe this link should be highlighted.	6 / Noted. 3.6.10 references the five National Character Areas with a link that includes detail on their cultural significance.



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274	5	Mott Macdonald / General comment	One of the objectives set out in Chapter 1 is to explain the terminology for non-professional developers. Yet in the section on Permitted Development there is a lot of terminology related to various planning procedures which are not defined. The document really needs a glossary of terms – this would help meet one of the four objectives.	6 / Noted. It is considered that terminology is explained within the body of the SPD text, negating the need for an additional glossary and increased length of document.
275	5	Mott Macdonald / General comment	As mentioned previously the relationship between Ecological Impact Assessment and full EIA needs to be better covered in the SPD.	6 / Noted. No amendment. The EIA regulations require a separate scoping process and guidance for eligible development proposals
62	5	Northstowe Town Council / General comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northstowe Town Council (NTC) notes this document;</li> <li>• NTC supports the principles set out in the document, and wishes these principles reflected in all planning applications coming forward and applied in all developments stemming from these.</li> <li>• NTC requests a response to obtain a better understanding how this document is to be updated and kept up to date in the future, in particular regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Future changes in National, Regional or Local Policies;</li> <li>- Improvements in understanding of the biodiversity and biodiversity value within the area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5 / Noted. Paragraph 1.2.4 of the document notes that the SPD will be "updated to support the Greater Cambridge Local Plan when this is adopted", at which point changes in legislative or evidence context will be taken into account.

Rep ID	Question No.	Respondent/ SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
65	5	Persimmon Homes East Midlands / 5.5.24	Para 5.5.24 should amend the word 'required' to 'encouraged' as it is not within the policy. Para 5.5.26 should amend 'is likely to be needed' to 'will be encouraged' due to its ambiguity.	6 / Noted. 5.5.24 relates to actions needed to deliver the Doubling Nature vision rather than specific development requirements, and as such has not been amended. 5.5.26 amended to state that "a value of 20% is likely to be encouraged as best practice".
277	5	Persimmon Homes East Midlands / 5.5.30	Para 5.5.30 should state that requirements to be in line with the Environment Bill. All other comments have been made in reference to questions 2 and 3.	6 / Noted. Environment Bill now enacted.
50	5	Vistry Group / 5.5.18 – 5.5.26	In paragraphs 5.5.18 - 5.5.26 the draft SPD explains the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirement of 10% in Environment Bill and the Council's Doubling Nature Vision which seeks a 20% level of Biodiversity Gain. The SPD states that while it does not set this as a figure or fixed target, this aspiration may have further support with the future enactment of the Environment Bill. There is a risk that the SPD could introduce ambiguity for Councillors, developers and the public on the level of BNG that the Council will require. This could lead to delays in sites coming forward for development and the delivery of houses, including on allocated sites.	1 / Noted. Councils believe the required 10% BNG and aspirational 20% BNG are clearly defined.

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51	5	Vistry Group / 5.5	Any increase from the Environment Bill should also include a reasonable transition period, so that it will not disrupt development proposals which have been based on the assumption of a lower BNG, doing so may have adverse impacts upon site capacities and or development viability.	1 / SPD updated to include the 2-year transitional period within the Environment Act and the proposed timeline for secondary legislation and government guidance.
64	5	Vistry Group / Biodiversity Issue B5	We support the proposal in the SPD to confirm that on all major housing developments, 50% of the dwellings will have features such as integrated bird, bat or insect boxes provided in close association with the properties (Page 42, 2). Some flexibility may be required for some construction methods/finishes, but generally 50% should be achievable. There is also the practical consideration of getting the right product in the right place i.e. location within scheme is often better than the quantum. Therefore, it's best to cluster the features in higher suitability dwellings, located closer to better habitats.	6 / Provision increased following other representations and reference to the emerging British Standard. SPD amended to include ability to cluster boxes at suitable locations.
70	6	Individual - name provided / General comment	It seems thorough but also appears to require more engagement with potentially affected groups than has hitherto been undertaken	5 / Noted. The approach to consultation is in accordance with the Councils' Statement of Community Involvement and is set out in the Consultation Statement supporting the SPD.

## Appendix E – Email representations and responses in order of draft SPD

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
221	Individual - name provided / Page 3	Page 3 (Index of Biodiversity Issues): There is a typo in the index page for Wimpole Woods	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
141	MKA Ecology / Foreword	Foreword: Perhaps add further detail on the advantages of considering biodiversity early in the planning process – to ensure biodiversity is properly integrated into projects, and to ensure opportunities for nature-based solutions are maximised.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
201	Anglian Water / Foreword	Anglian Water welcomes the preparation of the SPD and supports the Councils' aspirations to shape development and enhance the environment through development management decisions.	5 / Noted.
126	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 1.1	1.1. Recognition of the threats to Biodiversity in Cambridgeshire is welcome. This could be expanded further to reinforce the importance of the guidance and aspirations of the SPD, particularly the welcome 20% target of Biodiversity Net Gain. For example, the latest Cambridge City Council Biodiversity Strategy Draft 2021-30 June 2021 (pages 6-8) gives detail on the challenges including examples of Biodiversity loss. This also identifies key influences on biodiversity loss over the years including agriculture and hydrological change.	5 / Noted. For conciseness the Biodiversity Strategy is referenced.

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202	Anglian Water / 1.1.2	<p>Introduction, Status and Purpose: Anglian Water is a signatory to the Oxford to Cambridge (OxCam) Arc Environmental Principles. We recognise that the step change (para 1.1.2) required is a shift away from developers only being asked to consume their own smoke and not make the environment or the impacts of traffic worse to a position whereby each development must benefit the local community and environment. To do this biodiversity opportunities must be one of the first location and design criteria for developers (para 1.1.5) and not be an afterthought for mitigation after a location and design are fixed. This is now a guiding principle for Anglian Waters own development. We will for example be applying the approach to the application of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan policy to Anglian Waters proposals whether those matters are considered by the City Council or determined by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Anglian Water supports the objectives of the SPD and wants to delivery measurable biodiversity net gain across our entire land holding as well as at specific development sites. This follows the Lawton principles. We agree that when developers are clear on expectations these can be included in applications and equally as important be factored into the finances for a project including development agreements and land value.</p>	5 / Noted.
158	MKA Ecology / 1.2.3	<p>Para. 1.2.3: Reference British Standard for BNG?  <a href="https://shop.bsigroup.com/products/process-for-designing-and-implementing-biodiversity-net-gain-specification/standard">https://shop.bsigroup.com/products/process-for-designing-and-implementing-biodiversity-net-gain-specification/standard</a></p>	6 / Agreed. Reference included in Section 5.5.
111	The Wildlife Trust / 1.2.4	<p>Ch 1: Para 1.2.4 – We suggest the final sentence is changed to “It will in time be updated to support the Greater Cambridge Local Plan when this is adopted”</p>	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
223	National Trust / 1.3	1.3 Purpose: The SPD lists specific objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity. The draft document appears to go a long way towards covering these objectives and providing applicants with appropriate information to ensure that biodiversity can be protected and enhanced through new development proposals.	5 / Noted.
203	Anglian Water / Section 2	Section 2 UK Legislation: In view of the current position of the Environment Bill, we will reserve comment on the interaction between the SPD and legislation and guidance. Anglian Water's 2020 Green Recovery Plan set out our commitments to enabling nature recovery through biodiversity net gain, natural capital, pollution reduction, nature conservation and tree planting. Our aspiration is that Local Nature Recovery Strategies Plans are broadened, enabling them to become true Local Natural Capital Plans covering the country. This would meet the ambition within the 25 Year Environment Plan and help to achieve water, carbon and nature restoration objectives together. One question for the next phase of the SPD – possibly once the Environment Act is in place – is to tackle the inconsistency between the Arc 20% net gain 'desire' (para 1.1.2), the 10% net gain requirement (para 5.5.18) and 20% vision (para 5.5.19).	1/ /Noted. Environment Act now in place and SPD updated accordingly.
127	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 2.2	Section 2. Emerging Environment Bill 2.2. The timetable of the emerging Environment Bill is noted, and it is assumed that the SPD will be adjusted in the light of any further significant changes before the Bill is enacted. There are issues that arise from the implications of the Bill, for example with regard to Biodiversity Net Gain and others that are subject to further comment below.	5 / Noted. Section 2.2 updated in light of Environment Act having received Royal Assent.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
204	Anglian Water / Section 3	Section 3 Planning Policy: We support policies CC/8 in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and Policy 31 in the Cambridge Local Plan as these ensure developers are clear that Sustainable Drainage Systems are used for new development and that an integrated water management approach is taken from the outset of planning the layout and design of new development. We welcome the Greater Cambridge Monitoring Report setting out how a number of the policies in the two plans have been applied in making development management decisions. We would want to work with the Councils to ensure that the policies are being carried forward into developments and that the efficacy of the approaches taken by developers informs future design, policy and development management decisions.	5 / Noted.
205	Anglian Water – Section 3	Section 3 Planning Policy: Anglian Water advocates an aspirational approach to BNG and so we consider that the effective monitoring of a natural capital approach can enable a stepped approach in delivery of policy targets. For example, the over delivery or early achievement of a 10% level of BNG at developments may demonstrate that the 15% level or the 20% target sought in the Arc is deliverable. To assist developers and landowners to plan to deliver those higher levels the monitoring delivery responsibilities and approach should be set out the SPD. The policy decision can then be taken in future Development Plan documents. For Anglian Water’s development we would want to factor higher levels of BNG into our own investment plans which are developed on a five- year cycle.	1 / Noted. BNG Monitoring will be a requirement for local planning authorities within the Environment Act. At present no government guidance or secondary legislation is in place.
81	Hopkins Ecology / 3.2	Section 3. This needs updating to reflect the most recent (July 2021) National Planning Policy Framework.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

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185	Countryside Properties / 3.2	We note that since the preparation of the SPD, the 2021 version of the NPPF has been published in July 2021. We assume that all necessary updates to the SPD will be made to reflect this ahead of its approval.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
128	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 3.2.3	Section 3. Planning Policy 3.2.3. The reference to the need for development plans to take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure is welcomed. This objective is a core part of CPPF's recent 'Cambridge Nature Network' and we are pleased that this document has also been referenced in the SPD. Development plans should also have been the subject of separate assessment to ensure that potentially harmful environmental impacts are avoided at the earliest possible stage.	5 / Noted.
112	The Wildlife Trust / 3.6	Section 3.6. The list of local biodiversity strategies is comprehensive, and we welcome the recognition given to the Natural Cambridgeshire "Doubling Nature" vision and "Developing with Nature Toolkit", the Cambridge Nature Network, Cambridge Nature Conservation Strategy, and the Chalk Streams project.	5 / Noted.
224	National Trust / 3.6	3.6 Local biodiversity strategies: We would welcome the inclusion of the Wicken Fen Vision in the list of strategies. This is not currently listed. Launched in 1999, the Wicken Fen Vision is a 100-year plan to create a diverse landscape for wildlife and people over an area of 53 square kilometres to the south of Wicken Fen. The National Trust plans to use ecological restoration techniques to create and restore wildlife habitats on a landscape scale and to provide visitors with new access to nature and green space. It will bring opportunities for access and habitat creation closer to proposed growth locations around Cambridge, including the planned New Town at Waterbeach and Cambridge East. We would wish	6 / Agreed. Vision included in Section 3.6.



Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
		to see greater reference to the Wicken Fen Vision, and to see it enshrined in clearer planning policy, as part of this SPD.	
129	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 3.7	3.7. The examples given of the types of permitted development rights that may be exercised include those on agricultural land. Changes in agricultural practice have had profound effects on biodiversity. Whilst it is appreciated that most agricultural activity falls outside planning control, current agricultural permitted development rights include a range of activity for the erecting or extension of buildings and for excavations and engineering operations. There may also be times when development connected with agriculture is of such a scale that planning permission is required. All of this activity could impact habitats and species and merits highlighting as a separate biodiversity issue in the guidance. The Government has also relaxed some permitted development rights recently and it is possible that more will follow. There may be the need to amend and update the SPD accordingly if any increase in permitted development rights has implications for biodiversity conservation or fall outside the scope of the current guidance.	5 / Noted. Permitted development is addressed at 3.7. The Councils consider that the SPD sufficiently addresses all development, such that there would not be benefit in highlighting agricultural development as a separate biodiversity issue in the SPD.
144	Natural England / Section 4	Section 4 of the SPD provides a comprehensive overview of Legislation, policy and guidance relating to statutorily and non-statutorily designated nature conservation sites, protected species and priority habitats and species.	5 / Noted.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
206	Anglian Water / Section 4	Section 4 Biodiversity Resource: Anglian Water supports the approach of assessing biodiversity resource at a scale wider than the GC area (Figure 2). Figure 4 also serves to illustrate that blue and green infrastructure is a functioning network of interconnected sites largely based on the watercourse and water body network. This network also serves to provide important linear and local site access to the natural environment. The watercourse network also plays a vital role the area GC plays in flood management up and downstream of the waterbodies within GC.	5 / Noted.
82	Hopkins Ecology / 4.2	In the legend for Figure 2 (section 4.2.), Ramsar sites are referred to as Rasmar sites.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
159	MKA Ecology / 4.2	4.2: Statutory Designated Sites - Also Woodwalton to NW in the Fenland SAC	6 / This site is a significant distance away from Greater Cambridge.
83	Hopkins Ecology / 4.2	In section 4.2, it may be worthwhile providing some context for the implications of Brexit on Habitats (European) sites. This could re-iterate some of the commentary within Section 2 to emphasise relevant points.	3 / Noted. Not amended as all relevant legislation has been retained in UK law.
160	MKA Ecology / 4.2.5	Para. 4.2.5 Also roosts of male barbastelles in old barns outside the SAC – we seem to be turning these up regularly (this year at Steeple Morden and also Royston)	6 / Noted.
161	MKA Ecology / 4.3.1	Para. 4.3.1 Add that an absence of records does not mean an absence of the species (I see this is added at 5.4.2!)	6 / Noted.
162	MKA Ecology / 4.5	4.5: Cracking picture of a hare!	5 / Noted.
84	Hopkins Ecology / 4.5.5	In section 4.5.4, it would be useful to mention the locations of the local B-Lines (running through the west and south of the Greater Cambridge area).	6 / Link to plan included in SPD.

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163	MKA Ecology / 4.5.4	Para. 4.5.4: Plantlife Important Plant Area at Chippenham Fen and Wicken Fen too far for consideration? <a href="https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/nature-reserves-important-plant-areas/important-plant-areas">https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/nature-reserves-important-plant-areas/important-plant-areas</a> .	6 / These sites are outside of Greater Cambridge.
171	MKA Ecology / 5.5.1	Para. 5.5.1: Suggest that retaining and enhancing existing biodiversity features will help to make it easier to deliver a biodiversity net gain?	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
145	Natural England / Section 5	Natural England supports the information and reference to key guidance presented within Chapter 5: Biodiversity and the development management process. We welcome that this is focused on the application of the ecological mitigation hierarchy and makes detailed reference to Natural England's Impact Risk Zones (IRZs).	5 / Noted.
207	Anglian Water / Section 5	Section 5 Development Management Process: Figure 5 illustrates that without monitoring, reporting, management and corrective action and possibly enforcement all the previous steps from policy formulation to scheme approval and implementation may prove in effective. Responsibility for monitoring, reporting and corrective steps and then subsequent higher-level/ GC scale assessment to inform policy review needs to be clearly set out. For example, one of the lessons from Northstowe is that opportunities for integrated water management need to be considered early and appropriate scales and the effectiveness of implementation used to inform layout and design options for later stages in the development. This will then also enable assessment by the Records Centre (para 5.4.14) of the effectiveness of the wider policy and specific habitat and species measures. This is alluded to later in paragraphs 5.5.30. 5.7.2 and 5.8.3 and we would support greater clarity	2 / Noted. BNG Monitoring will be a requirement for local planning authorities within the Environment Act. At present no government guidance or secondary legislation is in place.

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		on responsibilities to aid the effectiveness of the SPD. The SPD needs to more clearly set out roles in monitoring the biodiversity plans approved in planning applications. This may include developing capacity at a local community level with organisations such as the Wildlife Trust. Anglian Water is working to improve our own performance monitoring and reporting to demonstrate the effectiveness of nature- based solutions, for example.	
210	Anglian Water / Section 5	Section 5 Development Management Process: Anglian Water is working on approaches for our projects which enable biodiversity net gain delivery for linear projects such as pipelines where either we don't own the land, or the land area is limited and/ or has minimal long term land take and impacts. For example, our approach to baselining of all our assets gives us the ability to identify net gain locations which have more than local benefits or to work with local partners such as Highway Authorities to support enhanced net gain on roadside verges potentially alongside small- scale Anglian Water network and maintenance works. We ask that there is sufficient flexibility in the SPD and its implementation to support these innovations.	6 / Noted. No change proposed. Offsite BNG is supported in principle in following mitigation hierarchy and BNG best practice. National and Local BNG mechanisms are still in their infancy but remain flexible.
164	MKA Ecology / 5.1.1	Figure 5: Stages within the development management process - Seems to indicate that Mitigation, compensation and enhancement plans come after the Application. Would it be helpful to have the word 'Enact' before 'Mitigation, compensation....'	6 / Comments noted. Not amended. The Mitigation compensation and enhancement information follows logically from the key message in the line before 'Provide the Councils with certainty of impacts, and

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			details of proportionate mitigation and compensation'. Not considered necessary to add to this.
187	Countryside Properties / 5.1.1	Figure 5: The SPD has sought to provide a simplified diagrammatic representation of the stages within the development management process at Figure 5 of the SPD. Whilst it is recognised that this will be of assistance to those not directly involved in the development management process, concern is raised that this does not reflect the nuances that apply in how the key messages stated are in fact to be applied.....Whilst we acknowledge that the document should be read as a whole, we would suggest that the insertion of “wherever possible” or such similar terminology into both Figure 5 and the introductory sentences of the Biodiversity Issues where relevant .....	6 / Noted. Not amended. The SPD provides a clear steer on the process. Justifiable deviations from this can be agreed with officers on a case-by-case basis.
130	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.2	Section 5. Biodiversity in the Development Management Process 5.2. Overarching principles. Strict adherence to the mitigation hierarchy is essential to protect biodiversity, particularly to avoid damage or loss in the first place through, for example, less damaging alternative sites or designs. The hierarchy then goes on to describe the other key stages of mitigation and possible compensation. Offsetting damage to the natural environment can be difficult and problematical. With regard to the latter, Local Authorities need to be fully confident that any mitigation strategy will work, its effectiveness monitored over time and sufficient legal and financial provisions exist to secure any remedial action (See further comments on the latter below). Compensation to provide alternative habitat can be even more difficult and should only ever be regarded as a	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

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		<p>last resort. It also needs full justification of why harm cannot be avoided; arguably irrevocable damage to important biodiversity sites or species should only ever be considered if there is a clear public interest at stake. It is appreciated that the SPD covers the process by which the mitigation hierarchy operates and mentions overarching principles and standards. However, more emphasis to the need for strict adherence to the mitigation hierarchy and the potential practical difficulties that may involved in securing effective mitigation or compensation would be welcome.</p>	
231	RSPB – 5.2.1	5.2.1 - 'Mitigate' should include reducing impacts through project design, and implementation of construction and operational measures.	6 / Noted. This is considered to be covered by 'Avoid'
165	MKA Ecology / 5.2.3	Para. 5.2.3: Seeking advice from an ecological consultant at an early stage in the process will help to avoid delays and also ensure that biodiversity is considered from an early stage making integration more achievable.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
131	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.2.5	5.2.5. The SPD indicates that: 'The approach to following the hierarchy should be informed by the ecological value of the habitats and species to be affected. Impacts to Priority habitats and species should always be avoided, if possible, but mitigation or compensation for other species and habitats is also <b>desirable</b> .' (emphasis added). There may be occasions when mitigation or compensation for non-priority species and habitats is not just desirable but required and the wording in the guidance should be changed to reflect this.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

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71	Universities Superannuation Scheme / 5.3.1	Paragraph 5.3.1 of the Biodiversity SPD states that “The easiest way to avoid a negative impact on species and habitats and to maximise the gain for biodiversity that can be achieved from a development is to select a site that has low existing ecological value and low strategic potential for habitat creation, buffering or connectivity”. USS notes the Council’s reasoning for this and agrees that in some cases certain sites are inherently not suited to supporting high levels of biodiversity. USS requests that the Council provides further clarification in Paragraph 5.3.1 to provide examples of the types of sites with low existing ecological values where there is likely to be low strategic potential for improvements such as industrial sites and sites adjacent to infrastructure.	3 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
188	Countryside Properties / Biodiversity Issue B2	Such a concern also applies to a number of the opening statements of the identified Biodiversity Issues. For example Biodiversity Issue B2 – Protection of irreplaceable habitats states: “Developers will be expected to avoid direct and indirect impacts on irreplaceable habitats and embed measures to achieve this within the design of any development proposal.” The supporting text does however go on to explain the balancing exercise which would be undertaken if the proposals would result in the loss, deterioration or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats. Whilst we acknowledge that the document should be read as a whole, we would suggest that the insertion of “wherever possible” or such similar terminology into both Figure 5 and the introductory sentences of the Biodiversity Issues where relevant would aid in clarity and understanding. Updates are considered to be required to Biodiversity Issues B2, B4 and B5.	6 / Noted. Not amended. The SPD provides a clear steer on the process. Justifiable deviations from this can be agreed with officers on a case-by-case basis.

<b>Rep ID</b>	<b>Respondent/SPD section</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Theme/Response</b>
166	MKA Ecology / Biodiversity Issue B2	Biodiversity Issue B2: For the avoidance of doubt, I wonder if it would be helpful to state what exceptional reasons are? In the NPPF there is a small footnote stating 'for example, infrastructure projects (including NSIPs, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat). The NPPF refers to 'wholly exceptional reasons' – I wonder if the wording in this section should be worded more forcefully, the NPPF seems to allow this?	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
132	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.3.3	5.3.3. This refers to development predicted to result in impacts on irreplaceable habitat and indicates that compensation strategies should include contribution to the enhancement and management of the habitat. However, it should also be noted that the duty to restore important habitats that are, for example, in unfavourable condition, should apply as a freestanding obligation. Compensation for damaging development to a site by way of its habitat enhancement and management should not substitute action that should be happening anyway. This should be made clear in the guidance.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
170	MKA Ecology / 5.4 Pre-app advice	Section 5.4: Within this section, is there value in making the seasonality of ecological surveys clear? As consultants this is often one of the biggest obstacles for our clients. Sadly, I don't think CIEEM have a survey calendar available to reference. Perhaps a statement to make clear that surveys are seasonal and consulting an ecologist at an early stage will help to avoid seasonal delays. (I now see this in Appendix 2! Perhaps reference in the text?).	6/ Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.



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109	Hopkins Ecology / 5.4 Pre-app advice	5.4 The key point is that achieving net gain significantly reduces developable areas and delivery rates: Greater land areas will be required to achieve housing targets. The implications of a 20% net gain could include a requirement for additional land for the delivery of current housing targets, with implications for the number of currently allocated sites. Within emerging plans it would require additional land to be allocated.	1 / Noted. Not amended. The SPD seeks an aspiration 20% BNG and is not creating new policy.
87	Hopkins Ecology / 5.4.1	5.4.1 "Data search requests should be for a minimum 1 km buffer from the red line boundary for protected and priority species and 2km for all designated sites". This should be less prescriptive, to allow for data searches from centre points. Its is also considered that in some contexts data searches are unlikely to be informative, such as some householder applications with very small zones of influence. This should be acknowledged in the SPD.	6 / Noted. Not amended. If application seeking to deviate from this requirement then can provide justification on a case-by-case basis.
167	MKA Ecology / 5.4.1	Para. 5.4.1: CIEEM's guidance on 'accessing and using biodiversity data in the UK' ( <a href="https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Guidelines-for-Accessing-and-Using-Biodiversity-Data-March-2020.pdf">https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Guidelines-for-Accessing-and-Using-Biodiversity-Data-March-2020.pdf</a> ) does give some provision for assessments without a data search (section 7.8) although these are rather specific and stating so here may make it overly complicated?	6 / Noted.
133	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.4.2	5.4.2. This indicates that where there is a predictable impact on biodiversity and insufficient ecological information is submitted to support determination, the Councils are likely to refuse an application. This is also repeated in subsequent sections of the SPD and is strongly supported. Local Authorities should always take a precautionary approach and refuse	5 / Noted.

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		consent when the required ecological information is lacking or where up to date surveys have not been provided.	
88	Hopkins Ecology / 5.4.3	5.4.3 "...any sensitive records should only be shown at 10km resolution" This is a little inconsistent with the recommendation for data to be from a 1km radius, which is more precise than the 10km resolution suggested.	6 / Noted. Not amended. Sensitive data can be used to inform the application, but not shown at high resolution within public documents.
89	Hopkins Ecology / 5.4.5	5.4.5 requires 'all protected and Priority species ... to be moved'. This is not necessarily appropriate for mobile species with Priority status (e.g. many birds) or species which simply cannot be captured in meaningful numbers (e.g. widespread moths).	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
168	MKA Ecology / 5.4.7	Para. 5.4.7: Reference the CIEEM advice note on lifespan of ecological reports? <a href="https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf">https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf</a>	6 / Agreed. Amended in Section 5.4.7.
169	MKA Ecology / 5.4.8	Para. 5.4.8: PEAs also a means of identifying the ecological opportunities at a site?	6 / Noted. Not amended as covered later in SPD.

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73	Universities Superannuation Scheme / 5.4.8	<p>Paragraph 5.4.8 of the Biodiversity SPD advises that Preliminary Ecological Assessments should be commissioned at the earliest stages of design, and their results should influence the layout and form of the proposals. USS acknowledges the benefits of commissioning Preliminary Ecological Assessments at an early stage for sites where there is likely to be significant ecological gain. However, for sites such as brownfield sites where the existing ecological value will be limited based on the criteria set out in the SPD, it is crucial that the Preliminary Ecological Assessment is not read in isolation since such sites have the potential to improve on the base position. Decisions about layout and form should be based on a full suite of technical documents, including flood, drainage, contamination, highways etc to ensure that the optimum design is achieved. Failure to do this could result in poorly designed developments. USS requests that the Biodiversity SPD is updated to explain that the results of Preliminary Ecological Assessments should not be viewed in isolation. For example, if protected species are found on a site through the Preliminary Ecological Assessment this should not be seen as a barrier to development but a benefit as it enables biodiversity enhancement. Translocation can also be used effectively to promote and improve biodiversity, which is a positive impact of redeveloping brownfield sites. USS also requests that the Biodiversity SPD states that if Preliminary Ecological Assessments identify that further surveys are required, then the Council should adopt a pragmatic approach to timings of these surveys. Additional surveys are often needed to understand detailed mitigation but not for the principle of development. Therefore, the requirement could be by condition where appropriate.</p>	5 / Noted. SPD request Preliminary Ecological Assessments to inform early design and integration into the development.

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134	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.4.11	<p>'Pre-development biodiversity value must be calculated before any site clearance or other habitat management work has been undertaken, by the applicants or anybody else. However, if this is known to have happened, the condition of the site on or after 30th January 2020 will be taken as the habitat baseline stated in Schedule 14 Part 1 paragraph 6 of the emerging Environment Bill.' The intention to set a baseline date for the predevelopment biodiversity of a site in line with the emerging Environment Bill is noted. However, it is possible that habitat clearance of site may have taken place before 30th January 2020. Indeed, this happened in a recent case regarding development south of Coldhams Lane in Cambridge where habitat clearance of a City Wildlife site happened several years ago. In this case, information and records of the site of the site before its clearance are available but have not been taken into account by the applicant. CPPF and others object (inter alia) to the proposal because the full biodiversity value of the site is not represented and this, in turn, affects the real value any net biodiversity gain claimed. The intention of the Bill is to provide legal certainty regarding relevant dates with regard to future planning applications. However, the way this is quoted in the guidance is potentially misleading because it implies that any damage prior to 30th January 2020 will not be taken into account. We do not believe it is the intention to of the Bill to legitimise in any way acts of deliberate damage before 30th January 2020 and would argue strongly that this is certainly not the case when clear information exists about the biodiversity value of a site before that date. In such cases Local Planning Authorities should take into account the past biodiversity value of a site as material consideration in any planning decision, including the assessment</p>	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

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		of net biodiversity gain. The current draft guidance is potentially misleading and should be amended accordingly (This comment also applies to para 5.5.31).	
147	Natural England / 5.4.11	We suggest that the relevant part of section 5.4.11 should be reworded slightly to read as follows: However, if this is known to have happened on or after 30th January 2020, the condition of the site will be taken as the habitat baseline stated in Schedule 14 Part 1 paragraph 6 of the emerging Environment Bill.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
90	Hopkins Ecology / 5.4.11	5.4.11 requires the baseline to be established before 'site clearance or other habitat management work'. This is presumably to prevent the baseline value from being lowered by removing key features, however the definition of 'habitat management work' is too vague and could prevent normal activities on site that are unrelated to development.	5 / Noted. Disagree. Habitat management in advance of survey work could impact on the survey findings and baseline BNG for the site.
253	RSPB / 5.4.11	5.4.11 - calculation of biodiversity value before site clearance - support	5 / Noted.
256	RSPB / 5.4.14	5.4.14 - the sharing of biodiversity data with the local records centre and recording of 'grey data' - support	5 / Noted.
93	Hopkins Ecology / Biodiversity Issue B4	Secure the provision of appropriate public access to natural green spaces' should be better defined. While 'appropriate' potentially covers circumstances where such access could be detrimental, there should nevertheless be a greater caveat with respect to sites that are vulnerable to recreational disturbance.	5 / Noted. Not amended. For conciseness the term 'appropriate' covers this point.
254	RSPB / Biodiversity Issue B4	Page 40 - support for the list of habitats considered important for biodiversity, especially points 4 & 5.	5 / Noted.

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113	The Wildlife Trust / Biodiversity Issue B4	Chapter 5 Biodiversity Issue B4 – Conserving & Enhancing Biodiversity Bullet 5 - We suggest that bullet 5 is amended, because as currently worded it is ambiguous and could be read as suggesting the delivery of Nature Recovery Networks can only occur within the built environment, which is clearly not the case. We therefore suggest removing “within an otherwise built environment”.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
114	The Wildlife Trust / Biodiversity Issue B4	Bullet 6 – Again restricting the wording of this bullet point to the built environment seems overly restrictive? We therefore suggest removing “an otherwise built environment”.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
92	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5	Section 5.5: Design Stage: Under Biodiversity Issue B4 – Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, policy requirement 1 is to: “Secure the conservation management and enhancement of natural and semi-natural habitats in the landscape together with the biodiversity that they contain and seek to restore and/or create new wildlife habitats.” More clarity is required on the scope of this and how is this to be achieved.	5 / Noted. Not amended. Requested detail provided later in the text.
110	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5	5.5 Where off-site measures are required, then the difficulties identified above will be compounded in terms of finding and securing suitable areas for enhancement. Further, there is a requirement for the identification of a mechanism for delivery of net gain as part of any application, which will add substantially to costs and time required to prepare planning applications, in effect requiring detailed S106 agreements to accompany applications. This point needs to allow for developers to use a range of providers to achieve off-site measures, including the use of financial payments to providers without the need for the location of measures to be identified as the application stage.	2 / Noted. These requirements reflect the Environment Act provisions, and do not amount to a requirement for s106 agreement to be prepared at the time of application.

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225	National Trust / 5.5	5.5 Biodiversity in the development management process (Design Stage): The National Trust supports the recommendation that the new Local Plan policies should instruct a higher percentage of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) than the 10% figure which is expected to be required by the Environment Bill. We support the 'Doubling Nature Vision' (adopted by South Cambridgeshire Council) which seeks a 20% level of BNG above pre-development baseline conditions. The National Trust support the use of planning conditions and obligations to secure both on and off-site habitat creation and biodiversity enhancements. In our view, contributions to appropriate off-site projects can be a very effective way to achieve biodiversity gain and can deliver significant benefit to local communities.	1 / Noted.
232	RSPB / 5.5	5.5 - Design Stage - with regards to 'provision of appropriate public access to natural green spaces', it would be worth including some wording here, or a footnote defining what 'appropriate' is - particularly in relation to sensitive local habitats that could be impacted by inappropriate access.	6 / Noted. Not amended. Appropriate public access would depend on location, habitat type and species present, to be agreed on a case-by-case basis.
172	MKA Ecology / 5.5.1	Para. 5.5.2: State that it may be necessary to consider recreational impacts on habitats outside the site boundary for residential schemes?	6 / Noted. Not amended. The current wording notes that 'the potential impact of public access must be fully considered' which would include recreational impacts outside the site boundary

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			where relevant. No further wording necessary.
94	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.1	The inclusion of a site where the presence of 'Priority species or habitat' is 'considered important for biodiversity' is overly vague. For example, the presence of some such widespread species (e.g., many birds or moths) could be expected on most sites. This should be caveated with 'significant population' or other wording. This has implications as to whether the requirements of 5.5.1 can be achieved where the 'existing value' (species or habitat) is widespread on a site, but for which the wider value is low.	5 / Noted. Current wording considered appropriate to guide application.
95	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.1	Further, sites considered important for biodiversity include those which: "Have the potential to assist in the delivery of National, County or District Nature Recovery Networks and clearly act as a stepping-stone, wildlife corridor or refuge area within an otherwise built environment." This, by implication, includes most brownfield sites. The following section, 5.5.1, states that for such sites, "Management should be sustainable for the long-term, with clear objectives guided by the site's existing habitat features and species, as appropriate to location and environmental conditions." It is unclear how development of brownfield sites is compatible with this policy.	5 / Noted. These comments are outside the scope of the SPD which does not identify which locations are suitable for development.
233	RSPB / 5.5.1	5.5.1 - suggest remove 'where possible, to' - this seems unnecessarily weak. Long term sustainable management - we welcome this but suggest there may need some text considering how this might be done in practice - and ensuring any committed sums are suitably conservative.	6 / Noted. Regarding 'where possible, to' – agreed. Text amended.  Regarding long term sustainable management - no amendment proposed.



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			Providing explanation of this term would require considerable detail which would not be appropriate in the SPD.
135	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.5.2	5.5.2. The caveat regarding the need to fully consider potential impacts of increased public access on important habitats and species is welcomed. This issue is becoming increasingly important as recreational pressure on existing sites in Cambridgeshire increases (see also comments re SANG below).	5 / Noted.
106	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.3	Paragraph 5.5.30 requires the identification of a mechanism for delivery of net gain as part of any application. This is a level of detail which will add substantially to costs and time required to prepare planning applications, in effect requiring detailed S106 agreements to accompany applications. This could further reduce delivery rates for new housing, and possibly impact smaller schemes and developers disproportionately, while larger schemes may have greater flexibility in masterplan designs.	1 / Noted. No proposed amendment. These requirements reflect the Environment Act provisions, and do not amount to a requirement for s106 agreement to be prepared at the time of application.
74	Universities Superannuation Scheme / 5.5.4	Paragraph 5.5.4 of the Biodiversity SPD states that the Council will expect "That on all major housing developments 50% of the dwellings/units will have features such as integrated bird, bat or insect boxes provided in close association with the properties. On all other sites suitable provision for biodiversity enhancements shall be negotiated to achieve a similar standard." USS acknowledges the benefits of integrating bird, bat or insect boxes in properties but notes that on constrained sites, it is not always suitable to provide these in a large proportion of units especially if	6 / Noted. Biodiversity Issue B5 – Biodiversity provision in the design of new buildings and open spaces amended to note that bird, insect and bat boxes should be located individually or clustered in

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		<p>these are apartments. Instead it can often be better to focus them on a smaller number of units located in the optimum position for wildlife on the Site. Where these are apartment blocks, these may be located in several locations along the roof or in select locations on the façade, rather than in every apartment. USS therefore requests that the following sentence is added to paragraph 5.5.4: “On constrained sites, particularly those with a large number of apartments, practical consideration should be given to prioritising bird, bat or insect boxes in optimum areas of the site.”</p> <p>It is key that the Biodiversity SPD is sufficiently flexible for the most appropriate ecology improvements to come forward on individual sites. This will need to be determined through ecology surveys and master planning of each site. It may be possible to exceed the minimum ecology improvements set out in the Biodiversity SPD for example by adopting alternative approaches. USS requests that this is noted in the Biodiversity SPD.</p>	<p>appropriate locations within the development.</p>
218	Individual - name provided / 5.5.4	<p>Aftercare does not have much emphasis. I noticed it is mentioned in 5.5.4 h) and in 5.8.1. Enforcement of maintenance should be strong but would be time consuming.</p>	<p>2 / Noted. Referenced through Ecological Landscape Management Plan Conditions.</p>
234	RSPB / 5.5.4	<p>5.5.4 - Waste removal from site should be at a minimum. A paragraph on re-purposing for other use should be added. For example: Timber can be used for deadwood habitat and additionally creative features in landscape. Woody brash can be used in hibernacula as too can brick rubble and aggregates. Waste aggregates and crushed demolition materials can be used as nutrient poor substrate in replicate brownfield landscaping. See section 5.5.7.</p>	<p>6 / Agreed. Section 5.5.7 amended to include ' Natural timber and aggregate waste from site should be retained and repurposed for habitat creation such as hibernacula</p>

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			and low nutrient banks wherever possible'.
173	MKA Ecology / Biodiversity Issue B5	Biodiversity Issue B5: Great to get the numbers in here, particularly for commercial applications which are always quite difficult to gauge. For point 2 should that percentage be upped to 100%. Not much to ask when you consider the small proportions of budgets and the profit margins. It's not clear why smaller developments should have a greater requirement. I would argue that larger scheme should be making a greater contribution. Is there any leverage for inclusion of ponds in larger schemes? Given their value for wildlife it would be super to try and encourage their creation. We are regularly told they are not possible, but I suspect with a bit of encouragement within a document such as this it may be easier to achieve.	6 / Noted. Biodiversity Issue B5 amended to state "that on all residential housing developments, there should be an equal number of integrated bird box features as there are dwellings for building-dependent birds".
189	Countryside Properties / Biodiversity Issue B5	Biodiversity Issue B5: Whilst we are generally supportive of the requirements of Biodiversity Issue B5 which relates to biodiversity provision in the new buildings and open spaces we do have some detailed comments regarding the requirements proposed	5 / Noted. See response to more specific comments.

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235	RSPB / Biodiversity Issue B5	Biodiversity Issues B5, point 2 (p.42) - Specifically regarding swift boxes, the standard advice for swift bricks is a 1 brick per house but not in the literal sense. Its normal to suggest 2-4 boxes on a selection of houses but totalling the number of housing units. As worded, this could be interpreted as just 50 boxes 1 on each of 50 houses. Numbers of bat/insect bricks are fewer and limited by lots of other variables such as lighting plans, the vicinity of good vegetation cover/sources of nectar, having only to face southerly aspects, etc. Also needs to make reference to: BS42021 Integral nest boxes – Design and installation for new developments – Specification. It's still not published but coming soon - hopefully by end of year.	6 / Support proposed increase of required integrated nest box provision. B5 wording has been amended accordingly.
190	Countryside Properties / Biodiversity Issue B5	Countryside support the overall requirement that the equivalent of 50% of the dwellings/units on development sites should include integrated bird, bat or insect boxes. We would however suggest that rather than an arbitrary requirement for these to be distributed evenly across the number of units, these can sometimes be best focused in clusters on certain units where these link to important ecological features such as hedgerows and open spaces. It is considered that such an approach would be of greater ecological benefit and it is considered that appropriate flexibility should be introduced into the policy to allow for such a scenario.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

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140	Action for Swifts, Fulbourn Swifts and Over & Swavesey Swift Conservation Project 2020 / Biodiversity Issue B5	<p>Provision of nesting and roosting bricks. The introductory paragraph of the Draft Biodiversity SPD says “ ...’Both Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have declared a biodiversity emergency, and strongly support a step change in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Greater Cambridge’ “ However, the proposals for integrated bird, bat or insect boxes are no different from the last SPD in 2009, let alone “a step change”. The draft proposal is: ‘That on all major housing developments 50% of the dwellings/units will have features such as integrated bird, bat or insect boxes provided in close association with the properties. On all other sites suitable provision for biodiversity enhancements shall be negotiated to achieve a similar standard’ Since 2009, standards have advanced to an expectation that the number of integral bird boxes in a development should equal the number of dwellings and that provision for bats and insects should be in addition to this. Already, a number of SPDs across the country carry this level of provision, for example that of Oxford City Council within the Ox Cam Arc:</p> <p><a href="https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_policy/745/planning_policy_-_technical_advice_notes_tan">https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_policy/745/planning_policy_-_technical_advice_notes_tan</a>. This issue is particularly important because cavity nesting birds, which have nested for generations in older houses in holes and cavities under the eaves and in walls, are in dramatic decline. Sparrows and starlings are Red Listed, and swifts have declined at an average rate of 5.4% per annum over the last 10 years and by 60% in the last 25 years, so we anticipate that the swift will move from the Amber to the Red list at the next BoCC revision expected in December 2021. We strongly suggest that in Biodiversity Issue B5 of the Draft</p>	6 / Support proposed increase of required integrated nest box provision. B5 wording has been amended accordingly.

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		<p>Biodiversity SPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The level of bird nest brick provision be increased to 1 per house and 1 per 2 flats in line with current good practice.</li> <li>● Also, there should be guidance on provision of nesting and roosting bricks for all types of building such as schools, student accommodation, hotels and offices.</li> <li>● The level of bat roosting bricks be addressed separately and at the rate suggested in the Oxford City Council Guidance (see above) subject to site location and features.</li> <li>● Pollinator provision be addressed mainly through planting schemes, recognising that the presence of hedges and shrubbery and nesting birds close to homes is important for enhancing the wellbeing of residents.</li> </ul>	
75	Universities Superannuation Scheme / 5.5.5	<p>Paragraph 5.5.5 of the Biodiversity SPD requires the design of new developments to “seek to retain habitats of value to biodiversity wherever possible. Even for small scale developments, this would include boundary hedgerows, trees and any pond on site and these can provide the framework for the setting of the scheme layout as well as contributing to the post development network for nature and people.” USS agrees that habitats should be retained in situ where possible. USS also notes that where comprehensive redevelopment of sites is brought forward, it is not always possible to retain existing habitats in their entirety. USS notes that in some cases, habitats can be expanded and improved by being translocated rather than being retained in situ. USS acknowledges that paragraph 5.5.5 caveats this requirement as ‘where possible’ and supports this.</p>	5 / Noted.

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236	RSPB / 5.5.5	5.5.5 - suggest 'design of new developments should retain habitats of value to biodiversity.' Again the additional wording unnecessarily weakens the text.	6 / Agreed. Text amended to reflect comments.
96	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.6	5.5.6 "Landscape design will be required to enhance existing habitats and link them to new habitats created within the development site that are suited to the landscape character." It is unclear how enhancing existing habitats is compatible with paragraph 2 under Biodiversity Issue B4, which states that development should: "Secure the provision of appropriate public access to natural green spaces." Public use of existing habitat is likely to increase with development, and bring with it challenges like nutrient enrichment, littering and disturbance.	5 / Noted. Public access and enhancement of habitats needs to be balanced within the landscape design.
237	RSPB / 5.5.6	5.5.6 - Landscape design should also be integrated into net gain considerations. It would be good to reference the NHBC 'Biodiversity in new housing developments' - <a href="https://www.nhbcfoundation.org/publication/biodiversity-in-new-housing-developments-creating-wildlife-friendly-communities/">https://www.nhbcfoundation.org/publication/biodiversity-in-new-housing-developments-creating-wildlife-friendly-communities/</a>	3 / Noted.
85	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.8	5.5.8 repeats earlier text relating to the solitary bees.	5 / Noted. The repeated text provides a description supporting the image.
97	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.9	5.5.9 "Green roofs should support diverse habitats of local relevance rather than sedum monocultures, which have aesthetic appeal, but limited value to biodiversity." There are two points here: First, the value of Sedum roofs is possibly not as low as suggested. For example, the Buglife guide 'Creating Green Roofs for Invertebrates' indeed lists more rare and common species as present on Sedum roofs than extensive roofs (see Table 2 within the guide). Anecdotally, Sedum roofs potentially have	5 / Noted. Not amended as sedum up to 25% of roof areas is referenced and SPD seeks a diversity of green roof types.

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		greater value at certain times than extensive roofs, e.g. for pollinators. We would propose a modification of wording to be somewhat more positive about the value of Sedum.	
98	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.9	5.5.9 Second, the policy should also recognise significant constraints that are relevant in some contexts. Specifically, green roofs can add substantially to the weight of roofs, particularly larger spans as within commercial or public buildings. This would have knock-on impacts to sustainability (e.g. additional steel requirements) and costs. Green roofs may also limit the use of roofs for solar panels and other uses.	5 / Noted, text amended to note that biodiverse roofs and walls will be encouraged where appropriate, as part of a wider strategy of biodiversity enhancements.
208	Anglian Water / 5.5.9	From a net gain perspective paragraphs 5.5.9 and 5.5.10 references green and brown roofs. From a value for money business point of view Anglian Water is not convinced these provide the biodiversity return from investment as they can be relatively cost prohibitive and unpractical on some if not most of our sites. We ask that at our sites we work with the Councils to develop options which have an overall greater impact which can require less carbon intensive construction.	6 / Noted, text amended to note that biodiverse roofs and walls will be encouraged where appropriate, as part of a wider strategy of biodiversity enhancements.
238	RSPB / 5.5.9	5.5.9 - Suggest the last sentence is open to abuse and developers may see this as an alternative to integral boxes. We suggest tree boxes particularly for starlings, so to make the wording more specific you could amend to 'Where appropriate, high quality durable boxes to target starlings, can also be provided on retained trees within the public realm adjacent or in proximity to short amenity grassland.'	6 / Noted. Not amended. 5.5.9 refers to boxes in addition to the integrated requirement detailed in B5.



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76	Universities Superannuation Scheme / 5.5.9-5.5.12	Paragraphs 5.5.9 to 5.5.12 of the Biodiversity SPD encourage the provision of biodiverse green and brown roofs. USS acknowledges the benefits of green and brown roofs and the contributions they can provide to improving biodiversity on constrained sites where this is not possible at ground level. However, USS also notes that green and brown roofs are not always the most appropriate solution. On smaller roof spaces the space could have limited biodiversity success as a green or brown roof and may be better suited to accommodating solar panels or for helping to reduce flood risk by providing adequate drainage for example. To provide sufficient flexibility, the SPD should note that the provision of green or brown roofs should be decided on a case-by-case basis, informed by technical assessments. USS therefore requests that the document is updated to state “where appropriate as part of a wider strategy of biodiversity enhancements” with regard to the encouragement of green and brown roofs.	6 / Noted, text amended to note that biodiverse roofs and walls will be encouraged where appropriate, as part of a wider strategy of biodiversity enhancements.
99	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.12	5.5.12 The reference to the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric and the condition scores has been superseded by the latest release (3.0, July 2021) and needs to be revised.	6 / Noted. All references to the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric within the SPD have been updated.
239	RSPB / 5.5.12	5.5.12 - maybe worth paragraph reference to 'biosolar green roofs'. Solar panels work more effectively in conjunction with a green roof. Although the panels are not in shot - the image is of the biosolar green roof on the DAB in Cambridge.	6 / Noted. Biosolar green roofs are referenced within the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD.

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209	Anglian Water / 5.5.13	Para 5.5.13 to 5.5.17: Anglian Water supports the approach set out in paragraphs 5.5.13 to 5.5.17 on Sustainable drainage systems. We are seeking to secure the commencement of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act by government and so introduce a stronger presumption in favour of SuDS.	5 / Noted.
240	RSPB / 5.5.13	<p>5.5.13 - (SUDS) - This section is too weak and could do with a lot of expanding - maybe over two pages (or more?). Its arguably one of the most important components of a new development. Cambridge has the opportunity to lead the way while everyone sits on the fence in England with regards to design of 'real SuDS'. It will also provide wider opportunity and benefits for public amenity and biodiversity. Its misses the value and benefits of source control. As well as the referenced guide these documents are useful:</p> <p><a href="https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/5457/suds-design-and-adoption-guide.pdf">https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/5457/suds-design-and-adoption-guide.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/C687%20Planning%20for%20suds.pdf_0.pdf">https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/C687%20Planning%20for%20suds.pdf_0.pdf</a></p>	3 / Noted. Not amended. SUDS is addressed in the referenced Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD and Cambridge Sustainable Drainage Design and Adoption Guide.

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136	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.5.13 - 17	<p>5.5.13 - 17. This section refers to sustainable drainage. The availability of water of an adequate quality and volume is of crucial importance to both the protection of existing biodiversity and its future enhancement. It is disappointing that the SPD does not give greater emphasis to this as a headline issue. Planning decisions can influence the quantity and quality of water with further potential effects on biodiversity in a number of ways. For example, the use of streams and rivers to carry the outfall from sewerage treatment could have critical effects on wildlife. In addition, whilst water availability is, of course, a relevant constraint that the planning system should consider, the capacity of our watercourses to dispose of treated water waste is likely to be a more binding one. Furthermore, consideration must also be given to the, climate-change-induced, greater frequency of storm events. Without increased investment by the water authorities the frequency of storm events leading to raw sewerage being discharged is likely to increase, even at current levels of development. Another potential consequence of planning decisions is the demand for increased abstraction of better-quality water from aquifers leading to more pressure on vulnerable wildlife dependent on it. The guidance should highlight these key issues as they (and similar considerations) should be part of the policy framework within which development applications should be considered. This would also provide the proper context for subsequent references to development plan policies that reflect concern for the implementation and management of water conservation measures, for example in Local Development Framework North West Cambridge Area Action Plan October 2009 referred to in Appendix 1 page 68 of the draft SPD. Reference is also</p>	6 / Noted. These comments are outside the scope of the SPD which does not set policy and are more relevant to the emerging Local Plan. The SPD has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment screening.

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		made at para 5.6.11. to the court case R (on the Application of Preston) v Cumbria County Council [2019] EWCA 1362. This indicates that planning and other competent authorities must carry out their own assessment for plan and projects with potential significant effects. Such an assessment would also include any 'in combination effects' of other plans and projects. The assessment of in combination effects is very relevant to development that could impact on water resources and should apply to all planning decisions that could impact biodiversity. In order to do this, system wide analysis and a subsequent monitoring framework are required to take accounts of effects both upstream and possibly downstream as well. Such assessments would also require analysis of effects at a catchment area which, of course, may cover different administrative boundaries. Again, the guidance should highlight this as part of the proper decision making process for development proposals.	
91	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.14	5.5.14 requires all biodiversity records to be submitted to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre. This is a little too vague and should be defined to prevent the need for records of low value being submitted, e.g. common or ubiquitous birds or plants.	5 / Noted. The Councils consider that all biodiversity records are important. No change made to SPD.
241	RSPB / 5.5.14	5.5.14 - as above SUDS will not reduce the effects of development on the water environment without source control.	6 / Noted. SUDs design guide is referenced for detailed design.
242	RSPB / 5.5.15	5.5.15 - suggest including reference to public amenity in the last sentence	6 / Noted. No amendment, captured in referenced Cambridge Sustainable Drainage Design and Adoption Guide.

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243	RSPB / 5.5.16	5.5.16 - This and a multitude of other issues would be easily addressed if developments were to be designed with kerbside bioretention (rain garden) beds. As per page 21 of referenced guide. They are also a component of source control. Removal or opening of kerbs to allow contaminated run-off into a raingarden removes the need for gulley pots. Kerbs and gulley pots are barriers and death traps to wildlife.	6 / Noted. The SPD is not a design guide. The RSPB and WWT guidance is referenced to cover this point.
244	RSPB / 5.5.17	5.5.17 - This policy perhaps needs expanding on. This is not just an issue with paved gardens but also the public realm. The street scape has far too much 'dead space' of sealed surfaces. Much of this could be better utilised as rain gardens, tree pits or ideally combined raingarden and tree pits. This would reduce run-off, absorb and treat polluted water and airborne pollutants, assist in cooling the atmosphere and provide shade.	6 / Noted. It is not within the scope of the SPD to set new policy; rather it explains how Local Plan policies should be interpreted and applied and provides guidance.
100	Hopkins Ecology / Biodiversity Issue B7	5.5.18 The DEFRA Biodiversity Metric (2.0) referenced has been superseded (July 2021, 3.0). The SPD needs to be 'future proofed' against other releases of the tool.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

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123	The Wildlife Trust / Biodiversity Issue B7	Overall this BNG section should identify the need to develop a delivery mechanism for BNG in Greater Cambridge, and commit to its establishment either alone or in partnership with other LPAs. The delivery mechanism will include Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify where to prioritise biodiversity offsetting and habitat banks, policies to set the expected % net biodiversity gain, policies for determining the precise geographical location of biodiversity offsetting in relation to planned developments, a mechanism for assessing, reviewing and monitoring BNG delivery, and a mechanism for allocating BNG funding to priority projects. The SPD could also potentially facilitate the advance creation of habitat banks within the Greater Cambridge area by providing guidance as to what landowners could do to register their sites, provide a baseline BNG assessment, set out the proposed new habitats and how they will be managed through a 30 year management plan, and provide evidence that the habitats have been created. Advance creation of habitat banks to provide biodiversity offsetting credits will help ensure the delivery of compensatory habitats in advance of losses. At present landowners will not do this due to the risks that they will not be able to claim biodiversity units as additional. In the absence of a national register (proposed in the Environment Bill), a local register could help bring forward beneficial biodiversity enhancements. Para 5.8.4 alludes to the above but could be significantly strengthened.	2 / Noted. The Councils are committed to working with partners on this issue, but this topic is not within the scope of the SPD.
174	MKA Ecology / 5.5.18	Para. 5.5.18: Update to 3.0	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

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137	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.5.18	5.5.18. and 5.5.26. The Council's target for net biodiversity gain over the 10% required by the Environment Bill is welcomed and fully supported given the scale of biodiversity losses in the past. See comment re para 1.1. above - further explanation of the scale of biodiversity losses in the SPD will help to support this argument. 5.6.8. The first stage of a Habitats Regulations Assessment is triggered by a plan or project that is likely to have significant effects not adverse effects as implied by the current wording. Assessment of whether adverse effects arise follows at the Appropriate Assessment stage.	5 / Noted.
245	RSPB / 5.5.18	5.5.18 - The metric version is now 3.0.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
77	Universities Superannuation Scheme / 5.5.19	Paragraph 5.5 19 of the Biodiversity SPD states that "the vision seeks a 20% level of Biodiversity Net Gain above predevelopment baseline conditions." It goes on to clarify that "whilst this Supplementary Planning Document does not set this as a figure or fixed target, this aspiration may have further support with the future enactment of the Environment Bill." USS notes that the Council's strategic vision seeks a 20% biodiversity net gain for all development types. USS also acknowledges that this goes above and beyond the 10% proposed in the emerging Environment Bill so it cannot be set as a minimum target in the Biodiversity SPD.	1 / Noted.
101	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.19	5.5.19. It is noted that the vision for 20% net gain is not a requirement of this SPD and that any recommendations for a net gain of >10% (or the value within the Environment Act when passed) will only follow negotiation and discussion. It is assumed that where any greater gain is not practical then this will not be a requirement.	1 / Noted.

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195	University of Cambridge (Estates Division) / 5.5.19	We note the references in the draft SPD that local authority officers may also seek further Biodiversity Net Gain from development proposals, with a 20% BNG on-site figure specified. That would be significantly in excess of the 10% requirement that is likely to be introduced through the Environment Bill. If adopted as drafted, it would in effect result in the introduction of policy. Government guidance for plan-making is very clear on this matter - supplementary planning documents cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. Policy can only be introduced through the development plan documents, with the associated requirements for an evidence-based approach to feasibility and viability, and subject to independent examination. References to a potential future biodiversity net gain target, beyond that to be introduced by legislation, should be removed from the supplementary planning document in the meantime	1 / Noted. As addressed by the theme response, the SPD does not seek to impose new policy. Amendments have been made to clarify this point.
102	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.20	5.5.20. The suggestion that off-site habitat measures to achieve net gain will be 'exceptional cases' is not necessarily agreed upon, and indeed it is likely to be far more consultation response frequent than suggested. Within the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 3.0 achieving net gain on sites is difficult in some circumstances, and could potentially conflict with other design requirements, such as achieving high density development, particularly in urban areas such as Cambridge. The only mechanism suggested for off-site habitat measures is via S106 agreement. In practice this could be difficult for many developers to achieve, in particular on smaller schemes and for smaller developers who do not have access to suitable land. This point needs to allow for developers to use a range of providers to achieve off-site measures, including the use of financial	2, 6 / Noted. S106 agreement is currently the only legal method of securing offsite BNG.



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		payments to providers without the need for the location of measures to be identified at the application stage.	
115	The Wildlife Trust / 5.5.20	Biodiversity Issue B7 – Biodiversity Net Gain. Para 5.5.20 – The Wildlife Trust suggests removing “In exceptional cases”, because a degree of offsetting is likely to become the norm for most or a significant proportion of developments. On-site delivery of BNG cannot be guaranteed over the long-term, whether the 30 years as set out in the Environment Bill, or in perpetuity, which would intellectually be a more robust position. Monitoring and review of planning conditions is not routinely monitored or enforced and there seems little prospect of this changing. In this position a precautionary approach must be taken to assessing likely biodiversity gains and the type and condition of proposed habitats within a development site. This will result in a greater requirement for biodiversity offsetting sites and habitat banks, which can be legally secured, guaranteed and enforced.	2 / Agreed. Amended to 'Where onsite option for Biodiversity Net Gain have been exhausted, compensatory arrangements to provide shortfalls required and agreed with applicants under the vision can be provided offsite'.
246	RSPB / 5.5.20	5.5.20 - need to reference the future need to implement the LNRS here, which is likely to pull all of the mentioned documents together, creating a map of all existing spaces of importance AND future opportunities for habitat creation or restoration in a given area. In doing so this should effectively coordinate ALL environmental investment in that area, including developer investment into BNG.	6 / Noted. 5.5.25-26 refers to a strategic approach to habitat creation and enhancement, including making reference to Cambridge Nature Network and the emerging Nature Recovery Network.
257	RSPB / 5.5.20	5.5.20 - Support for acknowledgement of strategic net gain objectives that developers can contribute to (although these need to be governed by the eventual LNRS).	5 / Noted.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
116	The Wildlife Trust / 5.5.21	Para 5.5.21 – As discussed in 5.5.20 above, planning conditions are an ineffectual means of securing the long-term management, monitoring and review of biodiversity net gain habitats within development sites. Without legal certainty that a development will deliver the promised BNG habitats within a red-line boundary, a precautionary approach must be taken. The combination of paras 5.5.20 and 5.5.21 as currently worded will continue to result in net biodiversity losses from within development sites.	2 / Noted. S106 agreement currently the only legal method of securing offsite BNG.
247	RSPB / 5.5.21	5.5.21 - good to have reference here to long-term management. Suggest 'long-term management for nature' maybe more specific. Also need reference here to long term protection of these new habitats.	6 / Noted. Points covered within referenced BNG - Good Practice Principles.
186	Countryside Properties / 5.5.22	We note that the Defra Biodiversity Metric 2.0 has now been replaced by version 3.0. So that the SPD remains up to date if further revisions to the Metric are introduced, we would suggest that the SPD is updated to refer to the “Defra Biodiversity Metric 3.0 or any successor.”	5 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
117	The Wildlife Trust / 5.5.24	Para 5.5.24 – This rightly identifies Biodiversity Net Gain as one of the primary mechanisms for the restoration of biodiversity across the UK. In light of this this section of the SPD needs to do more to facilitate it within the current planning policy and legal framework and the unknowns of the Environment Bill and subsequent secondary legislation.	2 / Noted. It is not within the scope of the SPD to set new policy; rather it explains how Local Plan policies should be interpreted and applied and provides guidance.
118	The Wildlife Trust / 5.5.25	Para 5.5.25 – The Wildlife Trust supports the recognition given to the Cambridge Nature Network in this paragraph (and 5.5.20).	5 / Noted.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
103	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.26	Paragraph 5.5.26 suggests that a value of 20% net gain in biodiversity value will be required. This contradicts 5.5.19 which suggest that values greater than required by the Environment Act (when passed) will be following negotiation. Moreover, it is unclear what the justification is for seeking a net gain of 20% in Greater Cambridge. The implications of a 20% net gain are significant in terms of developable land on sites, with knock-on impacts to features such as the density of design. In most cases this would almost certainly require off-site measures, with the difficulties identified above being compounded in terms of 'finding and securing' suitable areas of enhancement.	6 / Noted. SPD amended to make clear that a value of 20% is likely to be encouraged as best practice.
104	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.26	Table 3 shows how the current Biodiversity Metric 3.0 responds to different permutations of post-development vegetation, using simple assumptions: in the first assumption the developable area is 60%, with a low area of on-site landscaping (10%) and a high area of mixed scrub planting (30%). This achieves a 10% net gain, but to achieve a 20% net gain the developable area has been reduced to 50%, with an increase in ornamental planting to (20%). The key point is that achieving net gain significantly reduces developable areas, with the consequence that greater land areas will be required to achieve housing targets and that in practice many developments will require off-site measures. This could have significant implications for the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan with the implication that assumed site capacities may need to be significantly reduced and further sites and land identified to meet housing need.	1 / Noted. These comments relate to the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 rather than to the content of the SPD.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
105	Hopkins Ecology / 5.5.26	Table 3. Examples of the net gain achievable for a 1ha arable site and different post development conditions. Baseline Post-development Net gain% Habitat Area Arable Developed land; sealed surface 0.6 +10% Introduced shrub 0.1 Mixed scrub 0.3 Arable Developed land; sealed surface 0.5 +19.8% Introduced shrub 0.2 Mixed scrub 0.3 The implications of a 20% net gain could include a requirement for additional land for the delivery of current housing targets with implications to the number of currently allocated sites. Within emerging plans it would require additional land to be allocated.	1 / Noted. These comments relate to the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 rather than to the content of the SPD.
157	Natural England / 5.5.26	We welcome reference to the Cambridge Nature Network and the wider Nature Recovery Network (NRN). Perhaps further consideration could be given to the key objectives of the NRN, and opportunities for developers to contribute towards its delivery, through proposed updates to the SPD when the Environmental Bill is enacted.	6 / Noted. The Councils will continue to engage with Cambridge Nature Network through the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan Biodiversity and Green Spaces theme, to support delivery of shared biodiversity ambitions for Greater Cambridge.
175	MKA Ecology / 5.5.28	Para 5.5.28: I think the suggestion here is that a net gain calculation will not be required until the new small site metric is available. It could provide more clarity if it expressly says this is the case?	6 / Noted. Small site metric is now available and referenced.
119	The Wildlife Trust / 5.5.28	Para 5.5.28 – The Small Sites Metric has now been published, though in beta testing form, since the publication of this SPD, so this para could be updated to represent the situation as of Sept 2021.	2 / Noted. Small site metric is now available and referenced.

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78	Universities Superannuation Scheme / 5.5.29	Paragraph 5.5.29 of the Biodiversity SPD states that for major applications, a Biodiversity Gain Plan will be expected. Whilst USS supports this aim, it should be proportionate to the potential of specific sites. For example, the Site is in a highly sustainable brownfield location which the Biodiversity SPD states is likely to have limited potential for increasing biodiversity. If the Biodiversity SPD is too prescriptive on this issue it may restrict the ability of the Site to provide housing or employment uses in a highly sustainable location. USS therefore requests that paragraph 5.5.29 clarifies that Biodiversity Net Gain Plans should be proportionate to the circumstances of individual sites. The Biodiversity SPD should also recognise that whilst Biodiversity Gain Plans are normally based on the Defra Biodiversity Metric calculation spreadsheet, this is not required by the National Planning Policy Framework and is not always the most appropriate mechanism in complex circumstances, so it should be decided on a case-by-case basis.	1 / Noted. Not amended. Minimum 10% BNG is statutory for all development and DEFRA Metric is industry standard for assessing BNG requirements. Any justifiable variation can be agreed on a case-by-case basis.
148	Natural England / 5.5.29	Section 5.5.29. should now refer to the recently published Biodiversity Metric 3.0 which updates and replaces the beta Biodiversity Metric 2.0.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
248	RSPB / 5.5.29	5.5.29 - suggest 'steps taken to avoid impacts on biodiversity' here need to include how they have implemented the mitigation hierarchy	6 / Noted. Amend 5.5.30 to include mitigation hierarchy.
121	The Wildlife Trust / 5.5.30	Para 5.5.30 – This paragraph should specifically reference the Cambridge Nature Network which is more comprehensive than the Opportunity Mapping referred to and is one of six priority landscape areas identified by Natural Cambridgeshire for delivery of a Nature Recovery Network locally. The West Cambridgeshire Hundreds and part of the Great Ouse Valley are also within the Greater Cambridge planning area.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

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120	The Wildlife Trust / 5.5.30	Para 5.5.30 – This para should specify that BNG habitats need to be provided for a minimum of 30 years, in line with proposals in the Environment Bill, though intellectually they should ideally be provided in perpetuity, if BNG is to be delivered.	2 / Noted. Paragraph 5.8.4 notes that the Environment Act 2021 will require an audit trail for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain commitments for a period of up to 30 years.
249	RSPB / 5.5.30	5.5.30 - management, monitoring and remediation is great, but also need information on how the new habitats will be protected long term.	3 / Noted. All BNG provision will be protected and managed for a minimum of 30 years as per Environment Act.
122	The Wildlife Trust / 5.5.31	Para 5.5.31 – The second sentence of this para is ambiguous. It should clearly state that the baseline for habitats will be taken as 30 January 2020, or the nearest prior aerial photographic evidence or survey. The current wording would in theory allow the destruction of a County Wildlife Site in Cambridge City 2013 to stand and for a zero value BNG baseline, when aerial photos from 2012, combined with detailed survey from 2005, could be used to demonstrate the value of the site prior to clearance. There should also be reference to the use of the precautionary principle in assessment of habitats that fall within this scenario.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
226	National Trust / 5.6 Application Stage	5.6 Application stage - Validation requirements: Whilst all the Biodiversity Issues listed are important, B9 and B10 are of particular interest to the National Trust with reference to our land at Wicken Fen and the Wimpole Estate.	5 / Noted.

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176	MKA Ecology / 5.6.4	Para. 5.6.4: Also reference CIEEM's guidance on report writing here, or previously? <a href="https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-report-writing">https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-report-writing</a>	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
250	RSPB / Biodiversity Issue B8	Page 50 - 1st para - you mention that applicant information needs to include 'details of mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the site(s) embedded into design of the development'. Suggest you need to define the term 'embedded' here, as care needs to be taken in the context of the Sweetman ruling that we are not taking into account 'standard' mitigation at the screening stage.	6 / Noted. No amendment proposed as links provide detailed government guidance on process.
149	Natural England / Biodiversity Issue B8	Natural England suggests minor amendments to two parts of the first paragraph of Biodiversity Issue B8 – Habitats Regulations to read as follows: To support the councils in meeting policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) and their legal duties, as Competent Authority under the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) – known as the Habitats Regulations - where development is likely to result in a significant effect on a Habitats site, proposals need to be supported by information to support preparation of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) by the Local Planning Authority. In accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations the Councils' will seek Natural England's views on all HRA Appropriate Assessments and will have regard to any representation made by Natural England in issuing its decision.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
150	Natural England / 5.5.9	We suggest the last sentence of paragraph 5.6.9 is amended to read along the following lines: This is an 'appropriate assessment' of the implications for that site in view	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.

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		of that site's conservation objectives. Consent can only be granted when it can be ascertained by an appropriate assessment that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site unless, in the absence of alternative solutions, there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest and the necessary compensatory measures can be secured.	
151	Natural England / Biodiversity Issue B9	Biodiversity Issue B9 - Natural England supports development of a protocol to ensure that relevant development is accompanied by appropriate levels of survey, assessment and mitigation with regard to potential impact on the barbastelle bat population of the SAC. This will support the Councils in meeting policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) and their legal duties under the Habitats Regulations to protect the SAC.	5 / Noted.



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227	National Trust / Biodiversity Issue B9	<p>Biodiversity Issue 9 - Recreational pressure on SSSIs: Cambridgeshire is one of the fastest growing areas in England. Development inevitably gives rise to a range of off-site impacts, and these often include visitor related impacts on wildlife habitats and biodiversity. We wish to inform Greater Cambridge Planning that the SSSI, SAC and Ramsar sites at Wicken Fen are under increasing recreational pressure as a result of the significant increase in housing and population in the Cambridge area. Wicken Fen Ramsar site is mentioned as being subject to a detailed study from which a new Zone of Influence is emerging (para. 5.6.21). We are unclear as to the study this is referring to and would welcome further clarification. We would welcome discussions about a Zone of Influence for Wicken Fen either as part of the development of this SPD or in relation to the emerging Local Plan.</p> <p>In 2019 the National Trust commissioned consultants Footprint Ecology to undertake visitor surveys to help us better understand the people and communities who visit and experience Wicken Fen nature reserve and the surrounding area. This information is being used to help us plan for the future through the Wicken Fen Vision, increasing the relevance of our work to local communities and the resilience of the nature reserve to changes happening within and around it. It is also being used to inform our responses to local plan and planning application consultations (notably it has been used in our response to the proposed development at Waterbeach New Town). Recreational pressure at Wicken Fen is a significant issue for nature conservation and we therefore request that this is recognised in the SPD.</p>	<p>6 / Noted. The Councils refer in the SPD to Natural England's evidence of SSSIs currently known to be at risk from recreational pressure. Development of a policy approach is appropriate for the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan rather than this SPD. 5.6.21 references Impact Risk Zones for Wicken Fen and the need to seek advice from National Trust as per comments received. Wicken Fen Vision now also referenced in Section 3.6.10.</p>

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		<p>We welcome the inclusion of the suggestion that applicants of developments within the Impact Risk Zone of Wicken Fen SAC should seek advice from the National Trust regarding potential recreational pressure impacts and mitigation measures. However, the draft document does not mention Wimpole Estate's sensitivity to recreational disturbance. Significant work by the National Trust is ongoing to manage the visitor impacts on the site in relation to preventing damage to woodland habitat that supports bats (Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI/SAC). We would welcome inclusion of suggestion that applicants of developments within the Impact Risk Zone of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI/SAC should seek advice from Natural England and the National Trust regarding potential impacts and mitigation measures. However, in order to secure appropriate mitigation, the recognition of recreational impacts needs to be underpinned by an evidence-based policy within an up-to-date Local Plan. We consider that a policy is required in either the new Local Plan or this SPD (or a reference in this SPD for the requirement of a Local Plan policy). In our view developers should consider, and where appropriate contribute towards, mitigation measures which are necessary to alleviate the impact of recreational use likely to arise from development. We would welcome further dialogue with the Council and Natural England on this matter.</p>	
192	Cambridgeshire County Council Ecology / Biodiversity Issue B9	Biodiversity Issue B9: Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. We would recommend reviewing this section following the findings of the detailed survey work and assessment for the A428 examination.	6 / Noted. Not amended. The information from these surveys has come too late in the process of preparing the SPD to account for them.

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152	Natural England / 5.6.17	<p>Section 5.6.17 states: All development within 5 km of the Special Area of Conservation designated site is considered by Natural England as a key conservation area with a 10 km sustenance or wider conservation area.</p> <p>Please note that Natural England is currently reviewing the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for Eversden and Wimpole Woods with a view to potentially extending this to 20km from the SAC boundary. This aims to ensure a more precautionary approach to the protection of the barbastelle population from the effects of development alone and in-combination. The extent of the IRZ will be informed by the findings of emerging SAC barbastelle tracking surveys being undertaken for major development schemes. It will also take into consideration the availability of suitable foraging resource which is considered to be quite scarce in the local area. As noted in section 4.2.3 of the SPD barbastelles can forage 20km and beyond, dependent on a range of factors including the availability of suitable foraging habitat. In the meantime, until the IRZ is formally amended, and accompanying guidance prepared, we suggest that the Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation Bat Protocol should apply to all relevant development within 20km of the SAC.</p>	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
86	Hopkins Ecology / 5.6.18	5.6.18 is not complete	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
193	Cambridgeshire County Council Ecology / 5.6.18	Figure 12: We understand from the A428 project ecologist, that some of the hedgerow connections identified on Figure 12 are not found on the ground. It would be helpful to have an interactive map / flexibility to update the map if more detailed information becomes available / more strategic hedgerows are established or bolstered.	6 / Noted. Not possible to accommodate such a map within the PDF.

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229	National Trust / 5.6.18	We note that Figure 12 in the draft document refers to the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. Some place names or points of reference on this map would be useful to better understand where the Impact Risk Zones extend to.	6 / Noted. Figure not amended due to scale of figure and legibility.
153	Natural England / Biodiversity Issue B10	Biodiversity Issue B10: We suggest the last sentence of the first paragraph be amended to read: SSSIs currently known to be at risk from recreational pressure within the Greater Cambridge area are listed in Annex B of Natural England's advice.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
178	MKA Ecology / Biodiversity Issue B10	Biodiversity Issue B10: Recreational pressures also have significant impacts on non-statutory sites. Is it feasible to highlight this issue and make recommendations/advice?	6 / Agreed. New para inserted after 5.6.22.
155	Natural England / Biodiversity Issue B10	Natural England otherwise supports the guidance on assessing and mitigating recreational pressure impact to sensitive SSSIs and signposting developers to Natural England's guidance and further advice through the Discretionary Advice Service.	5 / Noted.
228	National Trust / Biodiversity Issue B10	We welcome the advice by Natural England and its inclusion in this document that proposed residential developments of 50 or more units should seek to provide sufficient Suitable Alternative Greenspace (SANG) to avoid and mitigate recreational pressure within or around SSSI's. However, it is important to recognise that this is not always able to deliver the features, experiences or offer that other established sites can (such as Wicken Fen) and that there may be a residual recreational impact which requires mitigating.	5 / Noted.

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154	Natural England / 5.6.21	We welcome the guidance in section 5.6.21 in relation to Wicken Fen; however, it is not quite correct, and potentially risky, to suggest that Fenland SAC SSSIs are not considered to be at significant risk from recreational pressure. These SSSIs include habitats that are highly sensitive to visitor pressure; however, they generally experience low levels of access, due to distance from major populations, which can be safely accommodated within the existing management regime for the site. Additional recreational pressure, through new housing development, would pose a potentially significant risk to these sensitive sites. We would therefore recommend removal of reference to the Fenland SAC SSSIs.	6 / Noted. Amended to remove reference to Fenland SAC SSSI.
138	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.6.22	5.6.22. The discussion of the use of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) to avoid and mitigate recreational pressure within and around important nature conservation sites is noted. It is also stated that: 'Whilst current Local Plan policies do not set requirements in respect of SANG, developers need to consider how to implement this detailed advice from Natural England, in conjunction with the councils' Open Space standards to provide access to sufficient greenspace to meet daily recreational needs of new residents.' Recreational pressure on sensitive wildlife sites is only likely to increase and it is vital that other adequate alternative greenspace is provided and secured to avoid any adverse effects. Whilst it is appreciated that current Local Plan policies do not set out requirements in respect of SANG, Local Authorities should also take the lead in future development plans with clear overarching policies that provision of SANG may be required for certain residential developments. This should be reflected as clear statement of intent in the SPD.	6 / Noted. It is not within the scope of the SPD to set new policy. The emerging Local Plan will consider how best to address this issue in new policies.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
146	Natural England / 5.6.22	We support signposting developers through Natural England Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) for pre-application advice but suggest re-wording, and additional text, along the following lines: Developers wishing to seek advice on more complex proposals affecting the natural environment, particularly Sites of Special Scientific Interest, should be directed to Natural England's Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) – link supplied. For advice on proposals that will require a protected species mitigation licence developers can use Natural England's Pre-submission screening service – link supplied	6 / Noted. Reference to Protected Species screening service inserted into Para 4.4.4.
179	MKA Ecology / 5.6.24	Para. 5.6.24: Is it worth making it clear that this applies for outline applications too? We are often asked this question by clients. My view is that all impacts need to be assessed even for outline, otherwise how can consent be agreed in principle?	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
251	RSPB / 5.6.25	5.6.25 - this looks good but need to be careful with this wording and approach regarding proposals that might impact Habitats Sites. In this context, compensation is something that would not be embedded in the proposal, but a separate consideration once impact has been defined.	6 / Noted. No amendment proposed. The Councils consider that making amendments at the designation level would be too specific for an SPD.
258	RSPB / 5.6.25	5.6.25 - Support the need to undertake all necessary surveys before determination. No dealing with potential unknown impacts through conditions.	5 / Noted.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
79	Universities Superannuation Scheme / 5.7.2	Paragraph 5.7.2 of the Biodiversity SPD states that a “A Construction Environment Management Plan: Biodiversity will be required by condition for many developments”. USS acknowledges that this type of condition will likely be required for sites with high levels of biodiversity. USS recommends that to avoid confusion, paragraph 5.7.2 is amended to state “A Construction Environment Management Plan: Biodiversity will be required by condition for many developments. The requirement for and timing of this will be decided on a case-by-case basis”. This construction element could also be covered in an Ecological Management Plan that is submitted with a planning application, which would negate the need for a planning condition. The Biodiversity SPD should identify that where this approach is taken it should be agreed between the applicant and the Council at the pre-application stage.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
156	Natural England / 5.8 Post Construction	We support guidance and reference to requirements for long-term management, monitoring and remediation of ecological mitigation and enhancement measures set out in section 5.8. Guidance on zoning within sites to manage potential biodiversity and recreational conflicts is also welcomed.	5 / Noted.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
139	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / 5.8.1. - 5.8.4	<p>5.8.1. - 5.8.4. This section of the SPD refers to management plans, monitoring and enforcement. This area of work is of critical importance to ensure that the effectiveness of mitigation or compensation for potentially damaging developments that otherwise might have been refused. There are two issues that are particularly relevant. First, with regard to biodiversity net gain, the current use of the Defra metric focuses on the provision of habitat. This may be used to mitigate effects or secure enhancement for species directly affected by a development. However, to ensure that species affected will benefit from habitat provision requires careful monitoring - simply creating new habitat will not necessarily mean the species affected will use it. Second, the emerging Environment Bill may indicate an audit trail for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain commitments for a period of 30 years, but this should not be taken as a cut-off date after which nothing further is required. For example, if compensation is required for the permanent loss of an important wildlife site and this requires permanent management funding, it should be provided in perpetuity, e.g. through a ring fenced lump sum of money. This reflects the logical principle that permanent loss requires permanent recompense. Furthermore, Local Authorities have the power through separate legal agreements with developers to ensure this happens. The guidance should thus make it clear that commitments in perpetuity may also be required. I am very happy to discuss any of the points raised in our comments further. I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.</p>	<p>2 / Noted. No amendment proposed. Monitoring is included within the SPD and the EA secondary legislation will embed the 30-year BNG commitment. Where specific species issues arise, these may require additional mitigation and monitoring to the BNG requirement. The case for 'in perpetuity' is one of Policy and cannot be set within this SPD.</p>



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180	MKA Ecology / 5.8.2	Para. 5.8.2: Is it feasible to include monitoring of habitats by condition too – appears to be restricted to species here. I'm thinking specifically of sites such as GB1 and Netherhall Meadow. Really that will need some careful monitoring to ensure there is no deterioration in the long-term.	6 / Noted. No amendment. Habitat monitoring is referenced in 5.8.3 through management plans.
72	Universities Superannuation Scheme / General comment	USS also notes, however, that there are often opportunities to improve biodiversity on brownfield sites which are brought forward for redevelopment; particularly those with low existing ecological values. USS requests that the Biodiversity SPD is updated to recognise that brownfield sites can contribute to wider high strategic potential for habitat creation by providing links to green corridors or linking up wildlife corridors for example.	6 / Noted. Text amended to reflect comments.
181	MKA Ecology / General comment	Further element for consideration: Amphibians and drains: We talked about this in the past but previously I've not been able to find any material on it. However, I've found this ARGUK document which refers to the wildlife friendly kerbs (p15) <a href="https://www.arguk.org/info-advice/scientific-and-technical-reports/72-toads-advice-for-planners/file">https://www.arguk.org/info-advice/scientific-and-technical-reports/72-toads-advice-for-planners/file</a>	6 / Agreed. Link inserted in 5.5.16.
182	MKA Ecology / General comment	Further element for consideration: Lighting: There doesn't seem to be a reference to sensitive lighting. Would there be value in referencing the ILP/BCT guidance? <a href="https://cdn.bats.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Resources/ilp-guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting-compressed.pdf?v=1542109349">https://cdn.bats.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Resources/ilp-guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting-compressed.pdf?v=1542109349</a>	6 / Agreed. Link inserted in 5.5.9.
183	MKA Ecology / General comment	Further element for consideration: Air quality: Could there be some value in highlighting that air quality impacts will need to be assessed in some circumstances? You could reference the CIEEM air quality guidance? <a href="https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Air-Quality-advice-note.pdf">https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Air-Quality-advice-note.pdf</a>	6 / Noted. No amendment. Covered within Environmental Health Policy and Guidance.

<b>Rep ID</b>	<b>Respondent/SPD section</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Theme/Response</b>
194	University of Cambridge (Estates Division) / General comment	Guidance in the SPD is generally clear, with the exception of the issue around a potential 20% biodiversity net gain target in advance of any such target being adopted in the Local Plan. See further detail in response to survey Question 5 (under 5.5.19).	1 / Noted. Response made separately to detailed comments.
80	Universities Superannuation Scheme / General comment	In summary, USS is supportive of the ambitions of the Biodiversity SPD. However, USS has specific comments regarding several sections of the Biodiversity SPD as set out in this letter. USS requests that these are considered and addressed before the final Biodiversity SPD is published and adopted. USS is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Biodiversity SPD and requests to be kept informed of future updates.	5 / Noted. Response made separately to detailed comments.
125	Cambridge Past, Present & Future / General comment	We welcome the publication of the Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the opportunity to comment on it. It provides useful guidance but should be strengthened further, as recommended in our comments below. This applies particularly to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the description of the importance of biodiversity in terms of past losses;</li> <li>• development connected with agriculture;</li> <li>• issues arising with regard to mitigation and compensation;</li> <li>• baseline dates for establishing ecological value of sites;</li> <li>• the need to highlight the implications of development decisions on water resources;</li> <li>• provision of Suitable Alternative Greenspace (SANG);</li> <li>• securing mitigation, compensation and biodiversity net gain.</li> </ul>	5 / Noted. Response made separately to detailed comments.

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142	Natural England / General comment	Natural England welcomes preparation of the draft Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD (July 2021) to replace the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity SPD, adopted in 2009, to help applicants meet the policies of the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans and relevant national policy and legislation. We are pleased that the SPD provides clear guidance on how developments should consider biodiversity early in the planning process to ensure that biodiversity is increased and enhanced as an outcome of development. The aim to ensure improved quality of new developments whilst reducing environmental impact is fully supported by Natural England, particularly in light of the biodiversity and climate emergencies declared by both Councils and the 20% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) ambition of the Oxford to Cambridge (OxCam) Arc.	5 / Noted.
143	Natural England / General comment	We welcome recognition of the multi-functional benefits of enhanced biodiversity including improved habitats for species, flood protection, carbon sequestration as well as the broader secondary benefits for people, like improved mental health from access to natural green spaces.	5 / Noted.
184	Countryside Properties / General comment	Countryside are supportive of the preparation of the SPD which will provide helpful clarity on the Councils' aspirations. There are however a series of detailed comments we wish to make on the SPD to further aid this clarity and the ease of interpretation of the SPD.	5 / Noted.
191	Cambridgeshire County Council Ecology / General comment	We support the proposed document, which provides clarity on the importance of biodiversity conservation in Greater Cambridge and how applicants will need to demonstrate adequate ecological design and assessment.	5 / Noted.

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196	University of Cambridge (Estates Division) / General comment	Do you think that the guidance in this SPD is clear? Generally, yes, with the exception of the issue around a potential 20% biodiversity net gain target in advance of any such target being adopted in the Local Plan. See further detail in our response to Question 5 (under 5.5.19)	1 / Noted.
198	University of Cambridge (Estates Division / General comment	Do you think that this SPD will help us achieve the positive outcomes for biodiversity required by national legislation and our adopted Local Plans? Yes	5 / Noted.
199	University of Cambridge (Estates Division) / General comment	The University supports the majority of the proposals in the SPD.	5 / Noted.
200	University of Cambridge (Estates Division) / General comment	There is clear alignment between the draft SPD and the University's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in relation to a science-based approach to for biodiversity net gain.	5 / Noted.
213	Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum (CLAF) / General comment	CLAF welcomes this opportunity to provide input into the GC Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document and how it might be revised and improved to better reflect the existing and potential future use of the non-motorised transport network across the county. We recognise that it's a very comprehensive plan, with a lot of concern for biodiversity, historical sites, and conservation. We are also pleased to see and support policies that aim to protect, enhance and develop the rights of way network providing a network of routes to promote walking, cycling and riding and to point out that circular routes, or routes that link with others, are particularly recommended.	5 / Noted.

<b>Rep ID</b>	<b>Respondent/SPD section</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Theme/Response</b>
215	Historic England / General comment	Given the nature of the SPD and our remit for the historic environment we do not wish to comment on the SPD itself.	5 / Noted.
216	Individual - name provided / General comment	It is a thorough well written paper, which should answer many questions for those seeking planning permission.	5 / Noted.
217	Individual - name provided – General comment	It is long and complex with many references to other legislation and reports. It may be impractical, but would it be feasible to include a case study for a relatively simple situation?	3 / Noted. Examples of good practice and design case studies will be shared on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website.
220	Individual - name provided / General comment	I did not see mention of changes in protected species. What would happen if Barbastelle bats became plentiful, but another species became threatened with extinction?	6 / Noted. Not amended. Species populations change over time – significant changes would have to be dealt with as they arose. The SPD is addressing the issues in biodiversity as they stand today.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
222	Ministry of Defence / General comment	<p>Having reviewed the supporting documentation in respect of Greater Cambridge Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, there is one area of interest for the MOD. The DIO safeguarding area of interest is Cambridge Airport. Within the statutory consultation areas associated with aerodromes are zones that are designed to remove or mitigate bird strike risk. The creation of environments attractive to those large and flocking bird species that pose a hazard to aviation safety can have a significant effect, this can include landscaping schemes associated with large developments as well as the creation of new waterbodies and drainage systems.</p> <p>Several areas are demonstrated within the 5.5 Design Stage of the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document to contain policy which potentially could lead to new habitats for attractant birds. For example: Biodiversity Issue B5 –Biodiversity provision in the design of new buildings and open spaces:5.5.5.” Design of new developments should seek to retain habitats of value to biodiversity wherever possible. Even for small scale developments, this would include boundary hedgerows, trees and any pond on site and these can provide the framework for the setting of the scheme layout”. The impact of the biodiversity development of the majority of these areas could be simply controlled by policy text that highlights the existence of safeguarding zones, that are designated to mitigate bird strike risk.</p> <p>In summary, the MOD would wish to be consulted on any proposed development within the Greater Cambridge Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document of any development which includes</p>	6 / Noted. MOD are statutory consultees on all developments within the Cambridge Airport Safety Zone.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
		schemes that might result in the creation of attractant environments for large and flocking bird species hazardous to aviation.	
230	National Trust / General comment	There is little mention of the Cambridge Green Belt in the draft SPD. We consider that this has opportunities for enhancing biodiversity.	3 / Noted. The Councils consider that referencing the Green Belt within the SPD would not enhance the substance or clarity of the SPD.
252	RSPB / general comment	Additional case studies: Guessing you know about the 2019 CIRIA guidance, which includes case studies: <a href="https://www.ciria.org/Resources/Biodiversity_Net_Gain.aspx">https://www.ciria.org/Resources/Biodiversity_Net_Gain.aspx</a>	3 / Noted. Examples of good practice and design case studies will be shared on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website.
219	Individual - name provided / Appendix 1	Appendix 1 Policy CSF/5: Noise abatement is hugely important; see CSF/5. I now live overlooking Trumpington Meadows. The noise from the M11 is disturbing, particularly when the winds come from the South West, which are the prevailing ones. There is an earth bank but it stops well sort of the river, although its interference with flooding seems remote. The former manager of Cambridge Past Present and Future told me that	5 / Noted.

Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
		offset baffle fences work well in Germany but she had not seen them in Britain.	
211	Anglian Water / Strategic Environmental Assessment	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Pages 22, 34 and 35: It is not evident how negative water quality impacts on biodiversity from development which the SPD will be applied to have been descoped from the SPD assessment. It is feasible that a decision to enhance terrestrial biodiversity may have negative impacts on fluvial biodiversity that still on balance leads to a net gain in biodiversity which complies with the SPD policy. This position is summarised at bullet point 4 of section 4.4.2 of the SEA and so presents an inconsistency in the SEA.	SEA: Noted. The approach to BNG is set out in the Environment Act and is applied at the design and application stage by professionals to ensure that there will not be negative impacts on biodiversity. The SPD does not affect this issue and so the point is not relevant to the SEA. Bullet point 4 of section 4.4.2 of the SEA refers to development plans, which SPDs don't form part of. 4.4.2 goes onto state that "as the SPD is aimed at supporting biodiversity within South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas, the SPD ensures that



Rep ID	Respondent/SPD section	Representation	Theme/Response
			development that will not have a significant negative effect on designated sites and Qualifying features".
212	Anglian Water / Strategic Environmental Assessment	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): - It is not evident how the SPD objectives (from the SPD or SEA) will impact on the viability of development or require some element of readjustment of land values to enable delivery. (NPPF para 34 and 58). The SEA should identify other mechanisms and funding for delivering BNG such as the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP).	SEA: Noted. These comments are outside the scope of the SPD which does not set policy. Funding and delivery mechanisms for biodiversity enhancements are outside the scope of both the SPD and SEA.
214	Historic England / Strategic Environmental Assessment	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening: In terms of our area of interest, given the nature of the SPD, we would concur with your assessment that the document is unlikely to result in any significant environmental effects and will simply provide additional guidance on existing Policies contained within an Adopted Development Plan Document which has already been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal/SEA. As a result, we would endorse the Authority's conclusions that it is not necessary to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of this particular SPD.	SEA: Noted.

## **Appendix F: Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document: text changes between consultation draft (July 2021) and proposed final version ahead of committee processes (December 2021)**

### **Points to note:**

- Inserted and deleted text is shown in purple underline and ~~strikethrough~~
- This document identifies substantive changes between the draft and proposed final version. The proposed final version attached to the committee reports may include additional very minor (non-substantive) wording and numbering changes
- The contents, foreword, table of figures and images from the draft plan and proposed final versions have been deliberately excluded from this document. Paragraph numbers may not exactly match the draft and proposed final versions.
- As a tracked change document it has not been practicable to make this document accessible to e-readers.

## Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document

### 1.1. Introduction

1.1.1.1. Biodiversity, a term coined in 1985 as a contraction of “biological diversity” describes the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms and all its interactions. It incorporates all species and habitats, both rare and common, and includes genetic diversity. Biodiversity at local, national and global levels is under pressure as never before from climate change, habitat loss, species decline, and the threat of invasive species. Much of the habitat loss is driven by urban development fuelled by the need for housing and infrastructure. Species once considered to be common in Greater Cambridge are facing increasing stresses upon their populations and the rate of species loss has never been higher. International initiatives exist to reduce the rate of species loss and at the national level lists of species and habitats that require particular measures to halt their decline have been produced.

1.1.2. Our goal in Greater Cambridge is to build quality places, rich in biodiversity and green infrastructure, good for people and good for nature. Both Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have declared a biodiversity emergency, and strongly support a step change in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Greater Cambridge. The aim to better protect, restore and enhance our natural environment is clearly set out in the Environmental Principles, regionally agreed for the Oxford to Cambridge (OxCam) Arc development vision. These Environmental Principles seek to set ambitious goals, including the desire to realise Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) at 20% for all development types within the Arc. This approach is further supported in more local initiatives like South Cambridgeshire’s Doubling Nature Strategy and Cambridge City’s upcoming Biodiversity Strategy. Together, these documents set the tone for greater aspiration and more robust biodiversity policies in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

1.1.3. As development forms one of the largest threats to biodiversity through the loss of natural habitats, it is incumbent on planning authorities and developers to recognise the importance of biodiversity protection and enhancement through provisions made in Local Plan policies, and through the enforcement of relevant

national legislation. However, we can only do that if developments coming forward incorporate the correct elements from the beginning of the design process through to their build out.

1.1.4. Enhancing biodiversity through the planning and development process brings numerous benefits. These will include, but not be limited to, improved habitats for species, flood protection, carbon sequestration as well as the broader secondary benefits for people, like improved mental health from access to natural green spaces.

1.1.5. Going forward, biodiversity will not be peripheral to the planning process but will be fully integrated into the design stages. Consideration will be given, wherever possible, to the retention of biodiversity features within developments and to incorporating new habitats or specific biodiversity features into designs.

1.1.6. Biodiversity is a valuable addition to any development, often helping to create attractive natural green spaces which integrate development of a high-quality design into the local landscape or townscape.

## **1.2. Status of the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document**

1.2.1. When adopted, this draft Supplementary Planning Document will support existing policies for both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council ahead of the adoption of a Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which is in preparation jointly by both authorities.

1.2.2. This Supplementary Planning Document provides practical advice and guidance on how to develop proposals that comply with the National Planning Policy Framework and the district-wide policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, adopted in September 2018, as well as those in the Cambridge Local Plan, adopted in October 2018. It also references policies in individual Area Action Plans for major developments, which may vary from the policies in the two adopted Local Plan documents.

1.2.3. The existing policies seek to ensure that biodiversity is adequately protected and enhanced throughout the development process. This Supplementary Planning Document provides additional details on how local policies will be implemented while also building on relevant legislation, national policy, central government advice, and the British Standard BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development. Available information about the contents of the [emerging Environmental Bill has been referenced and, after adoption, this Supplementary Planning Document will be updated once the Bill becomes an Act. Environment Act 2021 has been referenced.](#)

1.2.4. This Supplementary Planning Document will supersede the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, adopted in 2009 to support adopted Development Control Policies. It will in time [be updated to](#) support the Greater Cambridge Local Plan when this is adopted.

### **1.3. Purpose**

1.3.1. The objective of this Supplementary Planning Document is to assist the delivery of the Local Plan policies for both Councils relating to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

1.3.2. The Supplementary Planning Document does not create policy, but explains how Local Plan policies should be interpreted and applied and provides guidance, setting out with clarity, the expectations that the Councils have for the treatment of biodiversity within the development management system and how those should be reflected by developers, their agents and their consultants in their submissions.

1.3.3. Reference is made throughout, with links where appropriate, to other available guidance that can help to direct and refine the design of development sites to ensure that opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are incorporated from the very start of the development process.

Specific objectives for this document are:

- To explain terminology associated with biodiversity conservation to assist applicants' understanding of the importance of biodiversity within the wider environment of Greater Cambridge
- To be clear on the ways in which development proposals in Greater Cambridge can be formulated in an appropriate manner to avoid harm to biodiversity and to provide a long-term, measurable net gain for biodiversity
- To encourage applicants to protect, restore and enhance locally relevant natural habitats and ecological features on their sites and to create new habitats, as part of a high-quality design
- To assist applicants to gain planning permission in Greater Cambridge more quickly by informing them of the level of information expected to accompany planning applications

## 2 UK legislation

### 2.1. Current legislation

2.1.1. In their planning submissions, applicants are expected to demonstrate that their proposals are compliant with all relevant legislation regarding the protection of wildlife and habitats and should ensure that they receive the necessary professional advice to be able to do so. This legislation applies equally to projects that do not require planning consent (see section 3.5).

2.1.2. The principal legislation relating to biodiversity conservation in the UK, as it interacts with the planning system, is summarised below.

#### **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)**

2.1.3. These regulations, often referred to as the Habitats Regulations, were the mechanism through which the European Commission Habitats and Wild Birds Directives were incorporated into UK law. The Habitats Regulations have been amended to reflect the consequences of Brexit, but their substance has been retained to provide protection for sites, habitats and species considered to be of international importance, including the designation of Habitats Sites (see section 4.2).

2.1.4. Local Planning Authorities have the duty, by virtue of being defined as 'competent authorities' under the Habitats Regulations, to ensure that planning application decisions comply with the Habitats Regulations. If the requirements of the Habitats Regulations are not met and impacts on Habitats Sites are not mitigated, then development must not be permitted.

2.1.5. Where a Habitats Site could be affected by a plan, such as a Local Plan, or any project, such as a new development, then Habitats Regulations Assessment screening must be undertaken. If this cannot rule out any possible likely significant effect on a Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, prior to the consideration of mitigation measures, then an Appropriate Assessment must then be undertaken. The Appropriate Assessment

identifies the interest features of the site (such as birds, plants or coastal habitats), how these could be harmed, assesses whether the proposed plan or project could have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Habitats Site (either alone or in combination), and finally how this could be mitigated to meet the Stage 2 Habitats Regulations Assessment “integrity” test.

2.1.6. The aim of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process is to “maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest” (The European Commission Habitats Directive, 92/43/EEC, Article 2(2)). The Habitats Regulations 2017 have transposed the European Union Habitats and Wild Birds Directives into UK law to make them operable from 1 January 2021. These remain unchanged until amended by Parliament so the requirements for Habitats Regulations Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) have been retained.

### **Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012**

2.1.7. These regulations set out the procedures for making Tree Preservation Orders and the activities that are prohibited in relation to trees protected by these orders. Tree Preservation Orders can be made for trees or groups of trees because of their nature conservation value, as well as for their amenity value.

### **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**

2.1.8. Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act places a duty on public bodies in England to conserve biodiversity. It requires local authorities and government departments to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of their normal functions such as policy and decision making.

2.1.9. Section 41 requires the Secretary of State to publish and maintain lists of species and types of habitats which are regarded by Natural England to be of



“principal importance” for the purposes of conserving biodiversity in England, and these are known as Priority Species and Priority Habitats.

### **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**

2.1.10. Amongst other things, this act strengthens the protection afforded to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including greater powers for Natural England to be able to secure their appropriate management and a requirement for local authorities to further their conservation and enhancement.

### **Hedgerow Regulations 1997**

2.1.11. Although outside of the development management process, these regulations provide a convenient framework for the identification of hedgerows with importance for wildlife, landscape and heritage. For projects that do not require planning consent, the requirements of the regulations would need to be met to permit the removal of any hedgerow or hedgerow section, except if it forms a curtilage to a property.

### **Protection of Badgers Act 1992**

2.1.12. This Act refers specifically to badgers, and makes it an offence to kill, injure or take a badger, or to damage or interfere with a sett unless a licence is obtained from a statutory authority.

### **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**

2.1.13. The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the primary mechanism for the protection of all wildlife in the UK and includes schedules that set out those species with additional levels of protection. It also provides the basis for the identification of sites of national importance for nature conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

## 2.2. ~~Emerging UK Environment Bill~~ Act 2021

2.2.1. ~~Government published the draft~~ The Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill in December 2018, with an updated statement received Royal Assent on policy in July 2019. The Bill reached the report stage on 26 January 9th November 2021, but then the passage of the Bill was postponed until the next parliamentary session, meaning that the earliest it will be enacted is autumn 2021.

2.2.2. ~~Full details of the requirements of the~~ now an Act of Parliament. The Environment Act (insert link) provides legislation will not be available until nearer that time, when the wording of the Bill and any associated regulations is finalised, but what is known in relation to biodiversity and planning is summarised here. It should be noted that this is only a small part of a wideranging Bill with broad coverage of environmental matters. to protect and enhance the environment to deliver the Governments 25-year environment plan (insert link)

2.2.2. Part 6 of the Act relates to nature and biodiversity, including habitat and species protection and enhancement within the planning process.

2.2.3. ~~Based on current indications, the Bill is likely to mandate the delivery of~~ The Act has mandated a minimum percentage measurable Biodiversity Net Gain for biodiversity all developments covered by way of a general condition on grants of planning permission the Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA) and requiring that the biodiversity value of the development exceeds the pre- development biodiversity value of the site by a minimum value, which is currently set at of 10%. Biodiversity value will be is measured using a metric produced by DEFRA and the baseline value will be is calculated from the condition of the site before any intervention has occurred. ~~The development's biodiversity value will include the post development biodiversity value of the site, together with the value of any off-site biodiversity measures and the value of any biodiversity credits purchased.~~

2.2.4. BNG habitats can be delivered on-site, off-site or via statutory biodiversity credits, subject to BNG best practice guidelines, appropriate local delivery mechanisms and BNG providers being established. Habitats must be secured and

managed for a minimum of 30 years via planning obligations or the through Conservation Covenants, as described within part 7 of the Act.

2.2.5. The Act specifies a two-year transition period before mandatory net gain for biodiversity will not become law. The timeline for secondary legislation and guidance for mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain are still unknown, but it is likely to apply to permissions granted under Development Consent Orders, such as those made for Nationally all TCPA developments and National Significant Infrastructure projects, and the Secretary of State can apply other exceptions by regulations. Once the Environment Bill is enacted, there will be a transition period of two years before this (NSIPs), by late 2023. The Councils' interim expectations in relation to biodiversity net gain for biodiversity and our approach to assessment within the planning process, pending further clarification from Government, is set out under Biodiversity Issue B7 (insert page number)

2.2.6. Net gain requirement becomes mandatory.

2.2.5. Net gain requirements will do not undermine the existing mitigation hierarchy, or range of protections protection in planning policy and legislation for irreplaceable habitats and protected, designated sites and protected species.

2.2.6. There will be 7. The Act introduces a statutory requirement introduced for Local Nature Recovery Strategies to be produced by a responsible authority appointed by the Government. The responsible authority will be a relevant local public body and is likely to be at the either the Local Nature Partnership or a County Council. These strategies will map important habitats and areas where there is an opportunity to improve the local environment as a means to guide biodiversity net gain and other policies.

2.2.7. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act will be amended so that biodiversity duty for public bodies in the exercise of their functions, set out in Section 40, will be strengthened to include enhancement in addition to conservation. The amendment will require public authorities to actively carry out strategic assessments of the actions they can take to enhance and conserve biodiversity. Designated public

~~authorities will also be required to produce a five-yearly report on the actions taken to comply with the new duty.~~

~~2.2.8. The Councils' interim expectations in relation to net gain for biodiversity and our approach to assessment within the planning process, pending the clarification of legislative and regulatory requirements, is set out under Biodiversity Issue B7.~~

~~Cambridgeshire County Council. These strategies will map important habitats areas where there is an opportunity to improve the local environment to guide biodiversity net gain and other policies.~~

## 3. Planning Policy

### 3.1. Planning context

3.1.1. As local planning authorities, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council have a statutory duty to carry out certain planning functions for their administrative areas. These functions include the preparation of a Local Plan and the determination of planning applications. The way these functions are to be carried out is governed by legislation and specified within the National Planning Policy Framework, with reference to further guidance, standards and best practice focused on different considerations that influence planning decisions.

3.1.2. The following sections summarise current planning policy, as relevant to the subject of conserving and enhancing biodiversity. It should be noted that the subject of biodiversity overlaps significantly with other policy and strategy areas, including landscape, arboriculture, green infrastructure, health and wellbeing, sustainability, and climate change.

### 3.2. National Policy and Guidance relating to the NPPF with Following

3.2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework promotes sustainable, well-designed development. Within this aim, it seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment and ensure that biodiversity and appropriate landscaping are fully integrated into new developments in order to create accessible green spaces for wildlife and people, to contribute to a high quality natural and built environment, and to contribute to a better quality of life.

3.2.2. Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework covers the role of the planning system in conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Paragraph 170 states that<sup>174</sup>. Planning policies should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by, amongst other things:

a. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value; and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)

~~\*d.~~ minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

~~3.2.3. Paragraph 171 states that development plans should~~. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans

f. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate

3.2.3. Paragraph 175. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries

3.2.4. Paragraph ~~174 states that~~179. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

~~\*a.~~ identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping-stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and

~~\*b.~~ promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

3.2.5. Paragraph ~~175 restates the principle that in making planning decisions, a hierarchical approach~~180. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should be followed, so that apply the following principles:

a. if significant harm should to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided, but if it can't be avoided must be (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused.

3.2.6. Paragraph 175 also introduces the idea b. development on land within or outside a Site of irreplaceable habitats, Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSI

c. development resulting in the loss and/or deterioration of which irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused apart from in, unless there are wholly exceptional circumstances reasons and where a suitable compensation strategy has been produced. Within the National Planning Policy Framework, the definition exists; and

d. development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate

3.2.6. Paragraph 181. The following should be given for irreplaceable the same protection as habitats is: "Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very sites:

a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and

c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites

Paragraph 182. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species

~~diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen.”effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site~~

~~3.2.7. Additional national guidance on biodiversity and planning matters is provided on the Government’s Planning Practice Guidance webpages, under the Natural Environment section. This includes links to Natural England’s standing advice on protected sites and species, which provides information to Local Planning Authorities on how to assess ecological issues in the determination of planning applications. Other sections provide developers with advice on how to prepare a planning proposal in such a way as to avoid impacts to protected species.~~

~~3.2.8. Government Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and geological conservation – statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system provides further guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation. This clarifies the need for information submitted in support of planning applications to be sufficient to provide local planning authorities with certainty of likely impacts and certainty that mitigation can be secured, giving weight to the conservation of biodiversity within the development control process to avoid decisions being challenged.~~

### **3.3. 3.3. Existing local policies**

3.3.1. The policies from the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and the Cambridge Local Plan that include an aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and that this Supplementary Planning Document supports and expands upon, are set out below. Full wording of these policies is included in Appendix 1.

#### **South Cambridgeshire Local Plan**

- NH/2 Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character
- NH/3: Protecting Agricultural Land



- NH/4 Biodiversity
- NH/5 Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance
- NH/6 Green Infrastructure
- NH/7 Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees
- CC/8 Sustainable Drainage Systems
- HQ/1 Design Principles

### **Cambridge Local Plan**

- 7 The River Cam
- 8 Setting of the city
- 31 Integrated water management
- 52 Protecting garden land and the subdivision of existing dwelling plots
- 57 Designing New Buildings (criteria h.)
- 58 Altering and extending existing buildings
- 59 Designing landscape and the public realm
- 66 Paving over front gardens
- 69 Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance
- 70 Protection of Priority Species and Habitats
- 71 Trees

### **3.4. Area Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans**

3.4.1. Area Action Plans are documents that are adopted as part of the Local Plan and that set out policies and guidance for specific areas within the Council's administrative area. Neighbourhood Plans provide a similar function but are prepared by local communities. Both kinds of documents usually include policies that refer to biodiversity features, adding to the planning policy context for development management.

3.4.2. Neighbourhood Plans are an opportunity for communities to improve their local environment, including protecting and enhancing existing assets, such as local parks, nature reserves and other green spaces. Making biodiversity an integral part

of neighbourhood planning can also help to manage environmental risk and improve resilience to climate change. For example, identifying a local biodiversity network and integrating with land use policies could help to manage the risk of flooding by protecting natural blue and green spaces from development as well as designate these as Local Green Spaces where they provide public benefits.

3.4.3. Information about existing Area Action Plans, the areas designated for Neighbourhood Plans and the status of the plans can be found on the [South Cambridgeshire District Council website and the Cambridge City Council website.](#)

### **3.5. Other relevant adopted Supplementary Planning Documents**

3.5.1. Other Supplementary Planning Documents have been produced individually or collaboratively by the councils, and these should be read alongside this one to ensure cross compliance and integration. The following documents are of direct relevance to Biodiversity, but this does not represent a complete list of Supplementary Planning Documents.

3.5.2. South Cambridgeshire District Council has adopted the following Supplementary Planning Documents

- Biodiversity SPD (adopted July 2009),
- Landscape in New Development  
(adopted March 2010)
- Trees and Development Sites  
(adopted January 2009)
- Open Space in New Development  
(adopted January 2009)
- District Design Guide SPD (adopted March 2010) particularly Chapters 2 & 3
- Bourn Airfield New Village  
(adopted October 2019),
- Waterbeach New Town  
(adopted February 2019),

- Cottenham Village Design Statement (adopted November 2007)
- Fen Drayton Former Land Settlement Association Estate (adopted May 2011)

3.5.3. Both Councils adopted the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document in 2018, which includes a strong focus on design and management of Sustainable Drainage Systems to enhance biodiversity value.

3.5.4. Both Councils adopted a Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document in January 2020 and are currently developing a new local landscape character area study Supplementary Planning Document.

### **3.6. Local biodiversity strategies**

3.6.1. The following paragraphs summarise the range of strategies and projects of relevance to Greater Cambridge that are aimed at enhancing biodiversity or that provide technical support to focus measures that will achieve this. All of these have been endorsed or adopted by the Councils and should be used to guide decisions on habitat creation and species protection included within planning proposals. Reference to these initiatives would demonstrate the strategic basis of applicants' decision making around biodiversity matters.

3.6.2. Natural Cambridgeshire is the Local Nature Partnership covering the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, providing strategic leadership for the recovery of nature under their Doubling Nature vision. This vision seeks to achieve an increase in the amount of land managed for nature from 8% to 16%, by 2050. One of the main areas of focus to achieve this vision is securing high quality green and blue infrastructure within new residential and commercial developments.

3.6.3. Natural Cambridgeshire has developed a Development with Nature Toolkit to provide developers with a means of demonstrating their commitment to achieving a net gain in biodiversity on major developments. The optional toolkit provides standard guidance that, if followed from the earliest stages of development planning,

will determine whether nature is enhanced by the scheme or not. This best practice document is endorsed by both councils.

3.6.4. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator Project follows a collaborative approach, seeking to safeguard the future of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough parks and green spaces by finding new ways to deliver, manage and fund parks and open space, with a shared vision across a wide range of partners and stakeholders. This work may identify future design principles and models for ongoing management of new natural green space provision that will require consideration during the planning process.

3.6.5. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre, hosted by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire, and Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Group, have prepared habitat opportunity maps covering grassland, woodland and wetland, identifying locations where habitat creation would have the most ecological benefit by connecting existing habitats where environmental conditions are most appropriate.

3.6.6. South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council combined to produce a Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping report, which provides an evidence base of green infrastructure assets and networks across Greater Cambridge and identifies specific and deliverable opportunities to enhance and expand the network. This document has been prepared as part of the evidence base for the forthcoming Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

3.6.7. Cambridge City Council produced a Nature Conservation Strategy that was adopted as part of the Local Plan in September 2006. The strategy is currently being reviewed but will continue to act as a guiding document for Cambridge City Council's general approach to biodiversity conservation across its range of functions. The Strategy will act in parallel to the new Supplementary Planning Document. It details the biodiversity resource within Cambridge, sets out strategic aims and principles to be implemented in order to further nature conservation, and includes action plans to address a wide range of identified key issues. Cambridge City Council passed a motion in May 2019 to declare a

biodiversity emergency and their biodiversity webpage provides links to initiatives and projects implemented as part of their Nature Conservation Strategy.

3.6.8. Cambridge Past, Present and Future is a charity focused on protecting and enhancing Cambridge's green landscape. In partnership with Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, it has prepared a Cambridge Nature Network, covering an area within a ten-kilometre radius of Cambridge. It identifies five priority landscape areas and highlights the best opportunities for the creation of new habitats and large-scale natural greenspaces. It also sets out the mechanisms by which the Nature Network can be grown, which includes the development process.

3.6.9. The Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams Project seeks to protect and improve the chalk streams in and around Cambridge. The report (published in Dec 2020) provides an overview of the main problems affecting each chalk stream and the key opportunities to improve each one. It also identifies some potential projects for delivery in partnership with stakeholders and landowners.

[3.6.10 The Wicken Fen Vision is a 100 year plan to restore the Fenland landscape and habitats around Wicken Fen to an area of 53 square kilometres, linking to the Cambridge Nature Network.](#)

3.6.10. The importance of the landscape is reflected in national planning guidance with the National Planning Policy Framework stating that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. The South Cambridgeshire landscape has several distinctive and readily identified characters. These have been identified by Natural England as five distinct National Character Areas:

- The Fens
- South Suffolk and North Essex Claylands
- East Anglian Chalk
- Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands
- Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge.

### 3.7. Permitted development

3.7.1. Permitted development rights derived from The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) mean that certain types of development can be performed without the need to apply for planning permission. However, although this would be outside the normal planning process, there remains a need for the councils to consider the effects that any development relying on permitted development rights might have on biodiversity. Legal protection for wildlife still applies and so any legally protected animals, plants or habitats that may be affected will need proper consideration for the development to be lawful.

3.7.2. Certain types of development are granted planning permission by national legislation without the need to submit a planning application. This is known as 'Permitted development'. To be eligible for these permitted development rights, each 'class' specified in the legislation has associated limitations and conditions that proposals must comply with.

3.7.3. One such condition on certain classes of permitted development is the need to submit an application to the Local Planning Authority for its 'Prior approval' or to determine if its 'Prior approval' will be required. This allows the Local Planning Authority to consider the proposals, their likely impacts regarding certain factors (such as transport and highways) and how these may be mitigated. Where natural habitats and wildlife are likely to be present, adequate information must be provided to the councils to support the assessment of the ecological implications of the development, the need for mitigation, and if necessary, the need for a licence from Natural England.

3.7.4. Work must not commence on the development until the Local Planning Authority has issued its determination or it has received 'deemed consent' when the time period for a determination to be issued expires. By default, this is an eight week period from when the application is received, but this can vary depending on the type of proposal and may be extended if all parties are in agreement.

3.7.5. Article 4 directions are made when the character of an area of acknowledged importance would be threatened, most commonly in Conservation Areas. Where properties are affected by such a direction, some of the permitted development rights can be removed by the councils issuing an Article 4 direction, which then means planning consent will be needed for work that normally does not need it.

3.7.6. Class Q applications are applications for Prior Approval for a change of use or conversion of a building, and any land within its curtilage, from a use as an agricultural building to that of a dwelling. Where the buildings are likely to support bats or other legally protected species, there is a risk that they may be affected by the proposals, and it is therefore essential that the Local Planning Authority has certainty of impacts prior to determination of any application. Sufficient information, including appropriate survey results, will be needed to support such an application.

3.7.7. Permission in Principle applications do not include a consent as this is a separate step in the planning process. The scope of permission in principle is limited to location, land use and amount of development. Issues relevant to these 'in principle' matters should be considered at the permission in principle stage. Other matters should be considered at the technical details consent stage. In addition, local authorities cannot list the information they require for applications for permission in principle in the same way they can for applications for planning permission.

3.7.8. Change of use applications can bring benefits if properly planned and sensitively managed. The use of grassland sites by horses for equestrian purposes can sustain their botanical interest. However, there is also much potential to damage the interest of grassland sites through overgrazing. Over-grazing may lead to the proliferation of certain undesirable species, increased soil erosion, and diffuse pollution. Development proposals for stabling or for Change of Use to paddock land will be subject to ecological assessment based on the likelihood of protected and Priority species being present and affected, as well as impacts on the local landscape character.

## **4 The biodiversity resource**

### **4.1. Introduction**

4.1.1. Biodiversity exists everywhere and includes the ubiquitous species as well as rarities, but the designation of species and sites has been used as a means of identifying relative value and for the prioritisation of nature conservation action. This chapter provides a summary of the sites designated for their nature conservation value across the Greater Cambridge area, and of the legally protected and Priority species present.

4.1.2. All such sites and species are material to planning decisions, and the sites provide the core of the local ecological network as well as being integral to developing Nature Recovery Networks. Detailed information about designated sites and existing records of protected and Priority species can be obtained through a data search from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre.

### **4.2. Statutory designated sites**

#### **Habitats (European) sites**

4.2.1. Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation are sites of international importance protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) as a requirement of the UK's commitment to international commitments. These were formerly known as European or Natura 2000 sites. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the criteria of the international Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Collectively, these sites are now known as Habitats Sites as defined by National Planning Policy Framework.

4.2.2. The potential impact of planning proposals on Habitats Sites inside



and outside of the Greater Cambridge area will need to be covered within supporting ecological information, as guided by defined Zones of Influence agreed with Natural England. These are likely to be based on a particular impact type and are shown as Impact Risk Zones on Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside around the underpinning Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

4.2.3. There is one Habitats Site - Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation - located within the Greater Cambridge area, and a further four within 20km of the Councils' administrative boundaries. The distribution of these sites is illustrated in Figure 2, but Multi- Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside should be consulted for boundaries and site information:

- Ouse Washes Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar - abutting the Local Plan area to the north at Earith; designated for its internationally important breeding and over- wintering assemblages of birds, for its population of Spined Loach and for the presence of other nationally rare plants and animals
- Portholme Special Area of Conservation - 4 km to the northwest; designated for its lowland hay meadow habitat
- Devils Dyke Special Area of Conservation - 5.8 km to the northeast; designated as an important orchid site on semi-natural dry grassland habitat
- Fenland Special Areas of Conservation, which also covers the land designated as Wicken Fen Ramsar and Chippenham Fen Ramsar – approximately 1 km to the northeast; designated for its fen meadow and calcareous fen habitats-

*Figure 2 Internationally designated sites*

4.2.4. The Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation comprises a mixture of ancient coppice woodland (Eversden Wood) and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin (Wimpole Woods). Wimpole Woods holds the summer maternity roost of a population of Barbastelle bats (*Barbastella barbastellus*). The bats also use suitable habitat within the Special Area of Conservation to forage and it provides commuting routes followed when they forage outside of the site's boundary, where they utilise wet meadows, woodland streams and rivers.

4.2.5. Surveys to support development proposals have identified summer roosts of male Barbastelle bats in old and unmanaged woodland outside of the Special Area of Conservation, using loose bark on dead trees and crevice features caused by damage. Barbastelle bats can range 20 km per night, further for non-reproductive females, and they frequently switch tree roosts throughout the year within their territory. Barbastelle bats will remain in tree roosts over winter unless temperatures dip below freezing, when hibernation roosts have been found in features such as caves, old buildings and basements.

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

4.2.6. Sites of Special Scientific Interest are designated in accordance with the duties in law placed upon each of the country nature conservation bodies to notify as a Sites of Special Scientific Interest any area of land which, in its opinion, is of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological, geomorphological or physiographical features.

4.2.7. There are 41 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Greater Cambridge area, covering a range of habitats and geological formations, including chalk grassland, species-rich neutral grassland, reedbed and fen, Ancient Woodland, chalk pits, gravel pits and clay pits. Further information can be obtained through the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside including boundaries and links to site descriptions.

### **Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)**

4.2.8. Local Nature Reserves are statutorily protected sites of land designated by Local Authorities because of their special natural interest, educational value and access to nature. There are 13 statutory Local Nature Reserves within the Greater Cambridge as illustrated on Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside. More information on individual Local Nature Reserves is available on the Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council websites.

*Figure 3 Nationally designated sites*

*Figure 4 Locally designated sites*

4.2.9. Local Sites, as defined by National Planning Policy Framework, have been identified for all Councils in Cambridgeshire and are referred to as County Wildlife Sites. These are designated for their importance for nature conservation at a county level

and are identified on the Councils' Local Plan Policies Maps. County Wildlife Sites are non-statutory sites identified against a set of locally developed criteria, produced by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough County Wildlife Site Panel and covering both habitat and species.

4.2.10. The National Planning Policy Framework requires these sites to be protected through the Local Plan system as part of a Local Ecological Network. As well as supporting the majority of Priority Habitat within a given area, County Wildlife Sites often present opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, by improving existing management.

4.2.11. Within Cambridge City, a second layer of non-statutory sites have been identified and are referred to as City Wildlife Sites, recognizing the importance of natural green space and habitats within the urban context. These sites are identified under a separate set of criteria with a lower threshold than for County Wildlife Sites.

4.2.12. Cambridgeshire's Protected Roadside Verges represent the best examples of road verge grassland across the county, identified for special management by Cambridgeshire County Council against a defined set of criteria based upon the presence of rare species or those indicating quality grassland habitat. Road verges constitute the largest area of unimproved grassland within the Greater Cambridge area and will be protected from development impacts. Many Protected Roadside Verges are also designated as County Wildlife Sites.

### **4.3. Protected species**

4.3.1. The presence of any legally protected species is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application. Populations of most species are dynamic and so existing records can only be used as a guide to likely presence and should be tested by appropriate field survey work.

4.3.2. European Protected Species with known populations within the Greater Cambridge area are Great Crested Newts, 12 species of bats (including the population of Barbastelle bats at Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation) and Otter, with a very few records of Dormouse.

4.3.3. A range of other UK species are protected by various pieces of legislation, primarily the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Those protected by their inclusion in the Schedules of the Act and known to be present in the Greater Cambridge area include White-clawed Crayfish, Water Vole, Badger, Common Lizard, Grass Snake and Barn Owl. The area also supports populations of Fairy Shrimp, including at the Whittlesford Thriplow Hummocky Fields Site of Special Scientific Interest.

[4.3.4 For advice on proposals that will require a protected species mitigation licence developers can use Natural England's Pre-submission screening service](#)

### **4.4. Priority Habitats**

4.4.1. Priority Habitats are those included within the list prepared under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. The distribution of Priority Habitats in South Cambridgeshire district and Cambridge City can be identified on the Cambridgeshire Habitat Opportunity Map. Priority Habitats are largely represented by small, fragmented blocks, but there are clusters reflecting the varied environmental character of the area.

4.4.2. Lowland Calcareous Grassland is predominantly found to the south east of the Cambridge, within the Gog Magog Hills. To the east and north east is the fenland, with concentrations of Lowland Fen, Reedbeds and Lowland Meadows. The

corridor of the River Cam and its tributaries supports Floodplain Grassland Mosaic, Wet Woodland and Lowland Meadows, as well as the River habitat itself and Chalk Stream sections. To the west of Cambridge are Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Hedgerows, Lowland Meadows and Traditional Orchards on the boulder clay. To the north of Cambridge, the presence of Traditional Orchards on the fen edge reflect the significance of former land uses.

4.4.3. Natural England maintains inventories of Priority Habitats, which can be viewed on the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside map. These inventories should only be viewed as provisional, with the presence or absence of Priority Habitats to be confirmed by field survey results, with reference to the published UK Priority habitat descriptions.

## **4.5. Priority Species**

4.5.1. Priority Species are those included within the list prepared under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. Over 200 UK Priority Species are found in Cambridgeshire as a whole, which includes recognisable but declining species such as Common Toad, Brown Hare, House Sparrow and Hedgehog alongside a range of lesser known invertebrates, and plants such as Purple Milk-vetch.

4.5.2. Given the largely agricultural character of the area, there is also good representation of farmland bird species such as Skylark, Turtle Dove, Tree Sparrow, Grey Partridge and Yellowhammer, whose populations could be affected by any development on arable land. The loss of breeding territories of such farmland birds is likely to require compensation by provision on nearby farmland. Over-wintering birds such as Lapwing and Golden Plover are also important farmland species to be considered in ecology surveys.

4.5.3. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Group provides a full list of Priority Species known to be present in the county.

4.5.4. Priority invertebrate species may be poorly recorded, but the identification of habitats and features of likely value to invertebrates should serve as a trigger to consider the need for specialist survey. The national invertebrate conservation charity Buglife has created a map of B-Lines as a strategic initiative to target habitat creation and connectivity for pollinators and has also mapped Important Invertebrate Areas, landscapes that are of particular significance for invertebrate populations, where a greater focus on impacts to favourable habitat may be required. The Fens Important Invertebrate Area lies within Greater Cambridge.

## **4.6 Red List Species**

4.6.1. The nature conservation status of species has been determined by the assessment of populations against threat and rarity criteria, often at local, national and international levels. Species with higher rarity and threat [status/statuses](#) are generally known as Red List species. In the UK, information on national reviews and species statuses is available from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. As there is no centrally coordinated approach to these reviews, the coverage of species groups, the age of the information, and the criteria used vary.

4.6.2. There is no Cambridgeshire Red List, but there is a list of Additional Species of Interest, which provides comparable information and includes the Cambridgeshire Plant Species of Conservation Concern.

## **Non-native invasive species**

4.6.3. Vigorous or invasive non-native plant species can impact negatively upon biodiversity by out-competing native flora. This can then lead to a negative impact upon fauna by limiting the available feeding and cover areas. Species of particular concern include Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*), American Mink (*Mustela vison*), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), Parrot's-feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) and Water Fern (*Azolla filiculoides*).

More information is available on the webpages of the GB Non-native Species Secretariat.

4.6.4. Where proposals at development sites are likely to result in the spread of non-native invasive plant species the development may not be permitted until suitable measures have been agreed and / or undertaken to control the invasive species. It should be noted that it is an offence to spread, or cause to grow, certain plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 as amended.

## 5. Biodiversity in the development management process

### 5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. As biodiversity is a material consideration for planning, this section covers the need to consider biodiversity at every stage in the planning application process and what form that consideration should take to ensure that progress is not held up. It sets out the types and quality of information that applicants and their ecological advisers are expected to achieve when preparing an application for submission.

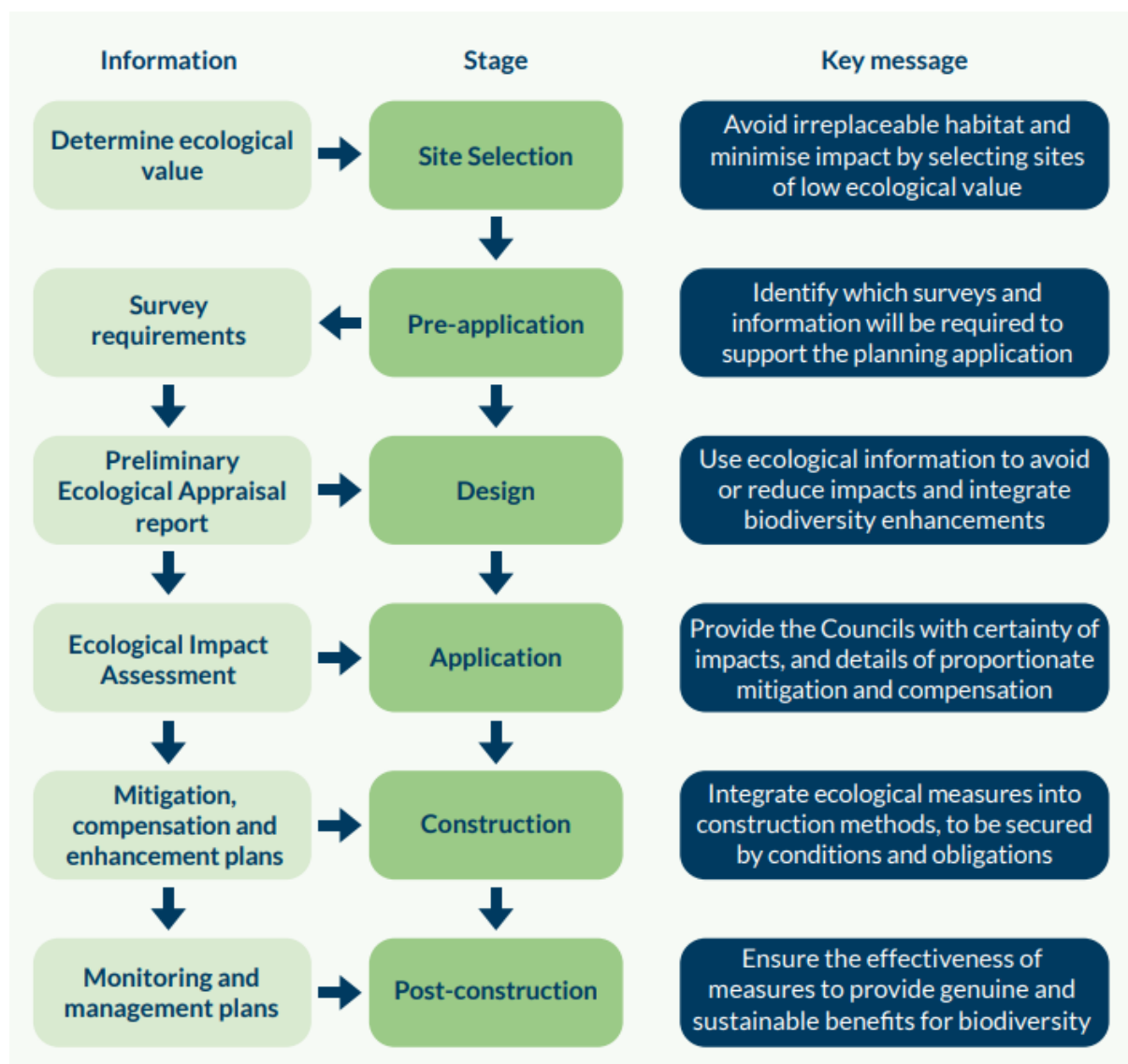


Figure 3 Stages within the development management process



## 5.2. Overarching principles

### Biodiversity Issue B1 – mitigation hierarchy

To meet national and local policy requirements (NH/4 Item 3 and Policy 70), submitted ecological reports are expected to explain how the hierarchy of mitigation measures (Avoid, Mitigate, Compensate) has been embedded into the design of the development. Where impacts on habitats and species cannot be avoided, a clear explanation of why alternative sites are not feasible and what proposed mitigation and compensation measures are necessary to address all likely significant adverse effects is needed.

*Figure 4 Mitigation Hierarchy*

5.2.1. The mitigation hierarchy aims to prevent net biodiversity loss and [strict adherence to its principles is essential. This approach](#) is included in the National Planning Policy Framework and also in ecological best practice guidelines. Definitions vary, but usually include the following steps that must be implemented in order:

- Avoid - Anticipated biodiversity losses should be avoided and reduced by using alternative sites and designs, retaining habitats of value for enhancement and management and retaining species in situ.
- Mitigate - Impacts considered unavoidable should be mitigated where the impact occurs, by replacing lost protected and priority habitats and accommodating displaced species within the site boundary.
- Compensate - If mitigation measures are insufficient then, as a last resort, off-site compensatory measures should also be implemented in proportion to the harm, by creating suitable habitat off-site and relocating species.

5.2.2. As required by the National Planning Policy Framework and as a key principle of delivering Biodiversity Net Gain (see Biodiversity Issue B6), applicants must demonstrate that, in the design of their proposals, they have followed the mitigation hierarchy with respect to ecological impacts.

5.2.3. Ecological consultants can advise on avoiding negative impacts on the biodiversity of a development site by involvement throughout the planning application process, but most importantly at the site selection and design stages. [Seeking advice early on in the planning process might help avoid costly delays later on.](#)

5.2.4. Homeowners and developers will often require an ecologist to undertake ecological surveys and mitigation work in relation to a building project to meet the Councils' requirements for ecological information. Contracting a member of a professional institute such as the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management means that you are engaging a professional who is working to high standards and there is a complaints procedure if anything goes wrong. Applicants needing to find a consultant to support their planning application can use the tool on the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management website which also provides further information on ecological surveys and their purpose, which describes the different types of reports that you may be asked for by the Councils, what to expect from a bat survey and a householder's guide to engaging an ecologist.

5.2.5. The approach to following the hierarchy should be informed by the ecological value of the habitats and species to be affected. Impacts to Priority habitats and species should always be avoided, if possible, but mitigation or compensation for ~~either~~[any](#) species ~~and/or~~ habitats [degraded or destroyed through the development process](#) is also ~~desirable-~~[required.](#)

### **BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development**

5.2.6. This British Standard gives guidance on how development might affect biodiversity, provides recommendations on how to integrate biodiversity into all stages of the planning, design and development process, and provides a rigorous framework for assessing impacts and for securing mitigation, compensation and appropriate biodiversity enhancements. Compliance with the standard in the ecological information submitted by applicants can be seen as an indication of its validity and relevance to the determination process and is encouraged. It is intended

to assist those concerned with ecological issues as they arise through the planning process and in matters relating to consented development that could have site-specific ecological implications.

5.2.7. BS42020 states that high quality ecological information is important for effective decision making as well as for compliance with legal obligations and policy requirements and successful implementation of the practical conservation and biodiversity enhancement measures identified in the ecological reports submitted with planning applications. The standard identifies the ecological data required and considerations for its assessment, and its use in the design of mitigation measures, to give certainty, clarity and confidence to those involved at all stages of the planning process.

5.2.8. Compliance with this standard is an important and credible way to demonstrate the validity of the ecological information you will bring forward in support of your planning application. Any deviations from this British Standard will need to be fully justified and they may be challenged by the Councils or external consultees, leading to delays in the decision process.

### **5.3. Site selection stage**

5.3.1. The easiest way to avoid a negative impact on species and habitats and to maximise the gain for biodiversity that can be achieved from a development is to select a site that has low existing ecological value and low strategic potential for habitat creation, buffering or connectivity. This could include sites that have been intensively managed or where land use has resulted in degraded habitats. [In addition, brownfield sites can also contribute to wider strategic potential for habitat creation by providing links between green corridors or linking up wildlife corridors.](#) It should be noted that ecological value should be measured by a suitably qualified professional and not judged on appearance, as sites that may appear to be degraded could include features of particular significance to certain species.

## **Biodiversity Issue B2 – Protection of irreplaceable habitats**

Developers will be expected to avoid direct and indirect impacts on irreplaceable habitats and embed measures to achieve this within the design of any development proposal.

To meet policy requirements (NH/4 item 6, NH/7 and Policy 71), the councils will refuse applications that would result in the loss, deterioration or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats unless the need for, and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss, and a suitable compensation strategy exists. In these situations, biodiversity net gain is not achievable. [As per NPPF 2021, there would have to be wholly exceptional reasons for this to be the case with the burden of proof for these falling to developers to provide irrefutable evidence of these exceptional reasons.](#)

5.3.2. Irreplaceable habitats are defined in the National Planning Policy Framework as “habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity.” In addition to Ancient Woodland and veteran trees, other types of habitat such as unimproved grassland, lowland fen and ancient hedgerows are also considered to be irreplaceable. The loss of these habitats cannot be compensated for by gains elsewhere and so they are excluded from Biodiversity Net Gain calculations.

5.3.3. All development predicted to result in impacts on irreplaceable habitat will need to be accompanied by detailed survey information and evidence to support the exceptional reasons that justify such a loss. Compensation strategies should include contribution to the enhancement and management of the habitat. [Compensation for damaging development to a site by way of its habitat enhancement and management should not substitute action that would be happening anyway.](#)

5.3.4. Ancient woodland shall be identified by having regard to the presence and combination of Ancient Woodland Indicator Species, as presented in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough County Wildlife Sites Selection Guidelines. The Woodland Trust’s Planning for ancient woodland – planners manual for ancient

woodland and veteran trees should be used as a guide to avoiding and minimising impacts from development proposals.

### **Pre-application advice**

5.4.1. There are many advantages to seeking pre-application advice from the Greater Cambridge Planning Services at an early stage in the preparation of development proposals, particularly for ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain. This frontloads the process and avoids risks of delays and additional costs on submission, by providing the developers and their agents with clarity on the scope of information that will be expected to enable the application to be determined.

5.4.2. Where there is a predictable impact on biodiversity and insufficient ecological information is submitted to support determination, the Councils are likely to refuse an application.

5.4.3. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service offers a pre-application service that can save time and money for anyone considering submitting a planning application, and it also offers design workshops to applicants. This may be particularly valuable to householders and those who are not regularly involved in development, who may not routinely seek professional ecological support or be aware of all of the relevant issues.

5.4.4. Developers wishing to seek substantive advice on recreational pressure impacts and mitigation relating to Sites of Special Scientific Interest should be directed to Natural England's Discretionary Advice Service.

### **Existing biodiversity information**

5.4.1. Biodiversity baseline information from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre is needed within all ecological reports, to identify the presence of designated sites and existing records of habitats and species that could be affected by development. Data search requests should be for a

minimum 1 km buffer from the red line boundary for protected and Priority species and 2 km for all designated sites. While older data may be less relevant in some cases, it may provide the only baseline available for a site and so should not be discounted.

5.4.2. An absence of records does not mean a record of absence and ecological consultants need to use their professional judgment to ensure that biodiversity features are not overlooked. Survey and assessment of all species likely to be present on and adjacent to the development site and any which could be affected indirectly should be covered.

5.4.3. Provision of this data within submitted ecological reports needs to be presented in accordance with the terms and conditions of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre and any sensitive records should only be shown at 10km resolution.

5.4.4. The consultant ecologist should also determine whether the development site falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zone, as shown on the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside map, which would indicate that the development could result in indirect impacts that require consultation with Natural England.

### **Biodiversity Issue B3 – Great Crested Newt district level licensing**

To meet policy requirements (NH/4 and Policy 70) and support development which is likely to impact on Great Crested Newt, if a developer is accepted to join the Natural England Cambridgeshire Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing scheme, they do not need to carry out their own surveys for this European Protected Species or plan and carry out mitigation work.

If a consent for development is issued, developers do not need to meet the Government's Standing Advice for Great Crested Newt. However, the Councils will still require survey and assessment for other protected and Priority species likely to

be present and affected by development, together with delivery of any mitigation needing to be secured by a condition of any consent.

5.4.1. Natural England has now launched a District Level Licensing scheme for Great Crested Newt in Cambridgeshire that developers can pay to join for each of their sites, to better protect Great Crested Newt populations as an alternative to conventional site-based survey, licensing and mitigation methods. Full details are available on the relevant pages of the Government District Level Licensing website.

5.4.2. As an alternative to Great Crested Newt surveys and assessment, the use of District Level Licensing provides a year-round option for developers to mitigate predicted impacts on Great Crested Newt and can provide certainty of costs and timescales.

5.4.3. With an agreement in place with Natural England to use District Level Licensing, the Councils only need an Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate countersigned by Natural England to be submitted with the planning application as evidence of site registration under this strategic mitigation scheme.

5.4.4. Participation in the District Level Licensing scheme does not negate the need for proposals to follow the mitigation hierarchy or deliver measurable net gain. The Councils will still require survey and assessment for other protected and Priority habitats and species likely to be present and affected by development, with any necessary mitigation secured by a condition of any consent.

5.4.5. A precautionary approach to site clearance, under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist, will be required for all development supported by Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing, as all or where protected and Priority species predicted to be on site ~~will need to be moved to a place of safety~~. To avoid reckless actions and prevent wildlife crime, this will include supervision of any habitat works by an Ecological Clerk of Works, who will undertake a fingertip search, and implementation of a Construction Environment Management Plan (Biodiversity).

5.4.6. The ~~emerging Natural~~ Environment ~~Bill~~Act 2021 has indicated an intention to prepare other Strategic Mitigation Schemes in consultation with stakeholders to support delivery of sustainable development.

### **Ecological surveys and assessment**

5.4.7. Applicants must ensure that planning applications are supported by adequate ecological information, using up to date desk studies and site assessment to inform survey methodologies sufficient in scope to allow the impact of a proposal to be appropriately assessed. This includes householders and developers of small sites, where they may be unexpected risks of impacts to habitats and species.

[CIEEM provide an advice note on the lifespan of ecological surveys here;](https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf)  
<https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf> See Appendix 2.

5.4.8. A Preliminary Ecological ~~Assessment~~Appraisal is often carried out by ecologists as an initial means of recording the habitats and condition of a development site and predicting the likely ecological constraints and impacts that might arise from its development.

5.4.9. Preliminary Ecological ~~Assessment~~Appraisal Reports are valuable documents that should be commissioned at the earliest stages of design, and their results should influence the layout and form of the proposals. Identifying important ecological resources at the outset and avoiding impacts on them will limit the loss of biodiversity and reduce the need for mitigation and compensation measures. In many cases these reports will include recommendations for further survey, particularly in relation to protected and priority species.

5.4.10. All surveys must be carried out in accordance with published standards and best practice guidance, as appropriate to the information they are expected to generate. To ensure the acceptability of impact assessment, any deviations from best practice should be explained and justified.

5.4.11. Pre-development biodiversity value must be calculated before any site clearance or other habitat management work has been undertaken, by the applicants



or anybody else. However, if this is known to have happened, ~~the condition of the site~~ on or after 30th January 2020 the condition of the site will be taken as the habitat baseline stated in Schedule 14 Part 1 paragraph 6 of the ~~emerging~~ Environment ~~Bill~~ Act 2021. This is consistent with existing good practice guidelines for ecological assessment, including CIEEM and BREEAM guidelines. Where previous surveys are not available, this will be established through Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre records and habitat areas identified through aerial photographs. Where habitat conditions are not known, then a precautionary approach will be applied.

5.4.12. Habitat mapping methodologies need to be appropriate to their purpose, which for biodiversity net gain calculations means UK Habitats Classification, as required for the Defra Biodiversity Metric calculation. Phase 1 habitat mapping can still be used for PEA reports, or in circumstances where Biodiversity Net Gain calculation is not required.

5.4.13. Where the applicant's commissioned ecology report indicates that further surveys are required to support a planning application, the results of all such surveys and associated details of necessary mitigation measures will need to be submitted prior to determination. This is necessary to provide the Councils with certainty of likely impacts and that effective and deliverable mitigation can be secured either by a condition of any consent or a mitigation licence from Natural England. Where recommended protected species surveys have not been completed, the ecology report will not be sufficient to support a planning application.

5.4.14. The Council expects that all biodiversity records obtained during surveys to inform development will be submitted to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre, as required by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management's code of professional conduct. Applicants must not seek to restrict their ecological consultants from submitting biodiversity records.

## 5.5. Design stage

### Biodiversity Issue B4 – Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity

To meet national and local policy requirements (NH/4, NH/5, NH/6, Policy 69 and Policy 70), development should:

1. Secure the conservation management and enhancement of natural and semi-natural habitats in the landscape together with the biodiversity that they contain and seek to restore and/or create new wildlife habitats.
2. Secure the provision of appropriate public access to natural green spaces, particularly within or close to the villages.

Habitats will be considered important for biodiversity where they:

1. Are part of the UK national network of sites (Habitats sites) or are proposed for designation
2. Are nationally designated sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves or Local Nature Reserves) or are proposed for designation
3. Are non-statutory designated sites of at least County or City importance or are proposed for designation
4. Are likely to support the presence of a Priority species or habitat, or significant populations of a national or local Red list species
5. Have the potential to assist in the delivery of National, County or District Nature Recovery Networks and clearly act as a stepping-stone, wildlife corridor or refuge area ~~within an otherwise built environment~~
6. Provide for the quiet enjoyment of biodiversity within semi-natural areas ~~of an otherwise built environment~~ or act as an educational resource, such as Local Nature Reserves

5.5.1. Proposals that contain or that will affect a habitat of importance for biodiversity will be expected to include measures to protect any existing value and, ~~where possible,~~ to improve their condition by appropriate enhancement or management measures. Retaining existing biodiversity features on sites might make it easier to achieve BNG. Management should be sustainable for the long-term, with clear

objectives guided by the site's existing habitat features and species, as appropriate to location and environmental conditions.

5.5.2. While it can be possible to combine positive nature conservation management with public access, it should be noted that the potential impact of public access must be fully considered in determining the likely target condition of the biodiversity habitat and its value to any existing species populations. Measures to manage the existing impact of recreation on an area of semi-natural public open space will be welcomed.

*Figure 5 An example of a small site*

Even small sites can support protected and priority species; although this house and garden appear unremarkable, there are two bat species using the loft, nesting birds in the dense common ivy, and great crested newts in a small pond.

5.5.3. Small sites, including gardens and other urban green space, can also support habitats and species of nature conservation value and provide opportunities for enhancement and improved management.

5.5.4. Where appropriate, the Councils will secure measures to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying a planning condition requiring the submission and approval of an Ecological Design Strategy or a species-specific Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy, which will include:

- a) The purpose and conservation objectives of the proposed works
- b) A review of baseline conditions, site potential and constraints
- c) Detailed designs and/or working methods to achieve stated objectives
- d) The specific extent and location of proposed works shown on maps and plans at an appropriate scale
- e) The type and source of materials to be used, where appropriate, such as specifying native species of local provenance or the type of bird box to be used.
- f) A timetable for implementation, demonstrating that works are aligned with any proposed phasing of development
- g) The persons responsible for implementing the works
- h) Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance

- i) Details for monitoring and remedial measures
- j) Details for disposal of any wastes arising from works

### **Biodiversity Issue B5 – Biodiversity provision in the design of new buildings and open spaces**

To meet policy requirements (HQ/1, NH/4, Policy 57 and Policy 59), the councils will expect:

1. That development proposals will have regard to the biodiversity already present within a development site and to identify opportunities to maximise the provision for biodiversity within new buildings in line with strategic nature conservation priorities.
- ~~2. That on all major housing developments 50% of the dwellings/units will have features such as integrated bird, bat or insect boxes provided in close association with the properties. On all other sites suitable provision for biodiversity enhancements shall be negotiated to achieve a similar standard.~~
- ~~3. For minor and householder development, each dwelling/unit will have at least one integrated feature appropriate to the location of the development.~~
- ~~4. That all~~2. That on all residential housing developments, there should be an equal number of integrated bird box features as there are dwellings for building-dependent birds (breeding Swifts, House Sparrows, Starlings and House Martins) provided individually or clustered in appropriate locations within the development.
- ~~3. That all suitable commercial and community building applications will need to include integrated features~~bird box features for building dependent birds (breeding Swifts, House Sparrows, Starlings and House Martins) in keeping with the scale of development, i.e. Minimum of 10 boxes for the first 1000sqm~~1000 sqm~~ footprint and one additional box for every ~~additional~~ 100 sqm.
- ~~5. That~~4. That on all residential housing developments 25% of the dwellings / units will have integrated bat box features, provision to be clustered next to appropriate foraging habitats.
- ~~5. That~~new wildlife habitats and features, including predominantly native trees and shrubs and durable tree mounted nest boxes, bat boxes and insect boxes, will be incorporated into landscaping schemes and the general layout of the built

environment. All fencing will be expected to be hedgehog friendly and hedgehog highways should be incorporated throughout the development.

*Figure 6 Hedgehog Highway gaps in boundary fence*

Incorporating Hedgehog Highway gaps into boundary fences ensures connectivity between gardens for Hedgehogs and other wildlife, increasing the extent of habitat available in a secure way.

5.5.5. Design of new developments should ~~seek to~~ retain habitats of value to biodiversity wherever possible. Even for small scale developments, this would include boundary hedgerows, trees and any pond on site and these can provide the framework for the setting of the scheme layout as well as contributing to the post development network for nature and people.

5.5.6. Landscape design will be required to enhance existing habitats and link them to new habitats created within the development site that are suited to the landscape character (see section 3.13.10). Further information can be found on the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method webpage for a Green Guide Calculator and Building with Nature.

*Figure 7 Landscaping and soils*

A bank and low nutrient substrate with sparse vegetation, incorporated into landscaping to benefit solitary mining bees and other invertebrates.

*Figure 8 Integrated nesting habitat for birds or bats*

Integrated boxes primarily designed for swifts will also be used by other species such as house sparrow and are easily built into new buildings.

5.5.7. The use of low nutrient status soils to support diverse habitat mosaics with low maintenance requirements is encouraged and applications within the B-Lines identified by Buglife will be expected to include sustainable landscaping features of value to invertebrates, especially pollinators, including flowering lawns.

5.5.8 Natural timber and aggregate waste from site should be retained and repurposed for habitat creation such as hibernacula and low nutrient banks wherever possible.

A bank and low nutrient substrate with sparse vegetation, incorporated into landscaping to benefit solitary mining bees and other invertebrates

Integrated boxes primarily designed for swifts will also be used by other species such as house sparrow and are easily built into new buildings

5.5.8. The impact of garden extensions into the open countryside needs to be considered as, although these provide an opportunity to diversify arable landscapes, species and features associated with a farmland landscape may not be replicable within the garden environment. Applicants, where appropriate, will be required to plant mixed native species hedges with trees to define boundaries in open countryside as opposed to the erection of fences that may hinder the natural movement of animals. In the above image, a bank and low nutrient substrate with sparse vegetation are incorporated into landscaping to benefit solitary mining bees and other invertebrates.

5.5.9. In addition, the provision of integrated boxes (a combination of bird, bat & insect boxes) will be required in new buildings for all types of development and should target protected, Priority and other species associated with the built environment, such as Swift, as promoted by Action for Swifts, house sparrow, starling and pipistrelle bats. Where appropriate, high quality, durable boxes can also be provided on retained trees within the public realm. ~~Integrated boxes primarily designed for swifts will also be used by other species such as house sparrow and are easily built into new buildings~~

5.5.11 Artificial lighting has the potential to negatively impact on nocturnal species and should be minimised, particularly in areas of natural habitat, woodland edges, hedgerows, and wetlands. Ecological sensitive lighting conditions may be imposed in such cases. The Bat Conservation Trust provide the following Guidance Note on Bats and Artificial Lighting.

## Biodiversity Issue B6 – Provision of biodiverse and living roofs

To meet policy requirements (HQ/1, NH/4 and Policy 31), the provision of biodiverse roofs and walls will be encouraged as a means to maximise biodiversity, particularly where the opportunities for ecological enhancement on a site area are limited, and where such measures will deliver enhancement at a landscape scale. where appropriate, as part of a wider strategy of biodiversity enhancements.

5.5.9. Although buildings can be screened using native species planting, they can also be made attractive to biodiversity by using climbing plants on walls, fitting window boxes or installing biodiverse roofs and walls.

Green roofs should support diverse habitats of local relevance rather than sedum monocultures, which have aesthetic appeal, but limited value to biodiversity. Brown roofs, landscaped with exposed substrates and a varied topography, and supporting nectar and pollen rich flowering plants, are a good alternative. Further information can be found on the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method webpage for a Green Guide Calculator and Building with Nature.

*Figure 9 A biodiverse roof*

A biodiverse roof, showing a diversity of flowering plants in an open grassland structure. Habitat design and species mixes should reflect local conditions and stated conservation objectives

5.5.10. Biodiverse roofs can provide valuable habitat on sites where space for new habitat creation is constrained. In the image above, the living roof shows a diversity of flowering plants in an open grassland structure within an otherwise dense, urban setting. Habitat design and species mixes should reflect local conditions and stated conservation objectives

5.5.11. They could also have an especially important role to play in providing new habitat for the species, often ecological specialists, displaced by the development of brownfield sites, and for invertebrates that already live in towns and gardens. Guidance on constructing biodiverse roofs ~~is~~ available from Buglife and

applicants are encouraged to follow the Green Roof Organisation's Green Roof Code.

5.5.12.\_\_\_\_\_ Thin substrate sedum systems do not maximize the biodiversity potential of green roofs and would not merit Good condition within the Defra Biodiversity Metric.

### **Sustainable drainage systems**

5.5.13.\_\_\_\_\_ The Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document was adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council in November 2018 and Cambridge City Council in December 2018 following adoption of the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans and is accompanied by the Cambridge Sustainable Drainage Design and Adoption Guide.

5.5.14.\_\_\_\_\_ Inclusion of sustainable drainage systems within a development site are the preferred approach to managing rainfall from hard surfaces and can be used on any site (CC/8, Policy 31). They provide an opportunity to reduce the effects of development on the water environment. Good design and management of multi-functional open spaces can mitigate drainage impacts on wetlands via drains and ordinary watercourses as well as delivering biodiversity enhancements and attractive greenspaces that can support Biodiversity Net Gain on site. SUDs, (like the one pictured below) should be designed to provide natural habitats appropriate to the surrounding landscape, using locally native species and managed to combine functionality and opportunities for biodiversity

5.5.15.\_\_\_\_\_ The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust have produced a guide to maximising the benefit to biodiversity from Sustainable Drainage Systems alongside other functions. [The ARGUK Toads – Advice for Planners provide guidance on road, kerb and gully designs to limit impacts on amphibian populations](#)

*Figure 10 A SuDS feature in a new development*



SuDS features should be designed to provide natural habitats appropriate to the surrounding landscape, using locally native species and managed to combine functionality and opportunities for biodiversity.

5.5.16.\_\_\_\_\_ Developers should check details of Registered Toad crossings listed by Froglife, the national amphibian & reptile charity, (which includes one in the centre of Cambridge) in relation to the development site location and layout. This will help avoid direct impacts on known toad breeding populations from the discharge of the sustainable drainage systems constructed for the development. Similarly, well designed sustainable drainage systems features are likely to attract breeding amphibians and future [migrationsmigration](#) routes should be considered to avoid creating new road or drain fatality hotspots.

5.5.17.\_\_\_\_\_ Paving of surfaces is likely to contribute to surface water flooding and the Councils will seek to avoid unnecessary paving of gardens by householders (CC/8, Policy 66) and encourage good design to ensure permeable surfaces remain and that there is no net loss in biodiversity. Any trees should be retained within paving and permeable surfaces used, potentially including planting within the design.

### **Biodiversity issue B7 – Biodiversity net gain**

This SPD is underpinned by national and Local Planning Policies. In keeping with these, and the SPD, development proposals will be required to demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity (NH/4, NH/6, Policy 69, Policy 70). Biodiversity Net Gain should be achieved on site where possible- [and in accordance with BS8683:2021 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain](#)

5.5.18.\_\_\_\_\_ Previous paragraphs have explained the process of how developers will calculate a pre-development baseline for an application site using the Defra Biodiversity Metric [23.0](#) tool. They explain how a calculation should also be made of the post development baseline seeking to identify a net gain in biodiversity on that site. Achieving a Net Gain of 10% would be consistent with levels expected to be required in the Environment [Bill, now proposed to be enacted Autumn 2021. Act 2021](#)

~~by Winter 2023, after a two year interim period.~~ However, in keeping with the Councils desire to ensure that biodiversity is both protected, and enhanced, we advise that should new Local Plan policies instruct a higher percentage of BNG than that nationally mandated, that the higher of the two amounts (of BNG) shall be the minimum requirement for development.

5.5.19. ~~The Councils encourage the achievement of~~ ~~In negotiations with applicants, officers may also discuss seeking~~ further Biodiversity Net Gain ~~from~~ ~~by~~ development proposals. This aspiration is supported by the recently formulated Doubling Nature Vision, adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council (Feb 2021). This vision reflects the growing awareness of biodiversity loss and increasing concerns to protect the natural environment, habitats and species. The vision seeks a 20% level of Biodiversity Net Gain above pre-development baseline conditions. Whilst this Supplementary Planning Document does not set this as a figure or fixed target, this aspiration may have further support with ~~the future enactment of amendments to~~ the Environment ~~Bill~~ ~~Act 2021~~.

5.5.20. ~~In exceptional cases, compensatory arrangements to provide the levels of BNG~~ ~~Where onsite options for Biodiversity Net Gain have been exhausted,~~ ~~compensatory arrangements to provide shortfalls required and agreed with applicants under the vision can be provided offsite~~ ~~that are both required and agreed with applicants under the vision can be provided off site.~~ Where off-site habitat measures are required, they must be consistent with the strategic aims of the Cambridge Nature Network and Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping and conform to Biodiversity Net Gain - Good Practice Principles for Development.

5.5.21. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ To ensure the delivery of BNG measures, the Councils will seek to use planning conditions to secure on site habitat creation and its long-term management, and obligations, such as Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, where BNG is on land outside the applicant's control.

5.5.22. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ All Biodiversity Net Gain calculations should be submitted using the

Defra Biodiversity Metric 23.0 or its successor. Other “bespoke” calculators will not be accepted without clear justification.

5.5.23.\_\_\_\_\_ There will always be some opportunity within development proposals to create and manage habitats for biodiversity. Development proposals that deliver public open space that also provides new wildlife habitats, with clear management objectives, will be encouraged.

5.5.24.\_\_\_\_\_ Biodiversity Net Gain has been identified as one of the primary mechanisms for the restoration of biodiversity across the UK and the local need is recognised within the Natural Cambridgeshire Doubling Nature vision. To achieve the vision, a strategic approach to habitat creation and enhancement will be required in line with the Lawton principles of more, bigger, better and more joined up.

5.5.25.\_\_\_\_\_ This will require focus on improving the condition of existing Biodiversity Sites, increasing their size, and improving connections between them by creating stepping-stones and corridors of biodiversity rich habitats. The existing Cambridge Nature Network lays the foundations for this approach and will be supported and clarified by forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

5.5.26.\_\_\_\_\_ All development must already demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity, in line with the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework. Although a mandatory requirement for 10% net gain in biodiversity value is ~~emerging from~~ mandated by the Environment ~~Bill~~ Act 2021, a value of 20% is likely to be ~~needed~~ encouraged as best practice in order to meet the Natural Cambridgeshire target of doubling the amount of land managed for nature from 8% to 16% of the county’s area.

5.5.27.\_\_\_\_\_ It should be noted that the inclusion of street trees within developments can make a contribution to Biodiversity Net Gain as well as providing a range of other benefits, including to air quality and urban cooling, as mitigation for the effects of climate change. The selection of the right tree species in the right place, where there is enough space to achieve maturity - in terms of height, canopy spread and rooting area - is essential to maximise benefits. Cambridge City Council

has a policy to ensure that adequate provision is made for the preservation and planting of trees when granting planning permission (Policy 71).

5.5.28.\_\_\_\_\_ For smaller minor development (fewer than 10 residential units or an area of less than 0.5 hectares) and householder applications, biodiversity net gain measures should be clearly identified in supporting information and illustrated on the relevant plans. Measures should be appropriate to the site's location and surroundings and should be focussed on supporting recognised nature conservation priorities. When the Defra "small sites" Biodiversity Metric is available, this should be used to demonstrate net gain in these circumstances, and it is anticipated that the Environment ~~Bill~~[Act 2021](#) might offer this scale of development a more simplified requirement. However, ~~until legislation and~~ further guidance from Government is available, small sites should aim to meet the details of B5 above with at least one integrated bird, bat or insect box, hedgehog friendly fencing and habitats as listed in 5.5.4 above.

5.29.\_\_\_\_ In support of major applications, a Biodiversity Gain Plan will be expected, which should include:

- Steps taken to avoid adverse impacts to biodiversity
- Pre-development and ~~postdevelopment~~[post- development](#) biodiversity value (including a completed Defra Biodiversity Metric calculation spreadsheet ~~v2~~[v3.0](#) or its successor)
- Additional information to explain and justify the approach to delivering net gain, including notes on the existing and target habitat condition and any assumptions made

5.5.30.\_\_\_\_\_ The Local Planning Authority will verify the accuracy of the biodiversity value calculations and consider the merits of any off-site net gain measures with reference to the Biodiversity Opportunity Maps produced by Cambridge and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre, [the Cambridge Nature Network](#) and any other published biodiversity strategies. Any scheme of Biodiversity Net Gain must include a mechanism for delivery of the target habitats, management, and monitoring of their condition, and an approach to remediation in the event of targets not being met.

5.5.31. \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-development biodiversity value must be calculated before any site clearance or other habitat management work has been undertaken, by the applicants or anybody else. ~~If this is known to have happened on or after 30 January 2020, and the onsite habitat condition is lower on the relevant date than it would otherwise have been, the predevelopment biodiversity value of the onsite habitat is to be taken to be its biodiversity value. It should be noted that the baseline for habitats on any site proposed for development will be taken as 30 January 2020, (as set out in the UK Environment Act 2021), or the nearest (in time) prior aerial photographic evidence or survey.~~

5.5.32. \_\_\_\_\_ Applicants should refer to the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and Construction Industry Research and Information Association Biodiversity Net Gain Good Practice Principles documents for information on the standards that will be expected.

## **5.6. Application stage – Validation requirements for biodiversity information**

5.6.1. The Cambridge City Council validation checklists and draft South Cambridgeshire District Council validation checklist are available to ensure that applicants know which documents need to be submitted with a planning application for it to be deemed valid by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.

5.6.2. The Local validation checklist for the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service will include guidance under Local Validation Requirement 2 'Biodiversity - Ecological Impact Assessment' about when an Ecological Impact Assessment is necessary, based on what the development involves and where it is. Guidance is also provided on what an Ecological Impact Assessment should cover for an application to be considered valid, including the need to demonstrate measurable Biodiversity Net Gain.

5.6.3. It should be noted that validation does not necessarily mean there is sufficient information to allow for determination. The submitted Ecological Impact Assessment

still has to provide the Councils with certainty of all likely ecological impacts on designated sites and protected or priority species and to demonstrate that effective and deliverable mitigation can be secured either by a condition of any consent or a mitigation licence from Natural England.

## **Ecological Impact Assessment**

5.6.4. In addition to the information within BS42020, the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management provides detailed guidance about expectations in the reporting of biodiversity information in support of planning applications. In selecting their project team, applicants are encouraged to choose professional ecologists that will comply with these expectations and can demonstrate their suitability for the role. Full details of those involved in survey work ~~and reporting should be included in all reports with a summary of their experience and competence.~~

and reporting should be included in all reports with a summary of their experience and competence. CIEEM have produced a note on report writing here: <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-report-writing>

5.6.5. The appropriate document type to provide ecological information in support of a planning application is an Ecological Impact Assessment. This type of ecological report needs to contain all necessary survey results and a full assessment of ecological impacts, with proportionate and fully detailed mitigation and compensation measures that can be secured by condition or obligation, or by appropriate species licensing.

5.6.6. Surveys and reports have a finite lifespan due to the dynamic nature of species populations and the response of habitats to environmental factors and changes in management. CIEEM have produced guidance to highlight the issues with lifespan and the validity of reports in different circumstances. Applications supported by reports that are no longer considered valid are likely to be refused and outline or phased developments are likely to require conditions for further surveys to keep the survey information up to date.

## **Biodiversity Issue B8 – habitats regulations**

To support the councils in meeting policy requirements policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) and their legal duties [as Competent Authority](#) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) – known as the Habitats Regulations - where development is likely to result in a significant effect on a Habitats site, proposals need to be supported by information to support the [preparation of the Habitats Regulation Assessment \(HRA screening report prepared\)](#) by the Local Planning Authority. This needs to include the results of any necessary surveys and details of any mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the site(s) embedded into design of the development.

All the Councils' Habitats Regulations Assessment Appropriate Assessments will be sent to Natural England for their formal consultation response on their conclusions before any decision can be issued.

5.6.7. The aim of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process is to 'maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest'. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) have transposed the European Union Habitats and Wild Birds Directives into UK law to make them operable from 1 January 2021. These remain unchanged until amended by Parliament so the requirements for Habitats Regulations Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) have been retained.

5.6.8. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan may impact on several Habitats sites and Government advice to Local Planning Authorities on Habitats Regulations Assessment requires assessment of any plan or projects which could adversely affect these internationally important Biodiversity Sites.

5.6.9. Where a Habitats site could be affected by a plan, such as a Local Plan, or any project, such as a new development, then Habitats Regulations Assessment

screening must be undertaken. If this cannot rule out any possible likely significant effect on a Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans & projects, prior to the consideration of mitigation measures, then an Appropriate Assessment must then be undertaken. ~~The Appropriate Assessment identifies the interest features of the site (such as birds, plants or habitats), how these could be harmed, assesses whether the proposed plan or project could have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Habitats site (either alone or in combination), and finally how this could be mitigated to meet the Stage 2 Habitats Regulations Assessment “integrity” test. This is an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that sites conservation objectives. Consent can only be granted when it can be ascertained by an appropriate assessment that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site unless, in the absence of alternative solutions, there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest and the necessary compensatory measures can be secured.~~

5.6.10. Various Court rulings need to be considered when preparing Habitats Regulations Assessment screening reports and developers are requested to provide sufficient information to support this process. Some key rulings from the Court of Justice for the European Union, which remain relevant to Habitats Regulations Assessment in the UK, post-Brexit, are:

- CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17)

In line with the Court judgement mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats Site.

- CJEU Holohan C- 461/17

This Court judgement imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority at Appropriate Assessment stage. These relate to habitats and species for which the site has not been listed and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site. The Appropriate Assessment conclusion must be beyond all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

- CJEU Joined Cases C-293/17 and C-294/17 Coöperatie Mobilisation for the Environment and Vereniging Leefmilieu (Dutch nitrogen court ruling)



These Dutch cases concerned authorisations schemes for agricultural activities in Habitats sites which cause nitrogen deposition and where levels already exceeded the critical load.

These are not directly connected with or necessary for the management of a Habitats site. This ruling is relevant to projects which trigger appropriate assessment before any consents are issued so should be considered when identifying other plans and projects for an in- combination assessment.

5.6.11. The following case from the UK High Court is also of key relevance:

- R (on the Application of Preston) v Cumbria County Council [2019] EWCA 1362

This case relates to a High Court verdict which quashed a County Council's decision to vary a planning permission for a water company to construct a sewage outfall on a Special Area of Conservation. Therefore, planning authorities and other competent authorities cannot, in appropriate assessments, simply rely on the competence of other regulators such as the Environment Agency, to avoid conducting their own assessments. They must instead themselves satisfy their own Habitats Regulations duties.

### **Biodiversity Issue B9 – Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation Bat Protocol**

To support the Councils in meeting policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) and their legal duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), appropriate levels of survey, assessment and mitigation will be expected for any development that could have an impact on the population Barbastelle Bats within and around the Eversden & Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation.

5.6.12. The Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation supports maternity colonies of Barbastelle bats. In addition to these Special

Area of Conservation woodlands containing roosting sites, the bats also require access to habitats outside the boundary of Eversden & Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation. The Habitats Regulation Assessment screening report for Bourn Airfield identified that male Barbastelle bats roosted in woodlands to the north of the Special Area of Conservation and commuted into the woodlands for mating.

5.6.13. Habitat that is integral to supporting the functioning of the Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation is referred to as functionally linked land. In the case of this internationally important designated site, the woodlands that the males Barbastelle bats roost in, and any commuting routes between the two, are classed as functionally linked land. The Bat Conservation Trust also defines “Core Sustenance Zones” which refer to the area surrounding a communal bat roost within which habitat availability and quality will have a significant influence on the resilience and conservation status of the colony using the roost.

5.6.14. Bats also typically forage and commute along linear features, such as hedgerows, rivers and woodland edges. Flight-lines for Barbastelle Bats are known to extend beyond the designated Special Area of Conservation boundary into the wider local landscape. A narrow strip of woodland and hedge that link Wimpole and Eversden Woods together is known to be a very important flight-line for Barbastelle Bats and other bat species, and Natural England has highlighted the importance of managing this feature carefully including the need to thicken hedges affected with additional planting.

5.6.15. A draft protocol has been prepared by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Partnership to facilitate sustainable development and secure a diverse and healthy landscape for bats, people and other wildlife.

5.6.16. By following the guidance in the draft Eversden & Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation protocol, the Councils can ensure that Special Area of Conservation bat populations thrive and that developments around the designated site avoid impacts on them, thereby preventing delays during their consideration at the planning stage.

5.6.17. The draft bat protocol uses the SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Impact Risk Zones identified on the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside map for Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation which are integral to the long-term survival of the population of Barbastelle Bats. All development proposals within this area, with the exception of householder applications, should aim to retain mature trees, woods and copses, and to provide new habitat linkages through new tree planting and the integration of existing hedgerow networks with new ones. All development within 5 km of the Special Area of Conservation designated site is considered by Natural England as a key conservation area with a 10 km sustenance or wider conservation area. [Please note that at time of writing, Natural England are reviewing the IRZ distances for this site, possibly extending out to 20km.](#)

5.6.18. The Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation map below, shows the relative Impact Risk Zones and indicative functionally linked habitat (please note this is for illustrative purposes only so some hedgerows, and smaller woods are not shown).

*Figure 11 Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC*

### **Biodiversity Issue B10 – Recreational pressure on the sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

To meet national and local policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) for protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity value, applications will not normally be permitted where there is likely to be an adverse impact on land within or adjoining such sites. With specific reference to sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest, advice issued by Natural England suggests developers of residential schemes of 50 or more units should seek to provide sufficient Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, (SANG) to avoid and mitigate recreational pressure within and around the SSSI. [The sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Greater Cambridge area are listed in Annex B of Natural England's advice \(insert Ref here\).](#)

SSSIs currently known to be at risk from recreational pressure within the Greater Cambridge area are listed in Annex B of Natural England's advice.

5.6.19. Impact Risk Zones are an online mapping tool developed by Natural England to make an initial assessment of the potential risks to Sites of Special Scientific Interest posed by development proposals. They define zones around each Site of Special Scientific Interest which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal that could potentially have adverse impacts. Impact Risk Zones can be viewed via the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside.

5.6.20. Natural England has issued advice to Cambridgeshire Local Planning Authorities in relation to Recreational Pressure Impact Risk Zones relating to sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Cambridgeshire and the need for green infrastructure within large scale residential developments. Annex B of this advice lists the component Sites of Special Scientific Interest included within the Cambridgeshire Recreational Pressure Impact Risk Zone, of which there are 16 in Greater Cambridge, with a risk category assigned to each Site of Special Scientific Interest. This list could be subject to change, following any new evidence obtained through a specialist visitor survey, for example.

5.6.21. ~~No zone of potential risk was identified by Natural England for Sites of Special Scientific Interest overlapping the Fenland Special Area of Conservation, due to the fact that these sites were not considered to be at significant risk from recreational pressure. In the case of Wicken Fen Ramsar, there is already an evidenced Zone of Influence, but it is the subject of a detailed study from which a new Zone of Influence is emerging. This means that applicants of developments within the Impact Risk Zone of Wicken Fen Special Area of Conservation should seek advice from the National Trust regarding potential recreational pressure impacts and mitigation measures. See earlier text under B10 Applicants of developments within the Impact Risk Zone of Wicken Fen Special Area of Conservation should seek advice from the National Trust regarding potential recreational pressure impacts and mitigation measures.~~

5.6.22. Where a development location triggers a recreational pressure Impact Risk Zone on the Multi- Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside plan, a pop-up note will appear advising developers of residential proposals of the need for an assessment of recreational pressure effects on the relevant SSSI and the provision of measures to mitigate potential adverse impact. Whilst current Local Plan policies do not set requirements in respect of SANG, developers need to consider how to implement this detailed advice from Natural England, in conjunction with the councils' Open Space standards to provide access to sufficient greenspace to meet daily recreational needs of new residents. It is expected developers will seek further advice on this issue from Natural England's Discretionary Advice Service.

[5.6.23 Non statutory Local Wildlife Sites can also be impacted by increased recreational pressure. Negative impacts will need to be recognised and addressed as a material consideration of any nearby development proposals.](#)

#### Determination of planning applications

5.6.23. The Councils need certainty of likely impacts on a Biodiversity Site or protected or Priority species prior to determination to ensure that appropriate and effective mitigation measures can be secured either by a condition of any consent or under a mitigation licence from Natural England.

5.6.24. To support determination of planning applications, the Councils therefore expect adequate ecological information to be provided. Where no ecological report has been submitted and there is a likelihood of biodiversity being present and affected by a proposal, applicants will be requested to provide reasonable information in line with Government Standing Advice which could cause delays for example waiting for surveys to be carried out in the appropriate season. If, despite any request from the Councils, this is not provided to give certainty of likely impacts and details of effective and deliverable mitigation measures, the Councils may refuse an application rather than requiring amendments to avoid impacts.

5.6.25. Where ecology reports include recommendations for further surveys, these will be needed prior to determination. The Councils encourage applicants to

ensure that recommendations for mitigation and compensation measures have been embedded into the design of a proposal and that they confirm delivery at the appropriate stage to support determination of a planning application. [The above is relevant to Outline Planning Applications too.](#)

5.6.26. Where impacts on biodiversity will be minimised such that the proposal is acceptable, all ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancements to deliver measurable net gain for biodiversity will either be a condition of the consent or included in a legal agreement. This will not include protected species surveys as this information is needed prior to determination.

5.6.27. Updated protected species surveys and mitigation strategies will need to be submitted at reserved matters stage for any measures not fully detailed in the information provided to support determination of outline or phased applications.

## **5.7. Construction stage**

Construction and the need for protection of features and ecological supervision

5.7.1. The construction process often involves clearance of vegetation on site which has the potential for impacts on biodiversity and there is therefore a need to manage the risks to wildlife. A process is also needed to ensure that all of the essential ~~mitigation measures identified within the Ecological Impact Assessment are put in place in the right way and at the right time.~~

[mitigation measures identified within the Ecological Impact Assessment are put in place in the right way and at the right time.](#)

5.7.2. A Construction Environment Management Plan: Biodiversity will be required by condition for many developments ~~to~~. [The requirement for and timing of this will be decided on a case-by-case basis and](#) include details of all necessary ecological mitigation measures, including protection of retained habitats and requirements for ecological supervision during works on site using a suitably experienced Ecological Clerk of Works. The details required are specified in model condition D.4.1 of BS42020:2013.

## 5.8. Post-construction stage

### Management plans, monitoring and enforcement

5.8.1. Where habitats are retained and created within a development site boundary, the Councils will seek to secure their protection during the construction process and their ~~longterm~~long-term management via conditions of any consent. The Councils will require relevant details to be provided within a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, either at submission or secured by condition. This type of planning condition will need details of all ecological mitigation measures should be illustrated together with other landscape measures and there should be no conflict between objectives.

5.8.2. Where species are predicted to be affected by development proposals and habitat to support their population is retained or created on site, such as receptor sites for translocated animals, the Councils will seek to include monitoring of the effectiveness of mitigation secured. This will be separate from any legal requirement attached to a licence approved by Natural England and will be secured by a condition of any consent. Additional monitoring may be required for novel mitigation solutions, the outcomes of which should be made available to the wider ecological consultancy industry where appropriate.

5.8.3. All management plans should include appropriate monitoring to ensure effectiveness and should include a process for remediation and review for any measures that have not been effective. The results of such monitoring should be reported to the Councils for review of management.

5.8.4. To deliver Biodiversity Net Gain, sites will require careful design, zoning and management to ensure there are no recreational conflicts with the proposed areas for habitat creation. The ~~emerging~~ Environment ~~Bill is likely to~~Act 2021 will require an audit trail for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain commitments for a period of up to 30 years.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 Local Plan policies to be supported by this Supplementary Planning Document

#### Adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan September 2018

#### Chapter 4 Climate Change

##### Policy CC/8, Sustainable Drainage Systems

Development proposals must incorporate appropriate sustainable surface water drainage systems (SuDS) appropriate to the nature of the [siresite](#). Development proposals will be required to demonstrate that:

- b) Opportunities have been taken to integrate sustainable drainage with the development, create amenity, enhance biodiversity, and contribute to a network of green (and blue) open space.
- d) Maximum use has been made of low land take drainage measures, such as rainwater recycling, green roofs, permeable surfaces, and water butts”

#### Chapter 5, Delivering High Quality Places.

##### Policy HQ/1, Design Principles

“All new development must be of high-quality design, with a clear vision as to the positive contribution the development will make to its local and wider context. As appropriate to the scale and nature of the development, proposals must: ... Include high quality landscaping and public spaces that integrate the development with its surroundings, having a clear definition between public and private space which provide opportunities for recreation, social interaction as well as support healthy lifestyles, biodiversity, sustainable drainage and climate change mitigation.”



## **Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.**

### **Policy NH/3, Protecting Agricultural Land 1.**

“Planning permission will not be granted for development which would lead to the irreversible loss of Grades 1, 2 or 3a agricultural land unless:

- a) Land is allocated for development in the Local Plan
- b) Sustainability considerations and the need for the development are sufficient to override the need to protect the agricultural value of the land.

2. Uses not involving substantial built development but which take agricultural land will be regarded as permanent unless restricted specifically by condition.

When considering proposals for the change of use or diversification of farmland, particular consideration shall be given to the potential for impact upon Priority Species and Habitats.”

## **Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.**

### **Policy NH/4, Biodiversity 1.**

“1. Development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity will be permitted.

2. New development must aim to maintain, enhance, restore, or add to biodiversity. Opportunities should be taken to achieve positive gain through the form and design of development. Measures may include creating, enhancing, and managing wildlife habitats and networks, and natural landscape. The built environment should be viewed as an opportunity to fully integrate biodiversity within new development through innovation. Priority for habitat creation should be given to sites which assist in the achievement of targets in the Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and aid delivery of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy.

3. If significant harm to the population or conservation status of a Protected Species, Priority Species<sup>1</sup> or Priority Habitat resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will be refused.

4. Where there are grounds to believe that a proposal may affect a Protected Species, Priority Species or Priority Habitat, applicants will be expected to provide an adequate level of survey information and site assessment to establish the extent of a potential impact. This survey information and site assessment shall be provided prior to the determination of an application.
5. Previously developed land (brownfield sites) will not be considered to be devoid of biodiversity. The reuse of such sites must be undertaken carefully with regard to existing features of biodiversity interest. Development proposals on such sites will be expected to include measures that maintain and enhance important features and appropriately incorporate them within any development of the site.
6. Planning permission will be refused for development resulting in the loss, deterioration, or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. Climate change poses a serious threat to biodiversity and initiatives to reduce its impact need to be considered.”

## **Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.**

### **Policy NH/5, Site of Biodiversity or Geological Importance**

1. “Proposed development likely to have an adverse effect on land within or adjoining a Site of Biodiversity or Geological Importance, as shown on the Policies Map (either individually or in combination with other developments), will not normally be permitted. Exceptions will only be made where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh any adverse impact.
2. In determining any planning application affecting Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance the Council will ensure that the intrinsic natural features of particular interest are safeguarded or enhanced having regard to:
  - a) The international, national or local status and designation of the site;
  - b) The nature and quality of the site’s features, including its rarity value;
  - c) The extent of any adverse impacts on the notified features;
  - d) The likely effectiveness of any proposed mitigation with respect to the protection of the features of interest;

e) The need for compensatory measures in order to re-create on or off the site features or habitats that would be lost to development. Where appropriate the Council will ensure the effective management of designated sites through the imposition of planning conditions or Section 106 agreements as appropriate.”

## **Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.**

### **Policy NH6, Green Infrastructure**

1. The Council will aim to conserve and enhance green infrastructure within the district. Proposals that cause loss or harm to this network will not be permitted unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably and substantially outweigh any adverse impacts on the district’s green infrastructure network.
2. The Council will encourage proposals which:
  - a. Reinforce, link, buffer and create new green infrastructure; and
  - b. Promote, manage, and interpret green infrastructure and enhance public enjoyment of it.
3. The Council will support proposals which deliver the strategic green infrastructure network and priorities set out in the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, and which deliver local green infrastructure. All new developments will be required to contribute towards the enhancement of the green infrastructure network within the district. These contributions will include the establishment, enhancement and the ongoing management costs.”

## **Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.**

### **Policy NH/7, Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees**

“Planning permission will be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland (as shown on the Policies Map) or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.

**Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

**Policy NS/2 Development Principles**

Development proposals affecting ancient woodland or veteran trees will be expected to mitigate any adverse impacts, and to contribute to the woodland's or veteran tree's management and further enhancement via planning conditions or planning obligations."

"Plans to be Approved: ...

The town of Northstowe will be developed:

h. Making drainage water features an integral part of the design of the town and its open spaces, so that they also provide for amenity, landscape, biodiversity and recreation

**Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

**Policy NS/12 Landscape Principles**

"The Landscape Strategy will: ...

b) Ensure a high degree of connectivity between the new town and wider countryside for wildlife and people, including extending the rights of way network (public footpaths and bridleways);

... f) Create a network of green spaces which contribute to legibility, are pleasant, attractive, and beneficial to wildlife, and integrate well with the wider countryside;

g) Enable landscaped areas to provide an environment suitable to mitigate any adverse wildlife impacts and to maximise the benefits to wildlife thus increasing biodiversity.

2. Construction spoil retained on site must be distributed in a manner appropriate to the local topography and landscape character, and can be used for noise mitigation, flood risk management or biodiversity enhancement."

**Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

**Policy NS/13 Landscape Treatment of the Edges of Northstowe**

“The Eastern Water Park: A landscaped water park with appropriate planting and footpaths will be provided on the other edge of Northstowe to the east along the St Ives railway. The water park will provide an attractive amenity for the town and a landscape buffer to the open countryside. It will also provide opportunities to create wildlife habitats and thus increase biodiversity.”

**Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

**Policy NS/14 Landscaping within Northstowe**

“Green Corridors ...

They will have landscaping and biodiversity value and also perform a recreational function for both informal recreation and children’s play. Public access will include provision for walking, cycling and horse riding. Road and bus crossings through the Green Corridors will be designed to limit any adverse safety implications for people and be low key in character to limit adverse effects on the landscape. Safe and appropriate crossing facilities for wildlife will also be provided, such as tunnels under roads and ditches alongside roads where appropriate.”

**Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

**Policy NS/16 Existing Biodiversity Features**

“Biodiversity Surveys:

1. Developers will be required to undertake a full programme of ecological survey and monitoring prior to the commencement of construction. This work should

conclude by proposing a strategy for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, and Biodiversity Management Plans, to establish:

- a. Which areas of biodiversity will be protected and enhanced;
- b. Appropriate mitigation measures;
- c. Which specific impacts of development will need to be monitored during and after construction.

Further ecological surveys will be required during and after construction, and the Biodiversity Strategy and Management Plans will be reviewed in the light of surveys and monitoring.

Management Strategy:

1. The developer will be required to develop a Management Strategy to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption, and maintenance of the biodiversity areas.

Retention of Existing Features: Existing features including trees, tree plantations and the lake in the southern section of the airfield and the existing ponds in the golf course will be retained as biodiversity and landscape features where such features can make a significant contribution to the urban environment or to the biodiversity of the site.”

**Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

### **Policy NS/17 New Biodiversity Features**

“Eastern Water Park:

1. The water park along the eastern boundary of the town and west of the disused railway, which will be created to provide for the attenuation of surface water flows, will be managed to enhance the biodiversity of Northstowe by providing an extensive wetland habitat and to maximise its value to key species. Southern Parkland Country

Park:

2. A parkland landscape will be created between Northstowe and Oakington to provide a substantial resource of trees, grassland, and other areas of semi-natural vegetation. This area will be designed and managed for its wildlife value. Green Corridors Through and Beyond the Town:

3. Green corridors will be established through the town to connect where possible to biodiversity features and corridors beyond the town. Creating Habitats Within the Urban Area: Every opportunity will be taken to incorporate features within the urban fabric, through urban design and through the use of sympathetic materials to create wildlife habitats.”

**Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

**Policy NS/24 Construction Strategy Site Access and Haul Roads:**

2. A scheme will be introduced to avoid construction vehicles travelling through villages in the locality and to ensure that any haul roads are located, designed and landscaped in such a way as to minimise any noise, smell, dust, visual or other adverse impacts on existing residents and businesses, and on the new residents and businesses at Northstowe. They should also avoid adverse effects on the environmental amenities of biodiversity, rights of way and green spaces. Traffic flows will be monitored to ensure that the public have a mechanism to feedback any concerns that arise during development. Construction Activities: Planning conditions will be imposed to minimise the adverse effects of construction activity on residential amenity and the environment”

**Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

**Policy NS/27 Management of Services, Facilities, Landscape and Infrastructure**

“Management strategies for services, facilities, landscape and infrastructure will be submitted to the local planning authority for adoption prior to the granting of outline planning permission to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption and maintenance. Landownership for these uses should be as simple as possible, preferably in a single ownership to avoid fragmentation. In particular, there should be a single agreed Management Strategy covering recreation, landscape, and biodiversity. The inclusion of water and drainage features within open spaces would have significant advantages and should therefore be investigated.”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

**Policy CE/4, The Setting of Cambridge East Green Corridor:**

1. “A green corridor will be retained through the new urban quarter connecting the green spaces of Cambridge to the surrounding countryside, linking from Coldham’s Common to a new country park located to the east of Airport Way and south of Newmarket Road, and also to the National Trust’s Wicken Fen Vision. The green corridor will have width of about 300m and be significantly narrower only where particular justification is provided and the green corridor function is not inhibited. It will open up to a greater width at the Teversham end of the corridor, where an informal countryside character will be provided to help to maintain the individual identity of the village. It will have landscaping and biodiversity value and also perform a recreational function for both informal recreation and children’s play.”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

**Policy CE/4, The Setting of Cambridge East.**

Policy CE/13 Landscape Principles Landscape Strategy:

“The Strategy will: a. To ensure a high degree of connectivity between the new urban quarter and the wider countryside for wildlife and people; ... Enable the landscaped areas within the urban quarter to provide an environment suitable to mitigate against any adverse wildlife impacts and to maximise the benefits to



wildlife thus increasing biodiversity” Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008). Policy CE/14, Landscaping within Cambridge East Green Fingers: 3. “They will have landscaping and biodiversity value and also perform a recreational function for both informal recreation and children’s play. Public access will include provision for walking, cycling and horse riding. Road and bus crossings through the green fingers will be designed to limit any adverse safety implication for people and be low key in character to limit adverse effects on the landscape. Safe and appropriate crossing facilities for wildlife will also be provided, such as tunnels under roads and ditches alongside roads where appropriate”

### **Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

#### **Policy CE/16, Biodiversity 1.**

“The development of Cambridge East will have regard to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, and every opportunity should be taken to achieve positive gain to biodiversity through the form and design of development. As appropriate, measures will include creating, enhancing, and managing wildlife habitats and natural landscape. Priority for habitat creation should be given to sites which assist in achieving targets in the Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs).

2. Development will not be permitted if it would have an adverse impact on the population or conservation status of protected species or priority species or habitat unless the impact can be adequately mitigated by measures required by Section 106 agreements or planning conditions.

3. Where there are grounds to believe that development proposal may affect a protected species or priority species or habitat, applicants will be expected to provide an adequate level of survey information to establish the extent of the potential impact together with possible alternatives to the development, mitigation schemes and / or compensation measures.

4. Development proposals will take account of the impact, either direct or indirect, on people’s opportunity to enjoy and experience nature on a site together with opportunities to improve public access to nature. Exceptionally, where the economic

or social benefits of a proposal outweigh harm to an important site or species, the approach will be first to avoid or minimise the harm, then to seek mitigation of the impact, and finally to secure appropriate compensation for any residual impact in order to ensure no net loss of biodiversity. Planning conditions and obligations will be used as appropriate to secure this.”

### **Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

#### **Policy CE/17, Existing Biodiversity Features Biodiversity Surveys:**

1. “Developers will be required to undertake a full programme of ecological survey and monitoring prior to the commencement of construction. This work should conclude by proposing a strategy for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, and Biodiversity Management Plans, to establish:

- a. Which areas of biodiversity will be protected and enhanced;
- b. Appropriate mitigation measures;
- c. Which specific impacts of development will need to be monitored during and after construction. Further ecological surveys will be required during and after construction, and the Biodiversity Strategy and Management Plans will be reviewed in the light of surveys and monitoring.

Management Strategy:

2. The developer will be required to develop a Management Strategy to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption, and maintenance of the biodiversity areas. Retention of Existing Features:

3. Existing features including trees in the Park and Ride site will be retained as biodiversity and landscape features.

4. Development will not be permitted if it will have an adverse impact on a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), a Country Wildlife Site (CWS), or a City Wildlife Site (CiWS) unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal, which outweigh the need to safeguard the substantive nature conservation of the site.

Where development is permitted, proposals should include measures to minimise harm, to secure suitable mitigation and / or compensatory measures, and where possible enhance the nature conservation value of the site affected through habitat creation and management.

New Biodiversity Features:

As part of the development of the urban quarter, new biodiversity features will be provided in the green corridor and green fingers, together with, in the country park, a substantial resource of trees, grassland and other areas of semi-natural vegetation which is sympathetic to local landscape character. Creating Habitats within the Urban Area: Every opportunity will be taken to incorporate features within the urban fabric, through urban design and through the use of sympathetic materials to create wildlife habitats.”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

**Policy CE/29, Construction Strategy Site Access and Haul Roads:**

“A scheme will be introduced to avoid construction traffic travelling through residential areas in the city and villages in the locality and ensure that any haul roads are located, designed and landscaped in such a way as to minimise any noise, smell, dust, visual or other adverse impacts on existing residents and businesses, and on the new residents and businesses at Cambridge East. They should also avoid adverse effects on the environmental amenities of biodiversity, rights of way and green spaces. Traffic flows will be monitored to ensure that the public have a mechanism to feedback any concerns that arise during development. Construction Activities: Planning conditions will be imposed to minimise the adverse effects of construction activity on residential amenity and the environment”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

**Policy CE/31, Management of Services, Facilities, Landscape and Infrastructure “**

Management strategies for services, facilities, landscape and infrastructure will be submitted to the local planning authority for adoption prior to the granting of outline planning permission to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption and maintenance. Landownership for these uses should be as simple as possible, preferably in a single ownership to avoid fragmentation. In particular, there should be a single agreed Management Strategy covering recreation, landscape, and biodiversity. The inclusion of water and drainage features within open spaces would have significant advantages and should therefore be investigated.”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

**Policy CE/33, Infrastructure Provision**

“Planning permission will only be granted at Cambridge East where there are suitable arrangements for the improvement or provision of infrastructure necessary to make the scheme acceptable in planning terms. Contributions will be necessary for some or all of the following: ... Landscaping and biodiversity”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.**

**Policy CSF/2 Development and Countryside Improvement Principles**

“Trumpington West will be developed: ...

9. To achieve a net increase in biodiversity across the site;
10. Making drainage water features an integral part of the design of the urban extension and its open spaces, so they also provide for amenity, landscape, biodiversity, and recreation. ... Trumpington West will connect the green spaces of Cambridge to the surrounding countryside, maintain a Green Corridor along the River Cam, and provide landscape, biodiversity and public access enhancements in the surrounding countryside.”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.**

**Policy CSF/5 Countryside Enhancements Strategy**

“1. Planning permission for development at Trumpington West will include a planning obligation requirement for contributions to the implementation of a Countryside Enhancement Strategy which will create an enhanced gateway into the City between Hauxton Road and the River Cam and which will comprise:

- a. The creation of a country park, comprising new meadow grassland, to the east of the River Cam, both north and south of the M11, from Grantchester Road to Hauxton Mill;

- b. Hedgerow planting on field boundaries in the agricultural land between Hauxton Road and the Trumpington Meadows Country Park; ...
  - d. Measures to protect and enhance wildlife habitats, including managing public access to the riverbanks;
  - e. Noise attenuation on the northern side of the M11 through the creation of new landscape features which are compatible with the river valley character.
2. A Countryside Enhancement Strategy will be prepared for the area bounded by the Cambridge City boundary, Babraham Road, Haverhill Road, and the edge of the built area of Great Shelford and Stapleford. The Strategy will comprise:
- f. New copses on suitable knolls, hilltops, and scarp tops.
  - g. Management and creation of chalk grassland
  - h. Management of existing shelter belts.
  - i. New mixed woodland and shelter belts.
  - j. Creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson's Brook.
  - k. Reinforcement and planting of new hedgerows.
  - l. Roadside planting.
3. The Countryside Strategies will include integrated proposals for landscape, biodiversity, recreation, and public access improvements, which will be compatible with long-term agricultural production to create enhanced gateways into the City. Provision will be made for maintenance of landscaping and replacement of diseased, dying, and dead stock for a period of 10 years, and details of long-term management thereafter."

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.**

**Policy CSF/12 Landscape Principles**

1. "A Landscape Strategy for Trumpington West must be submitted and approved prior to the granting of planning permission, of a level of detail appropriate to the type of application. It will be implemented as part of the conditions / planning obligations for the development of the urban extension. The strategy will:

- f. Enable the landscaped areas within the urban extension to provision an environment suitable to mitigate any adverse wildlife impacts and to maximise the benefits to wildlife thus increasing biodiversity;
- h. Make best use of and enhance existing tree and hedge resources as a setting for the development.”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.**

**Policy CSF/13 Landscaping within Trumpington West**

Green Fingers:

1. “They will have landscaping and biodiversity value and also perform a recreational function for both informal recreation and children’s play. Public access will include provision for walking, cycling and horse riding. Road and bus crossings through the green fingers will be designed to limit any adverse safety implication for people and be low key in character to limit adverse effects on the landscape. Safe and appropriate crossing facilities for wildlife will also be provided, such as tunnels under roads and ditches alongside roads where appropriate”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.**

**Policy CSF/15 Enhancing Biodiversity**

1. “Outline planning applications for development at Trumpington West will be accompanied by a comprehensive ecological survey of flora and fauna. This will include land bounded by the River Cam and Hauxton Road as far south as Hauxton Mill. Managing Enhancing Biodiversity:
2. All open areas will be managed and landscaped to encourage wildlife in locally distinctive habitats. Sensitive habitats will be protected by limiting public access to specified areas.

3. A Biodiversity Management Strategy will demonstrate how biodiversity will be enhanced and how local communities will be involved. A project officer will be funded to implement the strategy through a planning obligation. Green Fingers and the Countryside: Connections will be provided for Green Fingers within the urban extensions to the surrounding countryside by enhanced landscaping, planting and the creation of wildlife habitats to provide links to larger scale wildlife habitats to provide links to larger scale wildlife habitats further afield including Nine Wells, the Magog Down, Wandlebury Country Park, the River Cam corridor, Coton Country Park, Wimpole Hall and Wicken Fen.”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.**

**Policy CSF/22 Construction Strategy Site**

Access and Haul Roads:

1. “A scheme will be introduced to avoid construction traffic travelling through Trumpington and villages in the locality and ensure that any haul roads are located, designed and landscaped in such a way as to minimise any noise, smell, dust, visual or other adverse impacts on existing residents and businesses, and on the new residents and businesses at Trumpington West. They should also avoid adverse effects on the environmental amenities of biodiversity, rights of way and green spaces. Traffic flows will be monitored to ensure that the public have a mechanism to feedback any concerns that arise during development. ... Construction Activities: Planning conditions will be imposed to minimise the adverse effects of construction activity on residential amenity and the environment”

**Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan,  
February 2008.**

**Policy CSF/24 Management of Services, Facilities, Landscape and  
Infrastructure**

“1. Management strategies for services, facilities, landscape, and infrastructure will be submitted to the local planning authority for adoption prior to the granting of outline planning permission to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption, and maintenance. Landownership for these uses should be as simple as possible, preferably in a single ownership to avoid fragmentation. In particular, there should be a single agreed Management Strategy covering recreation, landscape, and biodiversity. The inclusion of water and drainage features within open spaces would have significant

**Local Development Framework: North West Cambridge Area Action Plan,  
October 2009.**

**Policy NW2: Development Principles**

“2. Development proposals should, as appropriate to their nature, location, scale, and economic viability:

f) Protect and enhance the geodiversity and biodiversity of the site and incorporate historic landscape and geological features;

3. Planning permission will not be granted where the proposed development or associated mitigation measures would have an unacceptable adverse impact:

n) On biodiversity, archaeological, historic landscape, and geological interests;

s) On protected trees and trees of significance”



**Local Development Framework: North West Cambridge Area Action Plan,  
October 2009.**

**Policy NW4: Site and Setting**

“Land between Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road, comprising two areas totalling approximately 91ha, as shown on the Proposals Map, is allocated for predominantly University-related uses. A strategic gap is retained between the two parts of the site to ensure separation is maintained between Cambridge and Girton village and to provide a central open space for reasons of biodiversity, landscape, recreation and amenity, whilst ensuring a cohesive and sustainable for of development.”

**Local Development Framework: North West Cambridge Area Action Plan,  
October 2009.**

**Policy NW24: Climate Change & Sustainable Design and Construction**

- “1. Development will be required to demonstrate that is has been designed to adapt to the predicted effects of climate change;
2. Residential development will be required to demonstrate that
- b) All dwellings approved on or after 1 April 2013 will meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5 or higher;
  - c) There is no adverse impact on the water environment and biodiversity as a result of the implementation and management of water conservation measures.
3. Non-residential development and student housing will be required to demonstrate that:
- d) it will achieve a high degree of sustainable design and construction in line with BREEAM “excellent” standards or the equivalent if this is replaced;
  - e) It will incorporate water conservation measures including water saving devices, greywater and/or rainwater recycling in all buildings to significantly reduce potable water consumption; and

g) There is no adverse impact on the water environment and biodiversity as a result of the implementation and management of water conservation measures.“

**Local Development Framework: North West Cambridge Area Action Plan,  
October 2009.**

**Policy NW25: Surface Water Drainage**

1. “Surface water drainage for the site should be designed as far as possible as a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to reduce overall run-off volumes leaving the site, control the rate of flow and improve water quality before it joins any water course or other receiving body;
2. The surface water drainage system will seek to hold water on the site, ensuring that it is released to surrounding water courses at an equal, or slower, rate that was the case prior to development;
3. Water storage areas should be designed and integrated into the development with drainage, recreation, biodiversity, and amenity value; and Any surface water drainage scheme will need to be capable of reducing the downstream flood risk associated with storm events as well as normal rainfall events. All flood mitigation measures must make allowance for the forecast effects of climate change.”

**Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

**Policy 7: The River Cam**

Development proposals along the River Cam corridor should:

- a. include an assessment of views of the river and a demonstration that the proposed design of the development has taken account of the assessment in enhancing views to and from the river;
- b. preserve and enhance the unique physical, natural, historically, and culturally distinctive landscape of the River Cam;
- c. raise, where possible, the quality of the river, adjacent open spaces, and the integrity of the built environment in terms of its impact, location, scale, design, and form;

- d. propose, where possible and appropriate to context, enhancement of the natural resources of the River Cam and offer opportunities for re-naturalisation of the river;
  - e. enable, where possible, opportunities for greater public access to the River Cam;
- and
- f. take account of and support, as appropriate, the tourism and recreational facilities associated with the river.

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 8: Setting of the city**

“Development on the urban edge, including sites within and abutting green infrastructure corridors and the Cambridge Green Belt, open spaces and the River Cam corridor, will only be supported where it: includes landscape improvement proposals that strengthen or recreate the well-defined and vegetated urban edge, improve visual amenity, and enhance biodiversity

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 31: Integrated water management**

Development will be permitted provided that:

- f) any flat roof is a green or brown roof, providing that it is acceptable in terms of its context in the historic environment of Cambridge and the structural capacity of the roof if it is a refurbishment. Green or brown roofs should be widely used in large-scale new communities; ... development adjacent to a water body actively seeks to enhance the water body in terms of its hydro morphology, biodiversity potential and setting.”

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 52: Protecting garden land and the subdivision of existing dwelling plots**

“Proposals for development on sites that form part of a garden or group of gardens or that subdivide an existing residential plot will only be permitted where: b. sufficient garden space and space around existing dwellings is retained, especially where these spaces and any trees are worthy of retention due to their contribution to the character of the area and their importance for biodiversity.”

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 57: Designing new buildings**

“High quality new buildings will be supported where it can be demonstrated that they include an appropriate scale of features and facilities to maintain and increase levels of biodiversity in the built environment”

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 58: Altering and extending existing buildings**

“Alterations and extensions to existing buildings will be permitted where they: do not adversely impact on the setting, character or appearance of listed buildings or the appearance of conservation areas, local heritage assets, open spaces, trees or important wildlife features;”

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 59: Designing landscape and the public realm**

“External spaces, landscape, public realm, and boundary treatments must be designed as an integral part of new development proposals and coordinated with

adjacent sites and phases. High quality development will be supported where it is demonstrated that: species are selected to enhance biodiversity through the use of native planting and/or species capable of adapting to our changing climate”

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 66: Paving over front gardens**

“Proposals for the paving over of front gardens will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that: ...

c. it will not result in a net loss of biodiversity”

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 69: Protection of sites of local nature conservation importance**

“In determining any planning application affecting a site of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, development will be permitted if it will not have an adverse impact on, or lead to the loss of, part of all of a site identified on the Policies Map. Regard must be had to the international, national, or local status and designation of the site and the nature quality of the site’s intrinsic features, including its rarity.

Where development is permitted, proposals must include measures:

- a. to minimise harm;
- b. to secure achievable mitigation and/or compensatory measures; and
- c. where possible enhance the nature conservation value of the site affected through habitat creation, linkage, and management. In exceptional circumstances, where the importance of the development outweighs the need to retain the site, adequate replacement habitat must be provided. Any replacement habitat must be provided before development commences on any proposed area of habitat to be lost.”

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 70: Protection of priority species and habitats**

“Development will be permitted which:

- a. protects priority species and habitats; and
- b. enhances habitats and populations of priority species.

Proposals that harm or disturb populations and habitats should:

- c. minimise any ecological harm; and
- d. secure achievable mitigation and/or compensatory measures, resulting in either no net loss or net gain of priority habitat and local populations of priority species.

Where development is proposed within or adjoining a site hosting priority species and habitats, or which will otherwise affect a national priority species or a species listed in the national and Cambridgeshire-specific biodiversity action plans (BAPs), an assessment of the following will be required:

- e. current status of the species population;
- f. the species’ use of the site and other adjacent habitats;
- g. the impact of the proposed development on legally protected species, national and Cambridgeshire-specific BAP species, and their habitats; and
- h. details of measures to fully protect the species and habitats identified.

If significant harm to the population or conservation status of protected species, priority species or priority habitat resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will be refused.”

## **Cambridge Local Plan 2018**

### **Policy 71: Trees**

“Development will not be permitted which involves felling, significant survey (either now or in the foreseeable future) and potential root damage to trees of amenity or other value, unless there are demonstrable public benefits accruing from the

proposal which clearly outweigh the current and future amenity value of the trees.

Development proposals should:

- a. preserve, protect, and enhance existing trees and hedges that have amenity value as perceived from the public realm;
- b. provide appropriate replacement planting, where felling is proved necessary; and
- c. provide sufficient space for trees and other vegetation to mature.

Particular consideration should be given to veteran or ancient trees, as defined by Natural England, in order to preserve their historic, ecological and amenity value.”

## Appendix 2 Guidance on protected species and ecological survey seasons

This provides a rough guide to the seasonality of ecological survey to illustrate the potential impact on the submission of information in support of a planning application. A suitably qualified ecologist should always be consulted to provide site specific advice on appropriate methodologies and timing, which may depend on weather conditions.

*Table 1 Ecological Survey seasons*

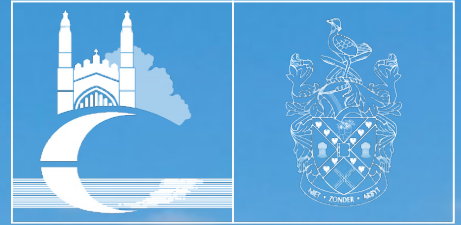
Ecological Area	Survey Season
Preliminary Ecological Appraisals	Surveys are possible year-round.
Botanical Surveys	As appropriate to plant community from June to August. Marginal opportunities from April to May, and September.
Breeding Birds	Six survey visits across the season from March to June. Marginal opportunity in July.
Wintering Birds	At least monthly from January to February and November to December.
Badgers	Surveys for evidence can be undertaken year-round. Bait marking and sett surveys from February to April and September to November. Breeding season, limited surveying from May to August and December to January. Licensable season for disturbance from July to November.
Bats	Potential Roost Assessment Surveys are possible year-round. Emergence and Activity Surveys from May to September. Marginal opportunities in April and October, depending on temperature.
Hazel Dormice	Nest tube survey with monthly checks throughout season, to achieve minimum level of effort from April to November.
Reptiles	Weather conditions are important from April to July and September. Marginal opportunities in March, August, and October to November.



Water Voles	Habitat assessment possible year-round. Two surveys required. The first survey from April to June. The second survey from July to September. This identifies breeding territories and latrines. Marginal opportunities for the two surveys from October to November.
Otters	Surveys are possible all year-round. Great Crested Newts Habitat assessment possible year-round. Four aquatic surveys which must include two surveys from mid-April to May. eDNA survey season from mid-March to end of June. Marginal opportunities in March, and from July to August.
White Clawed Crayfish	Habitat assessment possible year-round. Netting survey from July to November.
<a href="#"><u>Invertebrates</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Optimal survey time April to September</u></a>

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Appendix B



GREATER CAMBRIDGE  
SHARED PLANNING

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

# Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document

Final Draft December 2021



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Nine Wells Cambridge, Guy Belcher

# Foreword

**Greater Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country, yet has a relatively small amount of land managed for nature.**

It is vital that we protect, enhance and grow our biodiversity, both in terms of the amount of land managed specifically for nature, and the richness of biodiversity throughout our urban and rural environments.

This Supplementary Planning Document sets out guidance to assist applicants in meeting the policies of the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans as well as the relevant national legislation. It provides clear guidance on how developments should consider biodiversity from the outset of the planning process to ensure that biodiversity is properly integrated into projects and is increased and enhanced as an outcome of development. This will help to ensure improved quality of new developments while reducing environmental impact as we deliver the new homes and businesses we need.

We look forward to applicants and developers applying this guidance across all scales of development and helping us create a greener and more biodiverse Greater Cambridge for future generations.



**Councillor  
Katie Thornburrow**

Executive Councillor  
for Planning Policy,  
Cambridge City Council



**Councillor  
Dr. Tumi Hawkins**

Lead Cabinet Member  
for Planning, South  
Cambridgeshire District  
Council



# Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document

1.1. Introduction

1.2. Status of the Biodiversity Supplementary  
Planning Document

1.3. Purpose

# 1.1. Introduction

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- 1.1.1.** Biodiversity, a term coined in 1985 as a contraction of “biological diversity” describes the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms and all its interactions. It incorporates all species and habitats, both rare and common, and includes genetic diversity. Biodiversity at local, national and global levels is under pressure as never before from climate change, habitat loss, species decline, and the threat of invasive species. Much of the habitat loss is driven by urban development fuelled by the need for housing and infrastructure. Species once considered to be common in Greater Cambridge are facing increasing stresses upon their populations and the rate of species loss has never been higher. International initiatives exist to reduce the rate of species loss and at the national level lists of species and habitats that require particular measures to halt their decline have been produced.
- 1.1.2.** Our goal in Greater Cambridge is to build *quality* places, rich in biodiversity and green infrastructure, good for people and good for nature. Both Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have declared a biodiversity emergency, and strongly support a step change in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Greater Cambridge. The aim to better protect, restore and enhance our natural environment is clearly set out in the Environmental Principles, regionally agreed for the Oxford to Cambridge (OxCam) Arc development vision. These Environmental Principles seek to set ambitious goals, including the desire to realise Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) at 20% for all development types within the Arc. This approach is further supported in more local initiatives like South Cambridgeshire’s Doubling Nature Strategy and Cambridge City’s upcoming Biodiversity Strategy. Together, these documents set the tone for greater aspiration and more robust biodiversity policies in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan.
- 1.1.3.** As development forms one of the largest threats to biodiversity through the loss of natural habitats, it is incumbent on planning authorities and developers to recognise the importance of biodiversity protection and enhancement through provisions made in Local Plan policies, and through the enforcement of relevant national legislation. However, we can only do that if developments coming forward incorporate the correct elements from the beginning of the design process through to their build out.
- 1.1.4.** Enhancing biodiversity through the planning and development process brings numerous benefits. These will include, but not be limited to, improved habitats for species, flood protection and carbon sequestration as well as the broader secondary benefits for people, like improved mental health from access to natural green spaces.
- 1.1.5.** Going forward, biodiversity will not be peripheral to the planning process but will be fully integrated into the design stages. Consideration will be given, wherever possible, to the retention of biodiversity features within developments and to incorporating new habitats or specific biodiversity features into designs.
- 1.1.6.** Biodiversity is a valuable addition to any development, often helping to create attractive natural green spaces which integrate development of a high-quality design into the local landscape or townscape.



# 1.2. Status of the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document

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**1.2.1.** When adopted, this draft Supplementary Planning Document will support existing policies for both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council ahead of the adoption of a Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which is in preparation jointly by both authorities.

**1.2.2.** This Supplementary Planning Document provides practical advice and guidance on how to develop proposals that comply with the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) and the district-wide policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, adopted in September 2018, as well as those in the Cambridge Local Plan, adopted in October 2018. It also references policies in individual Area Action Plans for major developments, which may vary from the policies in the two adopted Local Plan documents.

**1.2.3.** The existing policies seek to ensure that biodiversity is adequately protected and enhanced throughout the development process. This Supplementary Planning Document provides additional details on how local policies will be implemented while also building on relevant legislation, national policy, central government advice, and the British Standard BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development. Available information about the contents of the Environment Act 2021 has been referenced.

**1.2.4.** This Supplementary Planning Document will supersede the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, adopted in 2009 to support adopted Development Control Policies. It will in time be updated to support the Greater Cambridge Local Plan when this is adopted.



Hobsons Park, Cambridge, Guy Belcher



## 1.3. Purpose

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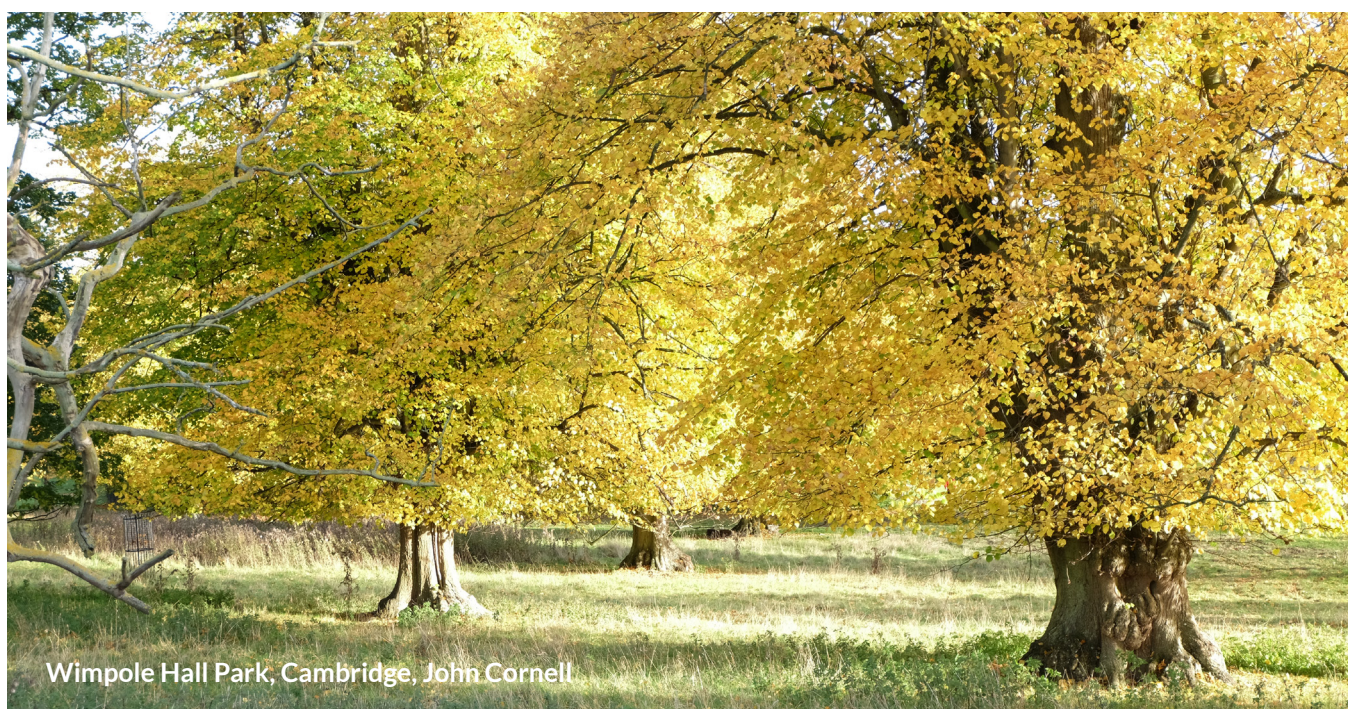
**1.3.1.** The objective of this Supplementary Planning Document is to assist the delivery of the Local Plan policies for both Councils relating to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

**1.3.2.** The Supplementary Planning Document does not create policy, but explains how Local Plan policies should be interpreted and applied and provides guidance, setting out with clarity, the expectations that the Councils have for the treatment of biodiversity within the development management system and how those should be reflected by developers, their agents and their consultants in their submissions.

**1.3.3.** Reference is made throughout, with links where appropriate, to other available guidance that can help to direct and refine the design of development sites to ensure that opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are incorporated from the very start of the development process.

**1.3.4.** Specific objectives for this document are:

- To explain terminology associated with biodiversity conservation to assist applicants' understanding of the importance of biodiversity within the wider environment of Greater Cambridge
- To be clear on the ways in which development proposals in Greater Cambridge can be formulated in an appropriate manner to avoid harm to biodiversity and to provide a long-term, measurable net gain for biodiversity
- To encourage applicants to protect, restore and enhance locally relevant natural habitats and ecological features on their sites and to create new habitats, as part of a high-quality design
- To assist applicants to gain planning permission in Greater Cambridge more quickly by informing them of the level of information expected to accompany planning applications





# UK legislation

2.1. Current legislation

2.2. UK Environment Act 2021

## 2.1. Current legislation

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**2.1.1.** In their planning submissions, applicants are expected to demonstrate that their proposals are compliant with all relevant legislation regarding the protection of wildlife and habitats and should ensure that they receive the necessary professional advice to be able to do so. This legislation applies equally to projects that do not require planning consent (see section 3.5).

**2.1.2.** The principal legislation relating to biodiversity conservation in the UK, as it interacts with the planning system, is summarised below.

### Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

**2.1.3.** These regulations, often referred to as the Habitats Regulations, were the mechanism through which the European Commission Habitats and Wild Birds Directives were incorporated into UK law. The Habitats Regulations have been amended to reflect the consequences of Brexit, but their substance has been retained to provide protection for sites, habitats and species considered to be of international importance, including the designation of Habitats Sites (see section 4.2).

**2.1.4.** Local Planning Authorities have the duty, by virtue of being defined as ‘competent authorities’ under the Habitats Regulations, to ensure that planning application decisions comply with the Habitats Regulations. If the requirements of the Habitats Regulations are not met and impacts on Habitats Sites are not mitigated, then development must not be permitted.

**2.1.5.** Where a Habitats Site could be affected by a plan, such as a Local Plan, or any project, such as a new development, then Habitats Regulations Assessment screening must be undertaken. If this cannot rule out any possible likely significant effect on a Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, prior to the consideration of mitigation measures, then an Appropriate Assessment must then be undertaken. The Appropriate Assessment identifies the interest features of the site (such as birds, plants or coastal habitats), how these could be harmed, assesses whether the proposed plan or project could have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Habitats Site (either alone or in combination), and finally how this could be mitigated to meet the Stage 2 Habitats Regulations Assessment “integrity” test.

**2.1.6.** The aim of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process is to “maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest” (The European Commission Habitats Directive, 92/43/EEC, Article 2(2)). The Habitats Regulations 2017 have transposed the European Union Habitats and Wild Birds Directives into UK law to make them operable from 1 January 2021. These remain unchanged until amended by Parliament so the requirements for Habitats Regulations Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) have been retained.



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## **Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012**

**2.1.7.** These regulations set out the procedures for making Tree Preservation Orders and the activities that are prohibited in relation to trees protected by these orders. Tree Preservation Orders can be made for trees or groups of trees because of their nature conservation value, as well as for their amenity value.

## **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**

**2.1.8.** Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act places a duty on public bodies in England to conserve biodiversity. It requires local authorities and government departments to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of their normal functions such as policy and decision making.

**2.1.9.** Section 41 requires the Secretary of State to publish and maintain lists of species and types of habitats which are regarded by Natural England to be of “principal importance” for the purposes of conserving biodiversity in England, and these are known as Priority Species and Priority Habitats.

## **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**

**2.1.10.** Amongst other things, this act strengthens the protection afforded to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including greater powers for Natural England to be able to secure their appropriate management and a requirement for local authorities to further their conservation and enhancement.

## **Hedgerow Regulations 1997**

**2.1.11.** Although outside of the development management process, these regulations provide a convenient framework for the identification of hedgerows with importance for wildlife, landscape and heritage. For projects that do not require planning consent, the requirements of the regulations would need to be met to permit the removal of any hedgerow or hedgerow section, except if it forms a curtilage to a property.

## **Protection of Badgers Act 1992**

**2.1.12.** This Act refers specifically to badgers, and makes it an offence to kill, injure or take a badger, or to damage or interfere with a sett unless a licence is obtained from a statutory authority.

## **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**

**2.1.13.** The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the primary mechanism for the protection of all wildlife in the UK and includes schedules that set out those species with additional levels of protection. It also provides the basis for the identification of sites of national importance for nature conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

## 2.2. UK Environment Act 2021

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- 2.2.1.** The Environment Bill received Royal Assent on 9th November 2021, meaning it is now an Act of Parliament. [The Environment Act](#) provides legislation to protect and enhance the environment to deliver the [Government's 25-year environment plan](#).
- 2.2.2.** Part 6 of the Act relates to nature and biodiversity, including habitat and species protection and enhancement within the planning process.
- 2.2.3.** The Act has mandated a minimum measurable Biodiversity Net Gain for all developments covered by the Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA) and requiring that the biodiversity value of the development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the site by a minimum of 10%. Biodiversity value is measured using a metric produced by DEFRA and the baseline value is calculated from the condition of the site before any intervention has occurred.
- 2.2.4.** BNG habitats can be delivered on-site, off-site or via statutory biodiversity credits, subject to BNG best practice guidelines, appropriate local delivery mechanisms and BNG providers being established. Habitats must be secured and managed for a minimum of 30 years via planning obligations or through Conservation Covenants, as described within part 7 of the Act.
- 2.2.5.** The Act specifies a two-year transition period before mandatory net gain become law. The timeline for secondary legislation and guidance for mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain are still unknown, but it is likely to apply to all TCPA developments and National Significant Infrastructure projects (NSIPs), by late 2023. The Councils' interim expectations in relation to biodiversity net gain for biodiversity and our approach to assessment within the planning process, pending further clarification from Government, is set out under Biodiversity Issue B7 (page 46).
- 2.2.6.** Net gain requirements do not undermine the existing mitigation hierarchy, or the range of protection in planning policy and legislation for irreplaceable habitats, designated sites and protected species.
- 2.2.7.** The Act introduces a statutory requirement for Local Nature Recovery Strategies to be produced by a responsible authority appointed by the Government. The responsible authority is likely to be either the Local Nature Partnership or Cambridgeshire County Council. These strategies will map important habitat areas where there is an opportunity to improve the local environment to guide biodiversity net gain and other policies.

# 3

## Planning Policy

- 3.1. Planning context
- 3.2. National policy and guidance
- 3.3. Existing local policies
- 3.4. Area Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans
- 3.5. Other relevant adopted Supplementary Planning Documents
- 3.6. Local biodiversity strategies
- 3.7. Permitted development

## 3.1. Planning context

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**3.1.1.** As local planning authorities, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council have a statutory duty to carry out certain planning functions for their administrative areas. These functions include the preparation of a Local Plan and the determination of planning applications. The way these functions are to be carried out is governed by legislation and specified within the [National Planning Policy Framework](#), with reference to further guidance, standards and best practice focused on different considerations that influence planning decisions.

**3.1.2.** The following sections summarise current planning policy, as relevant to the subject of conserving and enhancing biodiversity. It should be noted that the subject of biodiversity overlaps significantly with other policy and strategy areas, including landscape, arboriculture, green infrastructure, health and wellbeing, sustainability, and climate change.

## 3.2. National policy and guidance

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**3.2.1.** The National Planning Policy Framework promotes sustainable, well-designed development. Within this aim, it seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment and ensure that biodiversity and appropriate landscaping are fully integrated into new developments in order to create accessible green spaces for wildlife and people, to contribute to a high quality natural and built environment, and to contribute to a better quality of life.

**3.2.2.** Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework covers the role of the planning system in conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

Paragraph 174. Planning policies should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by, amongst other things:

a. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner

commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)

d. minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

e. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans

f. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate

**3.2.3.** Paragraph 175. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a



## 3.2. National policy and guidance (continued)

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strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries

### 3.2.4. Paragraph 179. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

a. identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping-stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and

b. promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity

### 3.2.5. Paragraph 180. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

a. if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused.

b. development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be

permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSI

c. development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

d. development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate

### 3.2.6. Paragraph 181. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;  
b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and  
c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites

Paragraph 182. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

## 3.3. Existing local policies

**3.3.1.** The policies from the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and the Cambridge Local Plan that include an aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and that this Supplementary Planning Document supports and expands upon, are set out below. Full wording of these policies is included in Appendix 1.

### South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

- NH/2 Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character
- NH/3: Protecting Agricultural Land
- NH/4 Biodiversity
- NH/5 Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance
- NH/6 Green Infrastructure
- NH/7 Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees
- CC/8 Sustainable Drainage Systems
- HQ/1 Design Principles

### Cambridge Local Plan

- 7 The River Cam
- 8 Setting of the city
- 31 Integrated water management
- 52 Protecting garden land and the subdivision of existing dwelling plots
- 57 Designing New Buildings (criteria h.)
- 58 Altering and extending existing buildings
- 59 Designing landscape and the public realm
- 66 Paving over front gardens
- 69 Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance
- 70 Protection of Priority Species and Habitats
- 71 Trees



## 3.4. Area Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans

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**3.4.1.** Area Action Plans are documents that are adopted as part of the Local Plan and that set out policies and guidance for specific areas within the Council's administrative area. Neighbourhood Plans provide a similar function but are prepared by local communities. Both kinds of documents usually include policies that refer to biodiversity features, adding to the planning policy context for development management.

**3.4.2.** Neighbourhood Plans are an opportunity for communities to improve their local environment, including protecting and enhancing existing assets, such as local parks, nature reserves and other green spaces. Making biodiversity an integral part of neighbourhood planning can

also help to manage environmental risk and improve resilience to climate change. For example, identifying a local biodiversity network and integrating with land use policies could help to manage the risk of flooding by protecting natural blue and green spaces from development as well as designate these as Local Green Spaces where they provide public benefits.

**3.4.3.** Information about existing Area Action Plans, the areas designated for Neighbourhood Plans and the status of the plans can be found on the [South Cambridgeshire District Council website](#) and the [Cambridge City Council website](#).





## 3.5. Other relevant adopted Supplementary Planning Documents

**3.5.1.** Other Supplementary Planning Documents have been produced individually or collaboratively by the councils, and these should be read alongside this one to ensure cross compliance and integration. The following documents are of direct relevance to Biodiversity, but this does not represent a complete list of Supplementary Planning Documents.

**3.5.2.** South Cambridgeshire District Council has adopted the following Supplementary Planning Documents

- [Landscape in New Developments](#) (adopted March 2010)
- [Trees and Development Sites](#) (adopted January 2009)
- [Open Space in New Developments](#) (adopted January 2009)
- [District Design Guide SPD](#) (adopted March 2010) particularly Chapters 2 & 3
- [Bourn Airfield New Village](#) (adopted October 2019)
- [Waterbeach New Town](#) (adopted February 2019)
- [Cottenham Village Design Statement](#) (adopted November 2007)
- [Fen Drayton Former Land Settlement Association Estate](#) (adopted May 2011)

**3.5.3.** Both Councils adopted the [Cambridgeshire Flood and Water](#) Supplementary Planning Document in 2018, which includes a strong focus on design and management of Sustainable Drainage Systems to enhance biodiversity value.

**3.5.4.** Both Councils adopted a [Sustainable Design and Construction](#) Supplementary Planning Document in January 2020 and are currently developing a new local landscape character area study Supplementary Planning Document.



Biomedical Campus, Cambridge, Guy Belcher

## 3.6. Local biodiversity strategies

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- 3.6.1.** The following paragraphs summarise the range of strategies and projects of relevance to Greater Cambridge that are aimed at enhancing biodiversity or that provide technical support to focus measures that will achieve this. All of these have been endorsed or adopted by the Councils and should be used to guide decisions on habitat creation and species protection included within planning proposals. Reference to these initiatives would demonstrate the strategic basis of applicants' decision making around biodiversity matters.
- 3.6.2.** Natural Cambridgeshire is the Local Nature Partnership covering the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, providing strategic leadership for the recovery of nature under their [Doubling Nature vision](#). This vision seeks to achieve an increase in the amount of land managed for nature from 8% to 16%, by 2050. One of the main areas of focus to achieve this vision is securing high quality green and blue infrastructure within new residential and commercial developments.
- 3.6.3.** Natural Cambridgeshire has developed a [Development with Nature Toolkit](#) to provide developers with a means of demonstrating their commitment to achieving a net gain in biodiversity on major developments. The optional toolkit provides standard guidance that, if followed from the earliest stages of development planning, will determine whether nature is enhanced by the scheme or not. This best practice document is endorsed by both councils.
- 3.6.4.** The [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator Project](#) follows a collaborative approach, seeking to safeguard the future of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough parks and green spaces by finding new ways to deliver, manage and fund parks and open space, with a shared vision across a wide range of partners and stakeholders. This work may identify future design principles and models for ongoing management of new natural green space provision that will require consideration during the planning process.
- 3.6.5.** [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre](#), hosted by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire, and [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Group](#), have prepared habitat opportunity maps covering grassland, woodland and wetland, identifying locations where habitat creation would have the most ecological benefit by connecting existing habitats where environmental conditions are most appropriate.
- 3.6.6.** South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council combined to produce a [Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping report](#), which provides an evidence base of green infrastructure assets and networks across Greater Cambridge and identifies specific and deliverable opportunities to enhance and expand the network. This document has been prepared as part of the evidence base for the forthcoming Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

## 3.6. Local biodiversity strategies (continued)

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- 3.6.7.** [Cambridge City Council produced a Nature Conservation Strategy](#) that was adopted as part of the Local Plan in September 2006. The strategy is currently being reviewed but will continue to act as a guiding document for Cambridge City Council's general approach to biodiversity conservation across its range of functions. The Strategy will act in parallel to the new Supplementary Planning Document. It details the biodiversity resource within Cambridge, sets out strategic aims and principles to be implemented in order to further nature conservation, and includes action plans to address a wide range of identified key issues. Cambridge City Council passed a motion in May 2019 to declare a [biodiversity emergency](#) and their [biodiversity webpage](#) provides links to initiatives and projects implemented as part of their Nature Conservation Strategy.
- 3.6.8.** Cambridge Past, Present and Future is a charity focused on protecting and enhancing Cambridge's green landscape. In partnership with the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, it has prepared a [Cambridge Nature Network](#), covering an area within a ten-kilometre radius of Cambridge. It identifies five priority landscape areas and highlights the best opportunities for the creation of new habitats and large-scale natural greenspaces. It also sets out the mechanisms by which the Nature Network can be grown, which includes the development process.
- 3.6.9.** The [Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams Project](#) seeks to protect and improve the chalk streams in and around Cambridge. The report (published in Dec 2020) provides an overview of the main problems affecting each chalk stream and the key opportunities to improve each one. It also identifies some potential projects for delivery in partnership with stakeholders and landowners.
- 3.6.10.** The [Wicken Fen Vision](#) is a 100 year plan to restore the Fenland landscape and habitats around Wicken Fen to an area of 53 square kilometres, linking to the Cambridge Nature Network.
- 3.6.11.** The importance of the landscape is reflected in national planning guidance with the National Planning Policy Framework stating that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. The South Cambridgeshire landscape has several distinctive and readily identified characters. These have been identified by Natural England as five distinct [National Character Areas](#):
- The Fens
  - South Suffolk and North Essex Claylands
  - East Anglian Chalk
  - Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands
  - Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge.

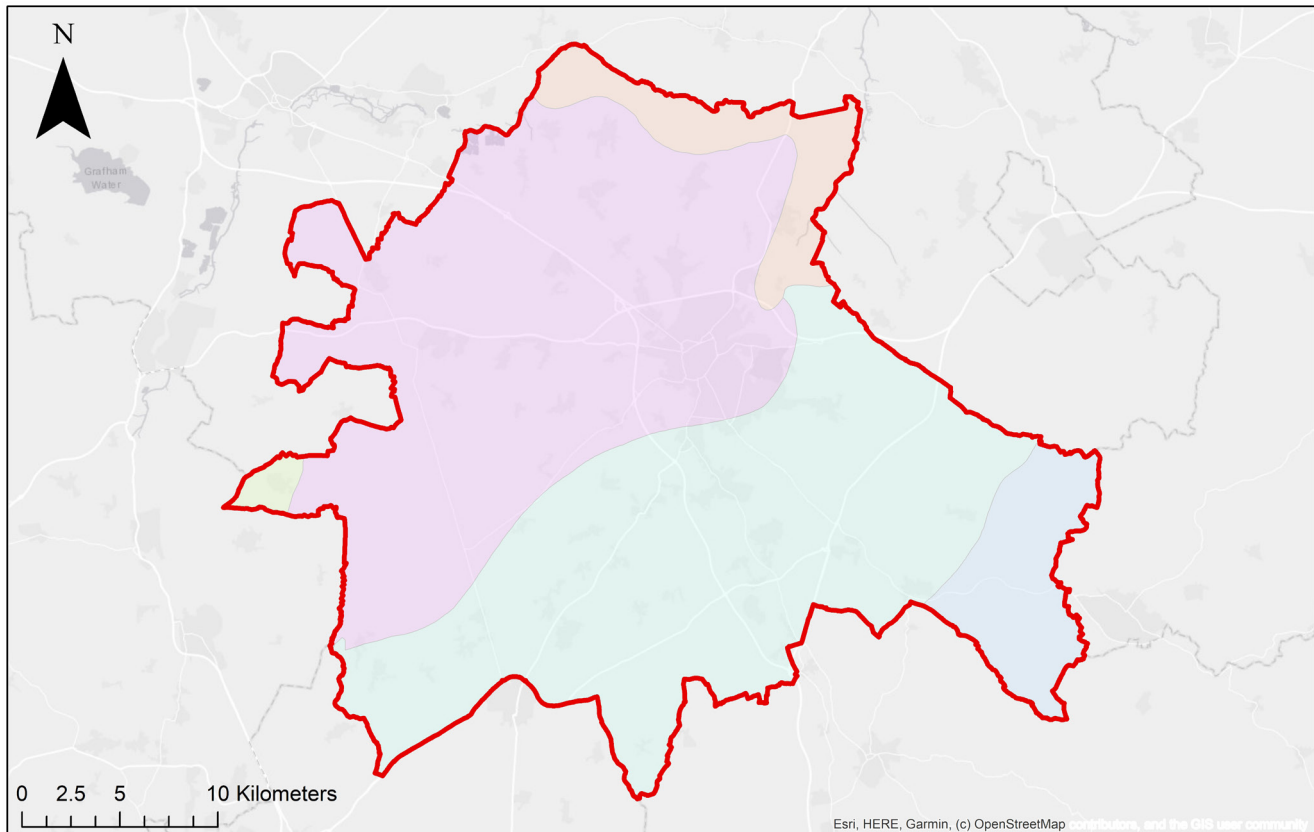


Figure 1 National Character Areas within Greater Cambridge

Legend

Greater Cambridge	Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands	South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland
Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge	East Anglian Chalk	The Fens

## 3.7. Permitted development

**3.7.1. Permitted development** rights derived from [The Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(England\) Order 2015 \(as amended\)](#) mean that certain types of development can be performed without the need to apply for planning permission. However, although this would be outside the normal planning process, there remains a need for the councils to consider the effects that any development relying on permitted development rights might have on biodiversity. Legal protection for wildlife still applies and so any legally protected animals, plants or habitats that may be affected will need proper consideration for the development to be lawful.

**3.7.2.** Certain types of development are granted planning permission by national legislation without the need to submit a planning application. This is known as 'Permitted development'. To be eligible for these permitted development rights, each 'class' specified in the legislation has associated limitations and conditions that proposals must comply with.



## 3.7. Permitted development (continued)

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- 3.7.3.** One such condition on certain classes of permitted development is the need to submit an application to the Local Planning Authority for its 'Prior approval' or to determine if its 'Prior approval' will be required. This allows the Local Planning Authority to consider the proposals, their likely impacts regarding certain factors (such as transport and highways) and how these may be mitigated. Where natural habitats and wildlife are likely to be present, adequate information must be provided to the councils to support the assessment of the ecological implications of the development, the need for mitigation, and if necessary, the need for a licence from Natural England.
- 3.7.4.** Work must not commence on the development until the Local Planning Authority has issued its determination or it has received 'deemed consent' when the time period for a determination to be issued expires. By default, this is an eight week period from when the application is received, but this can vary depending on the type of proposal and may be extended if all parties are in agreement.
- 3.7.5.** Article 4 directions are made when the character of an area of acknowledged importance would be threatened, most commonly in Conservation Areas. Where properties are affected by such a direction, some of the permitted development rights can be removed by the councils issuing an Article 4 direction, which then means planning consent will be needed for work that normally does not need it.
- 3.7.6.** Class Q applications are applications for Prior Approval for a change of use or conversion of a building, and any land within its curtilage, from a use as an agricultural building to that of a dwelling. Where the buildings are likely to support bats or other legally protected species, there is a risk that they may be affected by the proposals, and it is therefore essential that the Local Planning Authority has certainty of impacts prior to determination of any application. Sufficient information, including appropriate survey results, will be needed to support such an application.
- 3.7.7.** Permission in Principle applications do not include a consent as this is a separate step in the planning process. The scope of permission in principle is limited to location, land use and amount of development. Issues relevant to these 'in principle' matters should be considered at the permission in principle stage. Other matters should be considered at the technical details consent stage. In addition, local authorities cannot list the information they require for applications for permission in principle in the same way they can for applications for planning permission.
- 3.7.8.** Change of use applications can bring benefits if properly planned and sensitively managed. The use of grassland sites by horses for equestrian purposes can sustain their botanical interest. However, there is also much potential to damage the interest of grassland sites through overgrazing. Over-grazing may lead to the proliferation of certain undesirable species, increased soil erosion, and diffuse pollution. Development proposals for stabling or for Change of Use to paddock land will be subject to ecological assessment based on the likelihood of protected and Priority species being present and affected, as well as impacts on the local landscape character.



# 4

## The biodiversity resource

- 4.1. Introduction
- 4.2. Statutory designated sites
- 4.3. Non statutory designated Local Sites
- 4.4. Protected species
- 4.5. Priority habitats
- 4.6. Priority species
- 4.7. Red List species

# 4.1. Introduction

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**4.1.1.** Biodiversity exists everywhere and includes the ubiquitous species as well as rarities, but the designation of species and sites has been used as a means of identifying relative value and for the prioritisation of nature conservation action. This chapter provides a summary of the sites designated for their nature conservation value across the Greater Cambridge area, and of the legally protected and Priority species present.

**4.1.2.** All such sites and species are material to planning decisions, and the sites provide the core of the local ecological network as well as being integral to developing Nature Recovery Networks. Detailed information about designated sites and existing records of protected and Priority species can be obtained through a data search from [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre](#).

# 4.2. Statutory designated sites

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## Habitats (European) sites

**4.2.1.** Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation are sites of international importance protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) as a requirement of the UK's commitment to international commitments. These were formerly known as European or Natura 2000 sites. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the criteria of the international Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Collectively, these sites are now known as Habitats Sites as defined by [National Planning Policy Framework](#).

**4.2.2.** The potential impact of planning proposals on Habitats Sites inside and outside of the Greater Cambridge area will need to be covered within supporting ecological information, as guided by defined Zones of Influence agreed with Natural England. These are likely to be based on a particular impact type and are shown as

Impact Risk Zones on [Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside](#) around the underpinning Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

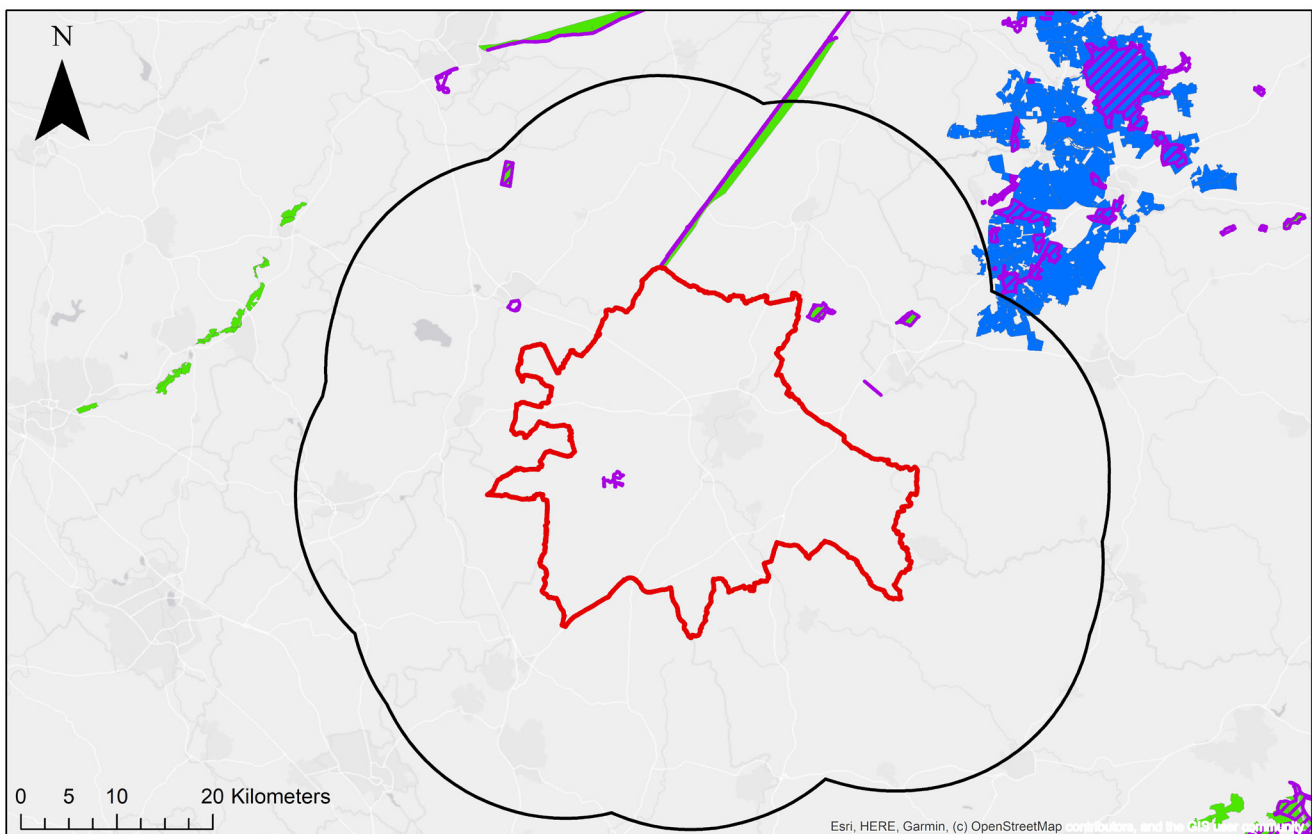
**4.2.3.** There is one Habitats Site - Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation - located within the Greater Cambridge area, and a further four within 20km of the Councils' administrative boundaries. The distribution of these sites is illustrated in Figure 2, but [Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside](#) should be consulted for boundaries and site information:

- Ouse Washes Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar - abutting the Local Plan area to the north at Earith; designated for its internationally important breeding and over-wintering assemblages of birds, for its population of Spined Loach and for the presence of other nationally rare plants and animals
- Portholme Special Area of Conservation - 4 km to the northwest; designated for its lowland hay meadow habitat

## 4.2. Statutory designated sites (continued)

- Devils Dyke Special Area of Conservation - 5.8 km to the northeast; designated as an important orchid site on semi-natural dry grassland habitat

- Fenland Special Areas of Conservation, which also covers the land designated as Wicken Fen Ramsar and Chippenham Fen Ramsar – approximately 1 km to the northeast; designated for its fen meadow and calcareous fen habitats



### Legend

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Greater Cambridge            | Ramsar                  |
| 20km buffer                  | Special Protection Area |
| Special Area of Conservation |                         |

Figure 2 Internationally designated sites

## 4.2. Statutory designated sites (continued)

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- 4.2.4.** The Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation comprises a mixture of ancient coppice woodland (Eversden Wood) and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin (Wimpole Woods). Wimpole Woods holds the summer maternity roost of a population of Barbastelle bats (*Barbastella barbastellus*). The bats also use suitable habitat within the Special Area of Conservation to forage and it provides commuting routes when they forage outside of the site's boundary, where they utilise wet meadows, woodland streams and rivers.
- 4.2.5.** Surveys to support development proposals have identified summer roosts of male Barbastelle bats in old and unmanaged woodland outside of the Special Area of Conservation, using loose bark on dead trees and crevice features caused by damage. Barbastelle bats can range 20 km per night, further for non-reproductive females, and they frequently switch tree roosts throughout the year within their territory. Barbastelle bats will remain in tree roosts over winter unless temperatures dip below freezing, when hibernation roosts have been found in features such as caves, old buildings and basements.

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest

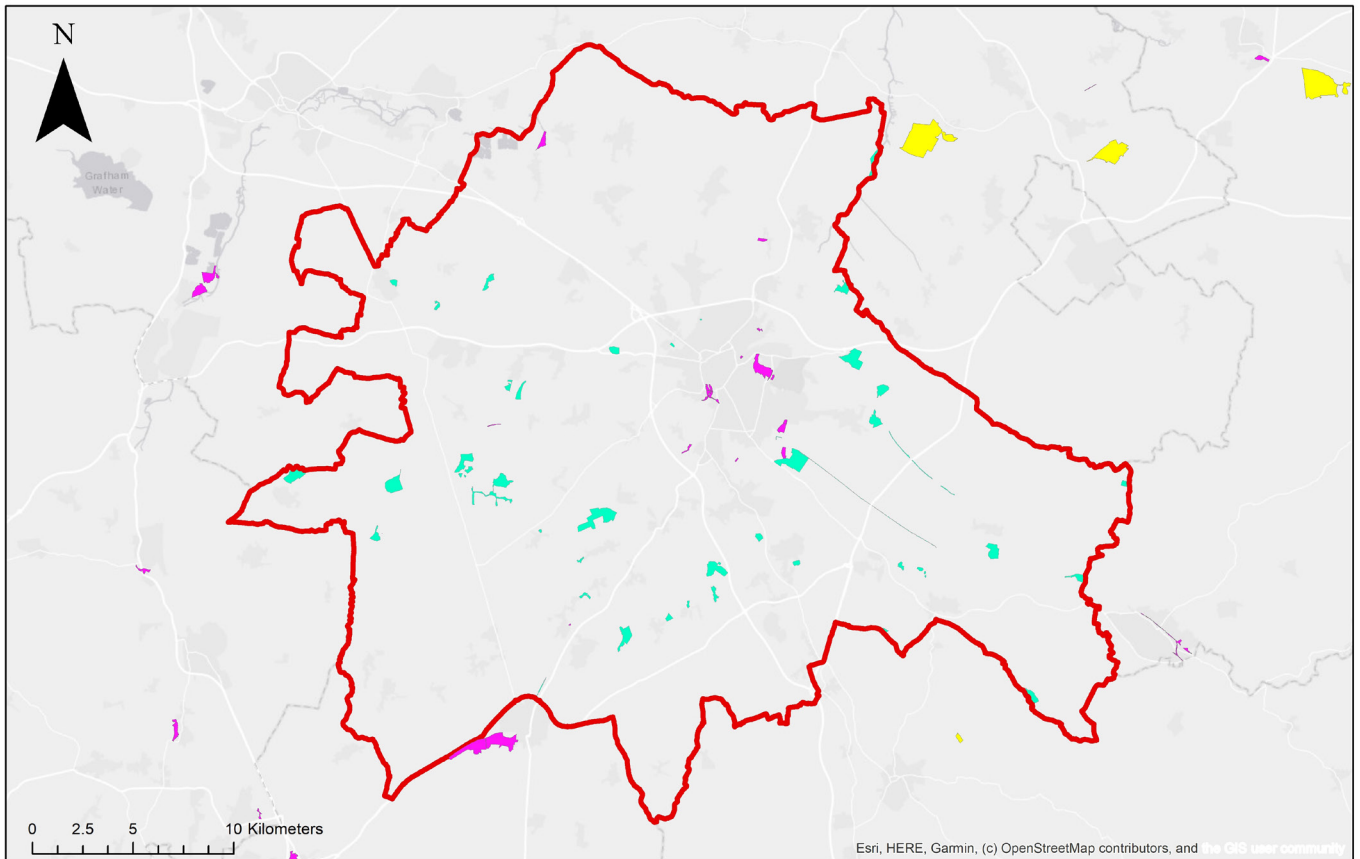
- 4.2.6.** Sites of Special Scientific Interest are designated in accordance with the duties in law placed upon each of the country nature conservation bodies to notify as a Sites of Special Scientific Interest any area of land which, in its opinion, is of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological, geomorphological or physiographical features.
- 4.2.7.** There are 41 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Greater Cambridge area, covering a range of habitats and geological formations, including chalk grassland, species-rich neutral grassland, reedbed and fen, Ancient Woodland, chalk pits, gravel pits and clay pits. Further information can be obtained through the [Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside](#) including boundaries and links to site descriptions.

### Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

- 4.2.8.** Local Nature Reserves are statutorily protected sites of land designated by Local Authorities because of their special natural interest, educational value and access to nature. There are 13 statutory Local Nature Reserves within the Greater Cambridge area as illustrated on [Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside](#). More information on individual Local Nature Reserves is available on the [Cambridge City Council](#) and [Cambridgeshire County Council websites](#).



## 4.2. Statutory designated sites (continued)



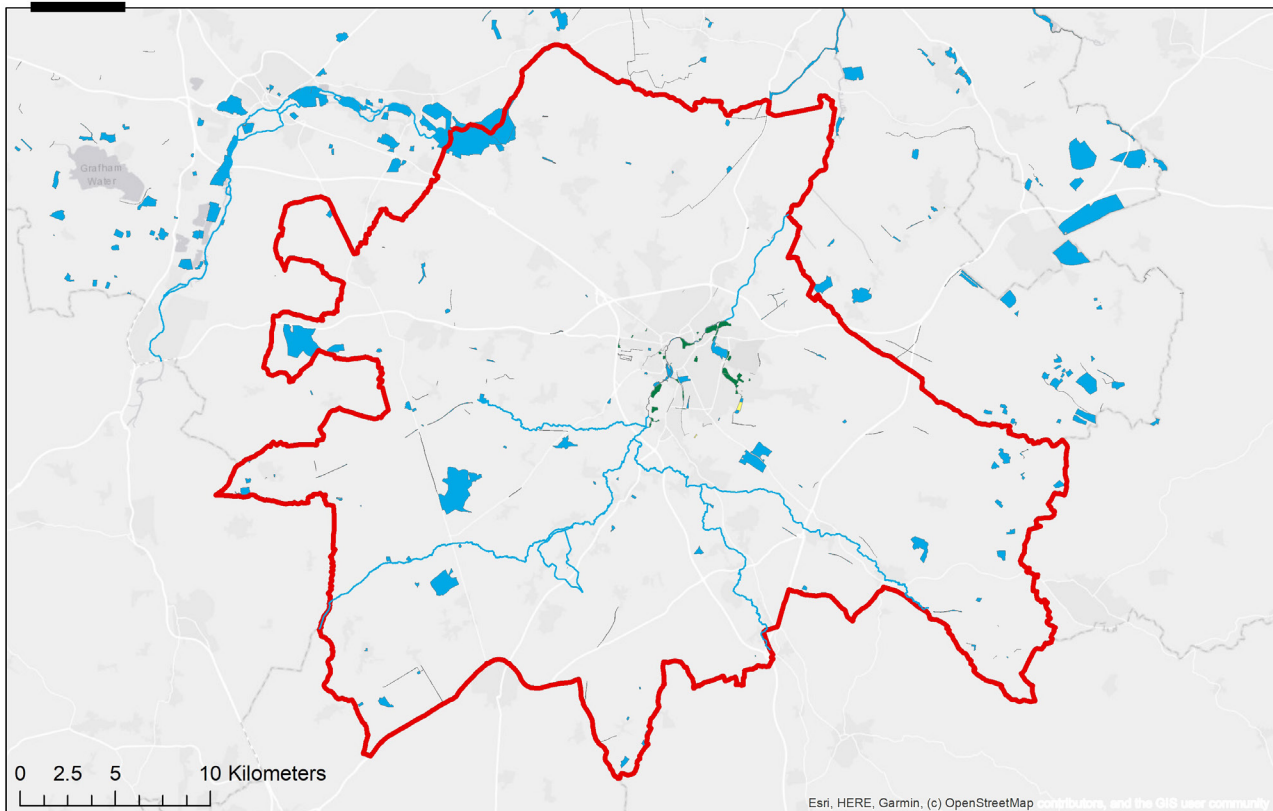
### Legend

- |   |                       |   |                                      |
|---|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | Greater Cambridge     |  | National Nature Reserves             |
|  | Local Nature Reserves |  | Sites of Special Scientific Interest |

Figure 3 Nationally designated sites



## 4.3. Non statutory designated Local Sites



### Legend

 Greater Cambridge

 Local Geological Sites

 County Wildlife Sites

Figure 4 Locally designated sites

 City Wildlife Sites

**4.3.1.** Local Sites, as defined by the [National Planning Policy Framework](#), have been identified for all Councils in Cambridgeshire and are referred to as County Wildlife Sites. These are designated for their importance for nature conservation at a county level and are identified on the Councils' Local Plan Policies Maps. County Wildlife Sites are non-statutory sites identified against a set of locally developed [criteria](#), produced by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough County Wildlife Site Panel and covering both habitat and species.

**4.3.2.** The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) requires these sites to be protected through the Local Plan system as part of a Local Ecological Network. As well as supporting the majority of Priority Habitat within a given area, County Wildlife Sites often present opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, by improving existing management.

**4.3.3.** Within Cambridge City, a second layer of non-statutory sites have been identified and are referred to as [City Wildlife Sites](#), recognizing the importance of natural green space and habitats within the urban context. These sites are identified under a separate set of criteria with a lower threshold than for County Wildlife Sites.

**4.3.4.** Cambridgeshire's [Protected Roadside Verges](#) represent the best examples of road verge grassland across the county, identified for special management by Cambridgeshire County Council against a defined set of criteria based upon the presence of rare species or those indicating quality grassland habitat. Road verges constitute the largest area of unimproved grassland within the Greater Cambridge area and will be protected from development impacts. Many Protected Roadside Verges are also designated as County Wildlife Sites.

## 4.4. Protected species

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- 4.4.1.** The presence of any legally protected species is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application. Populations of most species are dynamic and so existing records can only be used as a guide to likely presence and should be tested by appropriate field survey work.
- 4.4.2.** European Protected Species with known populations within the Greater Cambridge area are Great Crested Newts, 12 species of bats (including the population of Barbastelle bats at Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation) and Otter, with a very few records of Dormouse.
- 4.4.3.** A range of other UK species are protected by various pieces of legislation, primarily the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Those protected by their inclusion in the Schedules of the Act and known to be present in the Greater Cambridge area include White-clawed Crayfish, Water Vole, Badger, Common Lizard, Grass Snake and Barn Owl. The area also supports populations of Fairy Shrimp, including at the Whittlesford Thriplow Hummocky Fields Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- 4.4.4** For advice on proposals that will require a protected species mitigation licence, developers can use [Natural England's Pre-submission screening service](#).

## 4.5. Priority habitats

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- 4.5.1.** Priority Habitats are those included within the list prepared under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. The distribution of Priority Habitats in South Cambridgeshire district and Cambridge City can be identified on the [Cambridgeshire Habitat Opportunity Map](#). Priority Habitats are largely represented by small, fragmented blocks, but there are clusters reflecting the varied environmental character of the area.
- 4.5.2.** Lowland Calcareous Grassland is predominantly found to the south east of Cambridge, within the Gog Magog Hills. To the east and north east is the fenland, with concentrations of Lowland Fen, Reedbeds and Lowland Meadows. The corridor of the River Cam and its tributaries supports Floodplain Grassland Mosaic, Wet Woodland and Lowland Meadows, as well as the River habitat itself and Chalk Stream sections. To the west of Cambridge are Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Hedgerows, Lowland Meadows and Traditional Orchards on the boulder clay. To the north of Cambridge, the presence of Traditional Orchards on the fen edge reflect the significance of former land uses.
- 4.5.3.** Natural England maintains inventories of Priority Habitats, which can be viewed on the [Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside](#) map. These inventories should only be viewed as provisional, with the presence or absence of Priority Habitats to be confirmed by field survey results, with reference to the published [UK Priority habitat descriptions](#).



## 4.6. Priority species

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- 4.6.1.** Priority Species are those included within the list prepared under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. Over 200 UK Priority Species are found in Cambridgeshire as a whole, which includes previously common but declining species such as Common Toad, Brown Hare, House Sparrow and Hedgehog alongside a range of lesser known invertebrates, and plants such as Purple Milk-vetch.
- 4.6.2.** Given the largely agricultural character of the area, there is also good representation of farmland bird species such as Skylark, Turtle Dove, Tree Sparrow, Grey Partridge and Yellowhammer, whose populations could be affected by any development on arable land. The loss of breeding territories of such farmland birds is likely to require compensation by provision on nearby farmland. Over-wintering birds such as Lapwing and Golden Plover are also important farmland species to be considered in ecology surveys.
- 4.6.3.** [The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Group](#) provides a full list of Priority Species known to be present in the county.
- 4.6.4.** Priority invertebrate species may be poorly recorded, but the identification of habitats and features of likely value to invertebrates should serve as a trigger to consider the need for specialist survey. The national invertebrate conservation charity Buglife has created a map of [B-Lines](#) as a strategic initiative to target habitat creation and connectivity for pollinators and has also mapped Important Invertebrate Areas, landscapes that are of particular significance for invertebrate populations, where a greater focus on impacts to favourable habitat may be required. The Fens [Important Invertebrate Area](#) lies within Greater Cambridge.





## 4.7. Red List species

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- 4.7.1.** The nature conservation status of species has been determined by the assessment of populations against threat and rarity criteria, often at local, national and international levels. Species with higher rarity and threat status are generally known as Red List species. In the UK, information on national reviews and species statuses is available from the [Joint Nature Conservation Committee](#). As there is no centrally coordinated approach to these reviews, the coverage of species groups, the age of the information, and the criteria used vary.
- 4.7.2.** There is no Cambridgeshire Red List, but there is a list of [Additional Species of Interest](#), which provides comparable information and includes the [Cambridgeshire Plant Species of Conservation Concern](#).



Corn Bunting, David C Wege

### Non-native invasive species

- 4.7.3.** Vigorous or invasive non-native species can impact negatively upon biodiversity by out-competing native flora. This can then lead to a negative impact upon fauna by limiting the available feeding and cover areas. Species of particular concern include Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*), American Mink (*Mustela vison*), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), Parrot's-feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) and Water Fern (*Azolla filiculoides*). More information is available on the webpages of the [GB Non-native Species Secretariat](#).
- 4.7.4.** Where proposals at development sites are likely to result in the spread of non-native invasive plant species the development may not be permitted until suitable measures have been agreed and / or undertaken to control the invasive species. It should be noted that it is an offence to spread, or cause to grow, certain plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 as amended.

# 5

## Biodiversity in the development management process

- 5.1. Introduction
- 5.2. Overarching principles
- 5.3. Site selection stage
- 5.4. Pre-application stage
- 5.5. Design stage
- 5.6. Application stage
- 5.7. Construction stage
- 5.8. Post-construction stage

# 5.1. Introduction

**5.1.1.** As biodiversity is a material consideration for planning, this section covers the need to consider biodiversity at every stage in the planning application process and what form that consideration should take

to ensure that progress is not held up. It sets out the types and quality of information that applicants and their ecological advisers are expected to achieve when preparing an application for submission.

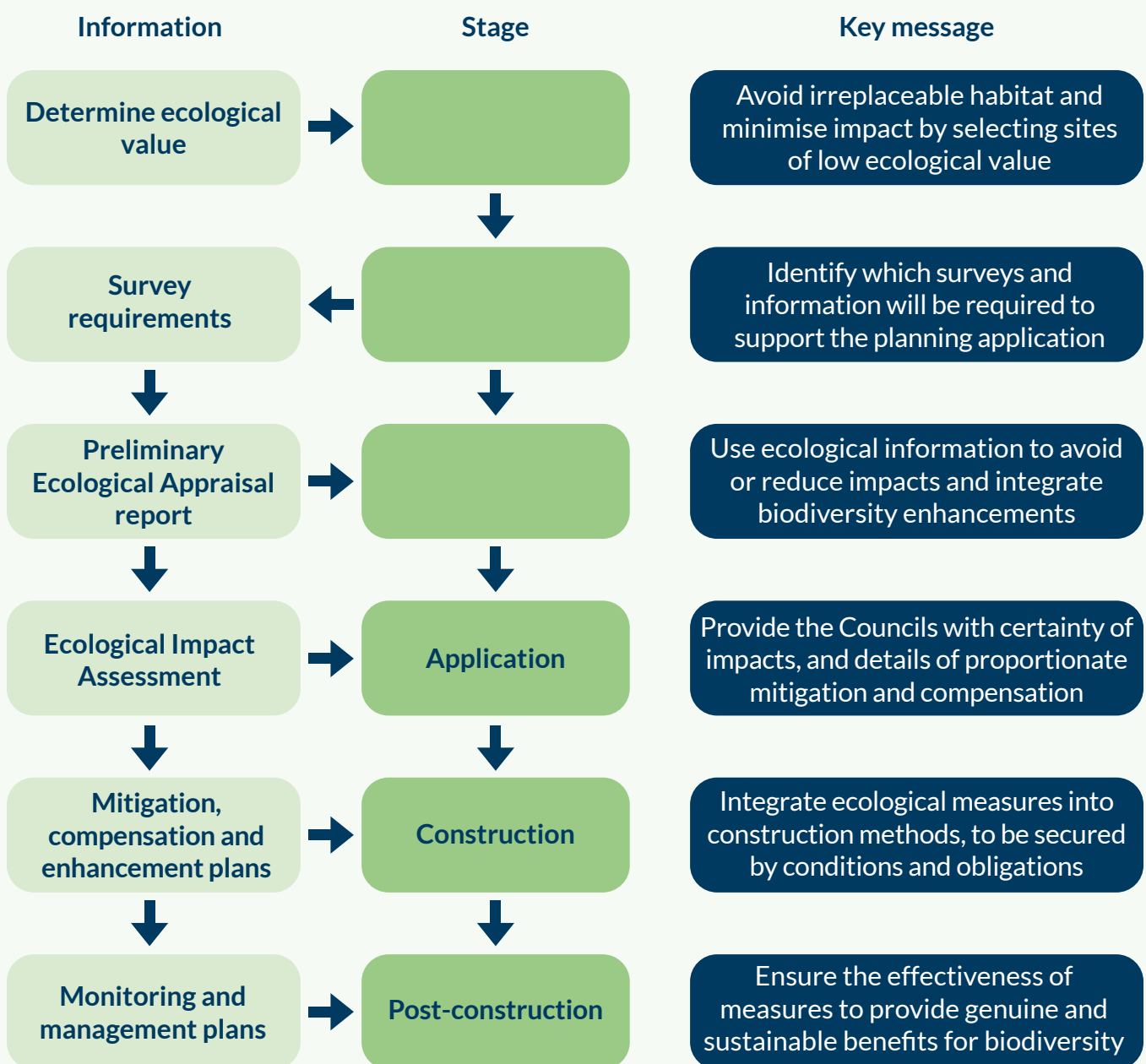
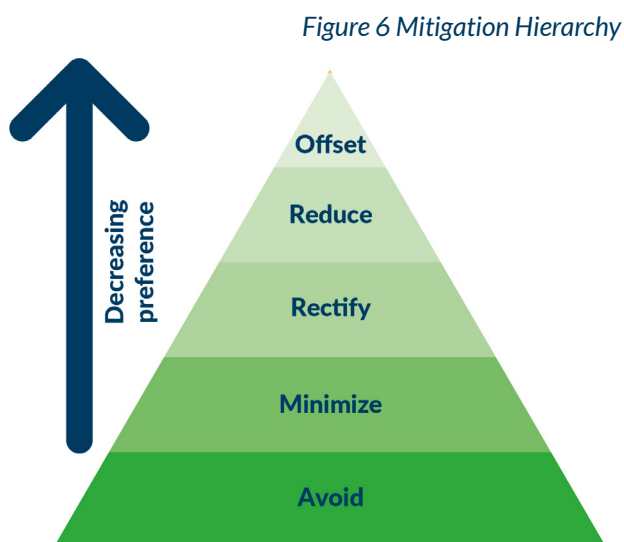


Figure 5 Stages within the development management process

## 5.2. Overarching principles

### Biodiversity Issue B1 – mitigation hierarchy

To meet national and local policy requirements (NH/4 Item 3 and Policy 70), submitted ecological reports are expected to explain how the hierarchy of mitigation measures (Avoid, Mitigate, Compensate) has been embedded into the design of the development. Where impacts on habitats and species cannot be avoided, a clear explanation of why alternative sites are not feasible and what proposed mitigation and compensation measures are necessary to address all likely significant adverse effects is needed.



**5.2.1.** The mitigation hierarchy aims to prevent net biodiversity loss and strict adherence to its principles is essential. This approach is included in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) and also in ecological best practice guidelines. Definitions vary, but usually include the following steps that must be implemented in order:

- Avoid - Anticipated biodiversity losses should be avoided and reduced by using alternative sites and designs, retaining habitats of value for enhancement and management and retaining species in situ.

- Mitigate - Impacts considered unavoidable should be mitigated where the impact occurs, by replacing lost protected and priority habitats and accommodating displaced species within the site boundary.
- Compensate - If mitigation measures are insufficient then, as a last resort, off-site compensatory measures should also be implemented in proportion to the harm, by creating suitable habitat off-site and relocating species.

**5.2.2.** As required by the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) and as a key principle of delivering Biodiversity Net Gain (see Biodiversity Issue B6), applicants must demonstrate that, in the design of their proposals, they have followed the mitigation hierarchy with respect to ecological impacts.

**5.2.3.** Ecological consultants can advise on avoiding negative impacts on the biodiversity of a development site by involvement throughout the planning application process, but most importantly at the site selection and design stages. Seeking advice early on in the planning process might help avoid costly delays later on.

**5.2.4.** Homeowners and developers will often require an ecologist to undertake ecological surveys and mitigation work in relation to a building project to meet the Councils' requirements for ecological information. Contracting a member of a professional institute such as the [Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management](#) means that you are engaging a professional who is working to high standards and there is a complaints procedure if anything goes wrong. Applicants needing to

## 5.2. Overarching principles (continued)

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[find a consultant](#) to support their planning application can use the tool on the [Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management](#) website which also provides further information on [ecological surveys and their purpose](#), which describes the different types of reports that you may be asked for by the Councils, [what to expect from a bat survey](#) and a [householder's guide to engaging an ecologist](#).

- 5.2.5. The approach to following the hierarchy should be informed by the ecological value of the habitats and species to be affected. Impacts to Priority habitats and species should always be avoided, if possible, but mitigation or compensation for any species or habitats degraded or destroyed through the development process is also required.

### BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development

- 5.2.6. This British Standard gives guidance on how development might affect biodiversity, provides recommendations on how to integrate biodiversity into all stages of the planning, design and development process, and provides a rigorous framework for assessing impacts and for securing mitigation, compensation and appropriate biodiversity enhancements. Compliance with the standard in the ecological information submitted by applicants can be seen as an indication of its validity and relevance to the determination process and is encouraged. It is intended to assist those concerned with ecological issues as they arise through the planning process and in matters

relating to consented development that could have site-specific ecological implications.

- 5.2.7. BS42020 states that high quality ecological information is important for effective decision making as well as for compliance with legal obligations and policy requirements and successful implementation of the practical conservation and biodiversity enhancement measures identified in the ecological reports submitted with planning applications. The standard identifies the ecological data required and considerations for its assessment, and its use in the design of mitigation measures, to give certainty, clarity and confidence to those involved at all stages of the planning process.
- 5.2.8. Compliance with this standard is an important and credible way to demonstrate the validity of the ecological information you will bring forward in support of your planning application. Any deviations from this British Standard will need to be fully justified and they may be challenged by the Councils or external consultees, leading to delays in the decision process.





## 5.3. Site selection stage

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**5.3.1.** The easiest way to avoid a negative impact on species and habitats and to maximise the gain for biodiversity that can be achieved from a development is to select a site that has low existing ecological value and low strategic potential for habitat creation, buffering or connectivity. This could include sites that have been intensively managed or where land use has resulted in degraded habitats. In addition, brownfield sites can also contribute to wider strategic potential for habitat creation by providing links between green corridors or linking up wildlife corridors. It should be noted that ecological value should be measured by a suitably qualified professional and not judged on appearance, as sites that may appear to be degraded could include features of particular significance to certain species.

### **Biodiversity Issue B2 – Protection of irreplaceable habitats**

Developers will be expected to avoid direct and indirect impacts on irreplaceable habitats and embed measures to achieve this within the design of any development proposal.

To meet policy requirements (NH/4 item 6, NH/7 and Policy 71), the councils will refuse applications that would result in the loss, deterioration or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats unless the need for, and benefits of, the development clearly outweigh the loss, and a suitable compensation strategy exists. In these situations, biodiversity net gain is not achievable. As per NPPF 2021, there would have to be wholly exceptional reasons for this to be the case with the burden of proof for these falling to developers to provide irrefutable evidence of these exceptional reasons.

**5.3.2.** Irreplaceable habitats are defined in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) as “habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity.” In addition to Ancient Woodland and veteran trees, other types of habitat such as unimproved grassland, lowland fen and ancient hedgerows are also considered to be irreplaceable. The loss of these habitats cannot be compensated for by gains elsewhere and so they are excluded from Biodiversity Net Gain calculations.

**5.3.3.** All development predicted to result in impacts on irreplaceable habitat will need to be accompanied by detailed survey information and evidence to support the exceptional reasons that justify such a loss. Compensation strategies should include contribution to the enhancement and management of the habitat. Compensation for damaging development to a site by way of its habitat enhancement and management should not substitute action that would be happening anyway.

**5.3.4.** Ancient woodland shall be identified by having regard to the presence and combination of Ancient Woodland Indicator Species, as presented in the [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough County Wildlife Sites Selection Guidelines](#). The Woodland Trust’s [Planning for ancient woodland – planners manual for ancient woodland and veteran trees](#) should be used as a guide to avoiding and minimising impacts from development proposals.

## 5.4. Pre-application stage

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### Pre-application advice

- 5.4.1. There are many advantages to seeking pre-application advice from the Greater Cambridge Planning Services at an early stage in the preparation of development proposals, particularly for ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain. This frontloads the process and avoids risks of delays and additional costs on submission, by providing the developers and their agents with clarity on the scope of information that will be expected to enable the application to be determined.
- 5.4.2. Where there is a predictable impact on biodiversity and insufficient ecological information is submitted to support determination, the Councils are likely to refuse an application.
- 5.4.3. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service offers a [pre-application service](#) that can save time and money for anyone considering submitting a planning application, and it also offers design workshops to applicants. This may be particularly valuable to householders and those who are not regularly involved in development, who may not routinely seek professional ecological support or be aware of all of the relevant issues.
- 5.4.4. Developers wishing to seek substantive advice on recreational pressure impacts and mitigation relating to Sites of Special Scientific Interest should be directed to Natural England's [Discretionary Advice Service](#).

### Existing biodiversity information

- 5.4.5. Biodiversity baseline information from the [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre](#) is needed within all ecological reports, to identify the presence of designated sites and existing records of habitats and species that could be affected by development. Data search requests should be for a minimum 1 km buffer from the red line boundary for protected and Priority species and 2 km for all designated sites. While older data may be less relevant in some cases, it may provide the only baseline available for a site and so should not be discounted.
- 5.4.6. An absence of records does not mean a record of absence and ecological consultants need to use their professional judgment to ensure that biodiversity features are not overlooked. Survey and assessment of all species likely to be present on and adjacent to the development site and any which could be affected indirectly should be covered.
- 5.4.7. Provision of this data within submitted ecological reports needs to be presented in accordance with the terms and conditions of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre and any sensitive records should only be shown at 10km resolution.
- 5.4.8. The consultant ecologist should also determine whether the development site falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zone, as shown on the [Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside](#) map, which would indicate that the development could result in indirect impacts that require consultation with Natural England.

## 5.4. Pre-application stage (continued)

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### Biodiversity Issue B3 – Great Crested Newt district level licensing

To meet policy requirements (NH/4 and Policy 70) and support development which is likely to impact on Great Crested Newt, if a developer is accepted to join the Natural England Cambridgeshire Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing scheme, they do not need to carry out their own surveys for this European Protected Species or plan and carry out mitigation work.

If a consent for development is issued, developers do not need to meet the Government's [Standing Advice for Great Crested Newt](#). However, the Councils will still require survey and assessment for other protected and Priority species likely to be present and affected by development, together with delivery of any mitigation needing to be secured by a condition of any consent.

**5.4.9.** Natural England has now launched a District Level Licensing scheme for Great Crested Newt in Cambridgeshire that developers can pay to join for each of their sites, to better protect Great Crested Newt populations as an alternative to conventional site-based survey, licensing and mitigation methods. Full details are available on the relevant pages of the [Government District Level Licensing website](#).

**5.4.10.** As an alternative to Great Crested Newt surveys and assessment, the use of District Level Licensing provides a year-round option for developers to mitigate predicted impacts on Great Crested Newt and can provide certainty of costs and timescales.

**5.4.11.** With an agreement in place with Natural England to use District Level Licensing, the Councils only need an Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate countersigned by Natural England to be submitted with the planning application as evidence of site registration under this strategic mitigation scheme.

**5.4.12.** Participation in the District Level Licensing scheme does not negate the need for proposals to follow the mitigation hierarchy or deliver measurable net gain. The Councils will still require survey and assessment for other protected and Priority habitats and species likely to be present and affected by development, with any necessary mitigation secured by a condition of any consent.

**5.4.13.** A precautionary approach to site clearance, under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist, will be required for all development supported by Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing, or where protected and Priority species are predicted to be on site. To avoid reckless actions and wildlife crime, this will include supervision of any habitat works by an Ecological Clerk of Works, who will undertake a fingertip search, and implementation of a Construction Environment Management Plan (Biodiversity).

**5.4.14.** The Environment Act 2021 has indicated an intention to prepare other Strategic Mitigation Schemes in consultation with stakeholders to support delivery of sustainable development.



## 5.4. Pre-application stage (continued)

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### Ecological surveys and assessment

**5.4.15.** Applicants must ensure that planning applications are supported by adequate ecological information, using up to date desk studies and site assessment to inform survey methodologies sufficient in scope to allow the impact of a proposal to be appropriately assessed. This includes householders and developers of small sites, where there may be unexpected risks of impacts to habitats and species.

[CIEEM provide an advice note on the lifespan of ecological surveys here](#)

See Appendix 2.

**5.4.16.** A [Preliminary Ecological Appraisal](#) is often carried out by ecologists as an initial means of recording the habitats and condition of a development site and predicting the likely ecological constraints and impacts that might arise from its development.

**5.4.17.** Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Reports are valuable documents that should be commissioned at the earliest stages of design, and their results should influence the layout and form of the proposals. Identifying important ecological resources at the outset and avoiding impacts on them will limit the loss of biodiversity and reduce the need for mitigation and compensation measures. In many cases these reports will include recommendations for further survey, particularly in relation to protected and priority species.

**5.4.18.** All surveys must be carried out in accordance with published standards and best practice guidance, as appropriate to the information they are expected to generate. To ensure the acceptability of impact assessment, any deviations from best practice should be explained and justified.

**5.4.19.** Pre-development biodiversity value must be calculated before any site clearance or other habitat management work has been undertaken, by the applicants or anybody else. **However, if this is known to have happened, on or after 30th January 2020 the condition of the site will be taken as the habitat baseline stated in Schedule 14 Part 1 paragraph 6 of [the Environment Act 2021](#).** This is consistent with existing good practice guidelines for ecological assessment, including [CIEEM](#) and [BREEAM](#) guidelines. Where previous surveys are not available, this will be established through [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre](#) records and habitat areas identified through aerial photographs. Where habitat conditions are not known, then a precautionary approach will be applied.

**5.4.20.** Habitat mapping methodologies need to be appropriate to their purpose, which for biodiversity net gain calculations means UK Habitats Classification, as required for the Defra Biodiversity Metric calculation. Phase 1 habitat mapping can still be used for PEA reports, or in circumstances where Biodiversity Net Gain calculation is not required.

## 5.4. Pre-application stage (continued)

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**5.4.21.** Where the applicant's commissioned ecology report indicates that further surveys are required to support a planning application, the results of all such surveys and associated details of necessary mitigation measures will need to be submitted prior to determination. This is necessary to provide the Councils with certainty of likely impacts and that effective and deliverable mitigation can be secured either by a condition of any consent or with a mitigation licence from Natural England. Where recommended protected species surveys have not been completed, the ecology report will not be sufficient to support a planning application.

**5.4.22.** The Council expects that all biodiversity records obtained during surveys to inform development will be submitted to [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre](#), as required by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management's code of professional conduct. Applicants must not seek to restrict their ecological consultants from submitting biodiversity records.

## 5.5. Design stage

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### Biodiversity Issue B4 – Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity

To meet national and local policy requirements (NH/4, NH/5, NH/6, Policy 69 and Policy 70), development should:

1. Secure the conservation management and enhancement of natural and semi-natural habitats in the landscape together with the biodiversity that they contain and seek to restore and/or create new wildlife habitats.
2. Secure the provision of appropriate public access to natural green spaces, particularly within or close to the villages.

Habitats will be considered important for biodiversity where they:

1. Are part of the UK national network of sites (Habitats sites) or are proposed for designation

2. Are nationally designated sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves or Local Nature Reserves) or are proposed for designation
3. Are non-statutory designated sites of at least County or City importance or are proposed for designation
4. Are likely to support the presence of a Priority species or habitat, or significant populations of a national or local Red list species
5. Have the potential to assist in the delivery of National, County or District Nature Recovery Networks and clearly act as a stepping-stone, wildlife corridor or refuge area
6. Provide for the quiet enjoyment of biodiversity within semi-natural areas or act as an educational resource, such as Local Nature Reserves

## 5.5. Design stage (continued)

**5.5.1.** Proposals that contain or that will affect a habitat of importance for biodiversity will be expected to include measures to protect any existing value and to improve their condition by appropriate enhancement or management measures. Retaining existing biodiversity features on sites might make it easier to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain. Management should be sustainable for the long-term, with clear objectives guided by the site's existing habitat features and species, as appropriate to location and environmental conditions.

**5.5.2.** While it can be possible to combine positive nature conservation management with public access, it should be noted that the potential impact of public access must be fully considered in determining the likely target condition of the biodiversity habitat and its value to any existing species populations. Measures to manage the existing impact of recreation on an area of semi-natural public open space will be welcomed.



Back Garden, Place Services

Figure 7 An example of a small site

Even small sites can support protected and priority species; although this house and garden appear unremarkable, there are two bat species using the loft, nesting birds in the dense common ivy, and great crested newts in a small pond.

**5.5.3.** Small sites, including gardens and other urban green space, can also support habitats and species of nature conservation value and provide opportunities for enhancement and improved management.

**5.5.4.** Where appropriate, the Councils will secure measures to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying a planning condition requiring the submission and approval of an Ecological Design Strategy or a species-specific Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy, which will include:

- a) The purpose and conservation objectives of the proposed works
- b) A review of baseline conditions, site potential and constraints
- c) Detailed designs and/or working methods to achieve stated objectives
- d) The specific extent and location of proposed works shown on maps and plans at an appropriate scale
- e) The type and source of materials to be used, where appropriate, such as specifying native species of local provenance or the type of bird box to be used.
- f) A timetable for implementation, demonstrating that works are aligned with any proposed phasing of development
- g) The persons responsible for implementing the works
- h) Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance
- i) Details for monitoring and remedial measures
- j) Details for disposal of any wastes arising from works

## 5.5. Design stage (continued)

### Biodiversity Issue B5 – Biodiversity provision in the design of new buildings and open spaces

To meet policy requirements (HQ/1, NH/4, Policy 57 and Policy 59), the councils will expect:

1. That development proposals will have regard to the biodiversity already present within a development site and to identify opportunities to maximise the provision for biodiversity within new development sites with strategic nature conservation priorities.
2. That on all residential housing developments, there should be an equal number of integrated bird box features such as dwellings for building-dependent birds (breeding Swifts, House Sparrows, Starlings and House Martins) provided individually or clustered in appropriate locations within the development. On constrained sites, particularly those with a large number of apartments, practical consideration should be given to prioritising bird, bat or insect boxes in optimum areas of the site.
3. That all suitable commercial and community building applications will include integrated bird box features for building dependent birds (breeding Swifts, House Sparrows, Starlings and House Martins) in keeping with the scale of development, i.e. minimum of 10 boxes for the first 1000 sqm footprint and one additional box for every 100 sqm.
4. That on all residential housing developments 25% of the dwellings / units will have integrated bat box features, provision to be clustered next to appropriate foraging habitats.

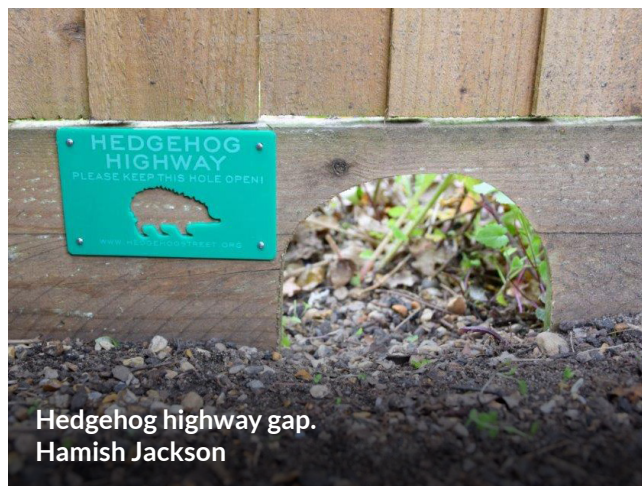


Figure 8 Hedgehog Highway gaps in boundary fence.

Incorporating Hedgehog Highway gaps into boundary fences ensures connectivity between gardens for Hedgehogs and other wildlife, increasing the extent of habitat available in a secure way.

5. That new wildlife habitats and features, including predominantly native trees and shrubs and durable tree mounted nest boxes, bat boxes and insect boxes, will be incorporated into landscaping schemes and the general layout of the built environment. All fencing will be expected to be hedgehog friendly and hedgehog highways should be incorporated throughout the development.
- 5.5.5.** Design of new developments should retain habitats of value to biodiversity wherever possible. Even for small scale developments, this would include boundary hedgerows, trees and any pond on site and these can provide the framework for the setting of the scheme layout as well as contributing to the post development network for nature and people.



## 5.5. Design stage (continued)

**5.5.6.** Landscape design will be required to enhance existing habitats and link them to new habitats created within the development site that are suited to the landscape character (see section 3.6.10). Further information can be found on the [Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method](#) webpage for a Green Guide Calculator and [Building with Nature](#).



Figure 9 Landscaping and soils

A bank and low nutrient substrate with sparse vegetation, incorporated into landscaping to benefit solitary mining bees and other invertebrates



Figure 10 Integrated nesting habitat for birds or bats

Integrated boxes primarily designed for swifts will also be used by other species such as house sparrow and are easily built into new buildings

**5.5.7.** The use of low nutrient status soils to support diverse habitat mosaics with low maintenance requirements is encouraged and applications within the [B-Lines](#) identified by Buglife will be expected to include sustainable landscaping features of value to invertebrates, especially pollinators, including flowering lawns.

**5.5.8.** Natural timber and aggregate waste from site should be retained and repurposed for habitat creation such as hibernacula and low nutrient banks wherever possible.

**5.5.9.** The impact of garden extensions into the open countryside needs to be considered as, although these provide an opportunity to diversify arable landscapes, species and features associated with a farmland landscape may not be replicable within the garden environment. Applicants, where appropriate, will be required to plant mixed native species hedges with trees to define boundaries in open countryside as opposed to the erection of fences that may hinder the natural movement of animals. In the above image, a bank and low nutrient substrate with sparse vegetation are incorporated into landscaping to benefit solitary mining bees and other invertebrates.

**5.5.10.** In addition, the provision of integrated boxes (a combination of bird, bat & insect boxes) will be required in new buildings for all types of development and should target protected, Priority and other species associated with the built environment, such as Swift, as promoted by [Action for Swifts](#), house sparrow, starling and pipistrelle bats. Where appropriate, high quality, durable boxes can also be provided on retained trees within the public realm.

## 5.5. Design stage (continued)

**5.5.11.** Artificial lighting has the potential to negatively impact on nocturnal species and should be minimised, particularly in areas of natural habitat, woodland edges, hedgerows, and wetlands. Ecological sensitive lighting conditions may be imposed in some cases. The Bat Conservation Trust provide the following [Guidance Note on Bats and Artificial Lighting](#).

### Biodiversity Issue B6 – Provision of biodiverse and living roofs

To meet policy requirements (HQ/1, NH/4 and Policy 31), the provision of biodiverse roofs and walls will be encouraged as a means to maximise biodiversity, particularly where the opportunities for ecological enhancement on a site area are limited, and where such measures will deliver enhancement at a landscape scale where appropriate, as part of a wider strategy of biodiversity enhancements.

**5.5.12.** Although buildings can be screened using native species planting, they can also be made attractive to biodiversity by using climbing plants on walls, fitting window boxes or installing biodiverse roofs and walls. Green roofs should support diverse habitats of local relevance rather than sedum monocultures, which have aesthetic appeal, but limited value to biodiversity. Brown roofs, landscaped with exposed substrates and a varied topography, and supporting nectar and pollen rich flowering plants, are a good alternative. Further information can be found on the [Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method](#) webpage for a Green Guide Calculator and [Building with Nature](#).



Living Roof, Cambridge, Dinah Foley Norman

Figure 11 A biodiverse roof

A biodiverse roof, showing a diversity of flowering plants in an open grassland structure. Habitat design and species mixes should reflect local conditions and stated conservation objectives

**5.5.13.** Biodiverse roofs can provide valuable habitat on sites where space for new habitat creation is constrained. In the image above, the living roof shows a diversity of flowering plants in an open grassland structure within an otherwise dense, urban setting. Habitat design and species mixes should reflect local conditions and stated conservation objectives.

**5.5.14.** They could also have an especially important role to play in providing new habitat for the species, often ecological specialists, displaced by the development of brownfield sites, and for invertebrates that already live in towns and gardens. Guidance on constructing biodiverse roofs is available from Buglife and applicants are encouraged to follow the Green Roof Organisation's [Green Roof Code](#).

**5.5.15.** Thin substrate sedum systems do not maximize the biodiversity potential of green roofs and would not merit Good condition within the Defra Biodiversity Metric.

## 5.5. Design stage (continued)

### Sustainable drainage systems

**5.5.16.** The [Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document](#) was adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council in November 2018 and Cambridge City Council in December 2018 following adoption of the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans and is accompanied by the [Cambridge Sustainable Drainage Design and Adoption Guide](#).

**5.5.17.** Inclusion of sustainable drainage systems within a development site are the preferred approach to managing rainfall from hard surfaces and can be used on any site (CC/8, Policy 31). They provide an opportunity to reduce the effects of development on the water environment. Good design and management of multi-functional open spaces can mitigate drainage impacts on wetlands via drains and ordinary watercourses as well as delivering biodiversity enhancements and attractive greenspaces that can support Biodiversity Net Gain on site. SUDs (like the one pictured in Figure 11) should be designed to provide natural habitats appropriate to the surrounding landscape, using locally native species and managed to combine functionality and opportunities for biodiversity.

**5.5.18.** The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust have produced a guide to maximising the benefit to [biodiversity from Sustainable Drainage Systems](#) alongside other functions. The [ARGUK Toads – Advice for Planners](#) provides guidance on road, kerb and gully designs to limit impacts on amphibian populations.



Figure 12 A SuDS feature in a new development

SuDS features should be designed to provide natural habitats appropriate to the surrounding landscape, using locally native species and managed to combine functionality and opportunities for biodiversity

**5.5.19.** Developers should check details of [Registered Toad crossings](#) listed by Froglife, the national amphibian & reptile charity, (which includes one in the centre of Cambridge) in relation to the development site location and layout. This will help avoid direct impacts on known toad breeding populations from the discharge of the sustainable drainage systems constructed for the development. Similarly, well designed sustainable drainage systems features are likely to attract breeding amphibians and future migration routes should be considered to avoid creating new road or drain fatality hotspots.

**5.5.20.** Paving of surfaces is likely to contribute to surface water flooding and the Councils will seek to avoid unnecessary paving of gardens by householders (CC/8, Policy 66) and encourage good design to ensure permeable surfaces remain and that there is no net loss in biodiversity. Any trees should be retained within paving and permeable surfaces used, potentially including planting within the design.



## 5.5. Design stage (continued)

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### Biodiversity issue B7 – Biodiversity net gain

This SPD is underpinned by national and Local Planning Policies. In keeping with these, and the SPD, development proposals will be required to demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity (NH/4, NH/6, Policy 69, Policy 70). Biodiversity Net Gain should be achieved on site where possible and in accordance with BS8683:2021 [Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain](#).

**5.5.21.** Previous paragraphs have explained the process of how developers will calculate a pre-development baseline for an application site using the Defra Biodiversity Metric 3.0 tool (or its successor). They explain how a calculation should also be made of the post development baseline seeking to identify a net gain in biodiversity on that site. Achieving a Net Gain of 10% would be consistent with levels in the Environment Act 2021 by Winter 2023, after a two year interim period. However, in keeping with the Councils' desire to ensure that biodiversity is both protected, and enhanced, we advise that should new Local Plan policies instruct a higher percentage of Biodiversity Net Gain than that nationally mandated, that the higher of the two amounts (of Biodiversity Net Gain) shall be the minimum requirement for development.

**5.5.22.** The Councils encourage the achievement of further Biodiversity Net Gain by development proposals. This aspiration is supported by the recently formulated Doubling Nature Vision, adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council (Feb 2021). This vision reflects the growing awareness of biodiversity loss and increasing concerns to protect the natural environment, habitats and species.

The vision seeks a 20% level of Biodiversity Net Gain above pre-development baseline conditions. Whilst this Supplementary Planning Document does not set this as a figure or target, this aspiration may have further support with future amendments to the Environment Act 2021.

**5.5.23.** Where onsite options for Biodiversity Net Gain have been exhausted, compensatory arrangements to provide shortfalls required and agreed with applicants under the vision can be provided offsite. Where off-site habitat measures are required, they must be consistent with the strategic aims of the [Cambridge Nature Network](#) and [Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping](#) and conform to [Biodiversity Net Gain - Good Practice Principles for Development](#).

**5.5.24.** To ensure the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain measures, the Councils will seek to use planning conditions to secure on site habitat creation and its long-term management, and obligations, such as Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, where BNG is on land outside the applicant's control.

**5.5.25.** All Biodiversity Net Gain calculations should be submitted using the Defra Biodiversity Metric 3.0 or its successor. Other "bespoke" calculators will not be accepted without clear justification.

**5.5.26.** There will always be some opportunity within development proposals to create and manage habitats for biodiversity. Development proposals that deliver public open space that also provides new wildlife habitats, with clear management objectives, will be encouraged.



## 5.5. Design stage (continued)

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- 5.5.27.** Biodiversity Net Gain has been identified as one of the primary mechanisms for the restoration of biodiversity across the UK and the local need is recognised within the Natural Cambridgeshire Doubling Nature vision. To achieve the vision, a strategic approach to habitat creation and enhancement will be required in line with the [Lawton principles](#) of more, bigger, better and more joined up.
- 5.5.28.** This will require focus on improving the condition of existing Biodiversity Sites, increasing their size, and improving connections between them by creating stepping-stones and corridors of biodiversity rich habitats. The existing [Cambridge Nature Network](#) lays the foundations for this approach and will be supported and clarified by forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- 5.5.29.** All development must already demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity, in line with the requirements of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#). Although a mandatory requirement for 10% net gain in biodiversity value is mandated by the Environment Act 2021, a value of 20% is likely to be encouraged as best practice in order to meet the Natural Cambridgeshire target of doubling the amount of land managed for nature from 8% to 16% of the county's area.
- 5.5.30.** It should be noted that the inclusion of street trees within developments can make a contribution to Biodiversity Net Gain as well as providing a range of other benefits, including to air quality and urban cooling, and as mitigation for the effects of climate change. The selection of the right tree species in the right place, where there is enough space to achieve maturity - in terms of height, canopy spread and rooting area - is essential to maximise benefits. Cambridge City Council has a policy to ensure that adequate provision is made for the preservation and planting of trees when granting planning permission (Policy 71).
- 5.5.31.** For minor developments (fewer than 10 residential units or an area of less than 0.5 hectares) and householder applications, biodiversity net gain measures should be clearly identified in supporting information and illustrated on the relevant plans. Measures should be appropriate to the site's location and surroundings and should be focussed on supporting recognised nature conservation priorities. The [Defra "small sites" Biodiversity Metric](#) should be used to demonstrate net gain in these circumstances. Small sites should also include integrated bird, bat or insect box provision, hedgehog friendly fencing and habitats as listed in 5.5.10 above.

## 5.5. Design stage (continued)

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- 5.5.32.** In support of major applications, a Biodiversity Gain Plan will be expected, which should include:
- Steps taken to avoid adverse impacts to biodiversity
  - Pre-development and post-development biodiversity value (including a completed Defra Biodiversity Metric calculation spreadsheet v3.0 or its successor)
  - Additional information to explain and justify the approach to delivering net gain, including notes on the existing and target habitat condition and any assumptions made

**5.5.33.** The Local Planning Authority will verify the accuracy of the biodiversity value calculations and consider the merits of any off-site net gain measures with reference to the Biodiversity Opportunity Maps produced by Cambridge and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre, the Cambridge Nature Network and any other published biodiversity strategies. Any scheme

of Biodiversity Net Gain must include a mechanism for delivery of the target habitats, management, and monitoring of their condition, and an approach to remediation in the event of targets not being met.

**5.5.34.** Pre-development biodiversity value must be calculated before any site clearance or other habitat management work has been undertaken, by the applicants or anybody else. It should be noted that the baseline for habitats on any site proposed for development will be taken as 30 January 2020, (as set out in the UK Environment Act 2021), or the nearest (in time) prior aerial photographic evidence or survey.

**5.5.35.** Applicants should refer to the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and Construction Industry Research and Information Association [Biodiversity Net Gain Good Practice Principles](#) documents for information on the standards that will be expected.



Hedgehog, Alexas Photos

## 5.6. Application stage – validation requirements for biodiversity information

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- 5.6.1.** The [Cambridge City Council validation checklists](#) and draft [South Cambridgeshire District Council validation checklist](#) are available to ensure that applicants know which documents need to be submitted with a planning application for it to be deemed valid by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.
- 5.6.2.** The Local validation checklist for the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service will include guidance under Local Validation Requirement 2 ‘Biodiversity - Ecological Impact Assessment’ about when an Ecological Impact Assessment is necessary, based on what the development involves and where it is. Guidance is also provided on what an Ecological Impact Assessment should cover for an application to be considered valid, including the need to demonstrate measurable Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 5.6.3.** It should be noted that validation does not necessarily mean there is sufficient information to allow for determination. The submitted Ecological Impact Assessment still has to provide the Councils with certainty of all likely ecological impacts on designated sites and protected or priority species and to demonstrate that effective and deliverable mitigation can be secured either by a condition of any consent or a mitigation licence from Natural England.

### Ecological Impact Assessment

- 5.6.4.** In addition to the information within BS42020, the [Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management](#) provides detailed [guidance](#) about expectations in the reporting of biodiversity information

in support of planning applications. In selecting their project team, applicants are encouraged to choose professional ecologists that will comply with these expectations and can demonstrate their suitability for the role. Full details of those involved in survey work and reporting should be included in all reports with a summary of their experience and competence.

- 5.6.5.** The appropriate document type to provide ecological information in support of a planning application is an Ecological Impact Assessment. CIEEM have produced a note on report writing here: [Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing | CIEEM](#). This type of ecological report needs to contain all necessary survey results and a full assessment of ecological impacts, with proportionate and fully detailed mitigation and compensation measures that can be secured by condition or obligation, or by appropriate species licensing.
- 5.6.6.** Surveys and reports have a finite lifespan due to the dynamic nature of species populations and the response of habitats to environmental factors and changes in management. CIEEM have produced [guidance](#) to highlight the issues with lifespan and the validity of reports in different circumstances. Applications supported by reports that are no longer considered valid are likely to be refused and outline or phased developments are likely to require conditions for further surveys to keep the survey information up to date.



## 5.6. Application stage – validation requirements for biodiversity information (continued)

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### Biodiversity Issue B8 – Habitats Regulations Assessments

To support the councils in meeting policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) and their legal duties as Competent Authorities under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) – known as the Habitats Regulations - where development is likely to result in a significant effect on a Habitats site, proposals need to be supported by information to support the preparation of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) by the Local Planning Authority. This needs to include the results of any necessary surveys and details of any mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the site(s) embedded into design of the development.

All the Councils' Habitats Regulations Assessment Appropriate Assessments will be sent to Natural England for their formal consultation response on their conclusions before any decision can be issued.

**5.6.7.** The aim of the [Habitats Regulations Assessment](#) process is to 'maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest'. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) have transposed the European Union Habitats and Wild Birds Directives into UK law to make them operable from 1 January 2021. These remain unchanged until amended by Parliament so the requirements for [Habitats Regulations Assessment](#) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

(as amended) have been retained.

- 5.6.8.** The Greater Cambridge Local Plan may impact on several Habitats sites and Government advice to Local Planning Authorities on [Habitats Regulations Assessment](#) requires assessment of any plan or projects which could adversely affect these internationally important Biodiversity Sites.
- 5.6.9.** Where a Habitats site could be affected by a plan, such as a Local Plan, or any project, such as a new development, then [Habitats Regulations Assessment](#) screening must be undertaken. If this cannot rule out any possible likely significant effect on a Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans & projects, prior to the consideration of mitigation measures, then an Appropriate Assessment must then be undertaken. This is an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives. Consent can only be granted when it can be ascertained by an Appropriate Assessment that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site unless, in the absence of alternative solutions, there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest and the necessary compensatory measures can be secured.

## 5.6. Application stage – validation requirements for biodiversity information (continued)

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**5.6.10.** Various Court rulings need to be considered when preparing Habitats Regulations Assessment screening reports and developers are requested to provide sufficient information to support this process. Some key rulings from the Court of Justice for the European Union, which remain relevant to [Habitats Regulations Assessment](#) in the UK, post-Brexit, are:

- CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17)

In line with the Court judgement mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats Site.

- CJEU Holohan C- 461/17

This Court judgement imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority at Appropriate Assessment stage. These relate to habitats and species for which the site has not been listed and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site. The Appropriate Assessment conclusion must be beyond all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

- CJEU Joined Cases C-293/17 and C-294/17 Coöperatie Mobilisation for the Environment and Vereniging Leefmilieu (Dutch nitrogen court ruling)

These Dutch cases concerned authorisations schemes for agricultural activities in Habitats sites which cause nitrogen deposition and where levels already exceeded the critical load. These are not directly connected with or necessary for the management of a Habitats site. This ruling is relevant to projects which trigger Appropriate Assessment before any consents are issued so should be considered when identifying other plans and projects for an in- combination assessment.

**5.6.11.** The following case from the UK High Court is also of key relevance:

- R (on the Application of Preston) v Cumbria County Council [2019] EWCA 1362

This case relates to a High Court verdict which quashed a County Council's decision to vary a planning permission for a water company to construct a sewage outfall on a Special Area of Conservation. Therefore, planning authorities and other competent authorities cannot, in Appropriate Assessments, simply rely on the competence of other regulators such as the Environment Agency, to avoid conducting their own assessments. They must instead themselves satisfy their own Habitats Regulations duties.

## 5.6. Application stage – validation requirements for biodiversity information (continued)

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### Biodiversity Issue B9 – Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation Bat Protocol

To support the Councils in meeting policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) and their legal duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), appropriate levels of survey, assessment and mitigation will be expected for any development that could have an impact on the population of Barbastelle Bats within and around the Eversden & Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation.

**5.6.12.** The Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation supports maternity colonies of Barbastelle bats. In addition to these Special Area of Conservation woodlands containing roosting sites, the bats also require access to habitats outside the boundary of Eversden & Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation. The Habitats Regulation Assessment screening report for Bourn Airfield identified that male Barbastelle bats roosted in woodlands to the north of the Special Area of Conservation and commuted into the woodlands for mating.

**5.6.13.** Habitat that is integral to supporting the functioning of the Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation is referred to as functionally linked land. In the case of this internationally important designated site, the woodlands that the male Barbastelle bats roost in, and any commuting routes between the two, are classed as functionally linked land. The Bat Conservation Trust also defines “Core Sustenance Zones” which refer to the area surrounding

a communal bat roost within which habitat availability and quality will have a significant influence on the resilience and conservation status of the colony using the roost.

**5.6.14.** Bats also typically forage and commute along linear features, such as hedgerows, rivers and woodland edges. Flight-lines for Barbastelle Bats are known to extend beyond the designated Special Area of Conservation boundary into the wider local landscape. A narrow strip of woodland and hedge that link Wimpole and Eversden Woods together is known to be a very important flight-line for Barbastelle Bats and other bat species, and Natural England has highlighted the importance of managing this feature carefully including the need to thicken hedges affected with additional planting.

**5.6.15.** A draft protocol has been prepared by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Partnership to facilitate sustainable development and secure a diverse and healthy landscape for bats, people and other wildlife.

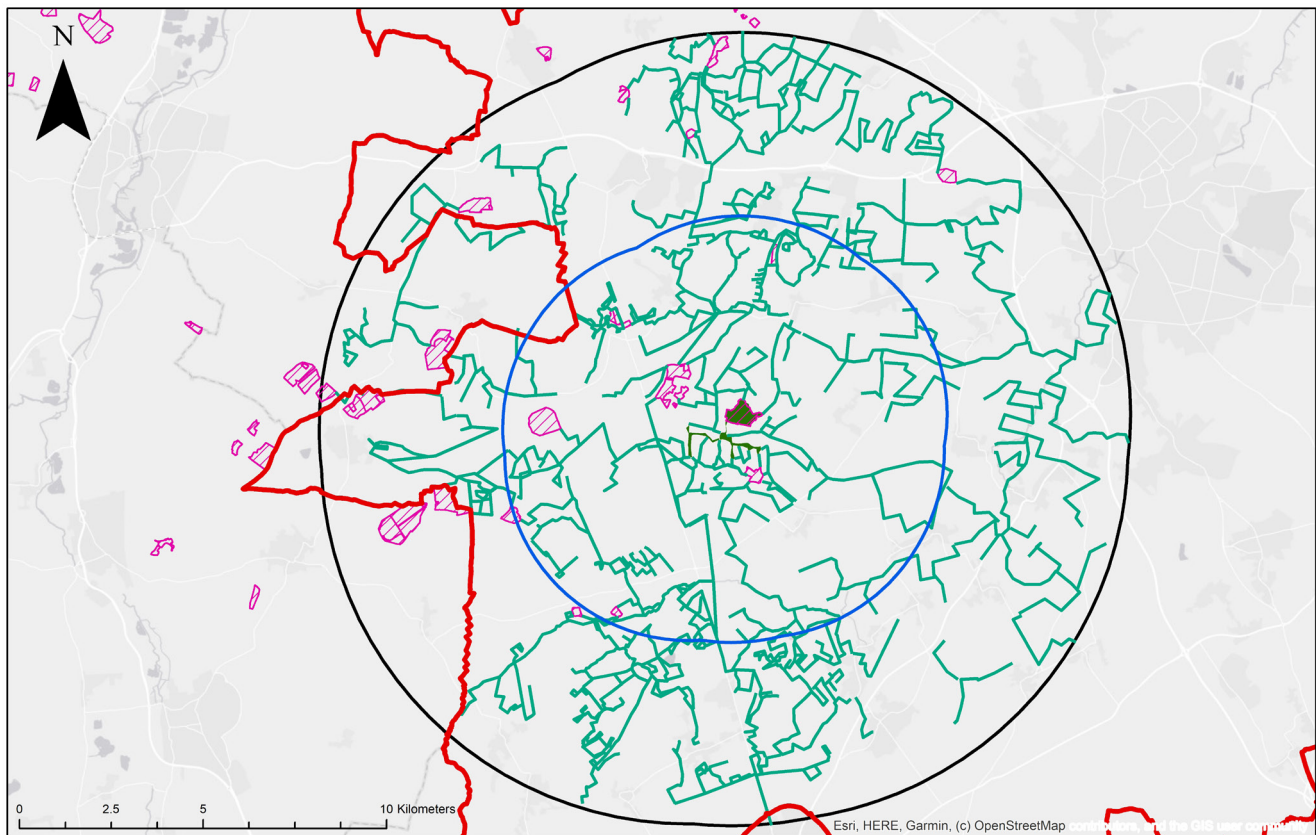
**5.6.16.** By following the guidance in the draft Eversden & Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation protocol, the Councils can ensure that the Special Area of Conservation bat populations thrive and that developments around the designated site avoid impacts on them, thereby preventing delays during their consideration at the planning stage.

## 5.6. Application stage – validation requirements for biodiversity information (continued)

**5.6.17.** The draft bat protocol uses the Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones identified on the [Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside](#) map for Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation which are integral to the long-term survival of the population of Barbastelle Bats. All development proposals within this area, with the exception of householder applications, should aim to retain mature trees, woods and copses, and to provide new habitat linkages through new tree planting and the integration of existing hedgerow networks with new ones. All development within 5 km

of the Special Area of Conservation designated site is considered by Natural England as a key conservation area with a 10 km sustenance or wider conservation area. Please note that at time of writing, Natural England are reviewing the IRZ distances for this site, possibly extending out to 20km.

**5.6.18.** The Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation map below shows the relative Impact Risk Zones and indicative functionally linked habitat (please note this is for illustrative purposes only so some hedgerows, and smaller woods are not shown).



### Legend

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 5km Impact Risk Zone | Ancient Woodland      |
| Greater Cambridge    | 10km Impact Risk Zone |
| Hedgerows            |                       |

Figure 13 Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC



## 5.6. Application stage – validation requirements for biodiversity information (continued)

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### Biodiversity Issue B10 – Recreational pressure on sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest

To meet national and local policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) for protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity value, applications will not normally be permitted where there is likely to be an adverse impact on land within or adjoining such sites. With specific reference to sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest, advice issued by Natural England suggests developers of residential schemes of 50 or more units should seek to provide sufficient Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, (SANG) to avoid and mitigate recreational pressure within and around the SSSI. SSSIs currently known to be at risk from recreational pressure within the Greater Cambridge area are listed in Annex B of Natural England's advice.

**5.6.19.** Impact Risk Zones are an online mapping tool developed by Natural England to make an initial assessment of the potential risks to Sites of Special Scientific Interest posed by development proposals. They define zones around each Site of Special Scientific Interest which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal that could potentially have adverse impacts. Impact Risk Zones can be viewed via the [Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside](#).

**5.6.20.** Natural England has issued advice to Cambridgeshire Local Planning Authorities in relation to Recreational Pressure Impact Risk Zones relating to sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Cambridgeshire and the need for green infrastructure within large scale residential developments. Annex B of this advice lists the component Sites of Special Scientific Interest included within the Cambridgeshire Recreational Pressure Impact Risk Zone, of which there are 16 in Greater Cambridge, with a risk category assigned to each Site of Special Scientific Interest. This list could be subject to change, following any new evidence obtained through a specialist visitor survey, for example.

**5.6.21.** Applicants of developments within the Impact Risk Zone of Wicken Fen Special Area of Conservation should seek advice from the National Trust regarding potential recreational pressure impacts and mitigation measures.

**5.6.22.** Where a development location triggers a recreational pressure Impact Risk Zone on the [Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside](#) plan, a pop-up note will appear advising developers of residential proposals of the need for an assessment of recreational pressure effects on the relevant SSSI and the provision of measures to mitigate potential adverse impact. Whilst current Local Plan policies do not set



## 5.6. Application stage – validation requirements for biodiversity information (continued)

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requirements in respect of SANG, developers need to consider how to implement this detailed advice from Natural England, in conjunction with the councils' Open Space standards to provide access to sufficient greenspace to meet daily recreational needs of new residents. It is expected developers will seek further advice on this issue from Natural England's [Discretionary Advice Service](#).

- 5.6.23.** Non statutory Local Wildlife Sites can also be impacted by increased recreational pressure. Negative impacts will need to be recognised and addressed as a material consideration of any nearby development proposals.

### Determination of planning applications

- 5.6.24.** The Councils need certainty of likely impacts on a Biodiversity Site or protected or Priority species prior to determination to ensure that appropriate and effective mitigation measures can be secured either by a condition of any consent or under a mitigation licence from Natural England.
- 5.6.25.** To support determination of planning applications, the Councils therefore expect adequate ecological information to be provided. Where no ecological report has been submitted and there is a likelihood of biodiversity being present and affected by a proposal, applicants will be requested to provide reasonable information in line with [Government Standing Advice](#) which could cause delays, for example, waiting for surveys to be carried out in the appropriate season.

If, despite any request from the Councils, this is not provided to give certainty of likely impacts and details of effective and deliverable mitigation measures, the Councils may refuse an application rather than requiring amendments to avoid impacts.

- 5.6.26.** Where ecology reports include recommendations for further surveys, these will be needed prior to determination. The Councils encourage applicants to ensure that recommendations for mitigation and compensation measures have been embedded into the design of a proposal and that they confirm delivery at the appropriate stage to support determination of a planning application. The above is relevant to Outline Planning Applications too.
- 5.6.27.** Where impacts on biodiversity will be minimised such that the proposal is acceptable, all ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancements to deliver measurable net gain for biodiversity will either be a condition of the consent or included in a legal agreement. This will not include protected species surveys as this information is needed prior to determination.
- 5.6.28.** Updated protected species surveys and mitigation strategies will need to be submitted at reserved matters stage for any measures not fully detailed in the information provided to support determination of outline or phased applications.

## 5.7. Construction stage

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### Construction and the need for protection of features and ecological supervision

**5.7.1.** The construction process often involves clearance of vegetation on site which has the potential for impacts on biodiversity and there is therefore a need to manage the risks to wildlife. A process is also needed to ensure that all of the essential mitigation measures identified within the Ecological Impact Assessment are put in place in the right way and at the right time.

**5.7.2.** A Construction Environment Management Plan: Biodiversity will be required by condition for many developments. The requirement for and timing of this will be decided on a case-by-case basis and include details of all necessary ecological mitigation measures, including protection of retained habitats and requirements for ecological supervision during works on site using a suitably experienced Ecological Clerk of Works. The details required are specified in model condition D.4.1 of BS42020:2013.

## 5.8. Post-construction stage

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### Management plans, monitoring and enforcement

**5.8.1.** Where habitats are retained and created within a development site boundary, the Councils will seek to secure their protection during the construction process and their long-term management via conditions of any consent. The Councils will require relevant details to be provided within a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, either at submission or secured by condition. This type of planning condition will need details of all ecological mitigation measures and should be illustrated together with other landscape measures and there should be no conflict between objectives.

**5.8.2.** Where species are predicted to be affected by development proposals and habitat to support their population is retained or created on site, such as receptor sites for translocated animals, the Councils will seek to include monitoring of the effectiveness

of mitigation secured. This will be separate from any legal requirement attached to a licence approved by Natural England and will be secured by a condition of any consent. Additional monitoring may be required for novel mitigation solutions, the outcomes of which should be made available to the wider ecological consultancy industry where appropriate.

**5.8.3.** All management plans should include appropriate monitoring to ensure effectiveness and should include a process for remediation and review for any measures that have not been effective. The results of such monitoring should be reported to the Councils for review of management.

**5.8.4.** To deliver Biodiversity Net Gain, sites will require careful design, zoning and management to ensure there are no recreational conflicts with the proposed areas for habitat creation. The Environment Act 2021 will require an audit trail for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain commitments for a period of up to 30 years.

# Appendices

- Appendix 1 Local Plan policies to be supported by this Supplementary Planning Document
- Appendix 2 Protected species and ecological survey seasons

## Appendix 1 Local Plan policies to be supported by this Supplementary Planning Document

### Chapter 4, Climate Change.

#### Policy CC/8, Sustainable Drainage Systems

Development proposals must incorporate appropriate sustainable surface water drainage systems (SuDS) appropriate to the nature of the site. Development proposals will be required to demonstrate that:

- b) Opportunities have been taken to integrate sustainable drainage with the development, create amenity, enhance biodiversity, and contribute to a network of green (and blue) open space.
- d) Maximum use has been made of low land take drainage measures, such as rainwater recycling, green roofs, permeable surfaces, and water butts”

### Chapter 5, Delivering High Quality Places.

#### Policy HQ/1, Design Principles

“All new development must be of high-quality design, with a clear vision as to the positive contribution the development will make to its local and wider context. As appropriate to the scale and nature of the development, proposals must:

...

Include high quality landscaping and public spaces that integrate the development with its surroundings, having a clear definition between public and private space which provide opportunities for recreation, social interaction as well as support healthy lifestyles, biodiversity, sustainable drainage and climate change mitigation.”

### Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.

#### Policy NH/3, Protecting Agricultural Land

1. “Planning permission will not be granted for development which would lead to the irreversible loss of Grades 1, 2 or 3a agricultural land unless:
  - a) Land is allocated for development in the Local Plan
  - b) Sustainability considerations and the need for the development are sufficient to override the need to protect the agricultural value of the land.
2. Uses not involving substantial built development but which take agricultural land will be regarded as permanent unless restricted specifically by condition.

When considering proposals for the change of use or diversification of farmland, particular consideration shall be given to the potential for impact upon Priority Species and Habitats.”

## Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.

### Policy NH/4, Biodiversity

1. “Development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity will be permitted.
2. New development must aim to maintain, enhance, restore, or add to biodiversity. Opportunities should be taken to achieve positive gain through the form and design of development. Measures may include creating, enhancing, and managing wildlife habitats and networks, and natural landscape. The built environment should be viewed as an opportunity to fully integrate biodiversity within new development through innovation. Priority for habitat creation should be given to sites which assist in the achievement of targets in the Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and aid delivery of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy.
3. If significant harm to the population or conservation status of a Protected Species, Priority Species<sup>1</sup> or Priority Habitat resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will be refused.
4. Where there are grounds to believe that a proposal may affect a Protected Species, Priority Species or Priority Habitat, applicants will be expected to provide an adequate level of survey information and site assessment to establish the extent of a potential impact. This survey information and site assessment shall be provided prior to the determination of an application.

5. Previously developed land (brownfield sites) will not be considered to be devoid of biodiversity. The reuse of such sites must be undertaken carefully with regard to existing features of biodiversity interest. Development proposals on such sites will be expected to include measures that maintain and enhance important features and appropriately incorporate them within any development of the site.
6. Planning permission will be refused for development resulting in the loss, deterioration, or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.

Climate change poses a serious threat to biodiversity and initiatives to reduce its impact need to be considered.”

## Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.

### Policy NH/5, Site of Biodiversity or Geological Importance

1. “Proposed development likely to have an adverse effect on land within or adjoining a Site of Biodiversity or Geological Importance, as shown on the Policies Map (either individually or in combination with other developments), will not normally be permitted. Exceptions will only be made where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh any adverse impact.
2. In determining any planning application affecting Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance the Council will ensure that the intrinsic natural features of particular interest are safeguarded or enhanced having regard to:
  - a) The international, national or local status and designation of the site;
  - b) The nature and quality of the site’s features, including its rarity value;
  - c) The extent of any adverse impacts on the notified features;

- d) The likely effectiveness of any proposed mitigation with respect to the protection of the features of interest;
- e) The need for compensatory measures in order to re-create on or off the site features or habitats that would be lost to development.

Where appropriate the Council will ensure the effective management of designated sites through the imposition of planning conditions or Section 106 agreements as appropriate.”

## **Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.**

### **Policy NH6, Green Infrastructure**

1. The Council will aim to conserve and enhance green infrastructure within the district. Proposals that cause loss or harm to this network will not be permitted unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably and substantially outweigh any adverse impacts on the district’s green infrastructure network.
2. The Council will encourage proposals which: a. Reinforce, link, buffer and create new green infrastructure; and b. Promote, manage, and interpret green infrastructure and enhance public enjoyment of it.
3. The Council will support proposals which deliver the strategic green infrastructure network and priorities set out in the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, and which deliver local green infrastructure.

All new developments will be required to contribute towards the enhancement of the green infrastructure network within the district. These contributions will include the establishment, enhancement and the on-going management costs.”

## **Chapter 6, Built and Natural Environment.**

### **Policy NH/7, Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees**

1. “Planning permission will be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland (as shown on the Policies Map) or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.

## **Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

### **Policy NS/2 Development Principles**

Development proposals affecting ancient woodland or veteran trees will be expected to mitigate any adverse impacts, and to contribute to the woodland’s or veteran tree’s management and further enhancement via planning conditions or planning obligations.”

“Plans to be Approved:

...

The town of Northstowe will be developed:  
 h. Making drainage water features an integral part of the design of the town and its open spaces, so that they also provide for amenity, landscape, biodiversity and recreation.”



**Development Plan Document.  
Local Development Framework,  
Northstowe Area Action Plan.  
July 2007.**

**Policy NS/12 Landscape Principles**

“The Landscape Strategy will:

...

b) Ensure a high degree of connectivity between the new town and wider countryside for wildlife and people, including extending the rights of way network (public footpaths and bridleways);

...

f) Create a network of green spaces which contribute to legibility, are pleasant, attractive, and beneficial to wildlife, and integrate will with the wider countryside;

g) Enable landscaped areas to provide an environment suitable to mitigate any adverse wildlife impacts and to maximise the benefits to wildlife thus increasing biodiversity.

2. Construction spoil retained on site must be distributed in a manner appropriate to the local topography and landscape character, and can be used for noise mitigation, flood risk management or biodiversity enhancement.”

**Development Plan Document.  
Local Development Framework,  
Northstowe Area Action Plan.  
July 2007.**

**Policy NS/13 Landscape Treatment of the Edges of Northstowe**

“The Eastern Water Park:

A landscaped water park with appropriate planting and footpaths will be provided on the other edge of Northstowe to the east along the St Ives railway. The water park will provide an attractive amenity for the town and a landscape buffer to the open countryside. It will also provide opportunities to create wildlife habitats and thus increase biodiversity.”

**Development Plan Document.  
Local Development Framework,  
Northstowe Area Action Plan.  
July 2007.**

**Policy NS/14 Landscaping within Northstowe**

“Green Corridors

...

3. They will have landscaping and biodiversity value and also perform a recreational function for both informal recreation and children’s play. Public access will include provision for walking, cycling and horse riding.

Road and bus crossings through the Green Corridors will be designed to limit any adverse safety implications for people and be low key in character to limit adverse effects on the landscape. Safe and appropriate crossing facilities for wildlife will also be provided, such as tunnels under roads and ditches alongside roads where appropriate.”

**Development Plan Document.  
Local Development Framework,  
Northstowe Area Action Plan.  
July 2007.**

**Policy NS/16 Existing Biodiversity Features**

“Biodiversity Surveys:

1. Developers will be required to undertake a full programme of ecological survey and monitoring prior to the commencement of construction. This work should conclude by proposing a strategy for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, and Biodiversity Management Plans, to establish:

a. Which areas of biodiversity will be protected and enhanced;

b. Appropriate mitigation measures;

c. Which specific impacts of development will need to be monitored during and after construction

Further ecological surveys will be required during and after construction, and the Biodiversity Strategy and Management Plans will be reviewed in the light of surveys and monitoring.

Management Strategy:

2. The developer will be required to develop a Management Strategy to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption, and maintenance of the biodiversity areas.

Retention of Existing Features:

Existing features including trees, tree plantations and the lake in the southern section of the airfield and the existing ponds in the golf course will be retained as biodiversity and landscape features where such features can make a significant contribution to the urban environment or to the biodiversity of the site.”

## **Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

### **Policy NS/17 New Biodiversity Features**

“Eastern Water Park:

1. The water park along the eastern boundary of the town and west of the disused railway, which will be created to provide for the attenuation of surface water flows, will be managed to enhance the biodiversity of Northstowe by providing an extensive wetland habitat and to maximise its value to key species.

Southern Parkland Country Park:

2. A parkland landscape will be created between Northstowe and Oakington to provide a substantial resource of trees, grassland, and other areas of semi-natural vegetation. This area will be designed and managed for its wildlife value.

Green Corridors Through and Beyond the Town:

3. Green corridors will be established through the town to connect where possible to biodiversity features and corridors beyond the town.

Creating Habitats Within the Urban Area:

Every opportunity will be taken to incorporate features within the urban fabric, through urban design and through the use of sympathetic materials to create wildlife habitats.”

## **Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

### **Policy NS/24 Construction Strategy**

Site Access and Haul Roads:

2. A scheme will be introduced to avoid construction vehicles travelling through villages in the locality and to ensure that any haul roads are located, designed and landscaped in such a way as to minimise any noise, smell, dust, visual or other adverse impacts on existing residents and businesses, and on the new residents and businesses at Northstowe. They should also avoid adverse effects on the environmental amenities of biodiversity, rights of way and green spaces. Traffic flows will be monitored to ensure that the public have a mechanism to feedback any concerns that arise during development.

Construction Activities:

Planning conditions will be imposed to minimise the adverse effects of construction activity on residential amenity and the environment”

## **Development Plan Document. Local Development Framework, Northstowe Area Action Plan. July 2007.**

### **Policy NS/27 Management of Services, Facilities, Landscape and Infrastructure**

“Management strategies for services, facilities, landscape and infrastructure will be submitted to the local planning authority for adoption prior to the granting of outline planning permission to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption and maintenance. Landownership for these uses should be as simple as possible, preferably in a single ownership to avoid fragmentation. In particular, there should be a single agreed Management Strategy covering recreation, landscape, and biodiversity. The inclusion of water and drainage features within open spaces would have significant advantages and should therefore be investigated.”

## **Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

### **Policy CE/4, The Setting of Cambridge East**

Green Corridor:

1. “A green corridor will be retained through the new urban quarter connecting the green spaces of Cambridge to the surrounding countryside, linking from Coldham’s Common to a new country park located to the east of Airport Way and south of Newmarket Road, and also to the National Trust’s Wicken Fen Vision. The green corridor will have width of about 300m and be significantly narrower only where particular justification is provided and the green corridor function is not inhibited. It will open up to a greater width at the Teversham end of the corridor, where an informal countryside character will be provided to help to maintain the individual identity of the village.

It will have landscaping and biodiversity value and also perform a recreational function for both informal recreation and children’s play.”

## **Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

### **Policy CE/4, The Setting of Cambridge East. Policy CE/13 Landscape Principles**

Landscape Strategy:

1. “The Strategy will:
  - a. To ensure a high degree of connectivity between the new urban quarter and the wider countryside for wildlife and people;

...

Enable the landscaped areas within the urban quarter to provide an environment suitable to mitigate against any adverse wildlife impacts and to maximise the benefits to wildlife thus increasing biodiversity”

## **Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

### **Policy CE/14, Landscaping within Cambridge East**

Green Fingers:

3. “They will have landscaping and biodiversity value and also perform a recreational function for both informal recreation and children’s play. Public access will include provision for walking, cycling and horse riding.

Road and bus crossings through the green fingers will be designed to limit any adverse safety implication for people and be low key in character to limit adverse effects on the landscape. Safe and appropriate crossing facilities for wildlife will also be provided, such as tunnels under roads and ditches alongside roads where appropriate”



## Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).

### Policy CE/16, Biodiversity

1. “The development of Cambridge East will have regard to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, and every opportunity should be taken to achieve positive gain to biodiversity through the form and design of development. As appropriate, measures will include creating, enhancing, and managing wildlife habitats and natural landscape. Priority for habitat creation should be given to sites which assist in achieving targets in the Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs).
2. Development will not be permitted if it would have an adverse impact on the population or conservation status of protected species or priority species or habitat unless the impact can be adequately mitigated by measures required by Section 106 agreements or planning conditions.
3. Where there are grounds to believe that development proposal may affect a protected species or priority species or habitat, applicants will be expected to provide an adequate level of survey information to establish the extent of the potential impact together with possible alternatives to the development, mitigation schemes and / or compensation measures.
4. Development proposals will take account of the impact, either direct or indirect, on people’s opportunity to enjoy and experience nature on a site together with opportunities to improve public access to nature.

Exceptionally, where the economic or social benefits of a proposal outweigh harm to an important site or species, the approach will be first to avoid or minimise the harm, then to seek mitigation of the impact, and finally to secure appropriate compensation for any residual impact in order to ensure no net loss of biodiversity. Planning conditions and obligations will be used as appropriate to secure this.”

## Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).

### Policy CE/17, Existing Biodiversity Features

#### Biodiversity Surveys:

1. “Developers will be required to undertake a full programme of ecological survey and monitoring prior to the commencement of construction. This work should conclude by proposing a strategy for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, and Biodiversity Management Plans, to establish:
  - a. Which areas of biodiversity will be protected and enhanced;
  - b. Appropriate mitigation measures;
  - c. Which specific impacts of development will need to be monitored during and after construction.

Further ecological surveys will be required during and after construction, and the Biodiversity Strategy and Management Plans will be reviewed in the light of surveys and monitoring.

#### Management Strategy:

2. The developer will be required to develop a Management Strategy to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption, and maintenance of the biodiversity areas.

#### Retention of Existing Features:

3. Existing features including trees in the Park and Ride site will be retained as biodiversity and landscape features.
4. Development will not be permitted if it will have an adverse impact on a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), a Country Wildlife Site (CWS), or a City Wildlife Site (CiWS) unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal, which outweigh the need to safeguard

the substantive nature conservation of the site. Where development is permitted, proposals should include measures to minimise harm, to secure suitable mitigation and / or compensatory measures, and where possible enhance the nature conservation value of the site affected through habitat creation and management.

New Biodiversity Features:

5. As part of the development of the urban quarter, new biodiversity features will be provided in the green corridor and green fingers, together with, in the country park, a substantial resource of trees, grassland and other areas of semi-natural vegetation which is sympathetic to local landscape character.

Creating Habitats within the Urban Area:

Every opportunity will be taken to incorporate features within the urban fabric, through urban design and through the use of sympathetic materials to create wildlife habitats.”

## **Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

### **Policy CE/29, Construction Strategy**

Site Access and Haul Roads:

2. “A scheme will be introduced to avoid construction traffic travelling through residential areas in the city and villages in the locality and ensure that any haul roads are located, designed and landscaped in such a way as to minimise any noise, smell, dust, visual or other adverse impacts on existing residents and businesses, and on the new residents and businesses at Cambridge East. They should also avoid adverse effects on the environmental amenities of biodiversity, rights of way and green spaces. Traffic flows will be monitored to ensure that the public have a mechanism to feedback any concerns that arise during development.

Construction Activities:

Planning conditions will be imposed to minimise the adverse effects of construction activity on residential amenity and the environment”

## **Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

### **Policy CE/31, Management of Services, Facilities, Landscape and Infrastructure**

“Management strategies for services, facilities, landscape and infrastructure will be submitted to the local planning authority for adoption prior to the granting of outline planning permission to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption and maintenance. Landownership for these uses should be as simple as possible, preferably in a single ownership to avoid fragmentation. In particular, there should be a single agreed Management Strategy covering recreation, landscape, and biodiversity. The inclusion of water and drainage features within open spaces would have significant advantages and should therefore be investigated.”

## **Local Development Framework: Cambridge East Area Action Plan (Feb 2008).**

### **Policy CE/33, Infrastructure Provision**

1. “Planning permission will only be granted at Cambridge East where there are suitable arrangements for the improvement or provision of infrastructure necessary to make the scheme acceptable in planning terms. Contributions will be necessary for some or all of the following:

...

Landscaping and biodiversity”

## Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.

### Policy CSF/2 Development and Countryside Improvement Principles

“Trumpington West will be developed:

...

9. To achieve a net increase in biodiversity across the site;

10. Making drainage water features an integral part of the design of the urban extension and its open spaces, so they also provide for amenity, landscape, biodiversity, and recreation.

...

Trumpington West will connect the green spaces of Cambridge to the surrounding countryside, maintain a Green Corridor along the River Cam, and provide landscape, biodiversity and public access enhancements in the surrounding countryside.”

## Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.

### Policy CSF/5 Countryside Enhancements Strategy

“1. Planning permission for development at Trumpington West will include a planning obligation requirement for contributions to the implementation of a Countryside Enhancement Strategy which will create an enhanced gateway into the City between Hauxton Road and the River Cam and which will comprise:

- a. The creation of a country park, comprising new meadow grassland, to the east of the River Cam, both north and south of the M11, from Grantchester Road to Hauxton Mill;

- b. Hedgerow planting on field boundaries in the agricultural land between Hauxton Road and the Trumpington Meadows Country Park;

...

- d. Measures to protect and enhance wildlife habitats, including managing public access to the riverbanks;
- e. Noise attenuation on the northern side of the M11 through the creation of new landscape features which are compatible with the river valley character.

2. A Countryside Enhancement Strategy will be prepared for the area bounded by the Cambridge City boundary, Babraham Road, Haverhill Road, and the edge of the built area of Great Shelford and Stapleford. The Strategy will comprise:

- f. New copses on suitable knolls, hilltops, and scarp tops.
- g. Management and creation of chalk grassland
- h. Management of existing shelter belts.
- i. New mixed woodland and shelter belts.
- j. Creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson’s Brook.
- k. Reinforcement and planting of new hedgerows.
- l. Roadside planting.

3. The Countryside Strategies will include integrated proposals for landscape, biodiversity, recreation, and public access improvements, which will be compatible with long-term agricultural production to create enhanced gateways into the City. Provision will be made for maintenance of landscaping and replacement of diseased, dying, and dead stock for a period of 10 years, and details of long-term management thereafter.”

## Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.

### Policy CSF/12 Landscape Principles

1. "A Landscape Strategy for Trumpington West must be submitted and approved prior to the granting of planning permission, of a level of detail appropriate to the type of application. It will be implemented as part of the conditions / planning obligations for the development of the urban extension. The strategy will:
  - f. Enable the landscaped areas within the urban extension to provision an environment suitable to mitigate any adverse wildlife impacts and to maximise the benefits to wildlife thus increasing biodiversity;
  - h. Make best use of and enhance existing tree and hedge resources as a setting for the development."

## Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.

### Policy CSF/13 Landscaping within Trumpington West

#### Green Fingers:

1. "They will have landscaping and biodiversity value and also perform a recreational function for both informal recreation and children's play. Public access will include provision for walking, cycling and horse riding.

Road and bus crossings through the green fingers will be designed to limit any adverse safety implication for people and be low key in character to limit adverse effects on the landscape. Safe and appropriate crossing facilities for wildlife will also be provided, such as tunnels under roads and ditches alongside roads where appropriate"

## Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.

### Policy CSF/15 Enhancing Biodiversity

1. "Outline planning applications for development at Trumpington West will be accompanied by a comprehensive ecological survey of flora and fauna. This will include land bounded by the River Cam and Hauxton Road as far south as Hauxton Mill.

#### Managing Enhancing Biodiversity:

2. All open areas will be managed and landscaped to encourage wildlife in locally distinctive habitats. Sensitive habitats will be protected by limiting public access to specified areas.
3. A Biodiversity Management Strategy will demonstrate how biodiversity will be enhanced and how local communities will be involved. A project officer will be funded to implement the strategy through a planning obligation.

#### Green Fingers and the Countryside:

Connections will be provided for Green Fingers within the urban extensions to the surrounding countryside by enhanced landscaping, planting and the creation of wildlife habitats to provide links to larger scale wildlife habitats to provide links to larger scale wildlife habitats further afield including Nine Wells, the Magog Down, Wandlebury Country Park, the River Cam corridor, Coton Country Park, Wimpole Hall and Wicken Fen."

## Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.

### Policy CSF/22 Construction Strategy

#### Site Access and Haul Roads:

1. "A scheme will be introduced to avoid construction traffic travelling through Trumpington and villages in the locality and ensure that any haul roads are located, designed and landscaped in such a way as to minimise any noise, smell, dust, visual or other adverse impacts on existing residents and businesses, and on the new residents and businesses at Trumpington West. They should also avoid adverse effects on the environmental amenities of biodiversity, rights of way and green spaces. Traffic flows will be monitored to ensure that the public have a mechanism to feedback any concerns that arise during development.

...

#### Construction Activities:

Planning conditions will be imposed to minimise the adverse effects of construction activity on residential amenity and the environment"

## Local Development Framework: Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, February 2008.

### Policy CSF/24 Management of Services, Facilities, Landscape and Infrastructure

- "1. Management strategies for services, facilities, landscape, and infrastructure will be submitted to the local planning authority for adoption prior to the granting of outline planning permission to ensure high quality, robust and effective implementation, adoption, and maintenance. Landownership for these uses should be as simple as possible, preferably in a single ownership to avoid fragmentation. In particular, there should be a single agreed Management Strategy

covering recreation, landscape, and biodiversity. The inclusion of water and drainage features within open spaces would have significant

## Local Development Framework: North West Cambridge Area Action Plan, October 2009.

### Policy NW2: Development Principles

- "2. Development proposals should, as appropriate to their nature, location, scale, and economic viability: f) Protect and enhance the geodiversity and biodiversity of the site and incorporate historic landscape and geological features;
3. Planning permission will not be granted where the proposed development or associated mitigation measures would have an unacceptable adverse impact:
  - n) On biodiversity, archaeological, historic landscape, and geological interests;
  - s) On protected trees and trees of significance"

## Local Development Framework: North West Cambridge Area Action Plan, October 2009.

### Policy NW4: Site and Setting

"Land between Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road, comprising two areas totalling approximately 91ha, as shown on the Proposals Map, is allocated for predominantly University-related uses. A strategic gap is retained between the two parts of the site to ensure separation is maintained between Cambridge and Girton village and to provide a central open space for reasons of biodiversity, landscape, recreation and amenity, whilst ensuring a cohesive and sustainable for of development."



## Local Development Framework: North West Cambridge Area Action Plan, October 2009.

### Policy NW24: Climate Change & Sustainable Design and Construction

- “1. Development will be required to demonstrate that it has been designed to adapt to the predicted effects of climate change;
2. Residential development will be required to demonstrate that
- b) All dwellings approved on or after 1 April 2013 will meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5 or higher;
- c) There is no adverse impact on the water environment and biodiversity as a result of the implementation and management of water conservation measures.
3. Non-residential development and student housing will be required to demonstrate that:
- d) it will achieve a high degree of sustainable design and construction in line with BREEAM “excellent” standards or the equivalent if this is replaced;
- e) It will incorporate water conservation measures including water saving devices, greywater and/or rainwater recycling in all buildings to significantly reduce potable water consumption; and
- g) There is no adverse impact on the water environment and biodiversity as a result of the implementation and management of water conservation measures.”

## Local Development Framework: North West Cambridge Area Action Plan, October 2009.

### Policy NW25: Surface Water Drainage

1. “Surface water drainage for the site should be designed as far as possible as a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to reduce overall run-off volumes leaving the site, control the rate of flow and improve

water quality before it joins any water course or other receiving body;

2. The surface water drainage system will seek to hold water on the site, ensuring that it is released to surrounding water courses at an equal, or slower, rate that was the case prior to development;
3. Water storage areas should be designed and integrated into the development with drainage, recreation, biodiversity, and amenity value; and

Any surface water drainage scheme will need to be capable of reducing the downstream flood risk associated with storm events as well as normal rainfall events. All flood mitigation measures must make allowance for the forecast effects of climate change.”

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 7: The River Cam

Development proposals along the River Cam corridor should:

- a. include an assessment of views of the river and a demonstration that the proposed design of the development has taken account of the assessment in enhancing views to and from the river;
- b. preserve and enhance the unique physical, natural, historically, and culturally distinctive landscape of the River Cam;
- c. raise, where possible, the quality of the river, adjacent open spaces, and the integrity of the built environment in terms of its impact, location, scale, design, and form;
- d. propose, where possible and appropriate to context, enhancement of the natural resources of the River Cam and offer opportunities for re-naturalisation of the river;
- e. enable, where possible, opportunities for greater public access to the River Cam; and
- f. take account of and support, as appropriate, the tourism and recreational facilities associated with the river.

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 8: Setting of the city

“Development on the urban edge, including sites within and abutting green infrastructure corridors and the Cambridge Green Belt, open spaces and the River Cam corridor, will only be supported where it:

includes landscape improvement proposals that strengthen or recreate the well-defined and vegetated urban edge, improve visual amenity, and enhance biodiversity

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 31: Integrated water management

Development will be permitted provided that:

f) any flat roof is a green or brown roof, providing that it is acceptable in terms of its context in the historic environment of Cambridge and the structural capacity of the roof if it is a refurbishment. Green or brown roofs should be widely used in large-scale new communities;

...

development adjacent to a water body actively seeks to enhance the water body in terms of its hydro morphology, biodiversity potential and setting.”

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 52: Protecting garden land and the subdivision of existing dwelling plots

“Proposals for development on sites that form part of a garden or group of gardens or that subdivide an existing residential plot will only be permitted where: b. sufficient garden space and space around existing dwellings is

retained, especially where these spaces and any trees are worthy of retention due to their contribution to the character of the area and their importance for biodiversity.”

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 57: Designing new buildings

“High quality new buildings will be supported where it can be demonstrated that they include an appropriate scale of features and facilities to maintain and increase levels of biodiversity in the built environment”

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 58: Altering and extending existing buildings

“Alterations and extensions to existing buildings will be permitted where they: do not adversely impact on the setting, character or appearance of listed buildings or the appearance of conservation areas, local heritage assets, open spaces, trees or important wildlife features;”

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 59: Designing landscape and the public realm

“External spaces, landscape, public realm, and boundary treatments must be designed as an integral part of new development proposals and coordinated with adjacent sites and phases. High quality development will be supported where it is demonstrated that: species are selected to enhance biodiversity through the use of native planting and/or species capable of adapting to our changing climate”

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 66: Paving over front gardens

“Proposals for the paving over of front gardens will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

...

c. it will not result in a net loss of biodiversity”

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 69: Protection of sites of local nature conservation importance

“In determining any planning application affecting a site of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, development will be permitted if it will not have an adverse impact on, or lead to the loss of, part of all of a site identified on the Policies Map. Regard must be had to the international, national, or local status and designation of the site and the nature quality of the site’s intrinsic features, including its rarity.

Where development is permitted, proposals must include measures:

- a. to minimise harm;
- b. to secure achievable mitigation and/or compensatory measures; and
- c. where possible enhance the nature conservation value of the site affected through habitat creation, linkage, and management.

In exceptional circumstances, where the importance of the development outweighs the need to retain the site, adequate replacement habitat must be provided.

Any replacement habitat must be provided before development commences on any proposed area of habitat to be lost.”

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 70: Protection of priority species and habitats

“Development will be permitted which:

- a. protects priority species and habitats; and
- b. enhances habitats and populations of priority species.

Proposals that harm or disturb populations and habitats should:

- c. minimise any ecological harm; and d. secure achievable mitigation and/or compensatory measures, resulting in either no net loss or net gain of priority habitat and local populations of priority species.

Where development is proposed within or adjoining a site hosting priority species and habitats, or which will otherwise affect a national priority species or a species listed in the national and Cambridgeshire-specific biodiversity action plans (BAPs), an assessment of the following will be required:

- e. current status of the species population;
- f. the species’ use of the site and other adjacent habitats;
- g. the impact of the proposed development on legally protected species, national and Cambridgeshire-specific BAP species, and their habitats; and
- h. details of measures to fully protect the species and habitats identified.

If significant harm to the population or conservation status of protected species, priority species or priority habitat resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will be refused.”

## Cambridge Local Plan 2018

### Policy 71: Trees

“Development will not be permitted which involves felling, significant survey (either now or in the foreseeable future) and potential root damage to trees of amenity or other value, unless there are demonstrable public benefits accruing from the proposal which clearly outweigh the current and future amenity value of the trees.

Development proposals should:

- a. preserve, protect, and enhance existing trees and hedges that have amenity value as perceived from the public realm;
- b. provide appropriate replacement planting, where felling is proved necessary; and
- c. provide sufficient space for trees and other vegetation to mature.

Particular consideration should be given to veteran or ancient trees, as defined by Natural England, in order to preserve their historic, ecological and amenity value.”

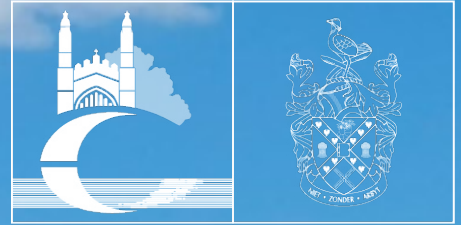


# Appendix 2 Guidance on protected species and ecological survey seasons


This provides a rough guide to the seasonality of ecological survey to illustrate the potential impact on the submission of information in support of a planning application. A suitably qualified ecologist should always be consulted to provide site specific advice on appropriate methodologies and timing, which may depend on weather conditions.


Table 1 Ecological survey seasons


Ecological Area	Survey Season
Preliminary Ecological Appraisals	Surveys are possible year-round.
Botanical Surveys	As appropriate to plant community from June to August. Marginal opportunities from April to May, and September.
Breeding Birds	Six survey visits across the season from March to June. Marginal opportunity in July.
Wintering Birds	At least monthly from January to February and November to December.
Badgers	Surveys for evidence can be undertaken year-round. Bait marking and sett surveys from February to April and September to November. Breeding season, limited surveying from May to August and December to January. Licensable season for disturbance from July to November.
Bats	Potential Roost Assessment Surveys are possible year-round. Emergence and Activity Surveys from May to September. Marginal opportunities in April and October, depending on temperature.
Hazel Dormice	Nest tube survey with monthly checks throughout season, to achieve minimum level of effort from April to November.
Invertebrates	Optimal survey time April to September.
Reptiles	Weather conditions are important from April to July and September. Marginal opportunities in March, August, and October to November.
Water Voles	Habitat assessment possible year-round. Two surveys required. The first survey from April to June. The second survey from July to September. This identifies breeding territories and latrines. Marginal opportunities for the two surveys from October to November.
Otters	Surveys are possible all year-round.
Great Crested Newts	Habitat assessment possible year-round. Four aquatic surveys which must include two surveys from mid-April to May. eDNA survey season from mid-March to end of June. Marginal opportunities in March, and from July to August.
White Clawed Crayfish	Habitat assessment possible year-round. Netting survey from July to November.





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**Front Cover photo: Cambourne, Cambridgeshire: John Cornell**

# Appendix C

## Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)



## Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report

June 2021 (v2 Dec 2021 with Natural England comments)





## About us

Place Services is a leading public sector provider of integrated environmental assessment, planning, design and management services. Our combination of specialist skills and experience means that we are uniquely qualified to help public organisations meet the requirements of the planning process, create practical design solutions and deliver environmental stewardship.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 The Purpose of this Report

This screening report is an assessment of whether or not the contents of the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/ EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations. A SEA is required if the SPD is deemed to have a likely significant effect on the environment.

This report will also screen to determine whether the SPD requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). An HRA screening report is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected Habitats (European) Sites as a result of the implementation of a plan (including those of SPD status) or project.

## 1.2 The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD

The SPD when adopted will support existing policies for both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council ahead of the adoption of a Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which is in preparation jointly by both authorities. The SPD provides advice and guidance on how proposals can comply with national policy and district-wide policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (adopted in September 2018), and the Cambridge Local Plan (adopted in October 2018).

The existing policies in the aforementioned Local Plans seek to ensure that biodiversity is adequately protected and enhanced throughout the development process. The SPD will, once adopted, supersede the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity SPD (adopted in 2009) in regard to providing support and guidance for the Greater Cambridge area.

The SPD lists specific objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity. These are:

To explain terminology associated with biodiversity conservation to assist applicants' understanding of the importance of biodiversity within the wider environment of Greater Cambridge;

To be clear on the ways in which development proposals in Greater Cambridge can be formulated in an appropriate manner to avoid harm to biodiversity and to provide a long-term, measurable net gain for biodiversity;

To encourage applicants to protect, restore and enhance locally relevant natural habitats and ecological features on their sites and to create new habitats, as part of a high-quality design; and

To assist applicants to gain planning permission in Greater Cambridge more quickly by informing them of the level of information expected to accompany planning applications.



## 1.3 The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan & Cambridge Local Plan

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan sets out the planning policies and land allocations to guide the future development of the District up to 2031. It includes policies on a wide range of topics such as housing, employment, services and facilities, and the natural environment.

### 1.3.1 Content regarding Biodiversity within the Local Plans

Both the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and the Cambridge Local Plan include various policies that either reference or are thematically related to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. For the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, these are:

NH/2 Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

NH/3: Protecting Agricultural Land

NH/4 Biodiversity

NH/5 Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance

NH/6 Green Infrastructure

NH/7 Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees

CC/8 Sustainable Drainage Systems

HQ/1 Design Principles

For the Cambridge Local Plan, these policies are:

Policy 7 The River Cam

Policy 8 Setting of the city

Policy 31 Integrated water management

Policy 52 Protecting garden land and the subdivision of existing dwelling plots

Policy 57 Designing New Buildings (criteria h.)

Policy 58 Altering and extending existing buildings

Policy 59 Designing landscape and the public realm

Policy 66 Paving over front gardens

Policy 69 Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance

Policy 70 Protection of Priority Species and Habitats

Policy 71 Trees

## 2. Legislative Background

### 2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment states that,

‘Environmental assessment is an important tool for integrating environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

(10) All plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors and which set a framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment(7), and all plans and programmes which have been determined to require assessment pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna(8), are likely to have significant effects on the environment, and should as a rule be made subject to systematic environmental assessment. When they determine the use of small areas at local level or are minor modifications to the above plans or programmes, they should be assessed only where Member States determine that they are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

(11) Other plans and programmes which set the framework for future development consent of projects may not have significant effects on the environment in all cases and should be assessed only where Member States determine that they are likely to have such effects.’

The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD may influence frameworks for future development or become used ancillary to those plans and programmes that do set such a framework, and as such it has been determined that the principle of the SPD should be screened for the necessary application of the SEA Directive.

The Report from the Commission to The Council, The European Parliament, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions states, on the application and effectiveness of the Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Directive 2001/42/EC), that

‘the following Plan & Programme (P&P), and modifications to them, are covered when prepared and/or adopted by an authority and required pursuant to legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions:

P&P prepared for certain sectors and which set the framework for future development consent in respect of projects under the Environmental Impact Assessment-EIA-Directive.

P&P requiring an assessment under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

P&P setting the framework for development consent in respect of projects (not limited to those listed in the EIA Directive; see above) and determined by "screening" as being likely to have significant environmental effects.'

This report represents this screening process in regard to the content and influence of the SPD.

## 2.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any Habitats Site in terms of impacting the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is an assessment screening the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of Habitats Sites. Specifically, it is to ascertain whether or not a proposal (either alone or in combination with other proposals) would potentially damage the internationally designated features of that site.

HRA is a screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of Habitats (European) sites, in order to identify whether effects are likely so as to require a full appropriate assessment. Specifically, it is to ascertain whether or not a proposal (either alone or in combination with other proposals) would potentially damage the internationally designated features or in integrity of that site.

This HRA Screening Report has been undertaken in order to accompany the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD. In line with the Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17), mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats Site.

On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom (UK) held a referendum and voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the Prime Minister triggered Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, which commenced a period of negotiations regarding the UK's exit from the EU. On 26 June 2018 The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 received Royal Assent, work to prepare the UK statute book for Brexit was completed and the UK has now left the EU. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 made sure that UK laws continue to operate following the UK's exit. Relevant EU Directives have been transposed into UK law and these are unchanged until amended by Parliament. The requirements for HRA under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) remain in place with minor changes being affected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Parliament will however be at liberty to introduce future changes to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) since, after 31 December 2020, the UK is no longer bound by the EU Habitats and Wild Birds Directives.

At the present time, the position under section 6(3) EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (as amended), is that the courts in the UK, with the sole exception of the Supreme Court, will continue to be



bound by HRA judgements handed down by the CJEU and by domestic courts prior to 31 December 2020 when interpreting the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This is the case as long as the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) remain unmodified by Parliament.

## 3. SEA Screening

### 3.1 When is SEA Required?

SEA is a tool used at the plan-making stage to assess the likely effects of a plan, or SPD, when judged against reasonable alternatives. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the legislative requirements of SEA has been undertaken for both the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Local Plans as required by Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SPD provides additional guidance on various policies contained within the Local Plans, but it should be acknowledged that the Local Plan policies, of which the SPD supports, have been subject to assessment through the Local Plan SA process.

SEA for an SPD alone can however be required, but typically only in exceptional situations. This is usually only applicable to SPDs which themselves could cause significant environmental effects that have not been previously considered.

Planning Practice Guidance – Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 11-008-20140306) states that,,

‘Supplementary planning documents do not require a sustainability appraisal but may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed during the preparation of the Local Plan.

A strategic environmental assessment is unlikely to be required where a supplementary planning document deals only with a small area at a local level (see regulation 5(6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004), unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects.’

Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive set out the circumstances in which a SEA is required. Table 1 sets out whether the principle of the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD will require a ‘full’ SEA.

**Table 1: Exploring whether the Principle of the SPD would warrant SEA**

**Question 1: Is the Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?**

Yes - the SPD has been subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority.

**Question 2: Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provision? (Typical characteristics of "administrative provisions" are that they are publicly available, prepared in a formal way, probably involving consultation with**

interested parties. The administrative provision must have sufficient formality such that it counts as a "provision" and it must also use language that plainly requires rather than just encourages a Plan to be prepared.)

Yes - the SPD would be considered as falling within the category of an 'administrative provision'.

**Question 3: Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?**

Yes to both criteria - the SPD has been prepared for town and country planning and sets a framework for future development consent.

**Question 4: Will the Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?**

The SPD's likely effect on sites and requirement for an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive is explored in Section 4 of this Report.

**Question 5: Does the Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan likely to require assessment under the Habitats Directive?**

Yes to one of the criteria - the SPD can be considered to assist the determination (through guidance) of the use of small areas at the local level commensurate to its status in determining local planning applications.

**Question 6: Does the Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in the Annexes of the EIA Directive)?**

Yes - the SPD has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets a framework for future development consent.

**Question 7: Is the Plans sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, or is it a financial or budget Plan, or is it co -financed by structural funds or European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) programmes 2000 to 2006/7?**

The SPD does not serve a purpose related to national defence or civil emergency, a financial or budget Plan. The SPD is not co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7.

**Question 8: Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?**

Likely significant effects are explored in more detail in Section 3.3 of this Screening Report. The 'conclusions' section of the Report outlines whether the SPD requires SEA or not in regard to its effects on the environment and the significance of any effects.

The following sub-sections look at the identified effects of the draft SPD in line with the criteria for assessing effects as per Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive). Crucially, it will determine whether there are any likely significant effects on the environment arising from the SPD.

## 3.2 Criteria for Assessing the Effects on the Environment of the SPD

Criteria for determining the likely significant effects on the environment, referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below.

### Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC – Significant Effects

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to

- the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
- environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
- the cumulative nature of the effects,



### Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC – Significant Effects

- the transboundary nature of the effects,
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
  - \* special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
  - \* exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
  - \* intensive land-use,
  - \* the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

## 3.3 Likely Significant Effects resulting from the SPD

The following assessment will consider the likelihood of the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD (at the time of writing) to have significant effects on the environment. The table below will explore the likelihood of effects on the following required themes, as included within Annex I of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC):

- Biodiversity;
- Population;
- Human health;
- Fauna;
- Flora;
- Soil;
- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage;
- Landscape; and



- The interrelationship between the above factors.

**Table 2: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on the Environment**

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>The SPD sets out support, advice, and guidance for the implementation of relevant Local Plan policies which will be used to determine proposals for development within the Greater Cambridge area.</p> <p>The SPD does not specifically include any land use allocations for mitigation purposes although ‘Biodiversity Issue B5’ sets out biodiversity provision in the design of new buildings and open spaces. Nevertheless, the principle of new provision is included within Local Plan policies which are adopted, and will have been subject to SA and HRA at the Plan level.</p> <p>The degree to which the SPD sets a framework for projects and other activities is therefore considered low.</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The Local Plans of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge provide policies for the Greater Cambridge area, relevant to those administrative areas. The SPD does not identify any land that is required for mitigation purposes of the Local Plan policies and by design the SPD’s content is strongly in conformity to that of the aforementioned Local Plans.</p> <p>The status of SPDs is such that their content is capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions, but do not formally form part of the development plan for an area. The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes is therefore low.</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in</p>	<p>The SPD in principle and through its contents will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The SPD ensures that biodiversity considerations are understood, taken into account, and enhancements maximised through the development management process. The SPD includes</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
<p>particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>content related directly to ensuring environmental considerations will be integrated into any forthcoming development within the Plan area. This content pertains to sections regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity Issue B1 - Mitigation hierarchy</li> <li>Biodiversity Issue B2 - Protection of irreplaceable habitats</li> <li>Biodiversity Issue B3 - Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing</li> <li>Biodiversity Issue B4 - Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity</li> <li>Biodiversity Issue B5 - Biodiversity provision in the design of new buildings &amp; open spaces</li> <li>Biodiversity Issue B6 - Provision of biodiverse and living roofs</li> <li>Biodiversity Issue B7 - Biodiversity Net Gain</li> <li>Biodiversity Issue B8 - Habitats Regulations Assessment</li> <li>Biodiversity Issue B9 - Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation bat protocol</li> <li>Biodiversity Issue B10 - Recreational pressure on sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest</li> </ul> <p>The above Biodiversity Issues advise and support the implementation of adopted Local Plan policies. These have been subject to thorough assessment within the Local Plans' Sustainability Appraisals and Habitats Regulations Assessments. This ensures that environmental considerations, alongside a balance of social and economic objectives / tenets of sustainability, have been considered in the development of the SPD.</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan area</p>	<p>The Greater Cambridge area reflects a relatively large area and the SPD seeks to ensure that environmental issues are not forthcoming from development proposals in regard to biodiversity. The content of the adopted Local Plans will additionally apply to any proposals within Greater Cambridge.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>Local Plan policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) within the context of the Local Plan. This Screening Report identifies the following potential (direct / indirect) environmental problems or sources of potential problems relevant to the Greater Cambridge area:</p> <p>There is one Habitats Site (Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC)) located within the Greater Cambridge area, and a further four within 20km of the Councils' administrative boundaries.</p> <p>There are 41 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Greater Cambridge area, covering a range of habitats and geological formations, including chalk grassland, species-rich neutral grassland, reedbed and fen, Ancient Woodland, chalk pits, gravel pits and clay pits.</p> <p>The Greater Cambridge area is therefore within various Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) of these Habitats Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In many cases, development proposals within IRZs are required to be consulted on with Natural England, should they be of a type or size that could warrant negative effects on the relevant SSSI.</p> <p>The Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation comprises a mixture of ancient coppice woodland (Eversden Wood) and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin (Wimpole Woods). Wimpole Woods holds the summer maternity roost of a population of Barbastelle bats (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>), a protected species.</p> <p>There are 13 statutory Local Nature Reserves within the Greater Cambridge area. These are statutorily protected sites of land designated by Local Authorities because of their special natural interest, educational value and access to nature.</p> <p>Local Sites, as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework, have been identified for all Councils in Cambridgeshire and are referred to as County Wildlife Sites. These are designated for their importance for nature conservation at a county level. County Wildlife Sites often</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>present opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, by improving existing management.</p> <p>Within Cambridge City, a second layer of non-statutory sites have been identified and are referred to as City Wildlife Sites, recognizing the importance of natural green space and habitats within the urban context.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire’s Protected Roadside Verges represent the best examples of road verge grassland across the county, identified for special management by Cambridgeshire County Council against a defined set of criteria based upon the presence of rare species or those indicating quality grassland habitat. Road verges constitute the largest area of unimproved grassland within the Greater Cambridge area and will be protected from development impacts. Many Protected Roadside Verges are also designated as County Wildlife Sites.</p> <p>European Protected Species with known populations within the Greater Cambridge area are Great Crested Newts, 12 species of bats (including the population of Barbastelle bats at Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation) and Otter, with a very few records of Dormouse.</p> <p>A range of other UK species are known to be present in the Greater Cambridge area include White-clawed Crayfish, Water Vole, Badger, Common Lizard, Grass Snake and Barn Owl. The area also supports populations of Fairy Shrimp, including at the Whittlesford Thriplow Hummocky Fields Site of Special Scientific Interest.</p> <p>Priority Habitats are those included within the list prepared under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. Lowland Calcareous Grassland is predominantly found to the south east of the Cambridge, within the Gog Magog Hills. To the east and north east is the fenland, with concentrations of Lowland Fen, Reedbeds and Lowland Meadows. The corridor of the River Cam and its tributaries supports Floodplain Grassland Mosaic, Wet Woodland and Lowland Meadows, as well as the River habitat itself and Chalk Stream sections. To the west of Cambridge are Lowland Mixed</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>Deciduous Woodland, Hedgerows, Lowland Meadows and Traditional Orchards on the boulder clay. To the north of Cambridge, the presence of Traditional Orchards on the fen edge reflect the significance of former land uses.</p> <p>Priority Species are those included within the list prepared under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. Over 200 UK Priority Species are found in Cambridgeshire as a whole, which includes recognisable but declining species such as Common Toad, Brown Hare, House Sparrow and Hedgehog alongside a range of lesser known invertebrates, and plants such as Purple Milk-vetch.</p> <p>There is also good representation of farmland bird species such as Skylark, Turtle Dove, Tree Sparrow, Grey Partridge and Yellowhammer, whose populations could be affected by any development on arable land. The loss of breeding territories of such farmland birds is likely to require compensation by provision on nearby farmland. Over-wintering birds such as Lapwing and Golden Plover are also important farmland species to be considered in ecology surveys.</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire contains 2,692 listed buildings, 86 Conservation Areas and 107 scheduled monuments, as well as 12 registered parks and gardens.</p> <p>The City of Cambridge includes over 1,500 listed buildings, 12 Conservation Areas, six scheduled monuments and 12 registered parks and gardens.</p> <p>Within South Cambridgeshire, five Conservation Areas have been included on Historic England’s ‘Heritage at Risk’ register alongside five listed buildings and 20 scheduled monuments. Within Cambridge City, two listed buildings and one scheduled monument are also included on the Heritage at Risk register.</p> <p>The Plan area is located within five National Character Areas (NCAs): the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA; the East Anglian Chalk NCA; the South Suffolk and North Essex Claylands NCA; The Fens NCA; and the Bedfordshire and Greensand Ridge NCA.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>There is one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) within South Cambridgeshire (a stretch of the A14). Within Cambridge, there is an additional AQMA.</p> <p>There are currently three Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) within the City of Cambridge and three within South Cambridgeshire. There are also seven Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) within Greater Cambridge.</p> <p>Greater Cambridge contains areas of Grade 1 ('excellent') agricultural land / soils, as well as significant areas of Grade 2 ('very good'). Grade 1 and Grade 2 agricultural land represents the best and most versatile soils nationwide.</p> <p>The Rivers Cam and Ely Ouse, Upper and Bedford Ouse and Old Bedford, lie within the Greater Cambridge area. 'Priority issues' for the catchment areas of these rivers include diffuse pollution (and pollution), biological impacts of low flow rates, and invasive non-native plant and animal species.</p> <p>The Environment Agency categorizes a number of these catchments as having 'bad' or 'poor' ecological status.</p> <p>Various Source Protection Zones (SPZs) are scattered through Greater Cambridge. SPZs are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites. The purpose of SPZs is to provide additional protection to safeguard drinking water quality through constraining the proximity of an activity that may impact upon a drinking water abstraction.</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).</p>	<p>The content of the SPD is not in conflict with those relevant planning documents within the wider district and county area related to waste management or water protection.</p>





Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
<p>The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects on the following factors:</p>	<p>The following impacts have been identified within this Screening Assessment:</p>
<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>The SPD sets out the requirements for development in regard to biodiversity mitigation and enhancement. The SPD sets out: a mitigation hierarchy for Greater Cambridge; the protection of irreplaceable habitats; how Great Crested Newts can be protected, through district level licensing; how biodiversity should be conserved and enhanced; that biodiversity provision should be incorporated into the design of new buildings and open spaces, and how this can be done; the provision of biodiverse and living roofs; and how to ensure Biodiversity Net Gain. The SPD also offers more detail and guidance on project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment; bat protocol at Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC; and measures to alleviate or avoid recreational pressure on SSSIs.</p> <p>Negative effects on biodiversity resulting from the SPD can be ruled out and only positive outcomes can be assumed from the purpose of the SPD.</p>
<p>Population</p>	<p>It is considered that there would be no effects on population resulting from the SPD. The SPD sets out how growth can be supported without ensuring effects on biodiversity, through setting out clear guidance regarding mitigation and biodiversity provision from new development.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>The SPD sets out that the subject of biodiversity overlaps significantly with other policy and strategy areas, including landscape, arboriculture, green infrastructure, health and wellbeing, sustainability, and climate change. It can be assumed that although not within the specific remit of the SPD, the SPD's successful implementation can ensure</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	indirect positive effects on human health.
Fauna	The SPD seeks the protection and enhancement of biodiversity throughout Greater Cambridge. The SPD enables and advises that any effects on fauna are understood at the development management stage, and suitable assessments are produced to ensure that planning decisions can be considered on an informed case-by-case basis.
Flora	The SPD seeks the protection and enhancement of biodiversity throughout Greater Cambridge. The SPD enables and advises that any effects on flora are understood at the development management stage, and suitable assessments are produced to ensure that planning decisions can be considered on an informed case-by-case basis.
Soil	Soil quality is not considered to be within the remit of the SPD and instead, other relevant Local Plan policies will apply. There are no identified negative implications surrounding soil quality as a result of the SPD.
Water	<p>The Plan area is within various groundwater Source Protection Zone (Zones I, II and III). The SPD does not include any content that would or could give rise to ground water pollutants (e.g. give rise to hazardous substances such as pesticides, oils, petrol and diesel, solvents, arsenic, mercury or chromium VI; or non-hazardous substances such as ammonia or nitrates). Pollution control policies within Local Plans will apply to ensure that no negative effects on water quality should be experienced within the Greater Cambridge area.</p> <p>The HRA element of this Report concludes that although Wicken Fen Ramsar and Fenland SAC all have Impact Risk Zones that overlap the boundary of Greater Cambridge, and water quality is a major issue of concern for the Wicken Fen Ramsar site (and thereby Fenland SAC), the Plan does not</p>



Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>contain any policies or proposals that would give rise to any deterioration of water quality.</p>
Air	<p>The SPD indicates that the inclusion of street trees within developments can make a contribution to Biodiversity Net Gain as well as providing a range of other benefits, including to air quality and urban cooling. The SPD outlines that the selection of the right tree species in the right place is essential to maximise these benefits. Aside from the indirect effects of ensuring biodiversity provision, air quality is not considered to be within the remit of the SPD and instead, other relevant Local Plan policies will apply. There are no identified negative implications surrounding air quality as a result of the SPD.</p>
Climatic factors	<p>The SPD does not directly address flood risk issues as they are considered outside the remit of the SPD. Nevertheless, the SPD acknowledges that indirectly, localised surface water flooding can be minimised through effective planting and by managing risk by protecting natural blue and green spaces from development. More specifically though, adopted Local Plan policies regarding flood risk exist for the Greater Cambridge area.</p>
Material assets	<p>Regarding minerals specifically, opportunities exist broadly to maximise new biodiversity provision through the restoration of mineral voids. Such activities are not within the remit of the Local Planning Authorities of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge. Therefore, such opportunities are not considered to be within the remit of the SPD and instead, relevant Local Plan policies apply of Cambridgeshire County Council as the Minerals Planning Authority (MPA). There are no identified negative implications surrounding material assets as a result of the SPD.</p> <p>Regarding other material assets, the content of the SPD is not considered to have any significant effects. Such issues are more appropriate to be considered on a case-by-case basis at the development management stage and in accordance with</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>relevant development management policies contained within the adopted Local Plans.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</p>	<p>Greater Cambridge contains various Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and Listed Buildings, as well as many Conservation Areas. The SPD does not designate or allocate any land that could have any negative effect on any of these assets. The remit of the SPD is not considered directly relevant to the historic environment (above or below ground), however indirect positive outcomes in regard to the protection of the historic environment can be forthcoming as a result of the SPD's content.</p> <p>Irrespective of the likely positive outcomes that the SPD may have regarding the historic environment, policies in ensuring the protection and enhancement of heritage assets also exists at the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Local Plans. The effects on heritage are, as a result, considered a development management issue. There are not considered to be any elements of the SPD that would give rise to significant effects on the historic environment at the strategic level that would require the application of the SEA Directive.</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Greater Cambridge is within a sensitive landscape, in regard to the protection objectives of the various National Character Areas (NCAs) contained within the Greater Cambridge area. Nevertheless, the Plan does not designate or allocate land for any purposes that would conflict with the wider landscape, and can be considered strongly in support of existing features and characteristics; as the SPD states, 'biodiversity is a valuable addition to development, often helping to create attractive natural green spaces which integrate development of a high-quality design into the local landscape or townscape.'</p> <p>The SPD acknowledges that landscape design will be required to enhance existing habitats and link them to new habitats created within the development site that are suited to the landscape character. Furthermore, policy exists within</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>both the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Local Plans regarding landscape specifically, and a 'Landscape in New Developments' SPD exists to add further guidance within South Cambridgeshire. Both councils are also currently developing a new local landscape character area study SPD. There are therefore no identified strategic landscape effects identified within this Report that would warrant the requirement for the application of the SEA Directive and the formulation of a SEA Environmental Report.</p>
<p>The cumulative nature of the effects.</p>	<p>In line with the above considerations that explore the possible individual effects of the SPD's content, no significant effects have been highlighted as possible that could lead to any cumulative impact.</p>
<p>The trans boundary nature of the effects.</p>	<p>The adopted South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Local Plans can be seen to support the protection and improvement of conditions relevant to those sustainability factors listed within the SEA Directive. The SPD is not in conflict with these wider thematic policies. The HRA Screening element of this Report, which explores in-combination effects with other relevant plans and projects, also identifies no in-combination effects regarding Habitats (European) Sites.</p>
<p>The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).</p>	<p>It is considered that there is no risk to human health or the environment as a result of the SPD. This is in consideration of the above screening requirements related to sustainability themes. The SPD is unlikely to give rise to any accidents that can be considered to have a significant risk to human health or the environment.</p>
<p>The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).</p>	<p>The SPD relates to the Greater Cambridge area only. The magnitude and spatial extent of the SPD's content is unlikely to be significant in any wider context. Negative effects are not considered relevant over a wide geographic area.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</li> <li>exceeded environmental quality standards</li> <li>intensive land use</li> </ul>	<p>As highlighted above in the screening of the SPD per sustainability theme, the SPD has not been assessed as having any possible negative effect associated with environmental themes.</p>
<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>As highlighted above in the screening of the SPD per sustainability theme, the SPD has not been assessed as having any significant effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>

## 4. HRA Screening

### 4.1 Habitat Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

This section forms a plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any Habitats Site, in terms of impacting the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is the screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of Habitats (European) sites. Specifically, it is to ascertain whether or not a proposal (either alone or in combination with other proposals) would potentially damage the internationally designated features of that site. Habitats (European) sites are also known as Natura 2000 sites and Habitats sites in the NPPF.

This HRA Screening Report has been undertaken in order to support the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document. The area covered by the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document is shown in Appendix 1.

This section of this Report aims to:

- Identify the Habitats sites within 20km of South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas.
- Summarise the reasons for designation and Conservation Objectives for each site to be considered in this assessment.
- Screen the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document for its potential to impact upon a Habitats site.
- Assess the potential for in combination effects from other projects and plans in the area.
- Identify if there are any outstanding issues that need further investigation.

### 4.2 Court Judgements and their consideration in this Report

#### 4.2.1 CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17

As previously mentioned, in line with the Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17), mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats Site.

This HRA Screening Report does not therefore consider mitigation measures within the assessment of Likely Significant Effects resulting from the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD.

#### 4.2.2 CJEU Holohan C- 461/17

This Court judgement now imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority at Appropriate Assessment stage:

1. [...] an 'Appropriate Assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.
2. [...] the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent which leaves the developer free to determine subsequently certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, only if that authority is certain that the development consent granted establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.
3. [...] where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the 'Appropriate Assessment' must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

Within this HRA Screening report, the assessment determines the requirement whether an Appropriate Assessment is needed for the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document.

### 4.3 Habitats (European) Sites

Habitats Sites is the term used in the NPPF (2019) to describe any site which would be included within the definition at Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) for the purpose of those regulations. These now form part of the UK national network of sites for nature protection. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of UK's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

All Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are comprised of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and all Ramsar sites in England are SSSIs. Together, SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites are considered as Habitats Sites in England (NPPF, 2019).

### 4.3.1 Explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites

#### Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

SPAs are areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within EU countries. Example: Ouse Washes is internationally important for wintering waterfowl. Legislation: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

#### Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

SACs are areas designated to protect habitat types that are in danger of disappearance, have a small natural range, or are highly characteristic of the region; and to protect species that are endangered, vulnerable, rare, or endemic. Example: woodland habitat of Eversden and Wimpole Woods for the population of Barbastelle bats. Legislation: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

#### Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)

Ramsar Sites are designated to protect the biological and physical features of wetlands, especially for waterfowl habitats. For example, Wicken Fen is an outstanding remnant of East Anglian peat fens and supports one species of British Red Data Book plant fen violet *Viola persicifolia* which survives at only two other sites in Britain. Ramsar sites often overlap with SACs and SPAs and UK planning policy determines that they should be accorded the same importance when developments are proposed. Legislation: Ramsar Convention (1971) – Wetlands of International Importance and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

### 4.3.2 Habitats Sites to be considered

There are 11 Habitats sites which lie within 20 km of the South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas. These are listed in the table below and shown on the map in Appendix 2.

**Table 3: Habitats Sites within 20km to be considered in this assessment**

SPA
Ouse Washes and Breckland
SAC





SPA
Fenland, Devils Dyke, Eversden and Wimpole Woods, Portholme and Ouse Washes
Ramsar
Wicken Fen, Chippenham Fen, Ouse Washes and Woodwalton Fen

Fenland SAC is comprised of three fenlands and overlaps with Wicken Fen Ramsar and Chippenham Fen Ramsar. The Impact Risk Zones for the underpinning SSSIs for the aforementioned Habitats sites were interrogated on MAGIC map.

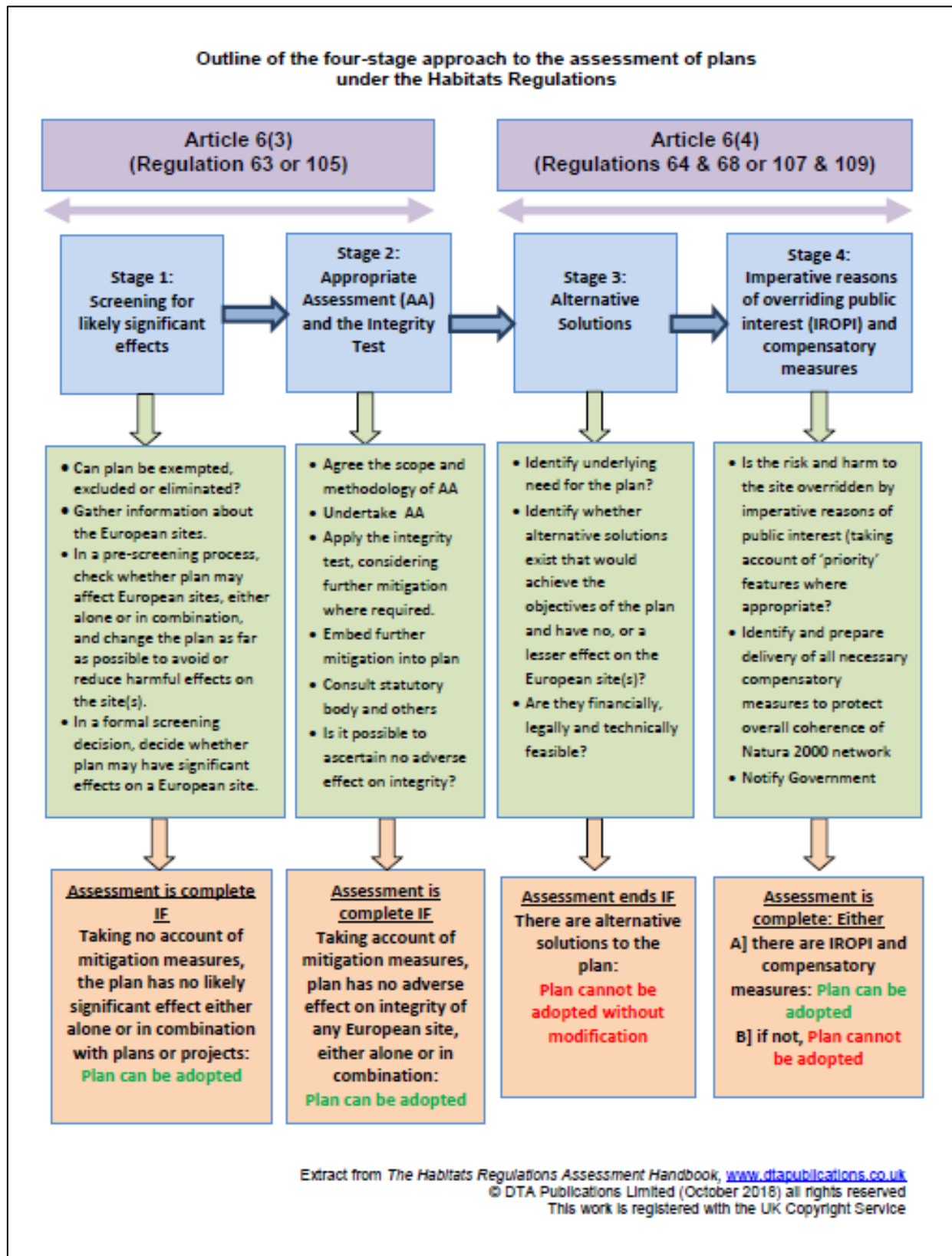
After consideration on MAGIC website [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk), the Plan area does lie within the Impact Risk Zone for several of the aforementioned Habitats Sites. Eversden and Wimpole Woods lies within the Greater Cambridge plan area and the Ouse Washes SPA, SAC and Ramsar, Wicken Fen Ramsar/Fenland SAC and Devils Dyke SAC all have Impact Risk Zones that overlap the boundary of South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas.

## 4.4 Method and Approach

This document relates only to Stage 1 of the HRA process as set out in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Outline of the Four Stage Approach to the Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Regulations (taken from the DTA handbook).



#### 4.4.1 Stage 1: HRA Screening

The screening stage identifies if any significant effects are likely because any policies or projects will have an impact on a Habitats Site. Table 4 identifies the different categories assigned to each Biodiversity Issue identified in the SPD: Category A identifies those policies or projects that are considered to have No Negative Effect. Category B identifies those policies or projects that will have No Likely Significant Effect. Category C identifies those policies or projects that might have Likely Significant Effect upon a Habitats Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Section 4.5 considers each Biodiversity Issues or project and the results of the screening exercise recorded.

**Table 4: Screening categorisation**

<p><b>Category A: No negative effect</b></p> <p>The SPD of itself is not be likely to have any negative effect on a Habitats site.</p>
<p><b>Category B: No Likely Significant Effect</b></p> <p>The SPD of itself could have an effect but would not be likely to have a <i>significant</i> negative effect on a Habitats site alone or in combination. This conclusion could only be reached if the effects, even in combination and taking the precautionary principle into account, are considered trivial.</p>
<p><b>Category C: Likely Significant Effect</b></p> <p>The SPD of itself is predicted to have a likely significant effect on a Habitats Site either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>

#### 4.4.2 Potential impacts of the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD on Habitats Sites

There are a wide range of potential impacts on Habitats Sites that could arise from development plans. These can be summarised as -

- Land take by development;
- Impact on protected species found within but which travel outside the protected sites may be relevant where development could result in effects on qualifying interest species within the Habitats site, for example through the loss of feeding grounds for an identified species.
- Increased disturbance, for example from recreational use resulting from new housing development and / or improved access due to transport infrastructure

projects;

- Changes in water availability, or water quality as a result of development and increased demands for waste water treatment, and changes in groundwater regimes due to increased impermeable areas;
- Changes in atmospheric pollution levels due to increased traffic, waste management facilities etc. Pollution discharges from developments such as industrial developments, quarries and waste management facilities.

However, as the SPD is aimed at supporting biodiversity within South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas, the SPD ensures that development that will not have a significant negative effect on designated sites and Qualifying features.

The table below provides assessment of the draft SPD including Biodiversity issues with categories of likely effect assigned as set out in Table 5.

**Table 4: Assessment of potential impacts on Habitats Sites from the SPD**

Nature of potential impact	How the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site	Why these effects are not considered significant
Land take by development	The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD does not identify any land for development but is proposed to ensure that biodiversity is appropriately considered in any development in South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas. It is considered that there is no mechanism by which the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD could result in a negative effect on any Habitats site.	N/A
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD covers land in South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas which is within the 10km IRZ for Eversden and Wimpole	The draft Bat Protocol for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC identifies that any development within 10km will be screened for impacts on the SAC, with particular reference to the severance of bat flight lines. This

Nature of potential impact	How the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site	Why these effects are not considered significant
	<p>Woods SAC.</p> <p>However, it is considered that there is no mechanism by which the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD could result in a negative effect on any Habitats site.</p>	<p>will ensure that the SPD results in a positive effect on Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC.</p> <p>However, negative effects on biodiversity resulting from the SPD can be ruled out and only positive outcomes can be assumed from the purpose of the SPD. Therefore, adverse impacts on protected species outside of the sites arising from this SPD are <b>screened out</b>.</p>
Recreational pressure and disturbance	<p>The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD covers land in South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas which lie within the ZOIs for Devils Dyke SAC.</p> <p>Although there is currently no formal Zone of Influence identified for Wicken Fen within which recreational impacts are considered, this may be subject to a separate detailed study in the near future.</p> <p>However, it is considered that there is no mechanism by which the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD could result in a negative effect on any Habitats site.</p>	<p>The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD does not allocate any land for development. However, the SPD highlights the need for avoiding and mitigating for recreational pressure on sensitive SSSIs including Devil's Dyke SAC. Biodiversity Issue 10 identifies that any development within the IRZs shown on MAGIC maps will be screened for impacts on the Habitats Sites, under a project level HRA. The SPD makes particular reference to the provision of alternative greenspace. This will ensure that the SPD results in a positive effect on Devil's Dyke SAC.</p> <p>However, negative effects on biodiversity resulting from the SPD can be ruled out and only positive outcomes can be assumed from the purpose of the SPD. Therefore, adverse impacts from recreational pressure arising from this SPD</p>



Nature of potential impact	How the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site	Why these effects are not considered significant
		are <b>screened out</b> .
Water quantity and quality	<p>The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD covers land in South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas which lie within the 5km IRZ for Wicken Fen, Chippenham Fen Ramsar sites and Fenland SAC.</p> <p>Although water quality is an issue of concern for Wicken Fen Ramsar site (and thereby Fenland SAC), it is considered that there is no pathway for water quantity or quality impacts. Additionally, there is no substantial hydrological connection with the plan area.</p> <p>However, it is considered that there is no mechanism by which the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD could result in a negative effect on any Habitats site.</p>	<p>The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD does not allocate any land for development. However, the SPD highlights the need for project level HRA in Biodiversity Issue 10 which identifies that any development within the IRZs shown on MAGIC maps will be screened for impacts on the Habitats Sites</p> <p>However, negative effects on biodiversity resulting from the SPD can be ruled out and only positive outcomes can be assumed from the purpose of the SPD. Therefore, adverse impacts from water quality and quantity arising from this SPD are <b>screened out</b>.</p>
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD covers land in South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City areas which is within the 5km IRZ for Wicken Fen, Chippenham Fen Ramsar site, and Fenland SAC.</p> <p>However, it is considered that there is no mechanism by which the Greater Cambridge</p>	<p>The SPD highlights the need for project level HRA in Biodiversity Issue 8 which identifies that any development within the IRZs shown on MAGIC maps will be screened for impacts on the Habitats Sites.</p> <p>However, negative effects on biodiversity resulting from the SPD can be ruled out and only positive outcomes can be</p>

Nature of potential impact	How the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site	Why these effects are not considered significant
	Biodiversity SPD could result in a negative effect on any Habitats site.	assumed from the purpose of the SPD. Therefore, adverse impacts from changes in pollution levels arising from this SPD are <b>screened out</b> .

## 4.5 Results from the HRA Screening of the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD

Each of the Biodiversity Issues identified in the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document was screened to identify whether they would have any impact on a Habitats Site.

**Table 5: Assessment of potential impacts from the SPD Biodiversity Issues**

Policy Number	Biodiversity Issue Wording	Will Biodiversity Issue have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
B1: Mitigation hierarchy	To meet national and local policy requirements (NH/4 Item 3 and Policy 70), submitted ecological reports are expected to explain how the hierarchy of mitigation measures (Avoid, Mitigate, Compensate) has been embedded into the design of the development. Where impacts on habitats and species cannot be avoided, a clear explanation of why alternative sites are not feasible and what proposed mitigation and compensation measures are necessary to	No, Category A	No specific recommendations





Policy Number	Biodiversity Issue Wording	Will Biodiversity Issue have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	address all likely significant adverse effects is needed.		
B2: Protection of irreplaceable habitats	<p>Developers will be expected to avoid direct and indirect impacts on irreplaceable habitats and embed measures to achieve this within the design of any development proposal.</p> <p>To meet policy requirements (NH/4 item 6, NH/7 and Policy 71), the Councils will refuse applications that would result in the loss, deterioration or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats unless the need for, and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss, and a suitable compensation strategy exists. In these situations, biodiversity net gain is not achievable. As per NPPF 2021, there would have to be wholly exceptional reasons for this to be the case with the burden of proof for these falling to developers to provide irrefutable evidence of these exceptional reasons</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
B3: Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing	To meet policy requirements (NH/4 and Policy 70) and support development which is likely to impact on Great Crested Newt, if a developer is accepted to join the Natural England Cambridgeshire Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing scheme, they do not	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Biodiversity Issue Wording	Will Biodiversity Issue have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>need to carry out their own surveys for this European Protected Species or plan and carry out mitigation work.</p> <p>If a consent for development is issued, developers do not need to meet the Government’s Standing Advice for Great Crested Newt. However, the Councils will still require survey and assessment for other protected and Priority species likely to be present and affected by development, together with delivery of any mitigation needing to be secured by a condition of any consent.</p>		
<p>B4: Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity</p>	<p>To meet national and local policy requirements (NH/4, NH/5, NH/6, Policy 69 and Policy 70), development should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secure the conservation management and enhancement of natural and semi-natural habitats in the landscape together with the biodiversity that they contain and seek to restore and/or create new wildlife habitats.</li> <li>2. Secure the provision of appropriate public access to natural green spaces, particularly within or close to the villages.</li> </ol> <p>Habitats will be considered important for biodiversity where</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>





Policy Number	Biodiversity Issue Wording	Will Biodiversity Issue have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are part of the UK national network of sites (Habitats sites) or are proposed for designation</li> <li>2. Are nationally designated sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves or Local Nature Reserves) or are proposed for designation</li> <li>3. Are non-statutory designated sites of at least County or City importance or are proposed for designation</li> <li>4. Are likely to support the presence of a Priority species or habitat, or significant populations of a national or local Red list species</li> <li>5. Have the potential to assist in the delivery of National, County or District Nature Recovery Networks and clearly act as a stepping-stone, wildlife corridor or refuge area</li> <li>6. Provide for the quiet enjoyment of biodiversity within semi-natural areas or act as an educational resource, such as Local Nature Reserves</li> </ol>		
B5: Biodiversity provision in the	To meet policy requirements (HQ/1, NH/4, Policy 57 and Policy	No,	No specific



Policy Number	Biodiversity Issue Wording	Will Biodiversity Issue have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
design of new buildings & open spaces	<p>59), the councils will expect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That development proposals will have regard to the biodiversity already present within a development site and to identify opportunities to maximise the provision for biodiversity within new development sites with strategic nature conservation priorities.</li> <li>2. That on all residential housing developments, there should be an equal number of integrated bird box features such as dwellings for building-dependent birds (breeding Swifts, House Sparrows, Starlings and House Martins) provided individually or clustered in appropriate locations within the development.</li> <li>3. That all suitable commercial and community building applications will include integrated bird box features for building dependent birds (breeding Swifts, House Sparrows, Starlings and House Martins) in keeping with the scale of development, i.e. minimum of 10 boxes for the first 1000 sqm footprint and one additional box for every 100 sqm.</li> <li>4. That on all residential housing developments 25% of the dwellings / units will have</li> </ol>	Category A	recommendations

Policy Number	Biodiversity Issue Wording	Will Biodiversity Issue have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>integrated bat box features, provision to be clustered next to appropriate foraging habitats.</p> <p>5. That new wildlife habitats and features, including predominantly native trees and shrubs and durable tree mounted nest boxes, bat boxes and insect boxes, will be incorporated into landscaping schemes and the general layout of the built environment. All fencing will be expected to be hedgehog friendly and hedgehog highways should be incorporated throughout the development. Incorporating Hedgehog Highway gaps into boundary fences ensures connectivity between gardens for Hedgehogs and other wildlife, increasing the extent of habitat available in a secure way</p>		
B6: Provision of biodiverse and living roofs	To meet policy requirements (HQ/1, NH/4 and Policy 31), the provision of biodiverse roofs and walls will be encouraged as a means to maximise biodiversity, particularly where the opportunities for ecological enhancement on a site area are limited, and where such measures will deliver enhancement at a landscape scale where appropriate, as part of a wider strategy of biodiversity enhancements.	No, Category A	No specific recommendations



Policy Number	Biodiversity Issue Wording	Will Biodiversity Issue have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
B7: Biodiversity Net Gain	<p>This SPD is underpinned by national and Local Planning Policies. In keeping with these, and the SPD, development proposals will be required to demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity (NH/4, NH/6, Policy 69, Policy 70). Biodiversity Net Gain should be achieved on site where possible.</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
B8: Habitats Regulations Assessment	<p>To support the councils in meeting policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) and their legal duties as Competent Authorities under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) – known as the Habitats Regulations - where development is likely to result in a significant effect on a Habitats site, proposals need to be supported by information to support the preparation of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) by the Local Planning Authority. This needs to include the results of any necessary surveys and details of any mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the site(s) embedded into design of the development.</p> <p>All the Councils’ Habitats Regulations Assessment Appropriate Assessments will be sent to Natural England for their</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations



Policy Number	Biodiversity Issue Wording	Will Biodiversity Issue have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	formal consultation response on their conclusions before any decision can be issued.		
B9: Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation bat protocol	To support the Councils in meeting policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) and their legal duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), appropriate levels of survey, assessment and mitigation will be expected for any development that could have an impact on the population of Barbastelle Bats within and around the Eversden & Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation.	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
B10: Recreational pressure on sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest	To meet national and local policy requirements (NH/5 and Policy 69) for protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity value, applications will not normally be permitted where there is likely to be an adverse impact on land within or adjoining such sites. With specific reference to sensitive Sites of Special Scientific Interest, advice issued by Natural England suggests developers of residential schemes of 50 or more units should seek to provide sufficient Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, (SANG) to avoid and mitigate recreational pressure within and around the SSSI. SSSIs currently known to be at risk from	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Biodiversity Issue Wording	Will Biodiversity Issue have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	recreational pressure within the Greater Cambridge area are listed in Annex B of Natural England’s advice.		

#### 4.5.1 Screening result from the SPD alone

There are no specific recommendations to deliver for the Biodiversity Issues in this SPD as they have all been assigned to Category A. There is therefore no need to amend the text for Biodiversity Issues as they are not predicted to have a Likely Significant (negative) Effect on any Habitats site.

This SPD provides guidance on the design of biodiversity mitigation and enhancement for planning applications submitted to South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City councils. The guidance and Biodiversity Issues embedded in the SPD has been taken into account for this HRA screening, and it is considered that the draft SPD is not predicted to result in any likely significant negative effects on Habitats Sites alone.

The effects in-combination with other plans and projects are considered separately in the following Section.

#### 4.6 Other Plans and Projects: In-combination Effects

The plans and projects listed below and their HRAs have been carried out by South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City councils or other organisations and none have been found to have a likely significant negative effect on the Habitats sites within scope of this assessment.

The Water Cycle Strategy (WCS) for Major Growth Sites in and Around Cambridge is not in itself a relevant plan or project under the Habitats Regulations but was prepared to support the delivery of the existing development strategy. Whilst it does not provide an assessment of new proposals for the Local Plan, its findings are relevant to support the assessment of this plan. It focused on issues related to the water supply, surface drainage and wastewater sewerage associated with potential development sites, and also concluded no likely significant effects, and that protected sites could be screened out of further assessment.

In the context of this HRA, the other relevant plans to be considered (i.e. those that have

also triggered a requirement for HRA) are listed below.

**Table 6: Other plans or projects considered for in combination effects**

Statutory Body	Title of HRA or Project	Findings of HRA or Project	Potential for in combination effects
Greater Cambridge	Draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening	Draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening	Not applicable
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Northstowe Area Action Plan HRA (April 2007)	“It can be objectively concluded that the Northstowe Area Action Plan is not likely to have any significant effects on any Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites. There is therefore no requirement to proceed to the next stage of an Appropriate Assessment.”	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted.
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan HRA (May 2007)	“This AAP was subject to an HRA and found not to impact on a Natura site or a Ramsar site.”	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted.
South Cambridgeshire	Cambridge East Area Action Plan HRA	“It can be objectively concluded that the	It is considered that in combination likely

Statutory Body	Title of HRA or Project	Findings of HRA or Project	Potential for in combination effects
District Council	(May 2007)	Cambridge East Area Action Plan is not likely to have any significant effects on any Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites. There is therefore no requirement to proceed to the next stage of an Appropriate Assessment.”	significant effects are not predicted.
South Cambridgeshire District Council	North West Cambridge Area Action Plan HRA (August 2007)	“It has been objectively concluded that the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan – Preferred Options Draft - is not likely to have any significant effects on any Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites. It is therefore concluded that there is no requirement to proceed to the next stage of an Appropriate Assessment.”	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted.
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Habitat Regulations Assessment: Chapter 20 of South Cambs Local Plan SA Scoping Report (June 2012) and including the Draft Final	“The Local Plan for the district was subject to an HRA screening and found to have no likely significant impact on a Natura	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted.



Statutory Body	Title of HRA or Project	Findings of HRA or Project	Potential for in combination effects
	Sustainability Report (2014) and Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2015)	site or a Ramsar site.”	
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Waterbeach New Town SPD HRA screening report (2018)	“The overall conclusion of this screening assessment is that the draft Waterbeach New Town SPD is unlikely to have any significant effects on the Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites identified alone or in combination with other plans or projects.”	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted.
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Bourn Airfield New Village SPD SEA / HRA Screening Report (June 2019)	“The HRA element of this Screening Report indicates that the draft Bourn Airfield New Village SPD is not predicted to have likely significant effects on Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.”	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted.
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Greater Cambridge Local Plan Habitats Regulations	“This Scoping document has been produced to provide	N/A



Statutory Body	Title of HRA or Project	Findings of HRA or Project	Potential for in combination effects
	Assessment Issues and Options Scoping Report (Dec 2019)	guidance and parameters for developing the GCLP in the context of European sites and as a reference point for stakeholders wishing to comment on the document.”	
South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council	North East Cambridge Area Action Plan HRA Report (July 2020)	RE: Air Quality, Water Quality, Water Quantity, and Recreation - “In accordance with the precautionary principle, a conclusion of no Adverse Effect on Integrity cannot be reached.”	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted as all Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document Biodiversity issues have been assigned to Category A.

However, effects on biodiversity resulting from the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document can be ruled out and only positive outcomes can be assumed from the purpose of the SPD. There is therefore no pathway for in-combination negative effects.

## 5. Conclusions

### 5.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The SPD has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets a framework for future development consent. The guidance and advice of the SPD can be considered to assist in the determination of the use of small areas at local level commensurate with their status in determining local planning applications.

The SPD does not designate or allocate any land for any (including development) purposes and does not include any content that could give rise to significant negative effects on the environment, or any social or economic tenets of sustainability.

The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD can therefore be **screened out** for its requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC.

### 5.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Subject to Natural England's review, this HRA screening report indicates that the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document is not predicted to have likely significant negative effects on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The requirement for the Plan to undertake further assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Regulations 2017 (as amended) is therefore **screened out**.

We note that Natural England's consultation comments (ref: 355622 dated 5 July 2021) on the SEA/ HRA screening report (June 2021) are supportive as follows:

*Natural England believes that the SEA and HRA Screening Report (Place Services, June 2021) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Table 2 sets out Greater Cambridge's key natural environment assets including statutorily designated and local nature conservation sites, priority habitats and priority and protected species, local landscape, and best and most versatile land. Potential pathways for impacts including air and water quality, groundwater abstraction and recreational pressure and disturbance have been identified.*

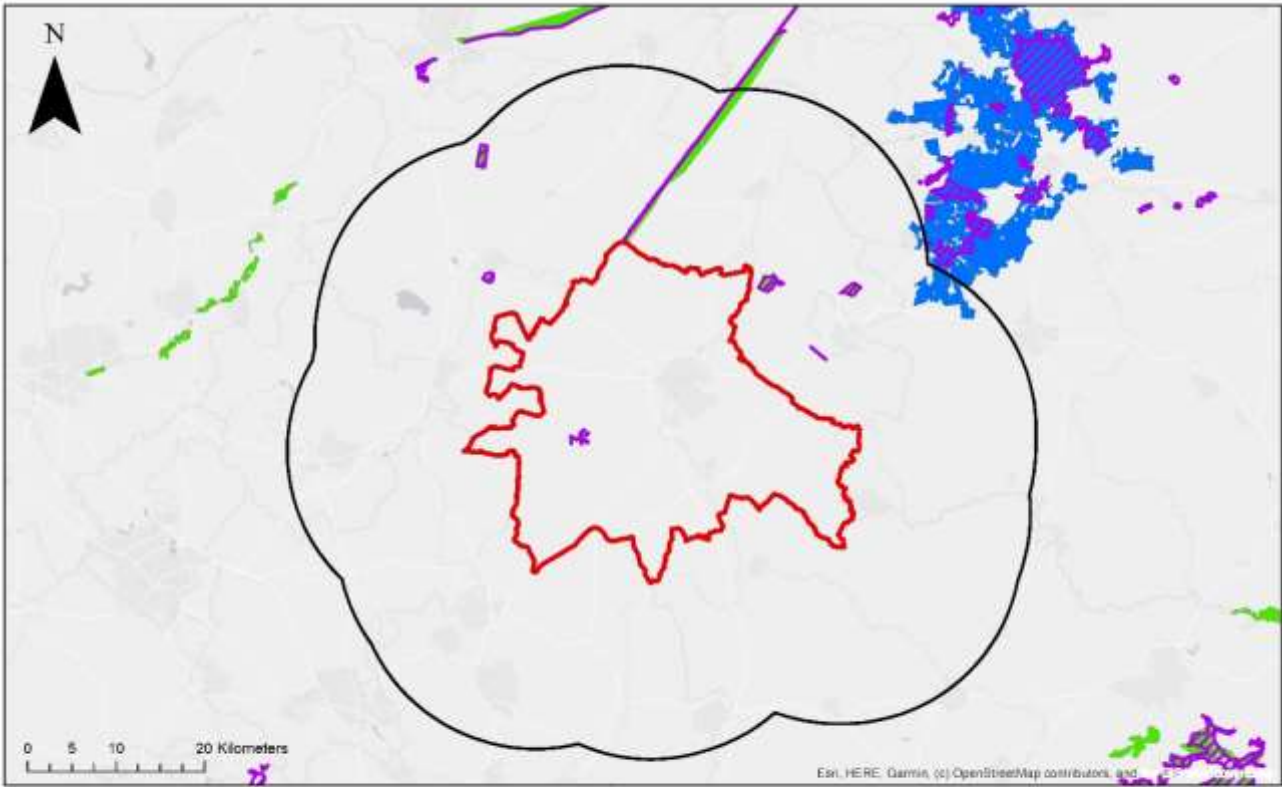
*We are satisfied that the relevant natural environment receptors, including Habitats Sites have been screened into the assessment and that the potential effects of Biodiversity SPD policies on these alone, and in-combination with other plans and projects, has been appropriately considered. As a guidance document aiming to contribute towards achieving sustainable development, protecting biodiversity and maximising opportunities for enhancement we support the Report's conclusions that the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effect including impact to Habitats Sites and that preparation of SEA and detailed HRA is therefore not required.*

## 6. References

- Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD (May 2021)  
Greater Cambridge  
Northstowe Area Action Plan HRA (April 2007)  
South Cambridgeshire District Council Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan HRA (May 2007)  
Cambridge East Area Action Plan HRA (May 2007)  
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan HRA (August 2007)  
South Cambridgeshire District Council Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (adopted July 2009)  
Bourn Airfield New Village SPD SEA / HRA Screening Report (June 2019)  
Waterbeach New Town SPD HRA screening report (2018)  
South Cambridgeshire District Council South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (September 2018)  
Greater Cambridge Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Issues and Options Scoping Report (Dec 2019)  
North East Cambridge Area Action Plan HRA Report (July 2020)  
Natural England Conservation objectives for European Sites: East of England Website  
Tydlesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, (June 2021) edition UK: DTA Publications Limited

# Appendix 1

## Greater Cambridge Plan Area and Habitats Sites within 20km



**Legend**  
Greater Cambridge 20km buffer Special Area of Conservation Ramsar Special Protection Area

Source: Place Services, 2021

## Appendix 2

### Characteristics of Habitats Sites in Scope of this Report

This appendix contains information about the Habitats Sites included in the scoping for this HRA. Information about each site's area, the site descriptions, qualifying features and pressures and threats are drawn from Natural England's Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) and the Standard Data Forms or Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) available from the JNCC website. Site conservation objectives are drawn from Natural England's website and are only available for SACs and SPAs. Supplementary Advice has also been added to describe the range of ecological attributes that are most likely to contribute to a site's overall integrity and key vulnerabilities to consider within Habitats Regulations assessments. The notes in the RIS for Ramsar sites of factors affecting site's ecological character are not considered as necessary for HRA screening purposes and noteworthy features are not treated as qualifying features in the application of HRA tests. The assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations is strictly limited to the qualifying features which meet the Ramsar criteria.

**Table 7: Characteristics of Habitats Sites within 20km of the Plan / SPD area – Breckland SPA**

Breckland SPA - The Breckland of Norfolk and Suffolk lies in the heart of East Anglia on largely sandy soils of glacial origin. In the nineteenth century the area was termed a sandy waste, with small patches of arable cultivation that were soon abandoned. The continental climate, with low rainfall and free draining soils, has led to the development of dry heath and grassland communities. Much of Breckland has been planted with conifers throughout the twentieth century, and in part of the site, arable farming is the predominant land use.

The remnants of dry heath and grassland which have survived these recent changes support heathland breeding birds, where grazing by rabbits and sheep is sufficiently intensive to create short turf and open ground. These breeding birds have also adapted to live in forestry and arable habitats. Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* breed in clear-fell and open heath areas, whilst stone curlews *Burhinus oedicephalus* establish nests on open ground provided by arable cultivation in the spring, as well as on Breckland grass-heath.

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Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
Breckland SPA  EU Code: UK9009201	39432.55	A224, b - Nightjar, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>  A133, b - Stone-curlew, <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>  A246, b - Woodlark, <i>Lullula arborea</i>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;  - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying	Current pressures  - Lack of ground disturbance, under grazing, inappropriate scrub and weed control, inappropriate cutting/mowing.  - Water pollution: There has been a considerable loss

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
			<p>species;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely;</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species; and</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>of aquatic species in Ringmere and high nutrient levels recorded in previous water analysis suggest nutrients are impacting the mere. Langmere too shows signs of nutrient enrichment. Changes in species distributions.</p> <p>Potential future threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition.</li> <li>- Public access / disturbance – SAC features may be affected through eutrophication (dog fouling, unauthorised fires) and disturbance of soils.</li> <li>- Climate change.</li> </ul>



Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
				- Habitat fragmentation.

**Table 8: Characteristics of Habitats Sites within 20km of the Plan / SPD area – Ouse Washes**

Ouse Washes - The Ouse Washes is one of the country’s few remaining areas of extensive washland habitat. The associated dykes and rivers hold a great variety of aquatic plants; the pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp. are particularly well represented. The associated aquatic fauna is similarly diverse and includes spined loach *Cobitis taenia*. The Counter Drain, with its clear water and abundant aquatic plants, is particularly important, and a healthy population of spined loach is known to occur.

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Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
Ouse Washes SAC  EU Code: UK0013011	311.35	S1149. <i>Cobitis taenia</i> ; Spined loach	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;  - The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying	Inappropriate water levels:  Notified interests (including breeding birds, overwintering birds and supporting grassland communities) are being adversely affected by increased flooding on the Ouse Washes. Flooding during spring / early summer severely damages the breeding bird interest by flooding nests,

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
			<p>species;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely;</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species; and</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>drowning young and affecting habitat. Deep flooding during winter also impacts overwintering birds such as wigeon and impacts on the wetland fauna, especially invertebrate populations. Wetland flora is also affected through prolonged submersion, favouring swamp communities over the designated grassland species. Prolonged summer flooding disrupts essential management of the washland, affecting the condition of the grassland for breeding birds in subsequent spring/summer season(s).</p> <p>Water Pollution:</p> <p>Inappropriate levels of nutrients from diffuse pollution in combination with inappropriate water levels from flooding have adversely affected the extent/composition of vegetation communities on the washes.</p>

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
				<p>Resulting changes to the grassland mosaic has potential to affect the notified bird interests by destroying habitat suitable for many of the birds that visit or breed at the site. Occasional incidences of low oxygen levels on River Delph and Counter Drain have potential to impact spined loach populations.</p>
<p>Ouse Washes SPA EU Code: UK9008041</p>	<p>2469.08</p>	<p>A037 <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding)</p> <p>A038 <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>; Whooper swan (Non-breeding)</p> <p>A050 <i>Anas penelope</i>; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)</p> <p>A051 <i>Anas strepera</i>; Gadwall (Breeding)</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>- The supporting processes</li> </ul>	<p>Inappropriate water levels:</p> <p>Notified interests (including breeding birds, overwintering birds and supporting grassland communities) are being adversely affected by increased flooding on the Ouse Washes. Flooding during spring / early summer severely damages the breeding bird interest by flooding nests, drowning young and affecting habitat. Deep flooding during winter also impacts overwintering birds such as wigeon and impacts on the wetland fauna,</p>

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>A052 Anas crecca; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)</p> <p>A053 Anas platyrhynchos; Mallard (Breeding)</p> <p>A054 Anas acuta; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)</p> <p>A055 Anas querquedula; Garganey (Breeding)</p> <p>A056 Anas clypeata; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)</p> <p>A056 Anas clypeata; Northern shoveler (Breeding)</p> <p>A082 Circus cyaneus; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)</p>	<p>on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The population of each of the qualifying features; and,</li> <li>- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>especially invertebrate populations. Wetland flora is also affected through prolonged submersion, favouring swamp communities over the designated grassland species. Prolonged summer flooding disrupts essential management of the washland, affecting the condition of the grassland for breeding birds in subsequent spring/summer season(s).</p> <p>Water Pollution:</p> <p>Inappropriate levels of nutrients from diffuse pollution in combination with inappropriate water levels from flooding have adversely affected the extent/composition of vegetation communities on the washes. Resulting changes to the grassland mosaic has potential to affect the notified bird interests by destroying habitat suitable for many of the birds that visit or</p>

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>A151 Philomachus pugnax; Ruff (Breeding)</p> <p>A156a Limosa limosa limosa; Black-tailed godwit (Breeding)</p> <p>Waterbird assemblage</p> <p>Breeding bird assemblage</p>		<p>breed at the site. Occasional incidences of low oxygen levels on River Delph and Counter Drain have potential to impact spined loach populations.</p>
Ouse Washes Ramsar	2469.08	<p>Ramsar criterion 1:</p> <p>The site is one of the most extensive areas of seasonally-flooding washland of its type in Britain.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2:</p> <p>The site supports several nationally scarce plants, including small water pepper Polygonum minus,</p>	N/A	N/A

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		whorled water-milfoil Myriophyllum verticillatum, greater water parsnip Sium latifolium, river waterdropwort Oenanthe fluviatilis, fringed water-lily Nymphoides peltata, long-stalked pondweed Potamogeton praelongus, hair-like pondweed Potamogeton trichoides, grass-wrack pondweed Potamogeton compressus, tasteless water-pepper Polygonum mite and marsh dock Rumex palustris. Invertebrate records indicate that the site holds relict fenland fauna, including the British Red Data Book species large darter dragonfly Libellula fulva and the rifle beetle		

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>Oulimnius major. The site also supports a diverse assemblage of nationally rare breeding waterfowl associated with seasonally-flooding wet grassland.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5: Assemblages of international importance</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6: species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p>		

**Table 9: Characteristics of Habitats Sites within 20km of the Plan / SPD area – Eversden and Wimpole SAC**

Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC - The site comprises a mixture of ancient coppice woodland (Eversden Wood) and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin (Wimpole Woods). A colony of barbastelle bats *Barbastella barbastellus* is associated with the trees in Wimpole Woods. These trees are used as a summer maternity roost where the female bats gather to give birth and rear their young. Most of the roost sites are within tree crevices. The bats also use the site as a foraging area. Some of the woodland is also used as a flight path when bats forage outside the site.

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
<p>Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC</p> <p>EU Code: UK0030331</p>	<p>66.48</p>	<p>S1308 Barbastelle bat Barbastella barbastellus</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely;</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species; and</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown:</p> <p>Two transects within the site are monitored each year as part of the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP). However, there is some evidence that there could be other Barbastelle roosts or important foraging sites close to but not within the site. If this is the case, then potentially important sites for the bats in the area are not protected.</p> <p>Offsite habitat availability/ management:</p> <p>The bats have a limited area in which to roost and forage within the site and it is unclear which habitats they use in the wider countryside. In order to maintain a sustainable population, additional suitable habitat should be identified and to</p>



Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
				<p>maintain/improve its value, suitable long-term management secured.</p> <p>Forestry and Woodland Management:</p> <p>The woodland upon which the bats depend must be maintained in the medium to longer term by ensuring that tall trees, especially oak, grow up to replace those currently in place.</p> <p>Air Pollution:</p> <p>Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition exceeds site-relevant critical loads.</p>

**Table 10: Characteristics of Habitats Sites within 20km of the Plan / SPD area – Devils Dyke SAC**

Devils Dyke SAC - The Devil's Dyke holds an extensive area of species-rich chalk grassland of a type characteristic to chalklands of south, central and eastern England. The Dyke is an ancient linear earthwork comprising a deep ditch and high bank. It was originally

colonised by plants from adjacent grassland (much of which is now arable) and remains as one of the few areas still supporting these vegetation communities. The species-rich grassland is dominated by upright brome *Bromopsis erecta* and a range of typical chalk herbs are present including salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* and rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*. Some uncommon plants such as purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*, bastard toadflax *Thesium humifusum* and the pasque flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris* are also present. It is the only known UK semi-natural dry grassland site for lizard orchid *Himantoglossum hircinum*

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Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
Devils Dyke SAC EU Code: UK0030037	8.02	H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia), (note that this includes the priority feature "important orchid rich sites")	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats;</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats; and</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural</li> </ul>	Inappropriate scrub management:  There is some scrub encroachment which is beginning to become damaging on some parts of the site and is likely to cause the notified grassland to deteriorate. Grassland vegetation management is currently managed by hand cutting as grazing cannot be carried out due to equestrian practices which have taken place for centuries. The current HLS agreement does not provide sufficient funding to allow appropriate management of the sward because of the

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
			habitats rely.	steepness of the site.  Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation

**Table 11: Characteristics of Habitats Sites within 20km of the Plan / SPD area – Portholme SAC**

Portholme SAC - This site is the largest surviving traditionally-managed lowland hay meadow in the UK. It holds grassland communities of the alluvial flood meadow type. The meadow is surrounded by channels of the River Ouse. The grassland communities are characterised by the presence of such grasses as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* and meadow fescue *Festuca pratensis*. The range of herbs present, typical of such meadows, includes lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*. The site supports a small population of fritillary *Fritillaria meleagris*.

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
Portholme SAC  EU Code: UK0030054	91.93	H6510. Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> )	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats;</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats; and</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely</li> </ul>	Inappropriate water levels:  Portholme's MG4 grassland habitat community is very sensitive to prolonged flood events. Given the proximity to the River Ouse, periodic winter flooding is a naturally occurring event. However, there are concerns that the duration of flooding and phosphate/sediment levels in the flood water are having a detrimental effect upon the habitat. Works were implemented in 2010 to assist water movement from north east corner of the SAC. However, this has been followed by a series of very wet winters where excessive flooding is thought to have been detrimental to the flora  Water pollution:  Portholme's MG4 grassland habitat community is very sensitive to input of nutrients.

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
				This encourages more competitive grasses and 'weeds' at the expense of rarer more desirable herbaceous species. High nutrient levels are arising from floodwaters from the River Ouse, having a detrimental effect upon the habitat.

**Table 12: Characteristics of Habitats Sites within 20km of the Plan / SPD area – Fenland**

Fenland - The individual sites within Fenland SAC each hold areas of calcareous fens, with a long and well-documented history of regular management. There is a full range from species-poor great fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus*-dominated fen to species-rich fen with a lower proportion of great fen-sedge and containing such species as black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. There are good transitions to the tall herb-rich East Anglian type of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* – meadow thistle fenmeadow and rush pastures, all set within a mosaic of reedbeds and wet pastures.

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
Fenlands SAC EU Code:	619.4089	H6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peat or clay-	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the	Water pollution: Woodwalton Fen is affected by

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
UK0014782		<p>silt soil</p> <p>H7210 Calcareous fens with <i>C. mariscus</i> and species of <i>C. davalliana</i></p> <p>S1149 Spined loach, <i>Cobitis taenia</i></p> <p>S1166 Great crested newt, <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	<p>site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely;</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species; and</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying</li> </ul>	<p>high-nutrient water which inundates the site in winter and flows into the reserve ditches in summer. Despite recent improvements in the water quality feeding the site from the Great Raveley Drain, due to phosphate stripping in nearby sewerage treatment works, historical poor water quality has contributed to a decline in biodiversity and a decline in site features within the fen. This historic pollution has potentially bound to the silt of the slow moving internal ditches causing a distinct loss in rooted aquatic species. Despite the reduction in phosphates the nitrates still remain high in the Great Raveley Drain and high nutrient water can flood the site, particularly in winter. Over the past few decades, deteriorating water quality and more persistent flooding have contributed to a reduction in biodiversity and a</p>

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
			species within the site.	<p>decline in many site features.</p> <p>Chippenham Fen is affected by high nutrient water reaching the fen from a mixture of groundwater, rainfall and run off. In periods of low flow, poor quality water may have a more dramatic effect on the site's vascular plant assemblages. There is uncertainty of the current water quality within Chippenham Fen at present</p> <p>Hydrological changes:</p> <p>The winter flood water at Woodwalton Fen has high silt and nutrient loads which get deposited on the site and can lie on the fields for prolonged periods. Flooding also delays the start of the grazing and mowing season, which in turn promotes the vigorous growth of invasive species like soft rush and reed. These species are replacing</p>

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
				<p>more diverse grassland communities in some areas in the south of the site where much of the site's SAC interests are situated. Instant impacts include damage and disruption to management infrastructure, flooding of nests and hibernacula (depending on time of year) and, in some instances, local extinction of species. There are concerns that water does not seep into site compartments between ditches to the extent it once did. A current project is underway at Chippenham Fen to look at how a site abstraction licence could be used to explore an alternative method to deliver support water. The water augmentation pilot project explores an alternative method of delivery of support water. The scheme is mitigation for the effects of public water supply abstraction.</p>



Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
				<p>Air Pollution:</p> <p>Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition.</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. This has the potential to affect the Molinia meadow and calcareous fen features although there is no information known on any current impacts.</p>
Wicken Fen Ramsar	254.39	<p>Ramsar criterion 1:</p> <p>One of the most outstanding remnants of the East Anglian peat fens. The area is one of the few which has not been drained. Traditional management has created a mosaic of habitats from open water to sedge and litter fields.</p>	N/A	N/A

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>Ramsar criterion 2:</p> <p>The site supports one species of British Red Data Book plant, fen violet <i>Viola persicifolia</i>, which survives at only two other sites in Britain. It also contains eight nationally scarce plants and 121 British Red Data Book invertebrates.</p>		
Chippenham Fen Ramsar	112.13	<p>Ramsar criterion 1:</p> <p>A spring-fed calcareous basin mire with a long history of management, which is partly reflected in the diversity of present-day vegetation.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2:</p> <p>The invertebrate fauna is very rich, partly due to</p>	N/A	N/A

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>its transitional position between Fenland and Breckland. The species list is very long, including many rare and scarce invertebrates characteristic of ancient fenland sites in Britain.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3:</p> <p>The site supports diverse vegetation types, rare and scarce plants. The site is the stronghold of Cambridge milk parsley <i>Selinum carvifolia</i>.</p>		
Woodwalton Fen Ramsar	208.13	<p>Ramsar criterion 1:</p> <p>The site is within an area that is one of the remaining parts of East Anglia which has not been drained. The fen is near natural and has</p>	N/A	N/A

Site name	Area (hectares)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>developed where peat-digging took place in the 19th century. The site has several types of open fen and swamp communities.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2:</p> <p>The site supports two species of British Red Data Book plants, fen violet, <i>Viola persicifolia</i> and fen wood-rush <i>Luzula pallidula</i>. Woodwalton also supports a large number of wetland invertebrates including 20 British Red Data Book species. Aquatic beetles, flies and moths are particularly well represented.</p>		





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# Appendix D



## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA): Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document

### Introduction – Please read


The Public Sector Equality Duty, introduced under the Equality Act 2010, requires all public bodies, including local authorities, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs) allow the Council to:

- Show that we are meeting this legal duty by demonstrating due regard for the provisions of the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- Identify possible negative impacts on individuals and groups with protected characteristics, plan mitigating action and seek to maximise opportunities to advance equality within our activities.

EqIAs provide a methodical approach to the assessment of impacts across the [nine protected characteristics](#) and should be completed during the development and review of all Council policies, strategies, procedures, projects or functions. Where there is any doubt, the completion of an EqIA is always recommended.

Throughout the course of this form, please hover over the  symbol for guidance in relation to specific questions. When the form is completed, please send an

electronic copy to [equality.schemes@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:equality.schemes@scambs.gov.uk). If you require any additional support completing the form, please email the above address.

## Equality Impact Assessment Complete Form

### Section 1: Identifying Details

- 1.1** Team and Service completing EqIA:  
Planning Policy Team, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.
- 1.2** Title of proposal:  
Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- 1.3** EqIA completion date:  
January 2022
- 1.4** Proposal implementation date:  
Early 2022 - Adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document.
- 1.5** Who will be responsible for implementing this proposal:  
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and external stakeholders.

### Section 2: Proposal to be assessed

- 2.1** Type of proposal:  
Policy guidance – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- 2.2** Is the proposal: New  
The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD is a new document; however, it does not introduce new planning policy. The document expands and provides additional guidance on the application of policies within adopted Local Plans covering the Greater Cambridge Area, namely the South Cambridgeshire



Local Plan (September 2018) and the Cambridge Local Plan (October 2018). The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD supersedes the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity SPD 2009.

**2.3** State the date of any previous equality impact assessment completed in relation to this proposal (if applicable):

- Draft Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD – July 2021.
- Assessments completed during the preparation of the two adopted Local Plans to which this supplementary guidance relates.

**2.4** What are the headline aims of the proposal and the objectives that will help to accomplish these aims? (Approximately 250 words)

The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD has been prepared to assist the delivery of adopted Local Plan policies relating to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. It provides technical guidance, for individuals, businesses and organisations submitting planning applications, on the information that is required to demonstrate compliance with adopted planning policies relating to biodiversity. In providing such guidance, the SPD seeks to ensure that all new development complies with current planning policy and contributes to the councils' commitment to deliver measurable biodiversity net gain across Greater Cambridge.

Specific objectives of the document are as follows:

- To explain terminology associated with biodiversity conservation to assist applicants' understanding of the importance of biodiversity within the wider environment of Greater Cambridge.
- To be clear on the ways in which development proposals in Greater Cambridge can be formulated in an appropriate manner to avoid harm to biodiversity and to provide a long-term, measurable net gain for biodiversity.
- To encourage applicants to protect, restore and enhance locally relevant natural habitats and ecological features on their sites and to create new habitats, as part of a high-quality design.
- To assist applicants to gain planning permission in Greater Cambridge more quickly by informing them of the level of information expected to accompany planning applications.

The SPD provides guidance on the following policies contained within the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018):

- NH/2 Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character
- NH/3 Protecting Agricultural Land
- NH/4 Biodiversity
- NH/5 Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance
- NH/6 Green Infrastructure
- NH/7 Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees
- CC/8 Sustainable Drainage Systems
- HQ/1 Design Principles

The SPD provides guidance on the following policies contained within the adopted Cambridge Local Plan (2018):

- Policy 7 The River Cam
- Policy 8 Setting of the city
- Policy 31 Integrated water management
- Policy 52 Protecting garden land and the subdivision of existing dwelling plots
- Policy 57 Designing New Buildings (criteria h)
- Policy 58 Altering and extending existing buildings
- Policy 59 Designing landscape and the public realm
- Policy 66 Paving over front gardens
- Policy 69 Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance
- Policy 70 Protection of Priority Species and Habitats
- Policy 71 Trees

**2.5** Which of South Cambridgeshire District Council's business plan priorities does this proposal link to?

- Helping Businesses to grow - ✓
- Building homes that are truly affordable to live in - ✓
- Being green to our core - ✓
- A modern and caring council - ✓

**2.6** Which of South Cambridgeshire District Council's equality objectives (as detailed in SCDC's Equality Scheme) does this proposal link to or help to achieve?

- Identify, prioritise and deliver actions that will narrow the gap in outcomes between disadvantaged groups and the wider community- ✓
- SCDC is an employer that values difference and recognises the strength that a diverse workforce brings - ✓
- Protected characteristic groups have a voice and are represented in forming the future shape of the district - ✓

**2.7** Which of Cambridge City Council's equality objectives (as detailed in CCC's Equality Scheme) does this proposal link to or help to achieve?

- To further increase our understanding of the needs of Cambridge's growing and increasingly diverse communities so that we can target our services effectively - ✓
- To continue to work to improve access to and take-up of Council services from all residents and communities - ✓
- To work towards a situation where all residents have equal access to public activities and spaces in Cambridge and are able to participate fully in the community - ✓

**2.8** Which groups or individuals will the proposal affect:

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • Service Users ✓         | • Councillors ✓ |
| • External Stakeholders ✓ | • Other ✓       |
| • Employees ✓             |                 |

If other, please specify – all residents and visitors to the Greater Cambridge area.

**2.9** How will these groups or individuals be affected?



The Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD has been prepared to provide a clear framework to better enable consideration of biodiversity issues in decision making relevant to the delivery of new development across the Greater Cambridge area.

The SPD will apply to new development across the Greater Cambridge area. As such, there is potential for it to affect a large and wide-ranging proportion of existing and future communities by facilitating environmental improvements and improved access to natural green spaces within and around new developments.

The SPD sets out guidance to assist applicants for planning permission in meeting local and national policy requirements for biodiversity in their proposed developments. In this regard, the SPD will specifically affect applicants, agents, landowners, and developers by providing additional clarification and guidance.

As part of the public consultation on the draft SPD held from 23 July 2021 to 17 September 2021, views were invited from a range of local groups and individuals, including the following:

- Existing and future residents of Greater Cambridge
- Local Parish Councils and Residents Associations
- Local Members
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Adjacent Local Authorities
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Delivery partners, including householders, landowners, developers, infrastructure providers, transport providers
- Community organisations
- Local businesses

The views expressed by individuals, communities, businesses, academic institutions, and stakeholders during the consultation have fed into the final version of the SPD. All consultation and community engagement in respect of the draft Biodiversity SPD was undertaken in accordance with the [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Statement of Community Involvement](#) (2019), including the Addendum prepared in response to restrictions related to the Coronavirus pandemic.


**2.11** How many people will this proposal affect?

The Biodiversity SPD has the potential to affect all existing and future residents, workers, and visitors to the Greater Cambridge area.

**2.12** If any part of the proposal is being undertaken by external partners, please specify how SCDC will ensure that they will meet equality standards?

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service commissioned external consultants to prepare the draft version of the Biodiversity SPD, with oversight and input from a Project Team of specialist officers from within the Service. The procurement process addressed tackling inequalities in employment and equal opportunities for our communities.

### Section 3: Evidence and Data

**3.1** Describe any research (this could include consultation) and analysis you have undertaken to understand how [protected characteristic groups](#) are likely to be affected? Please list any key sources that you used to obtain this Information. 


The South Cambridgeshire District Council [Equality Scheme](#) describes the district as a rural area with a population which is expected to grow at faster than the national average. A growing elderly population, greater mobility, immigration, and other social trends are making changes to the population. These changes will accelerate as a result of the population growth facing the district in the future, leading to a more diverse society than previously. The following is a snapshot of the residents of South Cambridgeshire:

- At present approximately 19% of the South Cambridgeshire population falls within the 65+ age group and this is expected to grow to approx. 22% in 2031.
- In 2011 approximately 14% of the population declared a disability whereby day-to-day activities are limited a little or a lot.
- The 2011 Census data shows that in South Cambridgeshire 87.3% of the population were White British (which has fallen in the last ten years from 93.2%) and 6% declared themselves as White Irish, White Gypsy/Irish Traveller and White Other.


The Cambridge City Council [Equality Scheme 2018 – 2021](#) sets out the Council's proposed objectives related to equality and diversity work over the three year period and includes useful data regarding the nine protected characteristics collated from a range of Council services and functions. It describes the city as an urban area which is experiencing growth. The following is a snapshot of the residents of Cambridge:

- The number of households increased by 9.5% between 2001 and 2011.
- There is a bulge in the number of people in the 16 to 24 and 25 to 39 age groups. This reflects the large number of students living in the city.
- Overall, the population of Cambridge had aged slightly; however, the increase in the number of older people as a proportion of the population was not as high as in other areas.
- 34% of Cambridge residents are from minority ethnic groups compared to 15.5% for the County as a whole. 11% of the population are Asian/Asian British compared to 4.1% in the County and 1.7% are Black/African/Caribbean/Black British compared to 1% in the County.

No evidence has been found to suggest the SPD will have a specific adverse impact upon protected characteristic groups; however, it does have the potential to deliver increased access to natural green spaces and other green infrastructure for the benefit of whole communities across Greater Cambridge. Such access has been shown to have a positive impact upon an individual's mental health and overall well-being.

**3.2** Describe any research (this could include consultation) and analysis you have undertaken to understand any effects on any other groups of people not mentioned in the nine [protected characteristic groups](#) (for example people who live in rural areas, who live in areas of high growth, or from low-income backgrounds). 

n/a

**3.3** If you have not undertaken any consultation, please detail why not, or when consultation is planned to take place. 

Public consultation exercises were undertaken at various stages in the preparation of both adopted Local Plans covering the Greater Cambridge area. This is evidenced in the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan \(2018\) Consultation Statement](#) and the [Cambridge Local Plan \(2018\) Consultation Statement](#).

The draft Biodiversity SPD was subject to a formal public consultation from 23 July to 17 September 2021, in accordance with the [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Statement of Community Involvement \(2019\)](#), (including the Addendum prepared in response to restrictions related to the Coronavirus pandemic), to actively engage with the local community and key stakeholders. During the consultation period the draft SPD and supporting documents were available to view on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website. A wide range of stakeholders, including equalities organisations representing the interests of the protected characteristics, were notified of the consultation. Consultation documents were made available in an accessible format online and paper copies were available on request. It was possible to make comments on the draft SPD using an online questionnaire. For those without access to the internet, or experiencing difficulties responding online, a contact telephone number for the Natural Environment Team at the Planning Service was provided.

A Statement of Consultation has been prepared which sets out the nature of the consultation undertaken, including a summary of who was consulted, the main issues raised in representations and how these were addressed in the final version of the SPD.



## Section 4: Impact of proposal on those with protected characteristics

### 4.1 Age:

#### 4.1.1 Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

The guidance provided by the SPD applies to new development and has the potential to improve access to natural green spaces across the Greater Cambridge area. Such improved access may be beneficial to specific age groups. For example, the provision of 'green corridors' within a new residential development may be of particular benefit to those residents unable to drive to similar amenities further afield i.e., younger or older age groups. The provision of natural green spaces within a new business park may be particularly beneficial to people of working age as it may be possible to access these during the working day.

The Planning Service were mindful of this protected characteristic in planning for the public consultation on the draft SPD. It is recognised that younger age groups are less likely to engage in consultations. To reach out to younger people, organisations such as the ChYpPS (Children and Young People's Participation Service) were notified of the consultation exercise and regular updates were posted on social media platforms throughout the consultation period to raise awareness.

Evidence suggests that a relatively high proportion of people within older age groups may not have access to the internet and therefore are less able to participate in public consultation exercises. Whilst current COVID-19 restrictions have limited the opportunities for members of the public to view hard copies of documents at council buildings, a contact telephone number for the Natural Environment Team was provided on all publicity materials, including public notices, which enabled appropriate viewing arrangements to be made.

#### 4.1.2 Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including



- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 📖
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

**4.1.3** Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:

Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

## 4.2 [Disability:](#)


**4.2.1** Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

Whilst no specific impacts on this protected characteristic have been identified, the Biodiversity SPD has the potential to improve access for less mobile individuals and groups to natural green spaces within or around new developments in Greater Cambridge.

The Planning Service was mindful of this protected characteristic in planning for the public consultation on the draft SPD by ensuring all documents were made available in an accessible format. Provision was made for respondents to submit their comments using an online questionnaire. For those without access to the internet, or experiencing difficulties responding online, a contact

telephone number for the Natural Environment Team was provided. Braille and large print versions of the documents were available on request.

**4.2.2** Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including

- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

**4.2.3** Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:


Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

**4.3** [Gender Reassignment:](#)

**4.3.1** Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

**NO.**

**4.3.2** Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including

- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

**4.3.3** Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:


Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

#### 4.4 Marriage and Civil Partnership:

**4.4.1** Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

**NO.**

**4.4.2** Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including

- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

**4.4.3** Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:


Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

#### 4.5 Pregnancy and Maternity:

**4.5.1** Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

**NO**

**4.5.2** Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including

- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

**4.5.3** Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:

Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

## 4.6 Race:

### 4.6.1 Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

Whilst no specific impact on this protected characteristic has been identified, during the forthcoming consultation members of the public will be provided with a contact telephone number to arrange to access the consultation documents translated into other languages, should this be required.

### 4.6.2 Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including

- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 📖
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

### 4.6.3 Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:


Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

#### 4.7 Religion or Belief:

4.7.1 Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

**NO**

4.7.2 Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including

- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

4.7.3 Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:


Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

#### 4.8 [Sex:](#)

**4.8.1** Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

**NO.**

**4.8.2** Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including

- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

**4.8.3** Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:

Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

#### 4.9 Sexual Orientation:

**4.9.1** Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

**NO.**

**4.9.2** Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including

- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 📖
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

**4.9.3** Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:



Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

#### 4.10 Other: (e.g., rurality, growth, socio-economic status etc.)

##### 4.10.1 Has your research identified that the proposal will have an impact on this protected characteristic?

The guidance provided by the SPD applies to new development and has the potential to improve access to natural green spaces across the Greater Cambridge area. Such improved access may be of particular benefit to those within lower income groups who may be less likely to have use of a car to drive to similar amenities further afield.

People from lower income groups may not have access to the internet and therefore could be less able to participate in public consultation exercises. Whilst COVID-19 restrictions limited the opportunities for members of the public to view paper copies of documents at council buildings, a contact telephone number was provided on all publicity materials, including public notices, to enable alternative viewing arrangements to be made.

##### 4.10.2 Describe the impacts of the proposal on this protected characteristic group identified through your research, including

- whether each impact is positive, neutral or negative
- whether it is a high, medium or low impact. 📖
- approximately 250 words per impact

Impact – Neutral

**4.10.3** Please complete the table below to detail actions that need to take place to minimise the negative and maximise the positive impacts raised in the previous question:

Action	Responsible Officer	Timescale for completion	How will the actions be monitored?
Public consultation and review of feedback undertaken.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Early 2022 – SPD adoption following consultation & subsequent amendments.	Statement of Consultation prepared setting out who was consulted, any issues arising, and how they have been addressed.

## Section 5: Summary

**5.1** Briefly summarise the key findings of the EqIA and any significant equality considerations that should be taken into account when deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposal (this section can be included within the ‘equality implications’ section of any committee reports). (Approximately 250 words).

The Draft Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD was subject to a public consultation exercise in summer 2021. A wide range of stakeholders, including statutory consultees, community groups and equalities organisations representing the interests of the protected characteristics, were notified of the consultation. No specific equality issues were raised as a result of the consultation.

**5.2** Confirm the recommendation of the officer completing the EqIA:

- Approved (No major change): Your analysis demonstrates that the policy is robust, and the evidence shows no potential for discrimination

and that you have taken all appropriate opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations between groups.

**5.3** Date of completion:  
January 2022

## **Section 6: Sign Off**

- 6.1** Approving officer EqIA review outcome: (delete as appropriate):
- Approved (No major change): Your analysis demonstrates that the policy is robust, and the evidence shows no potential for discrimination and that you have taken all appropriate opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations between groups.
- 6.2** Do you give permission to publish this EqIA on SCDC website (delete as appropriate)? If no, please state reason.  
Yes.
- 6.3** When will this proposal next be reviewed and who will this be?  
New biodiversity policies will form part of the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which will be subject to further equality impact assessments.
- 6.4** Approving officer signature:
- 6.5** Date of approval: January 2022

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# Agenda Item 11



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet 7 February 2022

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor John Williams,  
Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

**LEAD OFFICER:** Peter Maddock, Head of Finance

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## Summary General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/2023

### Executive Summary

1. To consider the summary General Fund Revenue Budget for 2022/2023 and to recommend the Revenue Budget to Council.
2. This is a key decision because it results in the authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's overall budgets.

### Recommendations

3. That Cabinet is requested to consider the report and, if satisfied, to:
  - (a) Take into account the detailed budgets presented at Appendix B, and summarised at Appendix A, with an estimated General Fund Gross Operating Expenditure for 2022/2023 of £78.807 million, estimated Gross Operating Income of £52.728 million and estimated General Fund Net Operating Expenditure of £26.079 million.
  - (b) Acknowledge the key factors which have led to the proposed 2022/2023 General Fund Revenue Budget, with service pressures summarised at Appendix C and offsetting efficiency savings/policy options summarised at Appendix D.
  - (c) Acknowledge that the 2022/2023 General Fund Revenue Budget gross expenditure is covered by forecast income sources (assuming no change in Government grant) and, therefore, any addition(s) to expenditure that are made by the Cabinet or Council will need to be met from the General Fund Balance.
  - (d) Approve the 2022/2023 General Fund Revenue Budget taking into account the statement by the Chief Finance Officer on the risks and robustness of the estimates as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 (reproduced at Appendix F).
  - (e) Set the Council Tax Requirement for 2022/2023 at £10,489,403.
  - (f) Approve an increase in the District element of the Council Tax of £5 per annum, giving an average Band D Council Tax of £160.31, plus the relevant amounts required by the precepts of the Parish Councils,

Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner, and the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority.

- (g) Authorise the Head of Finance, on the basis of the proposals set out in the report, to prepare the formal Council Tax Resolution for presentation to Council at its scheduled meeting on 22 February 2022.
- (h) Approve the estimates of the amounts required to be made under the Non-domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 as set out in paragraphs 44 and 45.
- (i) Approve the acceptance of any grants made during 2022/2023 by the Government under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of Business Rates.
- (j) Approve the use of the additional income from the Business Rate Pool, estimated at £1,100,000 in 2022/2023, for transfer to the established Renewables Reserve for priority projects.
- (k) Subject to any changes to the recommendations above, recommend to Full Council:
  - (i) The 2022/2023 General Fund Revenue Budget based on known commitments at this time and planned levels of Service/functions resulting in a Budget Requirement of £22.668 million.
  - (ii) The District Council Precept on the Collection Fund (Council Tax Requirement) of £10.489 million in 2022/2023 (based on the Provisional Government Settlement) and a Band D Council Tax of £160.31.

## Reason for Recommendations

- 4. To enable the Cabinet to recommend to Full Council the 2022/2023 General Fund Revenue Budget.

## Details

### **(A) Prospects for Local Government**

- 5. This report sets out the draft revenue budget proposals for 2022/2023 that have been prepared in the context of an economic landscape that has continued with a degree of uncertainty and volatility during 2021, with the impact of the UK withdrawal from the European Union on 31 January 2020, and the ongoing financial challenges as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). In addition, there is continued uncertainty about the timing of local government funding reforms that, when implemented, could have a significant impact on the distribution of resources.
- 6. The local government funding reforms had previously been planned for introduction from April 2021 but had been delayed and there was no additional announcement within the 2021/2022 Local Government Settlement. It is

envisaged that the reforms will include the planned increase in local business rate share to 75% (from 50%), a business rate baseline reset, a Fair Funding Review, and other changes to key funding streams, such as social care and New Homes Bonus (NHB). A consultation on the replacement for NHB has taken place, with changes expected to be implemented from 2022/2023, but there is no confirmation of the timescale for implementation of the wider local government reform package. Given the provisional settlement it is now clear that the reforms will not now impact until 2023/2024 at the earliest.

7. A detailed refresh of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was considered by Cabinet, at its meeting on 6 September 2021, and this provided (i) an assessment of the resources available to the Council over the medium term and (ii) an assessment of spending pressures based on existing levels of service delivery and known policy/legislative changes. The determination of the 2022/2023 revenue budget has, therefore, been informed by the MTFS financial forecasts, together with established and effective budget monitoring arrangements that have created a sound foundation for the management of the Council's financial resources. A further refresh of this is required in light of the provisional settlement and proposed 2022/23 budget.
8. The financial landscape requires a reliance on an effective budget strategy and sound medium-term financial planning to ensure that the Council's limited resources are targeted to priority services and outcomes.

## **(B) Economic Outlook**

9. The economic landscape has continued with uncertainty in the last 12 months with the full effects of the Coronavirus pandemic acting as a dampener on growth and impacting on Council services. A support package has continued to help Councils respond to the Coronavirus pandemic and to ensure financial sustainability in the future. The Government also introduced a number of financial measures that sought to help businesses survive the crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Furlough Scheme) which concluded on 30 September 2021. The withdrawal of these support packages could, however, impact recovery (e.g. a rise in the level of insolvencies, ability to pay etc) and endeavours have been made to take into account the effect on Council services, and income and expenditure levels, as part of the 2022/2023 budget setting process.
10. Inflation used to drive expenditure and income assumptions in revenue budget planning have been based on the Bank of England and Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts; the percentage applied in the MTFS and in the proposed budget is 2.5% for employee related costs and 2% for other costs reflecting the Government target for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In terms of current economic performance, inflation (measured in terms of CPI), was recorded at 5.1% in the 12-month period to November 2021, up from 4.2% in the 12 month period to October 2021 and well above the Bank of England's target of 2%.

11. The Council lends its cash balances externally on a short-term basis, with a view to generating a return that can be spent on delivering council services whilst managing both security and liquidity of the cash. In response to the prevailing economic conditions the Bank of England Base Rate has been maintained at its record low of 0.1% since its reduction from 0.25% on 19 March 2020. This low rate has decreased the return on the Council's Money Market Fund holdings and gives a reduced return on maturing deposits when reinvested. It is expected that rates will remain at low levels throughout 2022/2023. The anticipated path of any base rate change reflects the fragility of the recovery and this will continue, therefore, to have a direct impact on the investment return achieved by the Council.
12. Short term loans were used during 2021/2022 to fund lending to Ermine Street Housing and to fund other items in the Capital Programme and it is anticipated that external borrowing will be required during 2022/2023. Further clarity about borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb), and the new borrowing restrictions for investment in commercial assets primarily for yield, has enabled appropriate changes to be considered as part of the annual review of the Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies. For budgeting purposes, available interest rates have been factored into the borrowing cost projections associated with the capital programme.

### **(C) Budget Formulation**

13. The detailed budgets presented this year are rather different to previous years in that they are now presented in service area packs. Each pack has a title page, a budget summary, individual budget pages (with similar budgets grouped together) and a subjective analysis which shows the service area spend by type of expenditure.
14. The budget summary gives the total of each of the budget pages and the overall budget for the service area. Below that is an analysis of the budget between what is ongoing (referred to as the Continuing Services Budget) and what is financed from Earmarked Reserves. The longer term objective is for all one off expenditure to be funded from Earmarked Reserves and all ongoing expenditure to be funded from the General Fund. By doing this it makes longer term financial planning easier in that we can see at a glance what our long term budgetary commitments are and what items are in the budget for a fixed period of time.
15. The detailed budget pages give some commentary on each service budget to make it clear what the purpose of that particular budget is, along with reference to any bids and savings relating to the budget.
16. The subjective analysis shows the total budget by type of expenditure as defined by the Service reporting code of practice (SeRCOP). SeRCOP is recognised across the local authority sector as the standard way of reporting expenditure and income by type.



17. The budget is divided up into distinct areas known as Cost Centres and these are either Direct Services or Support Services sometimes referred to as frontline or back office. The accounting code requires us to allocate all support services to direct services and therefore the budget presented represents the total cost of direct services including the support costs relating to them. It is important to note however that cost control and responsibility for support services rests with the service area where the support service resides not the service area where the cost is eventually allocated.
18. This point is particularly pertinent to the transformation programme which comes at a significant cost to deliver further ongoing savings and is by definition a support service. In 2022/2023 a substantial amount of work will be carried out within the planning service but the cost of this work whilst charged to Planning Services is funded from the Transformation Reserve which is a Corporate Services Reserve that is not part of the ongoing planning budget. The budget summary for Planning Services therefore shows this element as being funded from Earmarked Reserves not the General Fund.
19. The other point to note is the cost of pensions. Some years ago the rules on accounting for pensions changed and from then each service had to bear the cost or value of the pension fund relating to the employees that work in that service area rather than just the employers contributions made relating to those employees. Until 2021/2022 these costs were excluded from the budget and only accounted for in the final accounts. Best practice is to account for them in both and that is what we now do. The 'Current Service Cost' as this is a larger number than the employer's contributions and therefore has the effect of inflating service budgets and the current service cost has been increasing significantly more than inflation as it affected by the performance of the investments that are made by the pension fund. Having said this none of this affects the overall budget as legislation requires the council to charge only the contributions to the Council Tax and therefore the General Fund.
20. In looking specifically at the 2022/2023 Revenue Budget, the Council needs to be mindful of the financial backdrop and will need to ensure that any proposals, in particular around efficiencies and policy options, need to be realistic and above all sustainable. The financial landscape will, therefore, require reliance on an effective budget strategy and sound medium-term financial planning to ensure that the Council's limited resources are targeted to priority services and outcomes.
21. The Revenue Budget has been prepared in accordance with the Council's MTFs approved by Cabinet on 6 September 2021. The clear message is that budget setting and medium-term financial planning will be tough over the duration of the MTFs (to 2027) and, as such, the financial objectives identified at paragraph 66 below have helped guide the budget process. In determining the 2022/2023 revenue budget, due and proper regard has been given to its ongoing sustainability and the observance of a number of overarching principles. This has involved:

- (a) An overall commitment to endeavour to increase annual income sources and reduce annual expenditure without materially reducing front line services provided by the Council;
  - (b) A comprehensive review of the base budget to provide greater assurance for the future. The review has been based upon regular established monitoring processes, and has incorporated a review of the alignment between the original budget and service activity;
  - (c) The commitment, in response to the financial challenges, to an ambitious 4-year plan to transform service quality, realign financial resources to business plan priorities and improve customer service.
  - (d) A positive commitment to achieve better value for money for the service areas whilst maintaining quality, accessible front-line services, and the adoption of a Value for Money Strategy by the Cabinet on 4 September 2019.
  - (e) The continued review and tight control of the capital programme given the impact of borrowing on the revenue budget.
22. The resulting draft 2022/2023 revenue budget sets out the Council's finances and the efficiencies required to produce a balanced budget in the light of the ongoing reduction in Government grant funding and other pressures.
23. In preparing the budget for 2022/2023 a detailed revised estimate for 2021/2022 has also been prepared taking into account the changes to expenditure and funding as a result of COVID-19. The two key effects to the General Fund are the increased expenditure that has been caused by the pandemic and lost service-related income due to the various lockdowns and resulting downturn in activity.
24. Whilst additional expenditure is expected to exceed £1 million in 2021/2022, with a consequent increase in service costs, the Government support in the form of additional un-ringfenced grant to manage the immediate and long-term impacts of the pandemic has been continued, with final payments made in April 2021. The overall effect on Council finances is, therefore, expected to be broadly neutral with the increased amount to be met from Government Grants and Taxpayers offset by the available amount for financing from Taxation and Grants.
25. With regard to lost service-related income, the extension of the Government Sales, Fees & Charges Scheme also continued into the first three months of 2021/2022. This means that local authorities have continued to absorb the first 5% of all relevant, irrecoverable income losses compared to budgets, on a pro rata basis, with the government compensating Councils for 75 pence in every pound of loss thereafter.
26. In line with accounting requirements, the revised budget for 2021/2022 and proposed budget for 2022/2023 continue to include relevant pension

adjustments. Accounting requirements are such that the pension costs recognised in the net cost of services should be the value of the pension fund related to those employees delivering the services, rather than the actual contributions to the fund in relation to those employees. The effect of this is to increase the net cost of services but reverse the effect out within the net operational expenditure.

**(D) Provisional Settlement – Funding Sources**

27. The 2021 Spending Review, announced on 27 October 2021, confirmed that the Core Spending Power for local government was expected to increase by 6.9% in cash terms. In addition, it was confirmed that there would not be a reset of the business rates baseline in 2022/2023. The provisional finance settlement announcement, on 17 December 2021 made no significant changes to the funding allocations compared to 2021/2022. Whilst this benefits the Council in 2022/2023, there remains very significant risks to the funding level for District Council's in future years with the expectation that the Council will lose a significant share of its funding as a result of the funding changes – the expected, but deferred, business rate baseline reset could be particularly damaging. To offset the adverse impact of the local government funding reforms, when implemented, some form of damping support would be expected, although this would be phased out over time.
28. The key headlines in relation to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement are as follows:
- (i) Council Tax referendum principle of the higher of 1.99% or £5 per dwelling for 2022/2023.
  - (ii) Continuation of the existing Business Rate Retention Scheme for a further year, with 100% business rates pilots continued for a further year. It is not clear what is happening on the Business Rates reset though there is an indication that a comprehensive review of Local Authority funding will take place during 2022. The Cambridgeshire Business Rates Pool was also confirmed for a further year.
  - (iii) Continuation of the additional Lower Tier Services Grant un-ringfenced grant of £113,000 in 2022/2023. Indications in the 2021/22 settlement were that this was a one off grant for that year but it has been continued for 2022/23.
  - (iv) Continuation of the Rural Service Grant of £137,000 for a further year in recognition of the additional cost of providing services in sparse rural areas, pending implementation of the Fair Funding Review.
  - (v) A one off services grant of £182,000. Although the settlement states this is for one year only it also states the total amount of £882 million will remain within local government but be allocated differently in future years.

- (vi) A consultation on the New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme closed on 7 April 2021 proposing a range of options to provide an incentive that is more focussed and targeted on ambitious housing delivery. It had been assumed that the support provided in the provisional settlement would be on the basis of a revised scheme however the Council has received an allocation of £2,376,000 on the basis of the current scheme. Rather unexpectedly it now seems likely that there will be a further consultation on NHB during 2022/23 which means there is still considerable uncertainty around support going forwards. Having said that the allocation is rather higher than assumed in the MTFs which is at least positive.

29. The spending power of the Council, based upon the provisional settlement, can be summarised as follows:

	2021/2022 £'000	2022/2023 Provisional £'000	Change %	2023/2024 £'000
Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA):				
- Business Rates Baseline	2,647	2,647	0%	2,700
- Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total SFA – Per 2022/2023 Settlement</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2,700</b>
- Rural Services Grant	131	137	4.6%	-
- Lower Tier Services Grant	113	113	0%	-
- Services Grant	-	182	100%	-
New Homes Bonus (NHB) Grant	2,193	2,376	8.3%	1,000
Council Tax Income	9,998	10,489	4.9%	11,066
<b>Core Spending Power</b>	<b>15,088</b>	<b>15,944</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>12,066</b>

30. While the level of Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) for 2022/2023 remains stable as a result of the one-year settlement that has been announced, there remains considerable uncertainty relating to the SFA for 2023/2024 and beyond. The outcome of the Fair Funding Review, a probable baseline reset (and potential review of the Business Rate Retention system), and the further review of NHB create uncertainty.
31. The key elements of local government funding, some of the assumptions made for the period from 2023/2024 and local prospects were outlined in the refresh of the MTFs reported to Cabinet on 6 September 2021. These are outlined in more detail in the “Funding the Budget Requirement” Section below.

**(E) Spending Baseline, Spending Pressures and Savings**

32. The table below sets out headline movements from the 2021/2022 approved budget. Detailed analysis by service area is outlined in **Appendices A and B**.

	<b>Increased Resource</b>	<b>Reduced Resource</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Council Tax	574,000	
Business Rates		
Rural Services Grant/Lower Tier Grant	189,000	
New Homes Bonus	183,000	
<b>Net increase in Resources</b>	<b>946,000</b>	

	<b>Reduced Spending/ Funding changes</b>	<b>Increased Spending</b>
<b>Spending</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Chief Executive		410,000
Shared Waste and Environmental Services		994,000
Finance Services		889,000
Housing Services		138,000
Planning Services		2,206,000
Transformation, HR & Corporate Services		170,000
Contingency & Unallocated	99,000	
Interest Payable		113,000
Investment Income		185,000
Other Levies & Contributions		1,191,000
Capital Financing & MRP	2,890,000	
Contribution to Earmarked Reserves	1,966,000	
Contribution to General Fund		2,105,000
<b>Spending differences between 2021/2022 and 2022/2023</b>	<b>4,955,000</b>	<b>8,401,000</b>

33. The most significant of these are set out below:
- (a) The “Net Increase in Resources” is set out in more detail at Section “G” below (paragraphs 40 to 54). The increase in Council Tax is based upon a £5 increase on 2021/2022 levels.
  - (b) Spending pressures and growth bids have been submitted and have been refined as part of the budget build process. These are summarised at **Appendix C**.
  - (c) Pay and prices incorporate a pay increase of 2.5% and an assessment of contracted service inflation.

- (d) Funding changes (e.g. incorporating the additional S31 grants related to business rates and additional income from the Council's investments).
  - (e) Capital financing charges to support the forward capital programme (see separate report on the agenda).
  - (f) Savings proposals are set out in detail at **Appendix D**.
34. It has been established practice, since 2020/2021, to maintain a prudent level of revenue contingency to enable unforeseen and "one off" needs (i.e. having no long-term ongoing revenue commitment) to be considered for funding during the financial year. The draft 2022/2023 revenue budget maintains the sum of £250,000 for this purpose, which represents approximately 1% of the net operating expenditure.

#### **(F) Proposed Savings**

35. The Council has embarked on an ambitious plan to transform service quality, realign financial resources to business plan priorities and improve customer service.
36. Progress with the range of savings proposals, including income generation opportunities, has been considered and refined as part the ongoing budget monitoring reports to Cabinet. The proposals have been subject to further refinement and consultation with stakeholders and the schedule of proposals, at **Appendix D**, have been included in the 2022/2023 Revenue Budget.
37. The profile of savings is influenced by deliverability and lead in times and the analysis by years is shown in **Appendix D** together with an estimate of how much is expected to fall on the General Fund and how much on the HRA.
38. There continues to be, in addition, a great deal of work undertaken, in consultation with Heads of Service on budget challenge, in order to identify other savings on budgets sufficient to reduce the level of costs to the level of resources available, or to ensure that budgets are appropriately aligned. This has resulted in budget adjustments being made in the context of maintaining the relationship between resource allocation and the Council's Business Plan priorities.
39. In relation to partnership arrangements, a "recharge model" was introduced in 2020/2021 for existing shared services in order to ensure that recharges are fair and consistently applied and that taxpayers in one area are not subsidising services provided in another. This resulted in a further adjustment to the level of recharges applied and this has been factored into the 2022/2023 revenue budget.

#### **(G) Funding the Budget Requirement**

40. Funding the Budget Requirement incorporates:
- (i) Revenue Support Grant/Business Rates
  - (ii) Other Specific Grants
  - (iii) Council Tax
- (i) Revenue Support Grant/Business Rates Retention
41. The Business Rate Retention Scheme (BRRS) was introduced in April 2013 to provide Councils with stronger financial incentives to support property development and boost the economy in their local area. It means that Councils bear a proportion of the real terms change in business rate revenues in their area: gaining when revenues grow in real terms, losing when they fall. The proportion was initially set at 50% across England. In two-tier areas, like Cambridgeshire, 40% is retained by the District Council and 9% is retained by Cambridgeshire County Council and 1% by the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority.
42. The review of Local Government Finance that will comprise (i) the quantum and how existing funding streams will feature within this and (ii) the methodology to allocate funding (known as Fair Funding) has now been further delayed. It is uncertain when the introduction of the new funding model predicated on changes to BRSS to enable a 75% retention of Business Rates (with most, if not all of the 25% increase, allocated to authorities with adult social care responsibilities) will be introduced. The 2022/2023 revenue budget has, therefore, been based upon the existing funding regime.
43. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on the 16 December 2021 and sets out the Council's SFA for 2022/2023. This is identified in the table below, together with the other factors relevant to determining the Business Rates Yield for 2022/2023:

	2021/2022 £'000	2022/2023 Provisional £'000	Change %	2023/2024 £'000
Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA):				
- Baseline Funding Level	2,647	2,647	0%	2,700
- Tariff	26,482	26,482	0%	27,012
- Business Rates Baseline	29,129	29,129	0%	29,765
- Section 31 Grants	2,562	4,667	82%	-
<b>Total SFA – Per 2022/2023 Settlement</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2,647</b>
Safety Net Threshold	2,449	2,449	0%	-
Levy Rate (p in £) applicable if outside pool	£0.50	£0.50		£0.50

44. Specifically, in relation to the preparation of the 2022/2023 Revenue Budget:
- (a) The net Business Rates Yield has been estimated at £85.130 million for 2022/2023 as set out in **Appendix E**. The Council's share of this

together with the deficit set out in Appendix E equates to £32.601 million compared to a Business Rates Baseline of £29.129 million as set out in the table above. The forecast is based on the number and rateable values of non-domestic properties currently shown in the valuation list. The Business Rates forecast is predicated on the following assumptions:

- Where growth or decline in the tax base, i.e. new developments, can be predicted with reasonable certainty this is reflected in the forecast yield.
  - There will be no significant changes to the overall value of reliefs, e.g. empty property rate relief or charitable rate relief over the course of the financial year.
- (b) The Council is entitled to a number of Section 31 Grants in relation to Business Rates to compensate for yield that is foregone due to national government policy, for example, the extension to eligibility for Small Business Rate Relief. These Section 31 Grants are included within the Council's net expenditure (at Appendix F).
- (c) One of the key issues in relation to forecasting the Business Rates Yield is the volatility arising from settlement of valuation appeals. This needs to be considered in terms of previous "2010 List" and the current "2017 List". Nationally the estimated eventual loss arising due to appeals is 4.7%, however, based on an analysis of appeals since 2017 under the new Check Challenge Appeal process, a reduction in this level has been evident. The increase in appeals going forward is, however, expected to continue (in part due to the pandemic) and it is, therefore, felt that the national rate of 4.7% should continue to be applied in 2022/2023 for the appeals provision.
- (d) There is also significant concern around the long-term effects of the pandemic and how business rates income will be affected in terms of the ongoing need for businesses to retain property to operate and how much debt will eventually turn bad due to business failures. The Government also introduced a number of financial measures that sought to help businesses survive the crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Furlough Scheme) which concluded on 30 September 2021. The withdrawal of the Government support packages could impact recovery (e.g. a rise in the level of insolvencies, ability to pay etc) and the effect on Council services, and income and expenditure levels, will need to be fully taken into account as part of the 2022/2023 budget setting process.
45. Under the business rates retention scheme local authorities are able to come together, on a voluntary basis, to pool their business rates, giving them scope to generate additional growth through collaborative effort and to smooth the impact of volatility in rates income across a wider economic area. The Council successfully applied to be the lead authority of a consortium which also



includes Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, Fenland District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire Fire Authority. The formal designation of the pool was confirmed on 18 December 2019 and was introduced on 1 April 2020. The Pool successfully continued in 2021/2022 and has also been re-designated to continue in 2022/2023. It is estimated that the Council will benefit from an additional income in excess of £1.1 million during 2022/2023 and, in line with established policy, it is proposed that the sum continues to be transferred annually to top up the Renewables Reserve to fund priority projects determined by the Council.

(ii) Rural Services Grant

46. The Council currently receives a Rural Services Grant in the sum of £137,000 in recognition of the additional cost of providing services in sparse rural areas. This has been confirmed to continue into 2022/2023 before being phased out.

(iii) Lower Tier Services Grant

47. This is the continuation of a new un-ringfenced grant of £113,000, introduced in 2021/2022 for lower tier authorities to support service provision.

(iv) New Homes Bonus

48. The New Homes Bonus (NHB) was introduced in 2011 to provide an incentive for local authorities to encourage housing growth in their areas. The aim of the bonus was to provide a financial incentive to reward and encourage local authorities to help facilitate housing growth. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised from new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. NHB funding has been based on the following:

- (a) NHB is payable on housing growth over a threshold of 0.4% of the Tax Base.  
(b) Payments are based on a rolling 4-year period.

49. Housing growth has been significant for this Council area and, as such, the Council has benefited from high levels of NHB. The Government had, however, stated its commitment to review NHB and the long-awaited consultation on the replacement for NHB was published on 10 February 2021 and closed on 7 April 2021. The consultation outlined a number of options for reforming NHB to provide an incentive that is more focused and targeted on ambitious housing delivery, that complements the reforms outlined in the Planning White Paper, and dovetails with the wider financial mechanisms the government is putting in place, including the community infrastructure levy and the Single Housing Infrastructure Fund. The Council has been a major beneficiary of the grant, receiving a peak of £5.2 million in 2016/2017 and there is a risk that the review could result in a reduced financial benefit.

50. The longevity of legacy payments was, in any event, reduced when NHB was initially reformed in 2017/2018. New legacy commitments ceased to be made

in allocations from 2020/2021 and the government confirmed that it had no intention to reintroduce the concept of legacy payments. It had been expected that the changes to NHB would be implemented from 2022/2023 onwards, alongside the wider local government reform package however it had become increasingly clear in recent weeks that the provisional settlement would be on a similar basis to 2021/22 and that proved to be the case. The 2022/2023 budget therefore includes a reward from NHB in the sum of £2.376 million based on the existing scheme. It is unclear what the status of the NHB consultation earlier in the year now is as it has been suggested a further NHB consultation will be carried out shortly.

51. In line with the agreement of the partners, 10% of NHB has been set aside as a contribution to the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Investment and Delivery Fund from 2021/2022 (a reduction from the 30% level that applied up to 2020/2021).

(v) Council Tax

52. Council Tax has been the most predictable and stable element of Local Government funding, despite the uncertainty created by COVID-19. This source of income is predicted to yield £10,489 million in 2022/2023 based upon an assumed £5 increase in Council Tax (the maximum level permitted by Government) and an increase in tax base based upon the latest estimates of housing growth. An additional £35,000 is also estimated from the Council Tax sharing agreement.
53. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set its Council Tax Base for the ensuing financial year by 31 January preceding the start of the new financial year and to notify precepting bodies of the Tax Base that will apply to their area. The Council Tax base for the financial year 2022/2023 has been set at 65,432.00 Band D equivalent properties (an increase of 1.67% (1,078.20) compared to the 2021/2022 Tax Base of 64,353.80).
54. The proposed increase in Council Tax for 2022/2023 is 3.4%. This proposal equates to an increase of £5.00 on the average Band D property giving a Council Tax of £160.31 based upon the 2022/2023 Council Tax base of 65,432.0 Band D dwellings. The proposed 3.4% increase in Council Tax, results in a total yield from Council Tax of £10.685 million (including £0.195 million Collection Fund surplus and £0.035 million from the council tax sharing agreement).

**(H) Review of Reserves**

55. A review of Reserves has been made as part of the budget setting process following that, it is recommended that the Brexit Preparation Reserve holding £38,000 as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 be released to the General Fund on the basis that there is no expenditure in 2021/2022 expected in relation to this.

56. It is proposed to set up a new reserve for use by the Enforcement Group which is a cross service co-ordinating group on such issues. The group would consider requests for funds from members of the group to finance works in default or similar expenditure. It is proposed that initially £40,000 is allocated to this from the Planning Reserve and this be reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process.

**(I) Capital Programme**

57. A review of the capital programme has been undertaken in conjunction with lead officers to ensure that proposed investment is prudent, sustainable, and affordable and a separate detailed report to the Cabinet proposes a revised profiled capital programme. The Capital Financing implications of the proposed capital programme are reflected in the proposed General Fund Revenue Budget. In the event that all changes are approved, and the latest forecast capital receipts are forthcoming, a forecast borrowing requirement of £148.6 million will be needed to support the total capital programme to 2026/2027.
58. The revenue implications of the Capital Programme have also been taken into account in the draft 2022/2023 revenue budget and are detailed at **Appendix A**.
59. In determining the 2022/2023 revenue budget, annual contributions to the following Reserves established in 2020/2021 have been made:
- (a) Repair and Renewal (Equipment & Plant) Fund: An annual revenue contribution of £50,000 to this Reserve for the purpose of defraying expenditure to be incurred from time to time in repairing, maintaining, replacing, and renewing IT equipment and operational building plant and equipment belonging to the Council.
  - (b) Software Fund: An annual contribution of £50,000 to this Reserve for the purpose of defraying expenditure to be incurred from time to time on IT replacement software solutions.
  - (c) Property Investment Reserve: An annual contribution of £100,000 to this Reserve for the investment and refurbishment costs above and beyond tenant repairing lease obligations (e.g. investment to encourage improved re-letting terms). This could include upgrades to improve environmental standards.

**(J) Fees and Charges**

60. An annual review of fees and charges has been made as part of the revenue budget process in order to determine the non-regulatory fees and charges to be set by the Council for the provision of services from April 2022. A separate report was considered by Cabinet agenda at its meeting on 6 December 2021 and the additional income from the revised fees and charges (albeit marginal) has been included in the draft 2022/2023 revenue budget.

## **(K) General Fund Revenue Budget Summary**

61. The 2022/2023 General Fund Revenue Budget Summary is detailed at **Appendix A** and the following is relevant:

(i) **Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Business Rates**

These figures reflect the provisional Settlement for 2022/2023. Any adjustment (dependent on its effect) will be reported to Council on 22 February 2022.

(ii) **Council Tax Collection Fund Balance in aid of Council Tax**

The Council's share of estimated Council Tax surplus as at 31 March 2022 has been determined by the Head of Finance and totals £0.195 million.

(iii) **Net District Requirement from Council Tax**

After allowing for the increase in the Council's Taxbase, the average Band D Council Tax will be **£160.31**.

(iv) **District Precept on Collection Fund**

In accordance with legislative requirements the District Precept on the Collection Fund will include Parish Precepts when known.

62. **In pursuance of Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Chief Finance Officer is required to make a statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of Reserves in relation to the Council's budget calculations. Provided Members fully take into account the risks that are outlined in the report at Appendix F, I can confirm that Heads of Service are satisfied with the level of budgets put forward for 2022/2023 relating to their respective service areas although it must be recognised that the budget allocations in 2022/2023, and the future prospects for service delivery, will be challenging and that pressures and constraints during the next financial year will be inevitable.**

## **Options**

63. There are options to remove or add items to the budget but, based on previous Cabinet decisions and the detailed discussions held with spending officers, the General Fund Revenue Budget as presented includes all items required to deliver council services and member priorities. The gross expenditure is covered by forecast income sources (assuming no change in Government grant) and, therefore, any addition(s) to expenditure that are required will need to identify matching savings and/or additional income if the proposed level of Council Tax is not to change.

## Implications

64. In the writing of this report, taking into account the financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

### ***Policy***

65. The MTFS, approved by Council on 23 September 2021, identifies that the Council will ensure that annual ongoing General Fund revenue expenditure can be covered by annual income sources across the MTFS period in order to ensure a continuously stable financial base for the provision of Council services and functions. In doing so, the Council recognises that any significant use of reserves to fund ongoing expenditure commitments is unsustainable in the medium term.
66. The MTFS identifies that a prudent level of revenue contingency will be maintained to enable unforeseen and "one off" needs (i.e. having no long-term ongoing revenue commitment) to be considered for funding and, in this regard, the proposed General Fund Revenue Budget includes a revenue contingency of £250,000.
67. In accordance with the MTFS, the following financial objectives have guided the formulation of the 2022/2023 revenue budget:
- A sustainable medium term financial plan that allows the achievement of the Council's key objectives;
  - Realistic levels of year on year spending which are supportable via annual income streams and do not require the use of general reserves to support recurring expenditure;
  - General reserves should be maintained at all times at or above the agreed minimum level;
  - Constraining annual Council Tax increases to an acceptable level;
  - The pursuance of "invest to save" opportunities with a financial return on the investment in transforming activities over an acceptable payback period;
  - A commitment to explore income generation opportunities and to maximise income from fees and charges;
  - A commitment to maximise efficiency savings;
  - The continued review and control of the Capital Programme given the impact on borrowing (see separate report on the agenda).

### ***Legal***

68. The Council is required by law to set a balanced revenue budget each year. There are two specific dates in relation to budget and Council Tax setting that are required by statute to be achieved. Firstly, it is a requirement that each local authority approves its Revenue Budget by 28 February each year for the forthcoming financial year. Secondly, a billing authority (i.e. this Council) is required to set the Council Tax for its area by 11 March each year for the forthcoming financial year.
69. It is a legal requirement (under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003) that before approving the ensuing year's Capital and Revenue Budget, the Council are required to receive and take into account a report of the Chief Finance Officer (Head of Finance) on the robustness of the estimates leading to the Council's Council Tax requirement and the adequacy of financial reserves. This needs to cover issues of affordability (having regard to Council Tax implications), prudence (having regard to Council policies/strategies) and sustainability (having regard to forecast annual expenditure and income). This report is attached at **Appendix F**.

### ***Financial***

#### **Budget Overview**

70. The proposed 2022/2023 revenue budget is set out in the table at **Appendix A**.

#### **Government Funding Settlement**

71. This report is based on the Provisional Government settlement relating to the revenue support grant and business rates redistribution. The consultation on the proposed settlement ended on 13 January 2022 but the final settlement has not yet been formally confirmed. It is, therefore, recommended that:
- if the Government grant were increased it is recommended that the balance would be transferred to the General Fund Reserve.
  - if it is reduced that this be the first call on the general contingency.

#### **Parish Council Precepts**

72. Parish Councils had until 31 January to notify the Council of their precepts for the forthcoming year and, as such, the total of the precepts will be reported directly to Full Council on 22 February 2022 as part of Council Tax Resolution.

### ***Risk***

#### **General**

73. The Revenue Budget for 2022/2023 has been prepared on a prudent basis but there are risks which may affect the budget. These risks include the following:

- The extent of service pressure being higher or lower than anticipated.
- The delivery of planned efficiency savings.
- Unforeseen costs during the year which may exceed the provision in the general contingency of £250,000.
- The economic situation is either better or worse than anticipated with fluctuations in income sources (NB: This affects capital financing costs and fees and charges).
- Increases in inflation above those known or expected at this time.
- Member aspirations regarding service levels.
- The impact of changes in legislation.

It is also critical that the budget setting timescale is followed to ensure that statutory deadlines are complied with.

### Specific

74. When the Council considers each revenue service and function budget endeavours are made to identify potential risks. Inevitably, during the year, some of these risks will occur and impact on the budget by either requiring further expenditure or by reducing the Council's budgeted income. The budget process has identified a number of service specific risks relating to the range of District Council Services and related budgets. An overall assessment of risk and an assessment of the robustness of estimates are set out in **Appendix F**.

### ***Environmental***

75. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

## **Background Papers**

Where the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection:

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The following documents are relevant to this report:

- Budget Report – Report to Cabinet: 3 February 2021/Council: 23 February 2021
- Medium Term Financial Strategy – Report to Cabinet: 6 September 2021
- Medium Term Financial Strategy – Report to Cabinet: 23 September 2021
- Capital Programme Update and New Bids – Report to Cabinet: 6 December 2021
- 2021/2022 Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring – Report to Cabinet: 6 December 2021

## **Appendices**

- A Revenue Budget 2022/2023: Summary
- B1-7 Revenue Budget 2022/2023: Detailed Budgets
- C Service Pressures Taken into Account
- D Service Efficiencies/Income Generation Opportunities
- E Business Rate Yield Estimate 2022/2023
- F Revenue Budget: Risks and Robustness

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## Appendix A

## GENERAL FUND ESTIMATE SUMMARY

2021/22		2022/23 Budget				
Original Estimate	Probable Outturn		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
£ 000's	£ 000's	Note	£ 000's	£ 000's	£ 000's	
2,488	2,086	Chief Executive & Chief Operating Officer	B(1)	2,901	(2)	2,899
8,709	7,947	Head of Climate, Environment & Waste	B(2)	17,748	(8,045)	9,703
3,081	3,604	Head of Finance	B(3)	26,987	(23,017)	3,970
2,448	1,727	Head of Housing	B(4)	5,762	(3,177)	2,585
0	0	Monitoring Officer	B(5)	0	0	0
4,835	4,917	Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning	B(6)	13,565	(6,524)	7,041
3,376	3,019	Head of Transformation, HR & Corporate Services	B(7)	3,880	(334)	3,546
<b>24,937</b>	<b>23,300</b>	<b>Net Corporate Expenditure</b>		<b>70,842</b>	<b>(41,098)</b>	<b>29,744</b>
349	0	Contingency and unallocated		250		250
<b>25,286</b>	<b>23,300</b>	<b>Net Cost of Services</b>		<b>71,092</b>	<b>(41,098)</b>	<b>29,994</b>
(5,641)	(4,785)	Income from Investments	(a)		(5,456)	(5,456)
695	1,828	Other Levies and Contributions	(b)	1,887		1,887
1,205	1,183	Interest Payable (Inc. HRA)	(c)	1,319		1,319
(3,004)	(2,882)	Depreciation Reversals & Other Adj.			(6,174)	(6,174)
1,363	1,113	Minimum Revenue Provision		1,090		1,090
2,867	2,949	Revenue Contributions to Capital		3,420		3,420
<b>22,771</b>	<b>22,706</b>	<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>78,807</b>	<b>(52,728)</b>	<b>26,079</b>
10	3,213	Contribution to/(from) General Fund		2,115		2,115
(1,059)	(1,185)	Contribution to/(from) Other Reserves			(3,025)	(3,025)
<b>21,722</b>	<b>24,733</b>	<b>To be met from Government Grants and Local Taxpayers</b>		<b>80,922</b>	<b>(55,754)</b>	<b>25,169</b>
<b>Taxation and Grants</b>						
(9,140)	(11,546)	Business Rates inc Section 31			(11,641)	(11,641)
(10,146)	(10,111)	Council Tax			(10,720)	(10,720)
(2,436)	(3,077)	Other Government Grants			(2,808)	(2,808)
<b>(21,722)</b>	<b>(24,733)</b>	<b>Total Taxation and Grants</b>				<b>(25,169)</b>

## Notes:-

(a) This includes Rental income from the Councils Commercial Portfolio and Interest Receivable from Ermine Street Housing and Other Counterparties.

(b) This includes the Drainage Levy and Contributions to the Combined Authority and Greater Cambridge Partnership.

(c) This Includes all Interest payable by the General Fund for both external borrowing and Investment Income passed to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

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**Chief Executive & Chief Operating Officer  
Estimates 2022/23**

**Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer  
Estimates 2022/23  
Summary**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Corporate Management	843	876	664	625	-	625
Economic Development & Commercial Investment	980	1,220	998	1,593	-	1,593
Elections	328	392	423	683	(2)	681
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>2,901</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>2,899</b>
Continuing Services Budget	2,150	2,488	2,086			2,727
Funded from Earmarked Reserves	-	-	-			172
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>2,086</b>			<b>2,899</b>
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>2,086</b>			<b>2,899</b>

**Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer  
Estimates 2022/23  
Corporate Management**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Corporate Management	843	876	664	625	-	625
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>625</b>

The Corporate Management cost centre comprises of the costs of executive team who are integral to the welfare of the council and the decisions it makes as they are part of the Leadership Team. Other significant costs in the budget are the monthly Unfunded Pension Recharges and external audit fees. The reduced 21/22 probable outturn is a result of Transformation more accurately allocating their time causing a lower recharged cost to Corporate Management which can also be seen in the lower 22/23 budget.

**Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer  
Estimates 2022/23  
Economic Development And Commercial Investment**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Cambourne Business Park Ltd (CBPL)	-	-	-	10	-	10	Miscellaneous professional costs for CBPL paid directly by SCDC, which are recharged quarterly to the company. Allocated £10,000 from Investment Strategy budget to cover expenses such as legal fees etc
Economic Development	230	420	429	854	-	854	This cost centre focuses on Business support and economic development activity. This includes Visit South Cambs brand development, general business support and growth related work, marketing and communications activity to the district's business community. The large increase in budget is due to a change in structure, which has meant an amalgamation of staff costs from other cost centres.
Investment Strategy	707	740	504	684	-	684	The budget pertaining to the council's owned commercial assets (property). There is a £200,000 budget to cover legal fees, consultants and due diligence in appraisal of new investment opportunities. For 2022/23 this will include £10,000 allocated to SCIP and Northstowe investment partnerships.
Re-Opening High Streets Safely	43	24	48	-	-	-	Boots on the ground activity/team supporting business (post) pandemic recovery initiatives. This includes items such as the Christmas market, high-street engagement / business specific covid safety engagement etc. It is anticipated that this will receive no further funding after March 22.
South Cambs Investment Partnership (SCIP)	-	-	-	10	-	10	Miscellaneous professional costs for SCIP paid directly by SCDC, which are recharged quarterly to the company. Allocated £10,000 from Investment Strategy budget to cover expenses such as legal fees etc
Tourism Initiatives	-	35	18	35	-	35	This cost centre looks at ways of increasing footfall and tourism within South Cambs. There is no change in the budget from 2021/22.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,593</b>	

**Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer  
Estimates 2022/23  
Elections**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Elections	8	-	40	302	-	302	The elections budget is comprised of the cost of carrying out of District Elections together with reimbursable elections such as County, Parish and Parliamentary. The 22/23 budget is made up of an all-out District election in May funded by an earmarked reserve (£298,000) that has been built up for this specific reason and a £123,000 one-off bid due to significant increases in printing & postage.
Electoral Registration	320	392	383	381	(2)	379	The electoral registration cost centre is comprised of the team who co-ordinate elections, beside salary the main costs are made up of printing & postage for canvass forms.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>681</b>	

**Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer  
Subjective Analysis 2022/23**

	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies & Services	Support Services	Internal Recharges	Total Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Other Contributions	Government Contributions	Total Income	Net Expenditure
<b>Corporate Management</b>												
Corporate Management	475,450		-	121,270	328,930	(300,500)	625,150			-	-	625,150
<b>Economic Development &amp; Commercial Investment</b>												
Cambourne Business Park Ltd (CBPL)				10,000			10,000					10,000
Economic Development	610,220			130,000	113,870		854,090					854,090
Investment Strategy	303,430	-		193,000	187,380		683,810	-			-	683,810
Re-Opening High Streets Safely	-	-		-	-		-			-	-	-
South Cambs Investment Partnership (SCIP)				10,000			10,000					10,000
Tourism Initiatives				35,000	-		35,000					35,000
<b>Elections</b>												
Elections	136,900	38,000	2,000	117,000	7,910		301,810	-	-	-	-	301,810
Electoral Registration	197,690		100	102,080	80,880		380,750	(2,000)		-	(2,000)	378,750
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,723,690</b>	<b>38,000</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>718,350</b>	<b>718,970</b>	<b>(300,500)</b>	<b>2,900,610</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>2,898,610</b>



**Head of Climate, Environment & Waste  
Estimates 2022/23**

**Head of Climate, Environment and Waste  
Estimates 2022/23  
Summary**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Change & Innovation - Green to our Core	1,673	453	400	574	(1)	573
Commercial & Licensing	888	854	966	1,308	(423)	885
Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Operations	4,911	4,785	4,137	12,776	(7,540)	5,237
People, Protection & Planning	762	1,171	1,071	1,471	(58)	1,413
Waste Operations - Other	1,329	1,445	1,373	1,618	(23)	1,595
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>9,563</b>	<b>8,709</b>	<b>7,947</b>	<b>17,748</b>	<b>(8,045)</b>	<b>9,703</b>
Climate, Environment & Waste Support Services	487	470	490	493	(1)	492
Internally Recharged	(487)	(470)	(490)	(493)	1	(492)
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>9,563</b>	<b>8,709</b>	<b>7,947</b>	<b>17,748</b>	<b>(8,045)</b>	<b>9,703</b>
Continuing Services Budget	9,426	8,528	7,693			9,273
Funded from Earmarked Reserves	137	181	254			430
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,563</b>	<b>8,709</b>	<b>7,947</b>			<b>9,703</b>
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>9,563</b>	<b>8,709</b>	<b>7,947</b>			<b>9,703</b>

**Head of Climate, Environment and Waste**  
**Estimates 2022/23**  
**Change and Innovation - Green to our Core**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Footway Lighting	1,426	152	145	232	(1)	231	<p>In 2020-21 the Council invested £1.4m in replacing all of the 1,800 lighting columns located on footpaths within the District to enable the transition to greener LED lamps - this has been funded through the Authority's renewable energy reserve which is set aside funding for greener initiatives. This replacement programme will benefit both the environment and the parish councils' that own the lights by providing cheaper electricity. It is hoped that in the short to medium term the costs of maintenance on the columns which the Authority is responsible for will be kept as low as possible and is reflected in an approved annual £50,000 saving in the original 2021-22 budget.</p> <p>A small element of the LED replacement programme has rolled forward into the 2021-22 and the representative costs of £66,000 is shown in this financial year which will drop out in 2022-23.</p>
Zero Carbon Communities Scheme	247	302	255	342	-	342	<p>Zero Carbon Communities Scheme aligns with the Authority's 'Green to the Core' priority and the shift to zero carbon emissions by providing financial support to Parish Councils' and community groups to promote greener initiatives and reduce their carbon footprint.</p> <p>The Council's continued support for the Green to the Core strategy is evidenced by an increase of £35,000 in staffing costs to support this service as more officer time is dedicated to the service in 2022-23 than was previously budgeted for. Budgets within the service have been adjusted and the proposal is to increase the grants available to interested parties in 2022-23 by a total of £18,000 over that originally budgeted in 2021-22.</p> <p>The projection is that £147,000 of the represented costs will be funded from the renewables reserve in 2021-22 which will rise to £179,000 in 2022-23.</p>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>573</b>	

**Head of Climate, Environment and Waste  
Estimates 2022/23  
Commercial and Licensing**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Environmental Health	194	40	32	38	-	38	The costs associated within this area are the costs charged through the Council's internal recharge model and are general by nature. The main component of these costs are the charges made by the Contact Centre to Environmental Health - this charge has not deviated materially across the two comparative financial years represented within this table.
Food Safety & Water Quality	390	483	479	459	(7)	452	<p>This budget includes all activities that aims to reduce the incidence of food poisoning as required by food law legislation. Activities include regular inspections of food premises, routine food sampling, the operation of a 'good hygiene' certificate scheme and investigating into any outbreaks of food poisoning. The budget also incorporates activities surrounding the monitoring of drinking water sourced through private supplies - the costs associated with this activity are fully rechargeable.</p> <p>Costs have remained fairly static across the 2-year budget timeframe. There has been a small reallocation of officer time away from this service in 2022-23 amounting to 0.75 of an FTE - these costs will have been dispersed within other services of the directorate. This has resulted in staffing and associated recharged costs being reduced by £28,000 when compared to the original budget set for 2021-22.</p>
Health & Safety At Work	117	161	145	223	-	223	This budget includes expenditure on health and safety at work inspections and investigations of notified incidents and enforcement work under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The precise areas covered include shops, offices, some warehouses and some other commercial premises. Internal support service recharges are the singular reason for the increase in the 2022-23 costs over 2021-22 with £46,000 of additional costs being recharged here than previously.
Infectious Disease Control	7	59	122	51	-	51	<p>Activities within this service normally extend to the control of infectious diseases under the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984 and 1988. Although obviously outside of this Act, a large proportion of corporate expenditure and income from Government in connection with Covid-19 test, track and trace and containing outbreak management of the virus are recorded under this heading in the 2021-22 outturn. Where possible the financial effect that Covid-19 has had on each individual service has been reflected in the costs of that particular service across the 3-year budget timeframe but for corporate costs that can't be labelled under a specific service, the costs are shown here.</p> <p>The rise in projected costs in 21-22 will be as a direct result of Covid-19 expenditure incurred. These costs will be reimbursed to the Council from Government funds which are held in reserve to counteract the effect of Covid on general fund expenditure.</p>

**Head of Climate, Environment and Waste  
Estimates 2022/23  
Commercial and Licensing**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Licensing	75	67	111	220	(131)	89	<p>Examples of licensing activities included here are responsibilities under the Licensing Act and Gambling Act, temporary event notices (TEN's), theatres and entertainment. The pandemic has had a large detrimental impact on these businesses with pubs and premises serving alcohol facing the possibility of permanent closure. TEN income has been effected because of the pandemic which was compensated in 2020-21 and extended to the first quarter 2021-22.</p> <p>Because of huge uncertainties, there has been no account for any likely effect the pandemic will have in 2022-23 with the table showing no material effects on net expenditure levels over and above the £17,000 suffered in the pension deficit charge. Results will need to be monitored closely as the year progresses.</p>
Primary Authority Advice	(33)	(30)	(33)	-	(36)	(36)	<p>The Authority operates a multi-agency business hub which draws together key business advice services from both Trading Standards, Fire and Rescue Service and Environmental Health to promote joint Primary Authority Agreements (PAA's) and associated commercial activities.</p> <p>The income derived from the PAA's is budgeted at £30,000 pa with the objective in 2022-23 to grow this to by £6,000 with inflationary measures being taken into account.</p>
Taxi Licence	137	74	109	318	(250)	68	<p>Examples of licensing activities administered here include private hire vehicles, drivers and operators as well as hackney carriages. The income levels on this service have suffered greatly as a result of the pandemic and drivers are leaving the industry seeking employment in other sectors. in 2021-22 the projected level of income has dropped from a budgeted £250,000 set pre-pandemic to £186,000. The effect of reduced income was compensated in 2020-21 by Government grant. The direct service costs incurred in administering the licencing function are being met through the fee setting structure, along with a large proportion of the overheads and support services recharged into it. However, there are still some residual costs which are being charged through the General Fund which are projected to be £81,000 in 2021-22 and £68,000 in 2022-23.</p>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>(423)</b>	<b>885</b>	

**Head of Climate, Environment and Waste  
Estimates 2022/23  
Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Operations**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Commercial Waste	(762)	(1,025)	(1,124)	2,856	(3,866)	(1,010)	<p>There is over 2,900 commercial properties within Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire from which waste is collected. Payments made to the waste disposal authority for the disposal of this trade waste are also shown in the gross expenditure of the service and are set against the income earned. Again, as in the domestic waste collection above, the increase in the pension deficit will have impacted on the comparative net figures shown on the table, an increased notional cost in this respect of £112,000 is represented between 21-22 and 22-23.</p> <p>Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, it's a challenge to grow a commercial business which is reliant on a strong customer base but a modest growth target of £25,000 in net profit has been set for the service and will be monitored as the 2022-23 year progresses.</p>
Domestic Waste Collection	7,035	6,959	6,384	9,253	(1,804)	7,449	<p>The gross income and expenditure figures incorporate the collection of household waste across the boundaries of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. This includes all types of waste including garden waste, bulky items and clinical or hazardous waste.</p> <p>The service collects recycling and waste from approximately 124,000 households and between the two authorities have invested a net £153,000 in the 2022-23 budget to mainly cover, the growth in population across the demographic which is estimated to be 2,600 properties next year. Also a £110,000 initiative has been introduced to establish a driver retention scheme to try and install some resilience to the service in-light of the shortage of HGV drivers experienced nationally.</p>
Shared Waste Service Contribution	(1,878)	(1,714)	(1,651)	-	(1,826)	(1,826)	<p>This represents the net contribution made by Cambridge City Council as a partner in the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS). The contribution incorporates a share of all the net direct costs incurred across all facets of the GCSWS i.e. domestic and commercial collections as well as waste policy.</p>
Waste Policy	516	564	528	667	(44)	623	<p>Included here are the costs of initiatives and actions to encourage the minimisation of waste alongside the cost of preparing, monitoring and reviewing the joint waste strategy. The increased cost of the pension deficit in 2022-23 accounts for £43,000 of the £59,000 overall increase in costs between the original budgets set across the budget timeframe.</p> <p>A two-year injection of £24,000 has been included with effect from 2022-23 as an additional contribution to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough waste partnership (RECAP) which will provide resources collectively to develop an overarching project with the aim to advise on the implementation of a separate food waste collection service from all households across Cambridgeshire. This was included as a revenue service bid.</p>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,911</b>	<b>4,785</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>12,776</b>	<b>(7,540)</b>	<b>5,237</b>	

**Head of Climate, Environment and Waste  
Estimates 2022/23  
People, Protection and Planning**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Animal Welfare Service	15	20	14	74	(4)	70	<p>Prior to 2022-23, no staff time was allocated to the activities of animal welfare licensing and dog control. The recent re-evaluation of staffing activities has identified that 0.6 of an FTE are actually employed in carrying out these statutory functions and the increased costs in the table reflect this.</p> <p>Over the course of 2022-23 it will be an objective to ensure that these costs are met through the fee setting structure so that the council tax payer is not subsidising this service. In 2022-23 it is felt that during a time of global pandemic, to support the local economy that the fees charged to i.e. riding schools, animal boarding establishments and pet shops would not increase disproportionately to reflect the true costs shown.</p>
Environmental Protection	478	707	616	671	(29)	642	<p>Incorporates work performed to reduce air pollution under the Environmental Protection and Clean Air Acts' and includes work on the air quality management plan and other statutory nuisance work investigating complaints of dust, odour and smoke and light pollution. Also included here are any costs involved in formalising a strategy on and identifying and assessing the degree of contaminated land. A register of this contaminated land is then maintained along with assessing the associated health risks.</p> <p>Following a staff time allocation study, 1.60 FTE's have been reallocated away from Environmental Protection to other services resulting in staffing and associated support service costs being reduced by £55,000 between 2021-22 and 2022-23 original budgets. The department have also re-introduced the charging regime for the issue of pollution permit control licences which were not being collected in recent years - it is envisaged that this will generate at least £8,000 annually into the Authority.</p>
Housing Standards	51	102	115	428	(13)	415	<p>Included here are all costs associated with work to ensure that the residents live in safe and sanitary conditions. Activities include inspections in response to complaints, checks on the quality of houses in multiple occupation (HMO's) and the licensing of HMO's.</p> <p>Now that the department restructure has embedded, a full reassessment of staffing allocations has taken place which has resulted in more time being transferred to this service from other service areas.</p> <p>A two-year investment of £43,000 is included through the revenue bid process from 2022-23 to investigate the extent of the problem surrounding long-term empty properties and take action to bring problematic empty homes back into use.</p> <p>It is proposed that an overdue private housing stock condition survey is undertaken in 2022-23, wholly funded through an earmarked reserve at a cost of £101,000.</p>

**Head of Climate, Environment and Waste  
Estimates 2022/23  
People, Protection and Planning**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
National Assistance Act Burials	14	8	2	21	(12)	8	It is the duty of the Council to bury or cremate the body of any person who has died in the South Cambridgeshire District area, where no other suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been made. Direct costs are recovered where possible from the estate of the deceased person.
Noise and Nuisance Control	204	334	323	278	-	278	The majority of the costs of this service involve staffing and associated support costs surrounding work performed to reduce noise pollution and dealing with noise as a statutory nuisance. It involves investigating complaints, the silencing of alarms and dealing with noise from construction sites and noise in the street.  Staff time reallocations has led to a 0.45 FTE reduction in time allocated to the service. This manifests itself to a reduction of £58,000 in service costs surrounding staffing and the associated recharges that are charged per staff head count to the service.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>(58)</b>	<b>1,413</b>	



**Head of Climate, Environment and Waste  
Estimates 2022/23  
Waste Operations - Other**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Envirocrime	146	93	87	84	(1)	83	Envirocrime enforcement activities covers predominantly the areas of littering, dog-fouling, fly tipping, abandoned vehicle and graffiti removal. The reduction in budget for 2022-23 is purely down to the reduced amount of internal support costs recharged into the service and is no reflection on the true investment in this service at a direct service budget level.
Flood Defence / Land Drainage	343	445	413	500	(2)	498	<p>This budget covers specifically land drainage and in particular the routine maintenance of the 275km of awarded watercourses which criss-cross through the District as well as running and maintaining the Webb's Hole Sluice pumping station which acts as a flood defence for Northstowe and the surrounding area. In 2021-22 the Council invested £50,000 into the service budget to ensure that the service had the manpower resources necessary for the planned maintenance programme to be undertaken effectively.</p> <p>The additional costs in 2022-23 will cover £38,000 in staffing costs - £22,000 of this being in the non-intrinsic underlying charge for the pension scheme deficit. There is also a £10,000 uplift in the asset charge which is notional depreciation charged on the 2021-22 capital asset investment. Also in 2022-23 there will need to be £7,000 put into the budget to cover the uplift in premises related costs i.e. rent, rates and electricity usage at the depot facility at Lolworth and also the electricity usage incurred at the Webb's Hole sluice pumping station. Also in conjunction with the pumping station is a large overhaul of the second pump - these large service overhauls need to be undertaken every five years and are specialist in nature therefore costing £25,000. Avenues of funding are being investigated, including the possibility of utilising s106 funding in regard to this for 2022-23.</p>
Street Cleansing	840	907	874	1,034	(20)	1,014	<p>Includes the sweeping and removal of litter from land and litter bins etc. Standards are set for cleanliness that the Council is benchmarked against. The categories range from shopping centres to towpaths and streets not adopted by the Highways Authority. Activities also include collecting illegally fly-tipped rubbish, removing dead animals and removing abandoned vehicles that do not constitute a traffic hazard.</p> <p>The underlying operational budgets of the service have remained fairly constant through the years at approximately £900,000. The additional cost in 2022-23 brought about by the increased pension deficit has resulted in additional £90,000 staffing costs being charged to the service which will be reversed out when the charge to the council tax payer is calculated.</p>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>1,595</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Estimates 2022/23  
Climate, Environment and Waste Support Services**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Depot	279	259	268	263	(1)	262	The costs involved in maintaining and running our operational facility at Waterbeach which along with our Cambridge City Council partners, services the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service and also South Cambridgeshire District Council's street cleansing service.
Environmental Health Admin	208	211	221	229	-	229	This service provides management and supports to all the regulatory functions within the directorate. The budgets have remained static for the majority of costs included here such as staff training, general office expenditure, books and publications and agency backfill support.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>492</b>	

**Head of Climate, Environment and Waste  
Subjective Analysis 2022/23**

	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies & Services	Support Services	Asset Charges	Internal Recharges	Total Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Other Contributions	Government Contributions	Misc Income	Total Income	Net Expenditure
<b>Change &amp; Innovation - Green to our Core</b>														
Footway Lighting	37,240	36,700		145,500	12,770	-		232,210		(1,000)			(1,000)	231,210
Zero Carbon Communities Scheme	166,420	-		133,850	41,520	-		341,790	-		-		-	341,790
<b>Commercial &amp; Licensing</b>														
Environmental Health	-	-	-	-	37,600		-	37,600	-	-	-		-	37,600
Food Safety & Water Quality	323,550	-	-	4,550	130,520			458,620	(6,500)				(6,500)	452,120
Health & Safety At Work	166,230	-	-	700	56,440			223,370						223,370
Infectious Disease Control	33,960	-	-	400	16,350			50,710	-	-	-		-	50,710
Licensing	119,340		20	2,350	97,830			219,540	(130,700)		-		(130,700)	88,840
Primary Authority Advice									(35,600)				(35,600)	(35,600)
Taxi Licence	183,620		22,000	2,950	109,530			318,100	(249,900)		-		(249,900)	68,200
<b>Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Operations</b>														
Commercial Waste	1,007,400	-	333,000	1,306,400	192,850	16,000		2,855,650	(3,866,000)	-	-		(3,866,000)	(1,010,350)
Domestic Waste Collection	5,803,550	-	1,442,260	707,950	727,920	571,580	-	9,253,260	(1,804,000)	-		-	(1,804,000)	7,449,260
Shared Waste Service Contribution								-		(1,825,720)			(1,825,720)	(1,825,720)
Waste Policy	485,650	-		128,190	53,450			667,290	(43,800)	-			(43,800)	623,490
<b>People, Protection &amp; Planning</b>														
Environmental Protection	399,440	1,500		77,000	183,210	9,800		670,950	(29,100)	-			(29,100)	641,850
Housing Standards	235,830			105,550	86,590			427,970	(12,800)		-		(12,800)	415,170
National Assistance Act Burials				18,000	2,570			20,570	(12,200)				(12,200)	8,370
Noise Nuisance Control	199,160			5,300	70,810	3,140		278,410						278,410
<b>Waste Operations - Other</b>														
Envirocrime	48,350	-	9,560	2,500	23,420	-		83,830	(1,200)		-		(1,200)	82,630
Flood Defence / Land Drainage	215,010	23,040	38,840	66,150	79,260	77,710		500,010	-	(1,980)	-		(1,980)	498,030
Street Cleansing	635,800	15,600	142,300	56,120	92,150	92,080		1,034,050	(20,000)			-	(20,000)	1,014,050
<b>Climate, Environment &amp; Waste Support Services</b>														
Depot		235,070		16,600	6,260	5,210	(262,190)	950	(150)	-		(800)	(950)	-
Environmental Health Admin	144,420			59,050	25,950		(229,420)	-					-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10,241,620</b>	<b>311,910</b>	<b>1,987,980</b>	<b>2,851,110</b>	<b>2,071,920</b>	<b>775,520</b>	<b>(491,610)</b>	<b>17,748,450</b>	<b>(6,215,950)</b>	<b>(1,828,700)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(800)</b>	<b>(8,045,450)</b>	<b>9,703,000</b>

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**Head of Finance  
Estimates 2022/23**

**Head of Finance  
Estimates 2022/23  
Summary**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Housing Benefits	721	1,018	1,227	23,856	(22,536)	1,320
Local Taxation	1,676	1,691	1,646	2,358	(481)	1,877
Other Activities	290	372	731	774	-	774
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>3,604</b>	<b>26,987</b>	<b>(23,017)</b>	<b>3,970</b>
Finance Support Services	2,312	2,273	2,487	2,997	-	2,997
Internally Recharged	(2,312)	(2,273)	(2,487)	(2,997)	-	(2,997)
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>3,604</b>	<b>26,987</b>	<b>(23,017)</b>	<b>3,970</b>
Continuing Services Budget	1,980	2,496	2,878			3,215
Funded from Earmarked Reserves	707	586	726			755
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>3,604</b>			<b>3,970</b>
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>3,604</b>			<b>3,970</b>

**Head of Finance  
Estimates 2022/23  
Housing Benefits**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support	378	724	597	23,324	(22,536)	788	The Housing Benefit Team administer Housing Benefit for residents in Council homes, privately rented homes and homelessness cases and are also responsible for the administration of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) for residents that qualify. This budget includes all the staffing costs, supplies and recharges that are involved in the HBen and LCTS and includes the Subsidy income from DWP. Included in the Budget is a £77,500 saving from the service review that was undertaken. Year on year increase in budget, after allowing for Transformation saving is due to lower level of Admin Grant from DWP, pay award and associated increase in recharge costs and projections on levels of overpayment recovery.
Non Hra Rent Rebates	144	-	114	127	-	127	This budget relates to homeless people placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Expenditure levels can be quite volatile and vary from one year to another. Generally, only around 50% of expenditure is reimbursed in subsidy. This budget was previously set within the Homelessness service.
Rent Allowances	128	183	408	254	-	254	Rent Allowances are benefits paid to Private Tenants and while the majority is covered by the Departments of Work and Pension Subsidy grant, it does not fully match expenditure. The additional expenditure in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22 is due to reduced DWP Admin Grant and fewer overpayments being recovered. Probable outturn is above budget due to subsidy not covering expenditure in full and projections indicating lower levels of overpayments being recovered.
Rent Rebates	70	111	108	150	-	150	Rent Rebates are given to Council Tenants based upon their circumstances and the Department for Work and Pensions reimburse the Council for benefits paid. The additional expenditure in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22 is due to reduced DWP Admin Grant and fewer overpayments being recovered
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>23,856</b>	<b>(22,536)</b>	<b>1,320</b>	

**Head of Finance  
Estimates 2022/23  
Local Taxation**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Council Tax Collection	1,279	1,278	1,174	1,514	(212)	1,302	<p>The Council Tax Team are responsible for the setting of the Tax Base each year and annual billing to over 60,000 charge payers. There is ongoing administration such change of address, plus reviewing and applying appropriate discounts and disregards to charge payers accounts. The team is also responsible for recovery of arrears and maintaining a high collection rate and was joint top performing Council in the Country in 2020/21.</p> <p>Included in the Budget is a £77,500 saving from the service review that was undertaken. This will fully occur in 2022.23. This budget, like NNDR below, has increased costs such as the pay award and associated increase in recharged costs, some inflationary increases on Postage and Printing, and higher volumes in transactional costs as the number of charge payers increases.</p>
NDR Collection	397	414	472	844	(270)	575	<p>National Non Domestic Rate income (Business Rates) is accounted for in the Collection Fund, but collection costs are accounted for in the General Fund with an allowance from Central Government to assist. This allowance is non incremental where as costs of collection increase over time due to inflation. Increase in budget is in the main the pay award and associated increase in recharged costs, some inflationary increases on Postage and Printing and increase in cost on subscription to Rateable Value Finder subscription</p>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>(481)</b>	<b>1,877</b>	



**Head of Finance  
Estimates 2022/23  
Other Activities**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
A14 Highways England	198	13	200	200	-	200	25-year commitment to paying £5,000,000 contribution towards the A14 upgrade completed in 2020. Payments of £200,000 annually were agreed prior to commencement of the project. Committed funds are held in an earmarked reserve, which will cover 21/22 and remaining 23 payments. This is treated as Revenue expenditure funded from capital as it does not result in the creation of a Council asset but the expenditure is of a capital nature.
Cambridge Leisure & Ice Centre	27	20	10	11	-	11	This service includes officer time and consultants fee for the annual determination of fair value for use within the Council's annual Statement of Accounts.
City Deal	3	3	219	238	-	238	This budget related to Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP, formerly City Deal). Prior year shows activities fulfilled by the Council officers. Current and next year show the budget for the contribution to the GCP as agreed by the leaders of the Councils within the group.
Finance Miscellaneous	1	6	1	1	-	1	This budget relates to any miscellaneous costs which can not be accounted for elsewhere.
Prov Bad and Doubt Debts	-	250	250	250	-	250	This budget accounts for officer estimations of the amount to be set aside for non payment of sums due to the Council.
Treasury Management	61	80	50	73	-	73	The Treasury Team manages the Council's investment and borrowing portfolios and cash management duties in line with it's annual strategy statement and CIPFA guidance in the Prudential Code. The costs here relate to the annual cost of the Councils treasury advisers and brokerage fees for short term borrowings.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>774</b>	

**Head of Finance  
Estimates 2022/23  
Finance Support Services**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Accountancy	1,367	1,273	1,492	1,780	-	1,780	This budget covers the costs of the Corporate Accounting team, staffing and service. A higher than anticipated agency cost of £230,000 is reflected in the increase in the probable outturn for 2021/22 compared to original budget. A further increase in the budget for year 2022/23 is based on higher agency staff costs carrying on into that year. Increased cost of agency staff is to clear the external Audit backlog, this has been approved during the year.
Accounts Payable	162	139	185	226	-	226	This budget is comprised of the staffing costs of the Accounts Payable team, processing invoices for payment for the Council. Additional staff requirements increased the ongoing cost of the team. This was not initially reflected in the budget. Therefore actual costs forecast for 2021/22 exceed budget, but budgeted costs for 2022/23 are reflective of the current staffing levels.
Accounts Receivable	118	139	128	150	-	150	This budget is comprised of the staffing costs of the Accounts Receivable team. The team issues invoices to our commercial and residential customers, maintains customer accounts and performs recovery on overdue accounts.
Cashiers	34	50	53	61	-	61	This budget is comprised of the staffing costs of one employee and recharges. The Cashier processes unidentified and bulk payments received by our Axis Income Management system (AIM), processes and deposits cheques received and submits DD files for the collection of NNDR, Ctax, Rents and Accounts Receivable.
Corporate Fraud	155	210	172	274	-	274	This budget comprised of staff and service costs of the corporate counter fraud team. The team focuses on preventing, detecting, investigating and reporting on claims and loss of revenue for the council. The decrease in the probable outturn for 2021/22 relates to the lower than budgeted staff costs due to challenges with recruiting officers with relevant specialism. Full staffing budget is expected to be achieved in 2022/23, this is reflected in higher budget for the year. The 2022/23 budget includes a bid for an additional Fraud Investigator.
Insurance & Risk Management	231	155	177	195	-	195	This is the cost of corporate insurances, such as building insurance, professional indemnity, computer equipment and employer's liability, which are all fully recharged across the Council. There was an increase in insurance premiums year on year, up to 10% in some areas, due to hardening insurance market.

**Head of Finance  
Estimates 2022/23  
Finance Support Services**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Internal Audit	151	136	144	152	-	152	A shared service between the Council and Cambridge City Council for Internal Audit. The increase in budget is due to staff inflation and NI increase. Also higher internal overhead recharges have increased the budget.
Procurement	93	170	135	160	-	160	This budget is made up staff costs of the Corporate Procurement team, which for 2021/22 included some staffing bids. One of the roles was successfully filled by an apprentice, whose services covered the requirements of the team and the bid for was therefore removed from 2022/23 budget.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>2,997</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,997</b>	

**Head of Finance  
Subjective Analysis 2022/23**

	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies & Services	Support Services	Internal Recharges	Total Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Other Contributions	Government Contributions	Total Income	Net Expenditure
<b>Housing Benefits</b>												
Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support	948,590			22,320,160	586,800	(531,380)	23,324,170	(178,780)		(22,357,060)	(22,535,840)	788,330
Non Hra Rent Rebates						127,460	127,460					127,460
Rent Allowances						253,990	253,990					253,990
Rent Rebates						149,930	149,930					149,930
<b>Local Taxation</b>												
Council Tax Collection	586,050			219,750	707,720		1,513,520	(211,600)		-	(211,600)	1,301,920
Nndr Collection	427,750		-	101,100	315,560		844,410	(26,820)	(243,010)	-	(269,830)	574,580
<b>Other Activities</b>												
A14 Highways England	-			200,000	-		200,000	-			-	200,000
Cambridge Leisure & Ice Centre				3,500	7,940		11,440					11,440
City Deal				237,570	-		237,570					237,570
Finance Miscellaneous				-	1,200		1,200					1,200
Prov Bad and Doubt Debts				250,000			250,000					250,000
Treasury Management				75,000	71,830	(73,420)	73,410					73,410
<b>Finance Support Services</b>												
Accountancy	1,492,870		450	77,770	209,200	(1,780,290)	-	-			-	-
Accounts Payable	80,420				145,250	(225,670)	-				-	-
Accounts Receivable	96,660			15,630	37,380	(149,670)	-	-			-	-
Cashiers	32,690			19,360	9,010	(61,060)	-				-	-
Corporate Fraud	211,980			4,280	57,590	(273,850)	-				-	-
Insurance & Risk Management	65,160	5,710	240	123,780	40	(194,930)	-				-	-
Internal Audit	-			131,670	20,800	(152,470)	-				-	-
Procurement	88,920			2,700	67,930	(159,550)	-				-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,031,090</b>	<b>5,710</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>23,782,270</b>	<b>2,238,250</b>	<b>(3,070,910)</b>	<b>26,987,100</b>	<b>(417,200)</b>	<b>(243,010)</b>	<b>(22,357,060)</b>	<b>(23,017,270)</b>	<b>3,969,830</b>

**Head of Housing  
Estimates 2022/23**

**Head of Housing  
Estimates 2022/23  
Summary**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Acquisition & Development	10	81	17	63	-	63
Ermine Street Housing	51	16	16	785	(728)	57
Housing Advice & Options	1,048	1,340	939	2,334	(957)	1,378
Housing Strategy	329	406	249	1,166	(750)	416
Neighbourhood Services	492	605	506	1,414	(743)	672
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>5,762</b>	<b>(3,177)</b>	<b>2,585</b>
Housing Support Services	43	58	48	57	-	57
Internally Recharged	(43)	(58)	(48)	(57)	-	(57)
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>5,762</b>	<b>(3,177)</b>	<b>2,585</b>
Continuing Services Budget	1,694	1,987	1,436			2,182
Funded from Earmarked Reserves	235	461	291			403
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>1,727</b>			<b>2,585</b>
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>1,727</b>			<b>2,585</b>

**Head of Housing  
Estimates 2022/23  
Acquisition and Development**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
New Build Programme Hgf	10	63	17	63	-	63	This budget provides for the revenue costs associated with the provision of community buildings in Northstowe. Such costs include the management and administrative costs which cannot be capitalised. The project was slow to start but Year 2022/23 should see the build begin on the first building, the sports pavilion.
Self Build Initiative	0	18	-	-	-	-	Costs associated with the administration of the register for prospective self-builders. Responsibility for maintaining the register was transferred to the Planning Business Operations Team from Yr 2021/22.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Estimates 2022/23  
Ermine Street Housing**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Housing Company	51	16	16	785	(728)	57	Staffing and administration costs for Ermine Street Housing, which are recharged quarterly to the company. The residual cost is the year end accounting adjustment for pensions.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>(728)</b>	<b>57</b>	



**Head of Housing  
Estimates 2022/23  
Housing Advice and Options**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Homelessness	674	875	559	1,547	(615)	932	This team fulfils our statutory duty to provide accommodation to those who are homeless. The service manages many initiatives to prevent homelessness and provides help and housing advice. Government grant funding of £518,000 has been confirmed for Yr 22/23 but this is £148,000 lower than Yr 20/21. Two new posts have been created to provide money and housing advice.
Housing Allocations	91	147	58	95	-	95	Team managing the allocation of social and affordable housing across the district. A percentage of the team's cost is recharged to the HRA for the allocation of council owned properties. The recharge has increased due to the higher number of new build council homes being made available through the New Homes Programme.
Private Sector Leasing Scheme	267	315	319	546	(208)	338	Privately rented properties are provided by Shire Homes Lettings Limited, which is a company wholly owned by the Council. The scheme is financed by council funds (£186,000) and approx £130,000 from the flexible homelessness support grant.
Sub Regional Homelink Service	16	3	3	146	(134)	13	Home-Link is the choice based lettings scheme for all council and housing association homes in Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk. This is a shared-service with costs financed by the partner local authorities. The residual cost is the year end accounting adjustment for pensions.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>2,334</b>	<b>(957)</b>	<b>1,378</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Estimates 2022/23  
Housing Strategy**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Housing Enabling & Development	105	117	99	142	(20)	122	This service provides enabling services to increase the provision of affordable housing across the district.
Improvement Grants	56	87	(7)	810	(730)	80	This service administers the disabled facilities grants which are awarded so that claimants can remain in their homes in comfort and safety. The grants are funded by the Better Cared Fund, which is received from the County Council. £730,000 funding was received in Yr 21/22, which was higher than originally estimated.
Strategic Housing	167	201	158	214	-	214	This service looks at the best ways to implement our current housing strategy, developing the aims of future plans for housing policy and development projects throughout the district. There has been a vacant staff post in the team for much of Yr 21/22 but this will be filled by start of Yr 22/23.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>(750)</b>	<b>416</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Estimates 2022/23  
Neighbourhood Services**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Community Lifeline Alarm Service	(30)	(18)	(21)	194	(205)	(11)	Community Lifeline service to support residents in the district with provision of pendant alarms and 24 hour monitoring service. Our housing tenants pay for the service with their weekly rent and non-tenants are invoiced quarterly.
Grounds Maintenance	130	143	149	163	-	163	General Fund Contribution to Grounds Maintenance works across the district funded by HRA
Properties (Hgf)	111	117	123	264	(140)	124	This captures the cost (depreciation & management) of the non-HRA equity share properties owned by the General Fund, There are 213 properties located across the district's Sheltered Housing schemes.
Travellers Sites	228	315	232	450	(125)	324	Management costs of the County owned Traveller Sites in Milton and Whaddon, which includes staffing, utility bills and repairs/maintenance for the two sites. There is a vacant role to be recruited to in Yr 2022/23.
Visiting Support Service	52	47	23	344	(272)	71	Visiting Support Service to provide support to residents in the district, Provide short term support (financial, emotional, practical & promote independent living in the community) to Residents aged 65 years and above. The service is funded by grant monies received from the County Council and some grant money held in reserves.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>(743)</b>	<b>672</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Estimates 2022/23  
Housing Support Services**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Housing Admin	43	58	48	57	-	57	Central administration expenses of the Housing Service - predominantly postage and stationery, which are recharged across all housing services.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Subjective Analysis 2022/23**

	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies & Services	Support Services	Asset Charges	Internal Recharges	Total Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Other Contributions	Government Contributions	Interest Payable	Misc Income	Total Income	Net Expenditure
<b>Acquisition &amp; Development</b>															
New Build Programme Hgf	163,880			-	43,430		(144,730)	62,580	-					-	62,580
Self Build Initiative	-			-	-			-	-					-	-
<b>Ermine Street Housing</b>															
Housing Company	441,980	26,000		5,000	312,120			785,100	(727,650)	-				(727,650)	57,450
<b>Housing Advice &amp; Options</b>															
Homelessness	846,520		-	425,640	289,060		(13,870)	1,547,350	-	(97,190)	(517,890)			(615,080)	932,270
Housing Allocations	199,330			19,140	41,900		(165,630)	94,740	-					-	94,740
Private Sector Leasing Scheme	161,630	4,000	-	310,050	70,360		-	546,040	(207,890)					(207,890)	338,150
Sub Regional Homelink Service	100,520			29,000	27,020		(10,270)	146,270	(61,630)	(71,910)				(133,540)	12,730
<b>Housing Strategy</b>															
Housing Enabling & Development	116,930			-	24,600			141,530	-	(19,860)				(19,860)	121,670
Improvement Grants	52,380			733,000	24,550			809,930			(730,000)			(730,000)	79,930
Strategic Housing	176,490			20,630	35,940		(19,020)	214,040	-					-	214,040
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>															
Community Lifeline Alarm Service	77,760			47,750	68,270		-	193,780	(205,000)					(205,000)	(11,220)
Grounds Maintenance		-		163,230	-			163,230	-					-	163,230
Properties (Hgf)		8,000		140,000	6,440	109,670		264,110	-	(140,000)				(140,000)	124,110
Travellers Sites	155,030	42,590		10,460	37,720	203,750		449,550	(125,300)					(125,300)	324,250
Visiting Support Service	272,390			14,880	56,520			343,790	-	(272,340)				(272,340)	71,450
<b>Housing Support Services</b>															
Housing Admin	4,000		-	12,000	40,540		(56,540)	-	-					-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,768,840</b>	<b>80,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,930,780</b>	<b>1,078,470</b>	<b>313,420</b>	<b>(410,060)</b>	<b>5,762,040</b>	<b>(1,327,470)</b>	<b>(601,300)</b>	<b>(1,247,890)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,176,660)</b>	<b>2,585,380</b>

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**Monitoring Officer  
Estimates 2022/23**

**Monitoring Officer  
Estimates 2022/23  
Summary**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Legal Services	328	406	427	439	-	439
Internally Recharged	(328)	(406)	(427)	(439)	-	(439)
<b>Directorate Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Continuing Services Budget	-	-	-			-
Funded from Earmarked Reserves	-	-	-			-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-			-
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	-	-	-			-



**Monitoring Officer  
Estimates 2022/23  
Legal Services**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Legal Services	328	406	427	439	-	439	<p>The Councils internal legal services are provided by the 3c Legal shared service led by Cambridge City Council.</p> <p>The probable outturn 2021/22 includes an increase of £20,000 and a further £10,000 in 2022/23 for the contribution to Cambridge City Council in relation to the work they will undertake on behalf of the Council.</p>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>439</b>	

**Monitoring Officer  
Subjective Analysis 2022/23**

	<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>	<b>Support Services</b>	<b>Internal Recharges</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>Fees &amp; Charges</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>Net Expenditure</b>
<b>Legal Services</b>							
Legal Services	423,600	15,310	(438,910)	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>423,600</b>	<b>15,310</b>	<b>(438,910)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning  
Estimates 2022/23**

**Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning  
Estimates 2022/23  
Summary**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
3C Shared Services & Land Charges	345	(138)	(117)	979	(634)	345
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Contribution	(1,049)	(846)	(1,135)	-	(1,796)	(1,796)
Planning Delivery	836	1,399	1,161	5,319	(3,236)	2,083
Planning Operations	1,218	843	1,688	2,412	(40)	2,372
Strategy & Economy	4,030	3,578	3,320	4,855	(819)	4,037
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>5,380</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>4,917</b>	<b>13,565</b>	<b>(6,524)</b>	<b>7,041</b>
Continuing Services Budget	5,418	4,835	4,309			6,054
Funded from Earmarked Reserves	(37)	-	609			987
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,380</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>4,917</b>			<b>7,041</b>
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>5,380</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>4,917</b>			<b>7,041</b>

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**Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning  
Estimates 2022/23  
3C Shared Services and Land Charges**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Building Control	100	116	116	117	-	117	Building Control is a 3C Shared Service, managed by Cambridge City for and on behalf of South Cambs DC & Huntingdonshire DC. The service ensures building work carried out meets current building codes and regulation requirements. An annual invoice is received at year end, we envisage the probable outturn to be within budget (as in previous years). There is no significant change to the 2022-23 Budget from 2021-22.
Land Charges	256	(260)	(240)	385	(620)	(235)	We have a statutory duty under the Local Land Charges Act 1975 to maintain an up-to-date and accurate Register of Local Land Charges affecting property and land in South Cambridgeshire.  The 2021-22 Probable factors in a shortfall of income, as well as increase in costs relating to processing card transactions. The main increase for 2022-23 relates to i) £14,000 budget set for an increase in fees for processing more transactions by card and ii) Increase in Recharges allocation.
Street Naming And Numbering	(10)	7	7	21	(14)	7	The Council is responsible for issuing official address for all residential and business premises in the area. There is no material change in the 2022-23 budget compared to the previous year.
Technical Support	-	-	-	457	-	457	The TSO carry out local land charges searches, updating the land charges register. Previously the team was encompassed within Development Management, the service has now requested it to be separated. The 2022-23 budget includes £45,000 for the Data Cleansing project (funded from reserves).
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>(138)</b>	<b>(117)</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>(634)</b>	<b>345</b>	

**Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning  
Estimates 2022/23  
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Contribution**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Cambridge City - Shared Planning Reimbursement	(1,049)	(846)	(1,135)	-	(1,796)	(1,796)	<p>The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is a joint service providing the functions of the statutory Local Planning Authority to both Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.</p> <p>The 2022-23 amount refers to the budgeted amount Cambridge City will contribute to the Shared Planning Service. Previously the income (budget) was within Development Management service. The 2022-23 estimate takes into account a reduction of £500,000 planning income which has led to an increase in the contribution which will be reimbursed to the Council.</p>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(1,049)</b>	<b>(846)</b>	<b>(1,135)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,796)</b>	<b>(1,796)</b>	

**Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning  
Estimates 2022/23  
Planning Delivery**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Development Management	135	139	308	3,220	(2,489)	731	Development Management regulates development and uses of land. It involves the consideration of planning applications and the monitoring of development as it takes place.  Revenue bids relating to core staffing (£73,000), Special Projects Manager £65,000 & Legal Fees for infrastructures £75,000 are incorporated into the budget. In addition there is an increase in recharges/overheads for 22-23.
Enforcement	305	531	384	527	-	527	This budget contains the costs of dealing with alleged breaches of planning control in the District. Taking planning enforcement against developers where the necessary planning permission has not been sought.  The reduction in the Probable Outturn for 2021-22 is primarily a result of vacant posts within the service and the difficulty to recruit suitable experienced candidates. No material change in budgets between 2021-22 & 2022-23. The service has carried a number of vacancies over the last year, which it hopes to recruit to permanently.
Planning Performance Agreement	(192)	-	(0)	-	-	-	In 2020-21 Planning Performance Agreements (PPA), were recorded on the Councils Financial System Income at 'Cost Centre' level. For 2021-22, this changed, with PPA income recorded at 'Activity Code' -this does away with numerous cost centres, as well as income being allocated to Planning Teams (& non planning depts) directly.
S106 Administration	211	180	180	261	(61)	200	This service deals with large scale developments at a strategic level, securing infrastructure alongside growth, delivery over time. The increase from 2021-22 Estimate to 2022-23 is mainly attributable to higher Recharge/Overhead costs being attributed to the service.
Strategic Sites	377	549	288	1,312	(686)	626	South Cambridgeshire District Council secures contributions in relation to infrastructure which it will deliver but also on behalf of third parties. The increase from 21-22 Estimate to 2022-23. relates to increase in recharges/overhead allocation to the service.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>5,319</b>	<b>(3,236)</b>	<b>2,083</b>	

**Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning  
Estimates 2022/23  
Planning Operations**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Operations Management	1,218	843	1,688	2,412	(40)	2,372	The team deals with the Business & Administration function of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service. Shared Planning is undergoing a service review (by the Transformation Team), as a result the Probable Outturn for 2021-22 & significant variance, and 2022-23 budget increase's take account of the substantial amounts being recharged in respect of the review. This expenditure is financed from the Transformation reserve.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>(40)</b>	<b>2,372</b>	



**Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning  
Estimates 2022/23  
Strategy and Economy**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Built and Natural Environment	1,642	1,415	1,496	1,882	(233)	1,649	<p>The Built and Natural Environment team is a multidisciplinary consultancy, providing expertise to the shared planning service, corporate projects and partners in terms of urban design, landscape, environmental sustainability, historic buildings and conservation areas, ecology and trees.</p> <p>The team provides technical input to the Local Plan, focussed advice on major planning applications in Development Management and to all the Strategic Growth Sites. All listed buildings and tree works applications. Our overall aim is to deliver beautiful and sustainable places and buildings for our residents and business whilst conserving and enhancing the built and natural environment.</p> <p>The increase from 2021-22 Estimate to 2022-23. relates to an increase in recharges/overhead allocation to the service.</p>
Greater Cambridge Local Plan	414	262	245	794	(397)	397	<p>Cambridge City Council &amp; South Cambridgeshire District Council are working together to create a joint Local Plan for the two areas - which are referred to as Greater Cambridge. This is first time we have a joint Local Plan, ensuring a consistent approach to planning and building up to 2041.</p> <p>The increase from 2021-22 to 2022-23 relates to i) re-instatement of £40,000 budget, which was offered up as a 1 off saving in 2021-22 and ii) Revenue Bids (1 Off) £95,000 for increased costs of Local Plan evidence base a) Carbon modelling b) Climate change c) Water d) Document production.</p>
Neighbourhood Plans	(8)	-	-	20	(20)	-	A Community led initiative giving local communities power to prepare planning document that forms part of the statutory development plan for the district.
North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	201	96	80	213	(97)	117	Developing plans for a new city district in North East Cambridge, and the Area Action Plan will be the planning policy framework that guides this process. The increase from 2021-22 to 2022-23 relates to a 1 off saving achieved in 2021-22.
Planning Policy	1,781	1,805	1,500	1,946	(72)	1,874	The service contains the budgets for Planning Policy Strategy & Economy. The budget has increased from 2021-22 to 2022-23 due to a combination of i) Revenue Bids (cross council working & OxCam membership) and ii) increase in the recharges/overheads for 2022-23.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>4,855</b>	<b>(819)</b>	<b>4,037</b>	

**Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning  
Subjective Analysis 2022/23**

	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies & Services	Support Services	Total Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Other Contributions	Government Contributions	Total Income	Net Expenditure
<b>3C Shared Services &amp; Land Charges</b>											
Building Control				114,120	2,400	116,520					116,520
Land Charges	174,260	160	-	141,290	69,170	384,880	(620,050)		-	(620,050)	(235,170)
Street Naming And Numbering		-		16,740	4,020	20,760	(13,500)		-	(13,500)	7,260
Technical Support	456,510					456,510					456,510
<b>Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Contribution</b>											
Cambridge City - Shared Planning Reimbursement								(1,795,810)		(1,795,810)	(1,795,810)
<b>Planning Delivery</b>											
Development Management	1,909,440	220	2,420	587,280	720,590	3,219,950	(2,488,620)	-	-	(2,488,620)	731,330
Enforcement	382,270		-	52,720	91,550	526,540	-			-	526,540
Planning Performance Agreement	-			-		-	-			-	-
S106 Administration	153,700			-	106,960	260,660	(61,000)			(61,000)	199,660
Strategic Sites	1,005,140	2,000	-	94,740	210,050	1,311,930	(686,250)			(686,250)	625,680
<b>Planning Operations</b>											
Operations Management	897,100	-	-	185,040	1,329,560	2,411,700	(39,850)			(39,850)	2,371,850
<b>Strategy &amp; Economy</b>											
Built and Natural Environment	1,475,510	21,050	260	70,820	314,720	1,882,360	(232,880)			(232,880)	1,649,480
Greater Cambridge Local Plan	-			793,800		793,800	(396,900)	-		(396,900)	396,900
Neighbourhood Plans				20,000		20,000	(20,000)		-	(20,000)	-
North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	-	-	-	213,000		213,000	(96,500)			(96,500)	116,500
Planning Policy	1,495,170	-	500	135,330	315,120	1,946,120	(72,470)			(72,470)	1,873,650
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,949,100</b>	<b>23,430</b>	<b>3,180</b>	<b>2,424,880</b>	<b>3,164,140</b>	<b>13,564,730</b>	<b>(4,728,020)</b>	<b>(1,795,810)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(6,523,830)</b>	<b>7,040,900</b>

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services  
Estimates 2022/23**

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services**  
**Estimates 2022/23**  
**Summary**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Communications & Sustainable Communities	1,561	1,823	1,839	2,458	(334)	2,124
Corporate Programme	232	593	274	393	-	393
Democratic Representation	852	938	887	1,010	-	1,010
Emergency Planning	24	22	18	20	-	20
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>3,019</b>	<b>3,880</b>	<b>(334)</b>	<b>3,546</b>
Facilities Management	1,842	1,734	2,010	2,525	(110)	2,415
HR & Corporate Support Services	2,709	2,757	1,197	1,177	(0)	1,177
Transformation Support Services	3,919	5,638	5,101	5,928	-	5,928
Internally Recharged	(8,470)	(10,129)	(8,309)	(9,631)	110	(9,521)
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>3,019</b>	<b>3,880</b>	<b>(334)</b>	<b>3,546</b>
Continuing Services Budget	2,430	2,180	2,826			3,006
Funded from Earmarked Reserves	238	1,196	193			540
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>3,019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,546</b>
<b>Total Expenditure to General Fund</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>3,019</b>	<b>3,880</b>	<b>(334)</b>	<b>3,546</b>

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services**  
**Estimates 2022/23**  
**Communications and Sustainable Communities**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Building Safer Communities	3	-	4	-	-	-	This unbudgeted spend for 21/22 is funded from existing reserves. There is no set budget as spend is based on an ad-hoc basis and funded from reserves
Communications	449	425	504	491	(27)	464	The Communications department deal with all types of media interaction with residents across the district. This includes all social media and written publications. The decrease in budget against 21/22 outturn is due to the removal of 2 posts which are currently funded from COVID and will not be required next year. The increase in budget is due to the pension deficit (£29k) and salary costs due to changes in NI contributions.
Community Chest	80	111	97	129	-	129	This is a central pot which local communities can request funding for small projects. To ensure they receive funding there is a criteria that needs to be met. The increase in budget is due to the movement of funds from Planning for wildlife Enhancement projects.
Community Safety	83	78	70	75	-	75	The Community Safety budget covers funding for the Strategic Assessment and ad hoc community safety projects. A reduction in Overhead recharges and staff budgeted at a lower SCP have resulted in this budget being lower
Crime & Disorder Partnership	(7)	-	17	-	-	-	This unbudgeted spend for 21/22 is funded from existing reserves. There is no set budget as spend is based on an ad-hoc basis and funded from reserves
Healthy Living & Wellbeing	228	139	108	194	(40)	153	The Healthy Living and Wellbeing budget looks at healthy living projects across the district. These include Wild Minds and Active and Healthy for Life. We currently receive funding for a co-ordinator to bring these initiatives together. The increase in budget is due to increased contribution to the pension deficit.
Healthy New Towns	92	79	87	126	(30)	96	The Northstowe Healthy New Town partnership is to support healthy living initiatives at Northstowe and research projects to identify best practice. Partner contributions, held by the council are to be spent on projects approved by HNT partnership.

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services**  
**Estimates 2022/23**  
**Communications and Sustainable Communities**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Localism & Development Projects	309	577	558	853	(78)	775	The Localism budget is the main budget within Sustainable Communities which covers legal advice, patch budgets for Development officers and membership fees. The increase in budget is due to £65,000 BID (funded from reserves) for a project to look at culture. The contribution to the pension deficit (£63k), increases in staff cost (£61k) and an increase in overhead recharges (£16k) are also driving this variance.
Mobile Warden Scheme	126	222	227	230	-	230	This covers grants for the mobile warden schemes across the district.
Museum Grants	9	9	9	9	-	9	Grant funding to Denny Abbey. There is no change to the budget
Northstowe Community Wing	-	-	(0)	13	(13)	-	The Northstowe Community Wing bookings are managed by the council, with facilities management provided by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). The income received is passed back to CCC once all expenditure has been paid. This budget should always equal nil.
Transport Initiatives	15	42	12	193	(147)	46	The Transport Initiatives looks at community transport services across the district and currently is looking into whether a Community Transport service could be viable.
Travel for Work	25	-	-	-	-	-	The actual for 20/21 was a grant payment to Milton Country Park to help them during the early stages of Lockdown due to COVID restrictions
Voluntary Sector Grants	150	140	147	146	-	146	Service Support Grants for Care Network, Royston and District Community Transport, Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service , Arts and Minds and Homestart. A small increase in budget due to an increase in grants
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>(334)</b>	<b>2,124</b>	

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services**  
**Estimates 2022/23**  
**Corporate Programme**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Equality & Diversity	20	0	27	37	-	37	Ensuring the council meets its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. Historically these costs were absorbed within other cost centres. The increase in budget is recognition of the work required to ensure SCDC continue to meet its obligations and overhead recharges. This budget has moved from Policy and Performance to ensure proper recognition of the costs in the correct cost centres
Policy And Performance	212	593	247	356	-	356	Collecting, reporting and publishing performance information relating to the Business Plan, key performance indicators and project benefit delivery. The reduction in budget is due to the allocation of Transformation overheads, which reflect the work that is being undertaken
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>393</b>	

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services  
Estimates 2022/23  
Democratic Representation**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Democratic Services	852	938	887	1,010	-	1,010	Democratic Services provide a service to members and officers of the Council ensuring the democratic decision-making process remains within statutory guidelines. The decreased 21/22 probable outturn is due to members travel & subsistence costs being lower than anticipated as a result of the ongoing pandemic and a vacant Scrutiny Development Officer post removed in 22/23.  The increase in 22/23 budget is a result of a new role created to support Members and Democratic services with ICT queries due to members now working remotely and running hybrid meetings at a higher cost than the post removed and increased recharge costs.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,010</b>	



**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services**  
**Estimates 2022/23**  
**Emergency Planning**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Emergency Planning	24	22	18	20	-	20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>

This budget contains the cost of Health, Safety & Emergency Planning service provisions recharged from Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue.

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services**  
**Estimates 2022/23**  
**Facilities Management**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Facilities Management	1,723	1,619	1,852	2,347	(89)	2,258	<p>This budget comprises all cost involved with the maintenance and management of the building. The pandemic has had a big impact on this cost centre and has made certain areas unpredictable. The probable outturn increase is due to energy price rises of gas &amp; electricity £118k which it is estimated will continue into 22/23. The other element of the 21/22 increase is £97,000 of smaller bids which have been reallocated to within this budget.</p> <p>22/23 budget increase is also due to new bids, the largest £200,000 to replace the carpet tiled flooring and £70,000 for redecoration of the building in addition to the creation of a new Facilities and Compliance Officer role. The plan to bring the cleaning contract inhouse has led to an increase in overheads.</p>
Health & Safety	89	81	118	144	(21)	123	<p>Health and Safety is a new cost centre created last financial year to ensure all staff are trained in mandatory and task related health and safety training in compliance with regulation and legislations together with ensuring we have all necessary supplies and equipment. The 21/22 probable outturn increase is due to some bids that were put forward for 22/23 but were deemed more urgent such as body worn cameras. The 22/23 increase is due to the other bids such as additional training and supplies needs for first aid, posters signage etc to improve communication.</p>
Hub Offices	30	33	41	34	-	34	<p>This budget contains the costs for our Hubs at Great Shelford and Over which offer a smaller alternative working space, potentially for those out on site i.e. Planners.</p>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>(110)</b>	<b>2,415</b>	

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services**  
**Estimates 2022/23**  
**HR and Corporate Support Services**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Central Expenses	197	155	145	162	(0)	162	The Central expenses cost centre provides training, development, and assistance for all staff in the council. It is split into activities comprising of general staff development and training as the largest at £67,000 accompanied by activities for ICT Training, Management Development, and employee assistance. The small increase in budget for 22/23 is for staff surveys.
Human Resources	2,511	2,602	1,052	1,015	-	1,015	The Human Resources budget comprises the cost of the team who provide support, advise, and recruit to service areas within the council. The other significant costs are comprised of the apprenticeship levy payments and £100,000 payment to Cambridge City Council for the payroll shared service. The probable outturn decrease is due to the reallocation of £1,619,000 unfunded pension costs yet still higher than anticipated due to one off non forecasted payment.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>1,177</b>	

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services**  
**Estimates 2022/23**  
**Transformation Support Services**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Central Support Services	137	219	158	145	-	145	This cost centre covers the refreshments provided within South Cambs Hall, the central printing and postage functions. The reduction in budget is due to the closure of the canteen.
Contact Centre	1,057	1,217	1,172	1,395	-	1,395	This cost centre deal with all incoming telephone calls to the generic telephone number.
Customer Relationship Management	275	644	188	153	-	153	This cost centre is for the central Customer Relationship management system. The reduction in the budget is due to movement of staff to work on the Transformation programme
ICT	1,794	2,356	2,340	2,479	-	2,479	This cost centre for the central ICT support. This service is a 3 way shared service with Cambridge City Council and Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). The increase in the budget is due to 3 BIDs (£71,000) for Cyber security. An inflationary 2% uplift as been applied to all Councils ICT services to cover central services.
Transformation	656	1,201	1,243	1,757	-	1,757	This budget is for the team carrying out the service reviews . The purpose is also the council is making best use of its resources, meeting modern customer needs and providing value for money. The increase in budget is due to a reallocation of budget from Customer Relationship Management
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,919</b>	<b>5,638</b>	<b>5,101</b>	<b>5,928</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,928</b>	

**Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services  
Subjective Analysis 2022/23**

	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies & Services	Support Services	Asset Charges	Internal Recharges	Total Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Other Contributions	Government Contributions	Total Income	Net Expenditure
<b>Communications &amp; Sustainable Communities</b>													
Building Safer Communities				-				-		-		-	-
Communications	360,920	-		105,290	83,930	-	(59,420)	490,720	(26,600)	-	-	(26,600)	464,120
Community Chest	44,270			70,140	14,960			129,370					129,370
Community Safety	45,890			15,800	13,790			75,480					75,480
Crime & Disorder Partnership	-			-				-	-			-	-
Healthy Living & Wellbeing	104,310	-		62,690	26,770			193,770	-	(40,280)	-	(40,280)	153,490
Healthy New Towns	79,370			30,000	16,620			125,990		(30,000)		(30,000)	95,990
Localism & Development Projects	582,590	-	10	120,700	149,250			852,550	(77,980)	-	-	(77,980)	774,570
Mobile Warden Scheme				223,670	5,970			229,640					229,640
Museum Grants				8,500				8,500					8,500
Northstowe Community Wing		2,670		9,830	-			12,500	(12,500)		-	(12,500)	-
Transport Initiatives	21,790		130,280	31,000	9,890			192,960	(146,520)			(146,520)	46,440
Travel for Work				-				-					-
Voluntary Sector Grants			-	142,500	3,970			146,470					146,470
<b>Corporate Programme</b>													
Equality & Diversity				2,000	34,660			36,660					36,660
Policy And Performance	209,140		100	38,290	108,610			356,140					356,140
<b>Democratic Representation</b>													
Democratic Services	395,340	-	-	450,590	500,240		(336,550)	1,009,620	-	-		-	1,009,620
<b>Emergency Planning</b>													
Emergency Planning	-	8,000		6,000	5,610			19,610					19,610
<b>Facilities Management</b>													
Facilities Management	360,270	1,129,250	9,000	123,340	455,780	269,280	(2,258,170)	88,750	(88,750)			(88,750)	-
Health & Safety	62,610			66,650	14,490		(122,750)	21,000	(21,000)			(21,000)	-
Hub Offices	2,000	19,150		650	3,410	9,220	(34,430)	-					-
<b>HR &amp; Corporate Support Services</b>													
Central Expenses	108,500	-		43,200	10,550		(162,150)	100	(100)		-	(100)	-
Human Resources	681,210		50	143,850	189,890		(1,015,000)	-	-			-	-
<b>Transformation Support Services</b>													
Central Support Services	38,870	-		93,500	12,370		(144,740)	-	-			-	-
Contact Centre	944,980	-		82,540	367,000		(1,394,520)	-	-			-	-
Customer Relationship Management	-			152,810	130		(152,940)	-				-	-
ICT	-			1,804,430	73,630	600,630	(2,478,690)	-	-		-	-	-
Transformation	975,610			600,000	181,860		(1,757,470)	-				-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,017,670</b>	<b>1,159,070</b>	<b>139,440</b>	<b>4,427,970</b>	<b>2,283,380</b>	<b>879,130</b>	<b>(9,916,830)</b>	<b>3,989,830</b>	<b>(373,450)</b>	<b>(70,280)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(443,730)</b>	<b>3,546,100</b>

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## General Fund Revenue Bids ongoing- 2022/23 Budget

Directorate Directorate	Cost Centre Cost Centre	Title	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	Commercial Development and Investments	CDI resource cost (agreed in 21/22)	This is the budget for the Commercial Development and Investments team to oversee and implement the Council's programme	76	76	24	23	23	
Climate, Environment and Waste	Greater Cambridge Waste Service	Change of Fixed term post to permanent- Business Support	The existing Business Support Officer for Waste and Environment (at Waterbeach) is currently a fixed term post until March 2022. This post helps ensure high levels of customer service and meet the increased demands on the service. It now covers domestic and commercial waste enquiries (inc Collect & Return & bin reports), by phone, webform and email. (Total cost £23,000; Shared 50:50 with City & South Cambs - already accounted for in 2021/22 base budget.)		12				
Climate, Environment and Waste	Greater Cambridge Waste Service	RCV & bin washing service, additional new commercial service, additional FTE	Proposed new service, expected to bring in extra income as per Savings and Income schedule. Offering scheduled and on demand binstore & bin-washing service operating 3+ days a week commercially & 2 days a week in Depot cleaning RCVs and available for in-service use (eg annual recycling point cleansing). (Total cost £25,000pa shared 50:50 across both City & South Cambridgeshire councils.)		13				
Finance	Fraud	Appoint additional counter fraud officer	To appoint further resource to deliver the overarching objectives of the counter fraud strategy to protect public funds, administered by the authority. Further resources are required to support the delivery of education, prevention, early detection, sanction and redress across the business. Comparative data collected relating to number of cases resolved within (2019/2020) previous financial year was used to identify the impact of the pandemic on operational activity in 2020/2021. It is worth noting that there was an increase in workload by 22%. Fraud is a significant threat to vital resources within Local Government Settings, and post pandemic working and technology have increased risk.		15				
Finance	Accountancy	Barclays Composite Accounting System - Maintenance Fee	The Council's current account structure which is called a Composite Accounting System (CAS) now attracts a maintenance fee of £2,500 per quarter. The current design of the bank accounts allows for automation of sweeping/pooling the monies held in the accounts to cover the outgoings of the day.		10				
Finance	Accountancy	T1 Consultancy.	The Council's current finance management system T1 is not fully operational within the Council due to lack of knowledge and experience. A review of the finance processes has highlighted that the system requires further review and development. In order to develop the functionality of the finance management system including the chart of accounts set up and automation of budget holder reports consultancy expertise will be required. The purchase of consultancy we are opting for is the lowest programme the supplier offers which would consist of 20 hours a month allowing us to plan ahead with a monthly allocated programme and holding some hours back for ad-hoc requirements. To note the bulk buy consultancy would work out more cost effective than ad hoc purchases.		23				

## General Fund Revenue Bids onging- 2022/23 Budget

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Directorate Directorate	Cost Centre Cost Centre	Title	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Housing	Housing Advice and Options	Visiting Support Service overheads to be funded by SCDC	County funding for the Council's Visiting Support Service reduced in April 2019. The service provides vital support to elderly residents in the district regardless of their tenure and younger adults in sheltered housing. Over the past three years it has supported 1,599 clients, helping them to maintain their accommodation and independence through tenancy related issues, including homelessness, benefits, equipment and care, debts and finances, health and well being, drugs and alcohol, safeguarding and scams, loneliness, isolation and social inclusion.. During the past 4 years the Council has been able to utilise reserves from previous funding to maintain the Visiting Support service at its current levels, however, these will be exhausted by the end of this financial year. It is anticipated that the County funding will remain the same (although this is still to be confirmed). Funding is therefore requested so that SCDC effectively pays the overheads for the service and current County funding concentrates on the delivery of the service to vulnerable residents.		50				
Housing	Housing Advice and Options	Single Person Housing Advice and Accommodation Officer	Single Person Housing Advice and Accommodation officer for Shire Homes Lettings. The grade 5 post has been in place since September 2019 on a fixed term basis to support the scheme expanding to Houses of Multiple Occupation. This requires more intensive management, as well as securing suitable properties and getting them equipped for occupation. The post has, to date, been funded through the government Homeless Prevention grant (formerly referred to as Flexible Homeless Support Grant) It is anticipated that this will continue, however, we would now like to make the post permanent, as it has been agreed by the Shire Homes Board to continue to provide accommodation through HMO's due to the limited housing options in the district for single people. This is only possible with the provision of dedicated management and by the end of September 2021 the post holder will have been employed by SCDC for two years. This bid is funded by a reserve which stands at £648k at 31/3/21		50				
Planning	Planning Policy	SE - Strategic Planning - Membership OxCam/LSCC	Unavoidable membership that currently falls in the planning Service		23				
Planning	Planning Policy	SE - Strategic Planning - Inc OxCam	Cross council work undertaken by planning but currently unfunded		13				
Planning	Ecology	Wildlife enhancement scheme grant	Council grant scheme, previously funding in BNE to pay out but removed from budget last year so unfunded. Funding should be reinstated BUT should probably be allocated to communities team.		10				
Planning	Operations Management	Excess saving target removed	Significant cost reductions achieved from 20/21 budget in 21/22. 21/22 reduction set too high in error and while much of this excess reduction has been met through staff reductions / vacancies, this residual amount remains with further reductions harmful to core processes like procurement, financial control etc..		15				
Planning	Operations Management	Improving retention	Improving retention through investing in workforce, setting this up as staff engagement and development budget . The aim is avoiding agency costs, recruitment costs, disruption etc.		30				



## General Fund Revenue Bids onging- 2022/23 Budget

Directorate Directorate	Cost Centre Cost Centre	Title	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Planning	Land Charges	Career progression initiatives	Start of programme to 'grow our own' by developing apprentices through the planning function. Initial postings in the TSO team		30				
Planning	Operations Management	Support for apprentices	Supporting council initiative to support apprentices. No current salary funding for apprentice posts (removed last year in response to anticipated reduction in fee income), but part of planned team structure (from June 19 Outcome report).		25				
Planning	Development Management	Core staffing funding increase	Required as workloads higher than anticipated in last year's budget submission that gave a 10% saving against core DM staffing. Recurrent item.		46				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	3C ICT	GIS Migration	Move SCDC from their current Pitney Bowes MapInfo and Spectrum GIS solutions into the ESRI ArcGIS solutions that has been rolled out to HDC & City. This will provide a modern and up to date GIS system delivered for SCDC, sharing the same technology as HDC & City. Enabling easier integration and utilisation of datasets across Council boundaries e.g. SCDC and City fringe areas and resulting in a consolidation of data into a single data repository so that there is clarity of the definitive latest data available.		8				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Policy & Performance	Maintenance and support of the systems	Ongoing costs of maintenance and support for the systems purchased in bids T 04, T 21 and T 23		6				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Elections	Ongoing increase to the amount we put in reserves.	All out SCDC elections will be taking place in May 2022. Some money has been put into reserves over the last 4 years but due to significant cost increases in printing and postage this will be insufficient. The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide the Returning Officer with the resources they need to run the election. The next scheduled SCDC elections will be in 2026. To cover the projected cost in 2026 (including a 10% cost increase) an ongoing £23,600 bid is required to increase the amount we put in reserves.		24				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Democratic Services	Additional role in to support Member and Democratic Services ICT queries (Grade 6)	Cabinet Members were invited to give a steer on how ICT support for Members should be provided, the outcome of which was support for this provision to be a "triage" through Democratic Services rather than through direct provision of Member support officers within 3C ICT. Furthermore, the changes to how meetings are run using hybrid format for physical meetings imposes an ongoing demand on Democratic Services to be able to make best use of new technology, not only for installing it but in routine use of such technology for public meetings. There is a need to consider whether this post in Democratic Services would be split across more than one post-holder to ensure sufficient cover. Furthermore, the existing structure within the team requires assessment as there have been changes in all roles, with the potential for some posts to be re-evaluated, or part-time roles created. It is anticipated therefore that this bid will allow for scope to make changes within the team to achieve the desired outcome, whether the result is to add a Grade 6 post or to make other changes across several posts.		50				

## General Fund Revenue Bids onging- 2022/23 Budget

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Directorate Directorate	Cost Centre Cost Centre	Title	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Health & Safety	Training for all SCDC service areas, professional fees, licence, supplies and equipment costs.	Corporate Health & Safety Training for all SCDC staff. To cover mandatory and task related health and safety training in compliance with regulation and legislation. Continuing costs of professional services and licences for H&S equipment, such as Lone worker safety devices, Driver & vehicle checks (Licence Bureau £5300). Equipment to be provided for staff safety. Lone worker personal safety devices, Body Worn Cameras, and other equipment to be provided which will improve the health, safety and wellbeing of staff as they complete their duties on behalf of the Council. Corporate Health & Safety - supplies for first aid, publications, posters and signage. Improving communication to staff and building users, standardising suppliers to reduce costs and wastage by ordering centrally.	37	12				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Facilities Management	Permanent salary budget for Facilities & Compliance Officer	Permanent salary budget of Facilities & Compliance Officer currently employed on a fixed term basis. This will ensure that all Facilities managed buildings compliance meet required governmental and HSE standards and provide a safe environment for all staff, tenants, contractors and visitors		46				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Facilities Management	Requirement for in-House Cleaners & Cleaning Supervisor at South Cambs Hall, cleaning Material & Equipment for In-House Cleaning	Due to the review of the external cleaning contract and continual issues with resources it has been decided that its is no longer beneficial to SCDC to have external cleaning facilities and it is to be brought in-house. We therefore need the recruitment of permanent cleaners and supervisor to ensure that the office is continually cleaned to a high standard for the welfare and safety of all staff, visitors and tenants. Cleaning Materials, Uniforms etc (incl. one of cost for large cleaning equipment (Hoovers/scrubber drier)) to enable the newly appointed in-house cleaning staff to carry out their daily activities. Shown net of the saving on current contract cleaning arrangements.		8				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Facilities Management	Requirement for Cleaners & Cleaning Supervisor at Waterbeach Depot, Cleaning Material & Equipment for In-House Cleaning	Due to the review of the external cleaning contract and continual issues with resources it has been decided that its is no longer beneficial to SCDC to have external cleaning facilities and it is to be brought in-house. We therefore need the recruitment of permanent cleaners and supervisor to ensure that the office is continually cleaned to a high standard for the welfare and safety of all staff, visitors and tenants, Cleaning Materials, Uniforms etc (incl. and one of cost for large cleaning equipment (Hoovers/scrubber drier)) to enable the newly appointed in-house cleaning staff to carry out their daily activities. Shown net of the saving on current contract cleaning arrangements.		2				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	3CICT	Creation of new Cyber Security Team and Compliance Officer	3C ICT have identified the requirement to create a new Security Team and a new Compliance Officer post. Shared services started with the security post as additional work for the Information Governance Manager. This was then assigned to the Network Infrastructure Manager. Cyber security incidents have increased with 2020/2021. The increase in global cyber incidents and the work required to keep up to date has increased for both the Network Infrastructure team. This has meant that they are not able to keep up with the required BAU and complete all the required security work to ensure that the network remains protected. With the Councils working to add Cyber Essentials Plus to the PSN compliance already achieved, to continue to maintain this a Compliance Officer post will be needed.		38				

## General Fund Revenue Bids onging- 2022/23 Budget

Directorate Directorate	Cost Centre Cost Centre	Title	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	3CICT	Security Information & Event Management with Continuous Vulnerability Assessment	<p>Cyber Security threats are increasing with Central Government advising that attacks are increasingly focussing on public sector bodies. A single monitoring solution for the council's primary ICT systems is required as resources are unavailable to monitor the increasing log information from the many systems we have to ensure enhanced protection from the detection of attempts and potential vulnerabilities.</p> <p>the impact of a cyber-attack on any of the council's systems has the potential to severely interrupt the delivery of statutory services and incur significant cost in remediation and potentially fines if specific data is compromised.</p>		25				
			<b>Total Net Bids / (Savings)</b>	113	660	24	23	23	0
			<b>HRA SHARE</b>	9	32	0	0	0	0
			<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>	0	50	0	0	0	0
			<b>General Fund</b>	104	578	24	23	23	0

## General Fund Revenue Bids one off - 2022/23 Budget

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Directorate	Cost Centre	Title	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	Chief Executive	County wide partnership project	This is a project designed to support more collaborative working across all parts of the public sector in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, called the 'Changing Futures' project. It's goal is to work with people in multiple disadvantage through a 'trusted person' model, following a well established national set of pilot projects supported by DLUCH. The outcomes of the project will deliver system change, improve outcomes for people experience multiple disadvantage, and reduce 'downstream' costs in the system as a whole. Although not finally confirmed, partners are likely to include all districts, county, Peterborough Council, police, health, PCC office and probation.	50				
Climate, Environment and Waste	Environment	Establishing number of empty properties that may require enforcement action and employment of empty properties officer	There are a number of long term empty properties that cause environmental and amenity issues for residents. There are 2 steps to this proposal. Step 1 – determine the extent of the problem, this could be done by using an external company. Step 2 – employ an empty homes officer, on a 2 year FTC, to bring problematic empty homes back into use, using the full range of powers we have, and to produce a procedure for how this is done.	44	43			
Climate, Environment and Waste	Greater Cambridge Waste Service	Aid retention and reduce drivers leaving the service	To pay all LGV drivers a market supplement of 6% of their current salary which would mean approx. an additional £900 per employee per year. This is to aid driver retention during the driver shortage that country is currently experiencing, this will be reviewed annually.( Total cost £110 Shared 50:50 across both City & South Cambridgeshire councils). Initially, this is a 24 month initiative only. Will be paid each tri- mester so 3 payments per year - we propose to make 2 payments 21/22, 3 in 22/23 and 1 in 23/24.	35	55	18		

## General Fund Revenue Bids one off - 2022/23 Budget

Directorate	Cost Centre	Title	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Climate, Environment and Waste	Greater Cambridge Waste Service	Increased contribution to RECAP	RECAP partnership has agreed to increase the contribution that the Partners currently make to the Partnership by 100% for 2 years will provide resources collectively to deliver on the changes required. In order to develop an overarching project to implementation a food waste collection service from all households. There is a full Partnership agreement that sits behind the current split of contributions which recognises the size and responsibility of the Authority's role. (Total increase for the shared waste service is £24,000; Shared 50:50 across both City & South Cambridgeshire)	12	12			
Finance	Procurement	Contract management support	This is for a post to assist with the contract management across the Council for the existing ongoing contracts. This is a 2 year fixed term post initially approved as a bid to start in 21/22, this has now been revised as a post for the current apprentice to move into at the end of the apprenticeship. The bid shows the actual amounts required for the post.		34	34		
Housing	Housing Advice	Money Advice Service	This proposal will be funded by external flexible homelessness funding. The project will offer a holistic service that makes homes affordable to live in. 3 new advisors will be employed to advise on money management / income maximisation / and advice on heating and insulation. The service will be offered to tenants especially people in rent arrears, other people who are at risk of losing their homes, and people with money difficulties. The service will take on casework, but will also signpost clients to specialist services. The service will also develop training for people who are currently excluded for housing as they have debt. This project is linked to Covid Recovery for people who have less income and/or have used savings during the pandemic. 2 year project starting 21/22. This is funded from an earmarked reserve as indicated in the funding section.	125				

## General Fund Revenue Bids one off - 2022/23 Budget

Directorate	Cost Centre	Title	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Planning	TSO	Data Cleansing	The primary goals of this project is to cleanse SCDC historic planning data and to update system records. This will be funded by Planning reserves	45				
Planning	Development Management	Funding for Special Projects Manager post	Coordinating infrastructure schemes, coordinating across services and external partners. A428, Cambridge South station, SW travel hub. This will be funded by Planning reserves	39	39			
Planning	Development Management	Legal fees for infrastructure schemes	Council wide and cross-council issues / initiatives for which GCSP is not funded. This will be funded by Planning reserves	45	45			
Planning	BNE Consultancy	County Council Archaeology consultancy fees	Fee uplift from County due to additional work on strategic sites and DM being costed	5	5			
Planning	Gtr Cambridge Local Plan	Transparency and effective communications	Document production / graphics (this include non staff costs of consultation)Social media campaign, vlogs, videos, and content	10				
Planning	Gtr Cambridge Local Plan	Increased Costs of Local Plan Evidence Base - Water	Increased Costs of Local Plan Evidence Base - Water	15				
Planning	Gtr Cambridge Local Plan	Increased Costs of Local Plan Evidence Base - Climate Change	Increased Costs of Local Plan Evidence Base - Climate Change	13				
Planning	Gtr Cambridge Local Plan	Increased Costs of Local Plan Evidence Base - Viability as a result of the modelling for Carbon	Increased Costs of Local Plan Evidence Base - Viability as a result of the modelling for Carbon	10				

## General Fund Revenue Bids one off - 2022/23 Budget

Directorate	Cost Centre	Title	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Democratic Services	Funding bid for Technical Support Officer post in the Democratic Services Team	Establishment of grade 3 Technical Support Officer post to provide technical/general support to Members with remote/hybrid committee meetings and to access papers electronically. The need to deliver committee meetings remotely has doubled the resources required to deliver committee meetings due to the technical aspects of managing the meetings and supporting Members with access. This need will continue with any move to hybrid meetings. To enable a transition to paperless committee meetings/maintain uptake by Members, additional support is needed for Members. The post could be used a corporate resource to support other teams with remote/hybrid meetings/events. £9k funding from a savings bid will go towards this post, with the requested funding to bridge the gap. The savings bid is not shown separately, but is deducted from the full cost.	23				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	HR	HR Apprenticeship	The HR team had funding for an apprenticeship (two years) approved in 2018. The apprentice has successfully completed the CIPD Level 3 and remained on the team to provide backfill for maternity cover. The funding has now expired and the apprentice has been successful in securing a job with Cambridge City. The team would like to offer another apprenticeship opportunity but requires agreement to further funding. The funding is only requested for year 22/23 as year 21/22, when apprenticeship would start, is already covered.	17				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Policy and Performance	New External Funding Officer post	Based in the Policy and Performance team and working across all Council services, this role will focus on making the most of external funding opportunities, supporting the Council and its partners to identify and successfully draw down resources that help us deliver our strategic objectives. The post-holder will work particularly closely across all Council service areas, and with partners including local authorities and from large organisations like to small local voluntary organisations. Cost until the bid becomes self-funding	39				

## General Fund Revenue Bids one off - 2022/23 Budget

Directorate	Cost Centre	Title	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Facilities Management	Replace the floor finishes throughout the office area at South Cambs Hall Building	A carpet tiled flooring is provided to all office areas and the Council Chamber. Carpet to office areas have been patch repaired over the years and there is heavy wear to the thoroughfares and desk positions. There are also isolated areas of rips and cuts, some of which have been repaired with temporary tape where as others remain a trip hazard. The overall carpet throughout is coming to the end of its life and is recommended that it is replaced. Budget figure was recommended by the professional quantity surveyors who recently conducted a thorough Condition Survey of the building.	200				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Facilities Management	Undertake Internal and External Redecoration of South Cambs Hall Building	As a result of a Condition Survey the redecoration of the below key internal and external elements of the building is recommended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Internal Walls</li> <li>o Concrete Plank Soffits</li> <li>o Exposed Internal Steelwork and Colours</li> <li>o High Level Atrium Walls</li> <li>o Handrails</li> <li>o Columns</li> <li>o Galvanized elements should be inspected, and any corroded sections be re-rusted and re-protected with Galvebrite.</li> <li>o Timber doors and frames notably to the roof area</li> <li>o External Canopy Steelwork</li> </ul>	70				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Elections	Ongoing increase to the amount we put in reserves.	All out SCDC elections will be taking place in May 2022. Some money has been put into reserves over the last 4 years but due to significant cost increases in printing and postage this will be insufficient, a one off £123,000 bid is needed. The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide the Returning Officer with the resources they need to run the election. The RO will provide the council with a breakdown of expenditure post-election and if the election is cheaper than anticipated funds will be returned to the council.	123				



# General Fund Revenue Bids one off - 2022/23 Budget

Directorate	Cost Centre	Title	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
			<b>Total Net Bids / (Savings)</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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## General Fund Revenue Income and Savings - 2022/23 Budget

Directorate	Cost Centre	Title	Description	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000
All	All	Revenue	Undertake a thorough review of processes across the organisation to identify potential changes to workforce deployment and a revised senior management structure, targeting a saving of £600,000 per annum by 31 March 2024. From 22/23 this will be superseded by the Transformation programme	(170)					
All	All	Revenue	Transformation programme savings		(155)	(720)	(1,125)		
All	All	ESH recharges	To undertake a review of the Ermine Street Housing recharge model for both housing and support staff.	(3)	(10)				
All	Mileage	Reduction in mileage	Following the introduction of 'Council Anywhere' and an increase in opportunities for remote working there has been a reduction in unnecessary travel to meetings.	(45)					
Chief Executive	Commercial Development and Investments	Investment income	Net income to the General fund from investment in Commercial Properties	(422)	(1,008)	(493)	(165)	(175)	(182)
Climate, Environment and Waste	GCSWS	Commercial waste income	Expand and grow the commercial waste collection service.		(25)	(25)			
Climate, Environment and Waste	Environmental services	Utilities saving	The installation of LED footway lighting throughout the District and consequent impact on maintenance and energy costs.	(50)					
Climate, Environment and Waste	GCSWS	Mini freighter rounds improvements leading to a reduction of a refuse driver	The recent changes made to the fleet has improved routing of the small mini freighter rounds servicing to the hard to reach areas and farms mainly. (Service saving £30,000 = City £15,000 and SCDC £15,000	(15)					
Climate, Environment and Waste	GCSWS	Trade waste round reduction	Is to remove one of the existing trade round and distribute the work out to the remaining rounds.	(15)					
Climate, Environment and Waste	Street Cleansing	Reduction of use of contractors for litter picking A roads	Reduce the need for Contractors, by recruiting an additional operative for focus on picking of 'A-road' - Saving of £45k in contractor fee offset against the cost of an additional operative at £25k.	(20)					
Climate, Environment and Waste	Environment	Environmental Health ensure that Permitted Processes are invoiced correctly	Fees for LA-PPC (permitted processes) is set by central government, historically we have not collected this income. This year we are collating all the information for the processes we have and these will be invoiced in April 2022 and then annually from that point		(8)				
Climate, Environment and Waste	Commercial and Licensing`	Commercial income generation	Fee increase in Primary Authority work and full cost recovery within Private Water Supply operations.		(5)				
Climate, Environment and Waste	Commercial and Licensing`	Taxi plate procurement savings	There is a potential to reduce the taxi plate budget by switching to an adhesive plate which is an environmentally greener alternative. However, this will be subject to Council approval as it will require a change in the Taxi Policy.		(5)				
Climate, Environment and Waste	Greater Cambridge Waste Service	Increased use of the Bulky Waste Service and related income	An increase for collection requests has generated more income than expected. This is partly due to changes in the way the booking service is operated. This is a one off saving of £30,000 pa, shared 50:50 across City & South Cambs.		(15)				
Climate, Environment and Waste	Greater Cambridge Waste Service	Bringing contracted vehicle cleaning work in-house	The service will be able to provide commercial cleaning of containers/ sites as an extra commercial income stream and improve service to customers. (Total saving £20,000, shared 50:50 between City & South Cambridgeshire Councils).		(10)				
Climate, Environment and Waste	Greater Cambridge Waste Service	Fleet vehicle washing & bin washing new service offering	Full time operative to work on service, operating 3 days a week commercially & 2 days a week on RCV washing & Depot jobs. Will become a self-financing position once established. (Total increased income £15,000 in first year, split 50:50 between South & City Councils)		(8)	(5)	(3)		

## General Fund Revenue Income and Savings - 2022/23 Budget

Directorate	Cost Centre	Title	Description	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000
Climate, Environment and Waste	Greater Cambridge Waste Service	Additional income from increasing profitable business for the Commercial Waste Service.	The service expects to improve profitable customer base to a value of at least £25,000 pa focusing particularly on the SME & R&D business sectors. (Shared 50:50 across both City & South Cambridgeshire councils.)		(13)				
Climate, Environment and Waste	Greater Cambridge Waste Service	Recycling credit income	This year has seen an increase in the amount of recycling collected via the blue bin service and therefore a corresponding increase in the amount of income from recycling credits paid by the County Council. It is anticipated that this will continue in to next year, so some income can be offered, (please note this is not certainty).		(10)				
Finance	Revenues and Benefits	Ctax review	Review of all council tax exemptions/discounts using data matching techniques (countywide project).		(35)	(35)	(40)		
Planning	Development Management	PPA review	To review Planning Performance Agreements and processes to reduce the current subsidy provided to those who undertake major developments.	(30)					
Planning	Building Control		The development of a commercial model for the building control service to generate additional income from consultancy services.	(5)					
Planning	Land Charges	Proposed savings	A package of measures responding to the anticipated shortfall in income for planning applications and land charges income arising. Measures are focused around (i) reducing contract/agency staff costs associated with reductions in anticipated application numbers (including legal costs) and in line with service improvements/efficiencies, (ii) the re-profiling of spending on the Joint Local Plan/AAP to reflect the new Local Development Scheme, (iii) improved cost recovery and management for discretionary services – including to partners; and (iv) the consolidation of costs in the Business Support team. The package builds upon the existing savings commitments within the previous MTFs (2020/21).	(394)					
Planning	Development Management	Charging for file retrieval	New income stream based on cost recovery		(9)				
Planning	Development Management	Reducing Press advert to one periodical	Advertising of applications only in one newspaper		(6)				
Planning	Consultancy - Built Environment	Increasing commercial revenue	The business plan focusses on moving BNE staff time away from applications work to revenue generating work on PPAs, Pre-Apps etc. Recurrent item.		(46)				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	HR	Rationalise processes and budgets to focus on efficient service delivery and effective resource deployment	A review of the HR function following the implementation of a new Human Resource Information System, including an extension of self-service arrangements.		(50)				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Facilities management	To pursue, in line with the Business Plan Theme "Green to Our Core", the following specific investment opportunities:	Energy efficiency and green energy measures at South Cambridgeshire Hall, including Ground Source Heat Pump, solar canopies in the car park, internal LED lighting upgrades, electric vehicle charging points and chiller modifications and enhancements.		(80)				
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	Communication	Transformation savings	Commissioning external graphic design	(10)					
Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	3CICT	Discontinuing 0345 number	The 0345 number makes a charge to the customer and the council where as the existing number would just charge the customer at the same rate as the 0345 number and no charge to the Council	(40)	(60)				
			<b>Total Net Bids / (Savings)</b>	<b>(1,219)</b>	<b>(1,558)</b>	<b>(1,278)</b>	<b>(1,333)</b>	<b>(175)</b>	<b>(182)</b>
			<b>HRA SHARE</b>	<b>(67)</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>Part of Capital Programme</b>						
			<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>						
			<b>General Fund</b>	<b>(1,152)</b>	<b>(1,508)</b>	<b>(1,278)</b>	<b>(1,333)</b>	<b>(175)</b>	<b>(182)</b>

Business Rates Yield		Appendix E				
	Total	Central govt.	SCDC	CCC	Fire	
	1	0.5	0.4	0.09	0.01	
	£	£	£	£	£	
<b>NNDR YIELD ESTIMATE 2020/21</b>						
Share of Collection fund						
<b>Net yield (after reliefs and provisions)</b>	<b>85,129,737</b>					
Less						
Transitional Payment Protection						
Cost of collection	- 244,908					
Yield from renewable energy	- 791,953					
Enterprises	- 789,620					
<b>Yield for distribution</b>	<b><u>83,303,256</u></b>	<b>41,651,628</b>	<b>33,321,302</b>	<b>7,497,293</b>	<b>833,033</b>	
Add						
Cost of collection			244,908			
Yield from renewable energy			791,953			
Enterprises			789,620			
Designated area relief		- 238,869	238,869			
<b>Total Income from rates yield</b>	<b><u>85,129,737</u></b>	<b><u>41,412,759</u></b>	<b><u>35,386,652</u></b>	<b><u>7,497,293</u></b>	<b><u>833,033</u></b>	
<b>Estimated Surplus / (deficit) from 2021/22</b>	<b><u>- 6,964,745</u></b>	<b><u>- 3,482,373</u></b>	<b><u>- 2,785,898</u></b>	<b><u>- 626,827</u></b>	<b><u>- 69,647</u></b>	
	<b><u>78,164,992</u></b>	<b><u>37,930,387</u></b>	<b><u>32,600,754</u></b>	<b><u>6,870,466</u></b>	<b><u>763,386</u></b>	

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## **REVENUE BUDGET RISKS AND ROBUSTNESS**

In pursuance of Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council's designated Head of Finance (Chief Finance Officer) is required to make a statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of Reserves in relation to the Council's budget calculations.

The economic landscape has continued with a degree of uncertainty and volatility during 2021, with the impact of the UK withdrawal from the European Union on 31 January 2020, and the ongoing financial challenges as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) which has impacted on the Council's planned income and expenditure. Buoyed by the easing of virus containment measures and improved consumer spending, and with the vaccination programme now well advanced, the prospects for economic growth and robust recovery are now more encouraging. A cautious approach has, however, been maintained given the level of uncertainty.

The relevant issues in relation to the 2022/2023 budget are as follows:

### **Budget Process**

1. The formulation of the annual budget has allowed for best estimates of the commitments necessary to maintain service levels and these have been reviewed and refined throughout the process. Service Areas have engaged in a robust challenge of, and determination of, the 2022/2023 budgets rather than adopting an entirely incremental approach to budgeting. In this process key cost drivers have been identified such that activity can be assessed as to its impact on future costs. This has enabled a good understanding of budget issues faced, thus improving the prospects of budget compliance.
2. The determination of the 2022/2023 revenue budget has been informed by established and effective budget monitoring arrangements that have created a sound foundation for the overall management of the Council's financial resources. The Council continues to improve its budget monitoring processes such that it focuses greater attention on those budget areas that represent the greatest risk as determined by a number of risk factors. Budget monitoring is supplemented by service data that relates to the cost drivers thereby enabling a non-financial analysis and early identification of emerging trends. This risk-based approach is supplemented by a quarterly review of all budget areas.
3. The budget monitoring process provides the basis for the monitoring of compliance with the savings proposals and efficiency assumptions built into the revenue budget and it has also enabled budget pressures to be identified, managed, and appraised as part of the 2022/2023 budget setting process. There are a number of budget reductions proposed within the budget as part of the transformation programme; every attempt is being made to prioritise services, and to streamline processes to avoid an adverse impact on service delivery, but there is a risk that there will be unpredicted impacts on services.

4. Each savings proposal is the responsibility of a named Officer and all proposals, including previously agreed savings, have been assessed on an ongoing basis to ensure continued deliverability. It is possible that some of the proposed reductions may not be achievable or may not be achievable in the time frame anticipated, potentially leading to the need for other reductions, budget overspends, or the use of contingency funding. These areas will be kept under review as part of the established budget monitoring arrangements.
5. In determining financial forecasts and specifically the 2022/2023 budget, regard has been given to (i) the actual experience of the Council in the year to date and (ii) the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on both income and expenditure and the ending of the Government support package that was introduced to help Councils respond to the challenges and to ensure financial sustainability in the future. Specifically, the forecasting and budgeting seeks to provide best estimates for Council Tax and Business Rates Yield, service-related income and any additional expenditure based on assumptions in relation to both the duration and severity of COVID-19 and the speed of recovery.
6. The financial impact of COVID-19 has been set out in the quarterly budget monitoring reports to Cabinet. In terms of financial planning, it has been assumed that the progress made with regard to vaccinations will arrest the impact of COVID-19 and, as such, there will be a pathway back to what are considered more normal (and sustainable) circumstances. However, there remains a degree of risk in relation to COVID-19 and, as such, the assessment of the adequacy of Reserves is particularly pertinent.
7. The Council regular reviews the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and, in doing so, forecast resources and spending plans are updated in light of more up to date information. The MTFS sets out the funding gap facing the Council over the medium term. The budget has been prepared in accordance with the approved MTFS and the following financial objectives, as part of the Revenue Budget Strategy, have helped guide the budget proposals:
  - (a) A sustainable medium term financial plan that allows the achievement of the Council's key objectives.
  - (b) Realistic levels of year-on-year spending which are supportable via annual income streams and do not require the use of general reserves to support recurring expenditure.
  - (c) General reserves should be maintained at all times at or above the agreed minimum level.
  - (d) Constraining annual Council Tax increases to an acceptable level.
  - (e) The pursuance of "invest to save" opportunities with a financial return on the investment in transforming activities over an acceptable payback period.



- (f) A commitment to explore income generation opportunities and to maximise income from fees and charges.
  - (g) A commitment to maximising efficiency savings.
8. As part of the overall budget strategy, the Council has sought to protect front line service budgets. This has included a review of service delivery options and emphasis on the optimisation of corporate budgets and the continuation of a service transformation programme developed in 2019/2020 as part of a 4-year plan to transform service quality, improve organisational productivity and improve customer services. The programme is aimed at delivering Council services more efficiently and in a more convenient way for the public.
9. The formulation of the budget has allowed for best estimates of inflation and applied at a level to reflect efficiency requirements. In this regard, general inflation has been provided at 2% on certain budgets (such as contract costs) and, in relation to staff costs, an allowance has been made for incremental shift. An inflationary allowance of 5% has been made for energy costs.
10. It is important to acknowledge that there are risks inherent in the budget estimates and these include specific areas set out below, with an attempt to quantify them where possible:
- (a) Pay inflation for local government employees in 2022/2023 has been assumed at 2.5%. Should the final employers' settlement be in excess of this, and the Council reviews its local scheme, an additional cost would be incurred (every 0.5% on pay would equate to around £130,000 on staffing costs).
  - (b) Inflation on specific contracts has been allowed at a rate of 2% and, in some cases, this will require robust contract negotiations. The timely review of business requirements in relation to contracted services should, however, reduce the risk of an increase in some contact values in excess of the budgetary allocation made.
  - (c) Interest is allowed for as both an income item (on daily balances for example) and as an expense (on borrowing for capital for example). In response to the prevailing economic conditions the Bank of England Base Rate has been maintained at its record low 0.1% since its reduction from 0.25% on 19 March 2020. Consequently, the rates available to investors continue to be low but better than 0.1% and the budget assumptions are based on a 0.7% interest rate. From a borrowing perspective, it has been necessary to consider the implications of the changes to the rules affecting local authorities borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board introduced by HM Treasury from 26 November 2020. The main purpose of the change is to restrict the ability of local authorities to borrow for pure investment in commercial property and the Council has, as a consequence, reviewed its Investment Strategy.

- (d) Given the current economic outlook there is a risk that the forecast level of income budgeted in 2022/2023 in some areas (e.g. planning income, land charge fees) may not be achieved. The determined budget has, however, been prepared having regard to income trends which should reduce the risk involved. With the continued uncertain economic conditions there is a possibility that benefit caseload will increase and, though an increase in numbers receiving Universal Credit would see cases transfer to the Department of Work and Pensions, Council income could still be impacted, and debts would become more difficult to collect.
  - (e) In terms of benefits, the increased stringency of the subsidy claim audit increases the risk of subsidy being withheld and this may require additional resources to be deployed on quality assurance.
  - (f) It is proposed to maintain the Contingency at £250,000 as part of its risk mitigation strategy reflecting (i) the challenges faced by local government at this time and (ii) general appreciation of budget risks.
11. In determining the 2022/2023 revenue estimates, regard has been given to its ongoing sustainability and the observance of a number of overarching principles. This has involved:
- (a) An overall commitment to endeavour to increase annual income sources and reduce annual expenditure without materially reducing front line services provided by the Council.
  - (b) A preparedness to consult service users and providers to ensure that services can be remodelled and tailored within acceptable tolerances.
  - (c) A comprehensive review of the base budget to provide greater assurance for the future. The review has been based upon regular established monitoring processes and has incorporated a review of the alignment between the original budget and service activity.
  - (d) The identification, as a result of (c) above, of service pressures and endeavours to make adequate provision in the 2022/2023 base budget.
  - (e) The provision of funding to support Business Plan priorities.
  - (f) Continued review and tight control of the capital programme given the impact of borrowing costs on the revenue budget.
12. In terms of the capital programme, regular assessments need to be made to ensure that schemes and costs meet the test as to what can be classified as Capital Expenditure. In addition, the long-term affordability of the capital programme has been reviewed and this has resulted in proposals for a revised and reprofiled programme, including priority for invest to save proposals and prudent allocation of grant and other income to reduce borrowing costs.

13. In submitting the 2022/2023 revenue budget for approval, regard has also been given to issues of affordability (having regard to Council Tax implications), prudence (having regard to Council policies/strategies) and overall sustainability (having regard to forecast annual expenditure and income).
14. It had been the Government's intention to introduce new funding arrangements for 2021/2022, including the originally proposed increase in local business rate share to 75% (from 50%), a business rate baseline reset, a Fair Funding Review, and further other changes to key funding streams, such as social care and New Homes Bonus (NHB). A consultation on the replacement for NHB was published in February 2021, with changes expected to be implemented from 2022/2023, alongside the wider local government reform package.
15. There has, however, been no confirmation on the timescale for implementation of the wider funding reforms, but an emerging view is that the reforms will impact from the financial year 2023/2024. The risks relating to these changes has, therefore, been considered as part of the review of the MTFs and the future financial forecasts.

## **Reserves**

1. The Council's Revenue Reserves and Provisions are held to fund specific initiatives or held to cover unforeseen events within the Council's prudent financial management arrangements.
2. The Council, as at 1 April 2021, held a Bad Debt Provision to a value of £2.9 million and Revenue Reserves of around £53 million of which £37 million was earmarked. The balance of £16 million represents the General Reserve and working balance. An annual review of Reserves has been carried out as part of the budget process and a number have been re-aligned or combined. The overall level is significant and accords with the optimum level required calculated on a risk basis. A process exists to regularly refresh the risk assessed level of General Fund Reserve having regard to the needs and risks of the Council on an ongoing basis.
3. In reviewing Reserves, due regard has been given to professional guidance. Since 1992 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Local Authority Accounting Panel (LAAP) has issued LAAP Bulletins to local authority practitioners. These Bulletins provide guidance on topical issues and accounting developments and when appropriate provide clarification on the detailed accounting requirements.
4. Based on an assessment of the risks facing the Council, including transformation, demographic and transition factors and past experience of budget pressures, the Reserves that are proposed to be retained is considered appropriate, but should be subject to review to ensure that excessive balances are not maintained. Some of these reserves can only be used for specific purposes, but others could be called upon if necessary and so provide additional flexibility.

5. In view of the unsettled economic background, and significant changes that will impact upon medium term finances (such as the localisation of business rates), it is recognised that there is an ongoing need to review and establish a level of reserves which allows the Council to withstand the financial impacts of future developments, unanticipated or otherwise, at a local or national level.

### **Conclusions**

1. The process for the formulation of budgets provides a reasonable assurance of their robustness.
2. The level of the Reserves is sufficient to provide a working balance to cushion the impact of unexpected events or uneven cash flows (general reserves) and funds to meet known or anticipated liabilities (earmarked reserves).
3. It is recognised that the financial pressures facing the Council are not going to ease over the medium term. The economic situation, coupled with a downward funding trajectory outlined in the spending review, will require the Council to put in place sustainable budget proposals in order to set a balanced budget.
4. In addition, there are still expected to be a number of changes in how local government is funded over the medium term, in particular the Business Rates Retention Scheme and the Fair Funding Review. This reshaped funding landscape has the effect of increasing financial uncertainty and risk and the Council's financial resilience will depend upon appropriate mitigating actions ranging from effective financial control, a clear financial strategy and strong financial governance. The ongoing assessment of the Council's financial resilience, including the sufficiency of Reserves, will form a major element of the Council's response to this new financial landscape.

# Agenda Item 12

## Conservative Group Budget Proposal for 2022/2023

### 1. Freeze the council tax

It has been a difficult couple of years for residents dealing with the pandemic and on top of that the increase in household bills particularly those relating to heating and fuel costs has hit people hard. It is proposed to freeze the council tax at 2021/22 levels to assist residents struggling to meet their living costs. The income forgone in 2022/23 as a result will be around £327,000 but will also have an ongoing effect on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

### 2. Additional resources to tackle the increase in fly tipping and Envirocrime.

Fly Tipping is becoming an increasing problem both nationally and locally and it is felt that more resources need to be provided to tackle this. It is proposed that an additional officer costing around £42,000 be employed to not only assist in the enforcement activity related to this but also carry out prevention campaigns and education activities in an effort to minimise fly tipping in the first place.

### 3. Additional funding for fraud prevention and investigation

Local Authorities have in recent years seen increasing amounts of attempted fraud against them which includes amongst others and if anything the Pandemic has seen this sort of activity increase further and due to the various lockdowns the Council has been prevented from completing ongoing investigations meaning a backlog has occurred. It is proposed to invest £100,000 in the service for further investigation capacity and provide funding for fraud prevention campaigns. These campaigns could include raising fraud awareness in the community and in schools in line with what some other Council's are doing.

### 4. Additional planning enforcement officer

There is a need to bolster resources in the planning enforcement team and it is proposed to add an additional officer to the establishment at a cost of £42,000 to provide for the growing demand to investigate breaches of planning conditions and consent.

### 5. Funding

It is proposed that the amount required of £511,000 be funded in part from a saving by discontinuing with the situation where more than one Special Responsibility Allowance is paid to a particular member, this will save around £14,000. The remaining difference (£497,000) will be met from the removal of that amount from the transformation reserve.

**Heather Williams**

**Conservative Member for The Mordens Ward**

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# Agenda Item 13



**REPORT TO:** Cabinet 07 February 2022

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor John Williams,  
Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

**LEAD OFFICER:** Peter Maddock, Head of Finance

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## Housing Revenue Account Revenue & Capital Budget: 2022/2023

### Executive Summary

1. To consider the summary Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget for 2022/2023 and to recommend the HRA Budget to Council.

### Key Decision

2. This is not a key decision.

### Recommendations

3. That Cabinet is requested to consider the report and, if satisfied, to recommend to Council to:

#### **Housing Revenue Account (HRA): Revenue**

- (a) approve the HRA revenue budget for 2022/2023 as shown in the HRA Budget Summary as presented at Appendix A.

#### **HRA: Review of Rents and Charges**

- (b) Approve that council dwellings rents for all social rented properties be increased by inflation of 3.1%, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September 2021, plus 1%, resulting in rent increases of 4.1%, with effect from 4 April 2022.
- (c) Approve that affordable rents (inclusive of service charge) are reviewed in line with rent legislation, to ensure that the rents charged are no more than 80% of market rent, with rents for existing tenants increased by no more than inflation of 3.1%, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September 2021, plus 1%, resulting in rent increases of up to 4.1%.

Local policy is to cap affordable rents (inclusive of all service charges) at the Local Housing Allowance level. As the Local Housing Allowance was increased significantly in late March 2020, **affordable rent**

increases will be capped at 4.1% from April 2022, which is still well below the 2022/23 Local Housing Allowances levels.

- (d) Approve that garage rents be increased by inflation of 3.1% measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September 2021, plus 1%, resulting in increase of 4.1%, with effect from 4 April 2022.
- (e) Approve that council dwelling rents for properties with an EPC rating of A or B are increased to 105% of target rent on re-let.
- (f) Approve the proposed service charges for HRA services and facilities provided to both tenants and leaseholders, as shown in Appendix D.

### **HRA: Capital**

- (g) Approve the required level of funding for new build investment between 2022/2023 and 2026/2027 to ensure that commitments can be met in respect of the investment of all right to buy receipts currently retained or anticipated to be received by the authority for this period. This expenditure will take the form of HRA new build, with the 60% top up met by other HRA resources.
- (h) Approve the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy forecasts as shown in Appendix B.
- (i) Approve the Housing Capital Programme as shown in Appendix C.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

4. To enable the Cabinet to recommend to Full Council the 2022/2023 HRA Revenue Budget and Capital Programme.

### **Details**

#### **(A) Background**

5. The HRA is a ring-fenced area of the Council's activity and represents the landlord activity which the authority carries out as a stock retaining authority.
6. HRA budgets continue to be set in the context of a 30-year business plan, which is reviewed each year. The HRA budget setting report covers both HRA revenue and capital spending. As the authority's landlord account, the HRA accounts for all services to tenants and leaseholders and is the account into which the proceeds of the rent and landlord service charges are credited.
7. Resource available to invest in housing is dependent upon the income streams for the HRA, the most significant of these being the rental income for the housing stock. For the four years ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, the Council were required to reduce rents by 1% per annum to comply with a national approach to rent setting. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 rents were permitted to be increased by



the total of the September Consumer Prices Index (CPI) plus 1%. This, therefore, equates to a 4.1% increase from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. Rent increases are currently limited to an increase of up to CPI plus 1% from April 2022 for a further 3 years (based upon CPI at the preceding September), with properties below target rent levels moved directly to target rent only when they become void. Target rents continue to be set with reference to January 1999 property values.

8. There is a key requirement to ensure that the HRA can support a significant level of housing debt whilst also ensuring ongoing delivery of housing services. As at April 2021, the authority continued to support a housing debt of £205 million. The current policy does not assume set-aside of resource to allow for repayment of housing debt, but instead assumes the resource is used to deliver a new build programme in the medium term, in an attempt to ensure sustainability of the HRA.

### **(B) Budget Formulation**

9. Consideration needs to be given to the fluid nature of some of the assumptions that are required to be incorporated into the financial forecasting for the HRA, particularly in relation to the impact of changes in national housing policy.
10. Assumptions will need to be continually reviewed and amended as information is made available and any changes in the economic environment become apparent.
11. The budget for 2022/2023 has been constructed in the wider context of the national position for social housing. The Council still seeks to achieve a balance in investment against key housing priorities as follows, although this still proves challenging:
  - Investment in the existing housing stock with a commitment to increase energy efficiency, reduce the carbon footprint and increase the sustainability of the Council's properties.
  - Investment in the delivery of new affordable homes.
  - Spend on landlord services (i.e. housing management, responsive and repairs).
  - Support for, and potential repayment of, housing debt.
12. The draft revenue and capital estimates for the HRA are outlined in detail in **Appendices A to C** of the report.
13. The detailed budgets presented this year are rather different to previous years in that they are now presented as a service area pack. Each pack has a title page, a budget summary, individual budget pages (with similar budgets grouped together) and a subjective analysis which shows the service area spend by type of expenditure.

14. The budget summary gives the total of each of the budget pages and the overall budget for the HRA.
15. The detailed budget pages give some commentary on each service budget to make it clear what the purpose of that particular budget is, along with reference to any bids and savings relating to the budget.
16. The subjective analysis shows the total budget by type of expenditure as defined by the Service reporting code of practice (SeRCOP). SeRCOP is recognised across the local authority sector as the standard way of reporting expenditure and income by type.
17. The budget is divided up into distinct areas known as Cost Centres and these are either Direct Services or Support Services sometimes referred to as frontline or back office. The accounting code requires us to allocate all support services to direct services and therefore the budget presented represents the total cost of direct services including the support costs relating to them. It is important to note however that cost control and responsibility for support services rests with the service area where the support service resides not the service area where the cost is eventually allocated.
18. The other point to note is the cost of pensions. Some years ago, the rules on accounting for pensions changed and from then each service had to bear the cost or value of the pension fund relating to the employees that work in that service area rather than just the employers contributions made relating to those employees. Until 2021/2022 these costs were excluded from the budget and only accounted for in the final accounts. Best practice is to account for them in both and that is what we now do. The 'Current Service Cost' of the pension is a larger number than the employer's contributions paid and therefore has the effect of inflating service budgets. Having said this none of this affects the overall budget as legislation requires the council to charge only the employers contributions to the Housing Revenue Account.

**(C) National and Local Policy Context**

19. On the 17 November 2020 the Government published a white paper "The Charter for Social Housing Residents" which sets out key areas that every social housing tenant should expect. Much of the responsibility for delivering against the charter sits with the landlord, and the Council is working to ensure delivery against the commitments. The Regulator of Social Housing is leading in developing a strengthened consumer regulation regime and is expected to engage with providers in doing this.
20. Universal Credit continues to cause concern and challenges both for residents and for the Council. The coronavirus pandemic saw an increase in the number of tenants transitioning to Universal Credit as individual's circumstances changed, and nationally there was a steep rise in the number of claims overall. There is also evidence to suggest that households with low incomes, have run down savings and increased debt since the start of the pandemic. The Council

has resources in the budget to support and advise tenants who need financial support and will signpost to options to increase their incomes.

21. The Council's HRA owns and/or manages the following properties, broken down by category of housing provided:

<b>Housing Category</b>	<b>Actual Stock Numbers as at 1/4/2021</b>	<b>Estimated Stock Numbers as at 1/4/2022</b>
General Housing (Incl. use as Temporary Housing)	4,222	4,278
Sheltered Housing	1,070	1,070
Sheltered Housing – Equity Share	69	69
Miscellaneous Leased Dwellings	3	3
Shared Ownership / FTB Dwellings	95	112
<b>Total Dwellings</b>	<b>5,459</b>	<b>5,532</b>

22. A breakdown of the housing stock by property type is outlined in the table below:

<b>Stock Category (Property Type)</b>	<b>Actual Stock Numbers as at 1/4/2021</b>	<b>Estimated Stock Numbers as at 1/4/2022</b>
Bedsits	20	20
1 Bed	1,093	1,124
2 Bed	2,417	2,459
3 Bed	1,851	1,851
4 Bed	74	74
5 Bed	1	1
6 Bed	3	3
<b>Total Dwellings</b>	<b>5,459</b>	<b>5,532</b>

23. The HRA maintains the freehold in respect of flats, sold under the right to buy process on long leases. Services continue to be provided to these properties in respect of repairs and improvements to communal areas and services for common facilities.

24. As at 31 March 2021, the Council held £5,112,284 of right to buy receipts under the retention agreement with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). This compares to the balance of £5,866,982.62 at 31 March 2020.
25. The Government has amended the rules regarding the use of the capital receipts arising from the sale of Right to Buy properties and the Council has entered into a new retention agreement that reflects these changes. Under the new rules, receipts will be accounted for annually rather than quarterly and the Council will be now be able to fund up to 40% of new property costs from the receipts and the time limit for using the funds has increased from 3 to 5 years. Whilst up to 40% of the cost of a development can be financed from this source, the balance must be funded from the Council's own resources, or through borrowing, and the receipts cannot be used on replacement dwellings or dwellings receiving any other form of public subsidy.

**(D) HRA Resources**

26. HRA resources comprise rent, service charges, income from garages/other property, investment income, external funding and earmarked funds. These are each considered below:
  - (i) Rent: Rent Arrears, Bad Debt Provision and Void Levels
27. Performance in the collection of tenant debt continues to be affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently there have been delays obtaining court hearings to pursue outstanding debts. At the end of December 2021, current tenant arrears stood at £672,825 and former tenant arrears at £321,253 compared with £619,757 and £266,590 respectively as at 31 March 2021. The position is being monitored, with staff working proactively with tenants in arrears.
28. The level of annual contribution to the bad debt provision was reviewed again as part of the HRA budget, with the contribution set at 0.5% from 2021/2022. This assumption has not been amended as part of this HRA budget setting report.
29. As at 31 March 2021, the provision for bad debt stood at £682,722 representing 77% of the total debt outstanding at the time.
30. The estimated value of rent not collected as a direct result of void dwellings in 2021/2022 is £515,900, representing a void loss of 1.72%. There were several empty homes at the beginning of 2021/22, which required extensive refurbishment before being available for re-let, which led to the higher void loss in 2021/22. The turnaround of properties between tenancies has however improved as the year has progressed.
31. At the end of December 2021, 81 properties were unoccupied, representative of 1.5% of the housing stock.

32. The assumption of 1.1% voids in general housing has been increased to 1.4% as part of this budget setting report.

(ii) Rent: Restructuring and Rent Levels

33. The authority still lets property on two differing rent levels, social rent and affordable rent, with the latter capped locally at the level of the Local Housing Allowance.

34. Property specific rent restructured target social rents apply for the socially rented stock held in the HRA. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 both the target rent and actual rent increased by CPI plus 1% so the convergence of the actual and target rents, which was abandoned when the 1% rent reduction targets were brought in, will still not happen unless a property becomes void and the rent is moved to target on re-let.

35. The average social rent in 2021/2022, at the time of writing this report, across the socially rented housing stock was £104.94, and after applying the expected increase of 4.1% will become £109.24. At the time of writing this report, 43% of the social rented housing stock was being charged at target rent levels, compared with 41% in the previous year.

36. There are 256 new build or acquired properties charged at the higher 'affordable rent' levels with 47 of these being shared ownership homes.

(iii) Rent Setting

37. Rent levels continue to be set by Council in February of each year, following consideration at Cabinet.

38. On 15 November, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) updated the Rent Standard guidance that registered providers of social housing must comply with, to update the limit on annual rent increases for 2022 to 2023. The Rent Standard is one of three economic standards that the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) expects private registered providers of social housing to comply with and applies to local authority providers of social housing. It sets the requirements around how registered providers set and increase rents for social housing in line with government policy as set out in DLUHC's Policy Statement on Rents for Social Housing.

39. In September each year the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) figure is set which is used to establish the limit on annual rent increases for social housing. The limit on annual rent increases for the financial year 2022/23 will be CPI (3.1%) plus 1% = 4.1%.

40. Affordable rents increases are also limited to a maximum increase of CPI plus 1% from April 2022, but with the ability to re-set the rent at up to 80% of market rent upon re-let. Council policy is to cap affordable rents (inclusive of all service charges) at the Local Housing Allowance level. The average affordable rent in 2021/2022, at the time of writing this report, was £146.22.

41. The Rent Standard published by the Regulator of Social Housing does allow for some “Rent Flexibility” when setting the rent for a new tenant to a property. An upwards tolerance of 5% of the target rent is permitted. We will use this provision within the Rent Standard to increase the rent on re-let to 105% of target rent for those properties with an EPC rating of A or B. The increased rental income will help to finance the cost of improving thermal efficiency and reducing carbon emissions across our whole stock. Properties with the higher energy performance A & B rating currently account for 37% of our total stock

(iv) Service Charges

42. Service charges continue to be levied for services that are not true landlord functions, and are provided to some tenants and not others, depending upon the type, nature and location of the property. Some service charges are eligible for housing benefit, depending upon the nature of the service.

43. The approach to setting service charge levels for 2022/2023 is detailed in the report at Appendix D.

(v) Other Sources of Income

44. The HRA had 942 residential garages as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, which are outside the curtilage of the dwelling. Approximately 347 garages were vacant at the time of compiling this report. Several vacant garages have been identified as needing repairs or major works prior to being ready to let, or are being considered for demolition, disposal, self-build sites or redevelopment.

45. A two-tier charging structure is applied for garages, with one rate for garages rented to tenants, and another for rental of garages by others, with the latter being subject to VAT at the prevailing rate. If a tenant holds more than two garages, VAT is also payable.

46. In addition to dwellings held for rent, the HRA has a number of communal rooms in sheltered schemes. Currently the costs of these buildings are recovered through service charges levied to residents. A review of these assets continues to ensure that they are either well utilised for the purpose intended, or that consideration is given to alternative options for the use of each site, generating an income for the HRA where possible. Extensive consultation is being carried out as part of this review to ensure that all local views are taken account of.

47. The HRA receives interest on general and ear-marked revenue balances, any funds set-aside in the major repairs reserve or the revenue debt repayment reserve, any unapplied capital balances and in respect of any internal lending to the General Fund. The interest rates available to the Council generally remain low, and market recovery is slow, although lending to Ermine Street Housing still provides a better return than lending to external third parties currently.

(vi) Other External Funding

48. In addition to income direct from service users, the HRA anticipates receiving external funding from Section 106 Funding. The Council has a policy in respect of Section 106 Commuted Sums, which allows the first call on these to be to fund the delivery of new build affordable housing in the HRA. The assumption that this funding is utilised to deliver new affordable homes is identified into the Housing Capital Investment Plan.

(vii) Earmarked & Specific Funds: Revenue

49. In addition to General Reserves, the HRA Account still maintains some earmarked or specific funds. Details of the current level of funding in these reserves is shown at **Appendix E**.
50. A Self-Insurance Fund is maintained to mitigate the risks associated with the authority self-insuring its housing stock. Costs in lieu of insurance claims are charged to the HRA in year, with the reserve available to meet any higher than anticipated remedial costs, allowing the HRA time to react to the additional expenditure incurred.
51. A statutory Major Repairs Reserve is credited with depreciation in respect of the housing stock each year, with funding then in the Housing Capital Investment Plan, to meet the capital cost of works to HRA assets, or alternatively to repay housing debt.
52. Change in national housing policy, and the continued desire to invest resource in new build to replace lost stock and appropriately spend retained right to buy receipts, impacts the ability to set-aside resource to repay debt. This means the Council will have no alternative but to refinance a significant proportion of the loan portfolio as each loan matures. The approach of using an ear-marked reserve, as opposed to making a formal voluntary revenue provision, allows the HRA to retain flexibility over the use of the limited resource that is available for set aside in the future.

(viii) Earmarked Funds: Capital Receipts

53. The HRA retains an element from all right to buy receipts over and above those assumed in the self-financing settlement, in recognition of the debt held in respect of the asset. These sums are held in a separate ear-marked capital reserve, allowing them to be utilised to repay debt should the authority so choose, or alternatively reinvest as deemed appropriate.
54. With the Right to Buy Receipt Retention Agreement in force, this reserve ensures that resource is identified for re-investment and, if necessary, repayment purposes.

**(E) HRA Revenue Account Budget: Revised Budget 2021/2022**

55. Service budgets for the current financial year were reviewed as part of the budget setting process for the coming year to ascertain what the likely balance would be on the Housing Revenue Account at the end of the financial year. The changes are summarised in the table below:

<b>2021/22 Revised Budget</b>	<b>Original Budget Feb-2021</b>	<b>Proposed Changes</b>	<b>Revised Jan-2022</b>
	<b>£ 000's</b>	<b>£ 000's</b>	<b>£ 000's</b>
Rental Income	(30,200)	285	(29,915)
Other Income	(1,515)	(75)	(1,590)
Supervision and Management	6,493	(172)	6,321
Repairs	4,931	304	5,235
Depreciation	6,800	102	6,902
Other Expenditure	1,085	(128)	957
Revenue Funding of Capital Expenditure	13,788	(9,842)	3,946
Loan interest	7,194	(1)	7,193
Interest receivable	(630)	(362)	(992)
IAS 19 (Pension Cost) Reversals	(173)	26	(147)
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves	(8,000)	8,000	0
<b>Revised Net HRA Use of Reserves</b>	<b>(227)</b>	<b>(1,863)</b>	<b>(2,090)</b>

56. The above figures include any rollover approvals from 2020/2021 in the second column along with other amendments listed on a category-by-category basis. The resulting change in the use of reserves is also identified for the current year. The middle column shows the difference between the original and revised budgets. The net reduction in costs for 2021/2022 (note the significantly lower revenue funding of capital expenditure) will result in no transfer from earmarked reserves and a surplus to the HRA reserve.

**(F) HRA Revenue Account Budget: Budget 2022/2023**

57. The HRA balance at the start of the financial year was just above £4.6 million reducing from previous balances due to the application of funds to the Housebuilding Programme.
58. The Council has commenced a transformation programme which will deliver savings across the authority and some of these savings will fall on the HRA services. It will also be necessary to ensure that efficiency savings are sought



within the HRA to ensure that the account remains viable so the savings initiatives that were undertaken during this budget process for the General Fund should be extended to encompass the HRA for the next budget cycle.

59. Expenditure excluding capital charges has increased by £1,327,000 over the 2021/2022 original position, although £440,000 relates to accounting adjustments for pension costs that are reversed out.
60. Rental income has increased by £1,838,000 as a result of the aforementioned rent increase of 4.1%.
61. The proposed budget is based on an HRA surplus of £2.1 million in 2021/2022 and a deficit of £1.9 million in 2022/2023.
62. The overall revenue budget position for the HRA for 2022/2023 is presented in **Appendix A**. A balanced budget can be set for 2022/2023 and future years, with the account balance remaining above £2.5 million.

### **(G) Housing Capital Budget**

#### **(i) Stock Investment and Decent Homes**

63. The Council has recently invested in a new IT system that allows better use of asset management data and once fully implemented will allow more efficient planning of future works, and better integration between revenue (day to day repairs) and capital (investment) for council housing. There is however some concern about the reliability of some of the data that currently exists within the asset management system. A further stock condition survey will therefore be commissioned of all our properties, so that we can review the robustness of our stock condition data, the element lifecycles and costs used. This data will provide key information as to the basis for future stock investment expenditure and associated timescales.
64. As at 31 March 2021, 94.23% of the housing stock was reported as decent, compared with 94.64% at 31 March 2020; with 306 properties that were considered to be non-decent (in addition to refusals by tenants to access the property and undertake the necessary works). In the year to 31 March 2021, access to properties considered to be non-decent was refused by 60 tenants.
65. The Council aims to be Carbon Neutral by 2050 which includes the housing stock. As part of the work to explore and trial technical solutions, South Cambridgeshire District Council joined NetZero Collective in 2019, which brings together a number of organisations including the Dept Climate Change, Buildings and Energy, Southampton University and a number of Social Landlords. The Council contributed 5 properties into the first phase of the project to determine the most cost-effective way to retrofit properties to deliver 'netzero' using fabric first approach combined with deployment of renewable technologies. These properties were empty at the time and surveys have been completed. In order to create the capacity and capability to deliver retrofit at scale, we are working with NetZero Collective to create a 'blueprint' for a Centre of Excellence for Decarbonisation to present to members.

66. There is no statutory requirement in existing dwellings to provide either smoke or Carbon Monoxide Detectors but it is considered good practice to do so. Therefore, the Council provides smoke detectors to all properties. In addition, Carbon Monoxide Detectors are provided to all properties with gas. The Council has allowed in this budget for the full replacement of both wired in CO and smoke detectors on a rolling programme of 10 years for smoke detectors and 10 years for Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Battery alarms are replaced more frequently, between 5-10 years.

67. The Capital programme has been updated and is reproduced at **Appendix C**.

(ii) New Build and Re-Development

68. At the time of writing this report 189 new homes had been completed since April 2012, all of which were built as affordable rented homes, with a further 58 shared ownership homes also completed:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Affordable Rent Units delivered</b>	<b>Scheme Composition</b>
Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey	Completed May 2016	20	4 x 1 Bed House 10 x 2 Bed House 5 x 3 Bed House 1 x 4 Bed House
Horseheath Road, Linton	Completed July 2016	4	1 x 2 Bed Bungalow 2 x 2 Bed Flat 1 x 2 Bed House
Hill Farm, Foxton	Completed January 2017	15	4 x 1 Bed House 6 x 2 Bed House  5 x 3 Bed House
Robinson Court, Gamlingay	Completed August 2018	6 plus 4 shared ownership and 4 market sale	4 x 1 Bed Flat 2 x 2 Bed Flat 2 x 1 Bed House (Shared Ownership) 2 x 2 Bed House (Shared Ownership) 2 x 2 Bed House (Market Sale) 2 x 3 Bed House

			(Market Sale)
Pampisford Road, Great Abington	Completed April 2018	6 plus 2 shared ownership	2 x 1 Bed Flat 2 x 2 Bed House 1 x 2 Bed Bungalow 2 x 2 Bed Bungalow (Shared Ownership) 1 x 3 Bed House
Bannold Road, Waterbeach	Completed April 2018	16 plus 7 shared ownership	6 x 1 Bed Flat 6 x 2 Bed Flat 4 x 2 Bed House 2 x 2 Bed House (Shared Ownership) 5 x 3 Bed House (Shared Ownership)
Woodside, Longstanton	Completed April 2019	3	3 x 2 Bed House
Gibson Close, Waterbeach	Completed November 2019	6 plus 3 shared ownership	4 x 1 Bed Flat 2 x 2 Bed House 3 x 2 Bed House (Shared Ownership)
High Street, Balsham	Completed December 2019	9 plus 4 shared ownership	7 x 1 Bed Flat 2 x 2 Bed Flat 4 x 2 Bed House (Shared Ownership)
Highfields, Caldecote	Completed December 2019	3 shared ownership	1 x 1 Bed House 2 x 2 Bed House
Station Road, Foxton	Completed October 2020	6 plus 3 shared ownership	4 x 1 Bed Flat 1 x 2 Bed House 1 x 3 Bed House 2 x 2 Bed House (SO) 1 x 3 Bed House (SO)
Pembroke Way, Teversham	Completed November 2020	5	2 x 1 Bed Flat 1 x 1 Bed Bungalow 2 x 2 Bed House

Linton Road, Great Abington	Completed December 2020	13 plus 5 shared ownership	6 x 1 Bed Flats 2 x 2 Bed House 5 x 3 Bed House 2 x 2 Bed House (SO) 3 x 3 Bed House (SO)
Burton End, West Wickham	Completed December 2020	3 plus 1 shared ownership	1 x 1 Bed Bungalow 1 x 2 Bed Bungalow 1 x 2 Bed House 1 x 3 Bed House (SO)
Grace Crescent, Hardwick	Completed December 2021	27 plus 12 shared ownership	16 x 1 Bed Flats 9 x 2 Bed Houses 1 x 3 Bed House 1 x 4 Bed House 6 x 2 Bed Flat (SO) 4 x 2 Bed House (SO) 2 x 3 Bed House (SO)
Impington Lane, Impington	Completed October 2021	7 plus 3 shared ownership	6 x 1 Bed Flat 1 x 3 Bed House 2 x 2 Bed House (SO) 1 x 3 Bed House (SO)
Orchard Gardens, Melbourn	Completed December 2021	6 plus 3 shared ownership	2 x 1 Bed Flat 1 x 1 Bed House 3 x 2 Bed House 3 x 3 Bed House (SO)
Castle Camps	Completed September 2021	3 plus 1 shared ownership	2 x 1 Bed House 1 x 2 Bed House 1 x 3 Bed House (SO)
Bennell Farm, Toft	On site	Completed to date: 8 x 1 Bed Flat	8 x 1 Bed Flat 9 x 2 Bed Flat

		9 x 2 Bed Flat 4 x 2 Bed House 2 x 3 Bed House 8 x 2 Bed House (SO) 2 x 3 Bed House (SO) 1 x 4 Bed House (SO)	5 x 2 Bed House 3 x 3 Bed House 8 x 2 Bed House (SO) 2 x 3 Bed House (SO) 1 x 4 Bed House (SO)
Babraham Road, Sawston	On site	Completed to date: 6 x 1 Bed Flat 5 x 2 Bed Flat	20 x 1 Bed Flat 21 x 2 Bed Flat 2 x 3 Bed House 1 x 4 Bed House 4 x 1 Bed Flat (SO) 11 x 2 Bed Flat (SO) 3 x 3 Bed House (SO) 1 x 4 Bed House (SO)
<b>Total</b>		<b>189 rented</b> <b>58 shared ownership</b> <b>4 market sale</b>	

69. The table below updates the position in respect of schemes either in progress or with Lead Cabinet Member approval, based upon previous versions of the business plan, confirming their status and the current budget allocation, which is required for each of the schemes, with the budgeted expenditure included at **Appendix C.**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Estimated Affordable Units</b>	<b>Indicative Scheme Composition</b> <b>(Subject to Change)</b>	<b>Scheme Budget (Gross of subsidy / capital receipts)</b>
Bennell Farm, Toft	On site	2 remaining	1 x 2 Bed House 1 x 3 Bed House	
Babraham	On site	33 plus	14 x 1 Bed Flat	

Road, Sawston		19 shared ownership to be completed	16 x 2 Bed Flat 2 x 3 Bed House 1 x 4 Bed House 4 x 1 Bed Flat (SO) 11 x 2 Bed Flat (SO) 3 x 3 Bed House (SO) 1 x 4 Bed House (SO)	
Emerson Road, Great Abington	On site	3	2 x 2 Bed Flat 1 x 2 Bed House	535,870
High Street, Meldreth	On site	4 plus 3 shared ownership	2 x 2 Bed House 2 x 3 Bed House 3 x 2 Bed House (SO)	1,697,210
Strawberry Farm, Great Abington	Tendering for development partner	2 plus 1 shared ownership	2 x 2 Bed House 1 x 3 Bed House (SO)	795,930
Meadowcroft Way, Orwell	Not in contract yet	4	4 x 1 Bed Flat	626,120
<b>Total</b>		<b>48 rented 23 shared ownership</b>		<b>2,233,080</b>

70. There are a number of schemes where feasibility work is being carried out with a view to building out the sites for the HRA directly, or alternatively negotiations are in progress with developers, for the HRA to acquire the affordable housing on existing new build development schemes. These schemes do not yet have formal approval and, as such, have not yet been built into the Housing Capital Investment Plan on a scheme specific basis. Instead, an unallocated new build budget is included, which when a scheme receives Head of Housing and Lead Cabinet Member approval, allows resource to be transferred from this unallocated new build/acquisition budget to the scheme specifically to allow monitoring of progress.
71. Some schemes deliver only new provision of affordable rented housing and, as such, will be eligible for 40% of the scheme to be funded using retained right to buy receipts. Many of these schemes, in order to be planning policy compliant, include a mix of affordable rented and intermediate housing (usually shared ownership). Shared ownership dwellings are part funded using S106 commuted sums if available.
72. The assumption has been retained, that the authority utilise resource previously set-aside for the potential redemption of housing debt, combined with revenue resource that can be released as a result of capital receipts that have been received from the sale of HRA land and dwellings on the open market in recent years, or that are anticipated to be received from the sale of self-build plots, to fund building new homes. This is anticipated to provide sufficient resource to allow the appropriate re-investment of existing and anticipated retained right to buy receipts in the medium term, without the immediate need to pass any funding to a registered provider.

(iii) Self-Build Plots

73. Where a suitable parcel of land identified is larger than one plot, we will first consider preparing the land for our own development and the provision of affordable rented homes.
74. It has been recognised that the effort and cost involved to prepare and market parcels of HRA land for sale as self-build plots is not achieving the desired level of capital receipts. There have been significant delays in concluding sales and to date no plots have been sold in 2021/22. It has therefore been agreed to market plots more widely and we will accept offers from developers as well as self-builders, to achieve the best capital return for the HRA. The capital receipts achieved will then be available for re-investment by the HRA to release resource elsewhere in the capital programme, facilitating the delivery of new homes in the district.
75. 5 sites are currently being progressed with others undergoing investigation and feasibility work.
76. The table below details those sites disposed to date:

Location	Date	Receipt	No. of plots
Benet Cl, Milton	Oct-18	195,000	1
Cambridge Rd, Balsham	Dec-18	171,750	1
St Audreys Close, Histon	Aug-19	151,000	1
Macaulay Avenue, Great Shelford	Sep-19	405,000	3
Blacksmiths Close, Babraham	Dec-19	205,000	1
Westfield Road, Fowlmere	Oct-20	205,000	1

<b>Total</b>	<b>1,332,750</b>	<b>8</b>
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(iv) Section 106 Funding

77. Commuted sum payments received through the planning process, in lieu of the delivery of affordable housing, are made available in the first instance to the HRA to invest in affordable homes.
78. The Council currently holds £2.2 million in commuted sums for affordable housing. The following table provides an update of when current sums held must be spent (year-end prior to deadline date), against the resource committed to date:

Year	Section 106 sum to be spent	Cumulative Section 106 sum to be spent	Resource committed HRA	Cumulative resource still to be committed
	£	£	£	£
2026/27	1,356,420	1,356,420	900,000	456,420
2027/28	0	1,356,420	0	456,420
2028/29	494,614	1,851,034	0	951,034
2029/30	339,654	2,190,688	0	1,290,688
2030/31	44,517	2,235,205	0	1,335,205
	<b>2,235,205</b>		<b>900,000</b>	

Commitments to date include:

Scheme	Fund	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
Babraham Road, Sawston – contribution to 19 shared ownership homes	HRA	150,000	150,000
High Street, Meldreth – contribution to 3 shared ownership homes	HRA	75,000	75,000
Orchard Gardens, Melbourn – contribution to 3 shared ownership homes	HRA	150,000	0
Boxworth End, Swavesey - contribution to 4 shared ownership homes	HRA		200,000
Strawberry Farm, Gt Abington - contribution to 1 shared ownership home	HRA		50,000
Bartlow Road, Castle Camps - contribution to 1 shared ownership home	HRA	50,000	
	<b>HRA</b>	<b>425,000</b>	<b>475,000</b>

79. With £1,335,205 of resource still to be re-invested, there is a commitment to invest the sum in new HRA homes wherever possible.



80. It is likely, although not guaranteed, that the funds will be utilised predominantly to deliver shared ownership or shared equity.

(v) Asset Acquisitions and Disposals

81. The Right to Buy Retention Agreement with the DLUHC allows the acquisition of existing dwellings, as an alternative to building new homes, although new supply remains the priority. Acquisition is a valid option when new build is not possible within an annual deadline for the use of retained receipts. If a decision is taken that there is a risk that new build schemes will not deliver in the required timeframes, resources can be vired from the unallocated new build/acquisition budget into the budget for direct market acquisition. This risk has however been reduced under the new retention agreement, which allows 5 years from the original receipt for right to buy receipts to be spent.

82. Receipts from individual asset disposals are only recognised in the HRA's reserves when received, and after all relevant costs have been provided for. There are assumptions incorporated in the budget about the level of receipts from the sale of self-build plots and HRA land. These capital receipts will allow planned utilisation of the funds to release resource elsewhere in the HRA to facilitate the appropriate reinvestment of retained right to buy receipts.

(vi) Capital Spend and Phasing

83. The updated Capital programme is presented to Cabinet and includes re-profiling and updating the capitalised repairs budgets, new house building budgets and transferring resources from the unallocated sum to schemes that have now been identified.

**(H) HRA Treasury Management**

(i) Background

84. Statutorily, the HRA is required to set a balanced budget, including recognition of the revenue implications that arise from capital financing decisions.

(ii) HRA Borrowing

85. As at 1 April 2021, the HRA was supporting external borrowing of £205 million in the form of 41 maturity loans with the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB), with rates ranging between 3.44% and 3.53%. The loans have varying maturity dates, with the first £5 million due to be repaid on 28 March 2037 and the last on 28 March 2057.

86. The HRA Capital Financing Requirement (HRA CFR) stood at £204 million due to a small amount (£694,000) of internal borrowing from the HRA by the General Fund. The General Fund is required to pay the HRA annual interest on the internal borrowing as part of the Item 8 Determination for the HRA. The interest rate payable to the HRA can be determined by the authority but must be deemed reasonable and stand up to external scrutiny from auditors.

87. Recent changes in legislation mean that the HRA is no longer subject to a borrowing debt cap. The authority can borrow within its HRA as long as it can demonstrate that the HRA can support the borrowing and that the resource is being utilised in the provision of social or affordable housing. A local debt cap has been calculated at £250 million as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 rising to £300 million at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
88. The Council may choose to borrow to deliver additional affordable housing to ensure that it can maintain a programme of new build affordable housing over the longer-term.
89. The 2022/2023 HRA Budget Setting Report does not review the potential sources of lending (i.e. Internal, Inter-Authority, Public Works Loans Board, Market) types of borrowing, lengths of loans or rates available for taking out any additional borrowing at this stage. This will need to be undertaken at the point at which any borrowing is considered as part of the coming year's budgets.

(iii) Debt Repayment/Re-Investment

90. The current debt repayment strategy for the HRA, not to set-aside resource to repay housing debt, but to instead invest resource in new build housing, assumes the need to re-finance the borrowing when loans mature.
91. The potential debt repayment or re-investment reserve stood at £8.5 million as at 1 April 2021 with the current assumption being that this will be re-invested in order to extend the life of the business plan, once other resources are exhausted.
92. Regular consideration will need to be given, in the context of the current financial climate, whether the authority wants to retain the current re-investment strategy or re-consider some element of set-aside if resources allow.

### **Options**

93. There are a number of other options regarding budget setting, but the budget as presented represents the best use of resources within the constraints that exist.

### **Implications**

94. In the writing of this report, taking into account the financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

### ***Policy***

95. Housing is one of the Council's top priorities, with a commitment to deliver good quality housing which is affordable for people to live in, near to where they work. There are currently 1,665 households on the Council's waiting list, with Council housebuilding continuing to be regarded as a high priority.

### ***Legal***

96. The pressure to reduce budgets and the continuation of a poor financial settlement could adversely affect the provision of statutory services. Officers will be required to seek legal advice in relation to a few the national changes in housing policy as the regulations are released by Central Government.

### ***Financial***

97. These are outlined in the report and its supporting appendices.

### ***Risk***

#### General

98. An annual update to the assessment of the key risks which the HRA faces in financial terms was included as part of the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy.
99. The authority maintains a risk register, incorporating specific risks affecting the Housing Revenue Account, considering the likelihood and impact associated with each risk, and the mitigation in place to counteract these. The risk register is regularly reviewed and updated.
100. General reserves are held to help manage risks inherent in financial forecasting. Risks include changes in legislative and statutory requirements, inflation and interest rates, unanticipated service needs, rent and other income shortfalls and emergencies. The reserve allows the authority time to respond to unanticipated events, without an immediate and unplanned impact on service delivery.
101. For the HRA, the minimum level of reserves of £2.5 million is proposed to be retained, recognising the need to safeguard the Council against the risk and uncertainty in the current financial and operational environment for housing.

### ***Environmental***

102. There are no environmental implications arising from this report. The Council's housing stock is largely energy-efficient and in a good state of repair and but there is a need to improve it where the Council is able to and keep it in good condition.

### ***Equality Analysis***

103. In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.
104. Further equalities work is being completed. Where that assessment concludes that a proposal has no relevance to the Council's equalities duties then no further action will be taken. Where it is determined that the proposal does have relevance to these duties, a full equality analysis will be undertaken by the relevant service area to establish the impact of the proposal on a protected group or groups and to identify the necessary mitigating actions.

## **Background Papers**

Where the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection:

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The following documents are relevant to this report:

- 2021/2022 Budget Report – Report to Cabinet: 3 February 2021
- Capital Programme Update and New Bids – Report to Cabinet: 6 December 2021
- 2021/2022 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Q2 – Report to Cabinet: 6 December 2021

## **Appendices**

- A HRA Revenue Budget 2022/2023
- B HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy: Financial Forecast 2022/2023 to 2026/2027
- C HRA Capital Programme 2022/2023 to 2026/2027

D Proposed HRA Service Charges 2022/2023

E HRA Earmarked and Specific Funds

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**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23**

# Head of Housing Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2022/23

## Introduction

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended by the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 2003. Under this legislation the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has the power to issue directives in respect of appropriate income and expenditure items.

The balance on the HRA stood at £4.6million as at 31 March 2021, after a deficit of £594,395 was made in 2020/21. A surplus of £2.1 million is expected in 2021/22 followed by a deficit of £1.9 million in 2022/23.

The revised 2021/22 estimates show a significant decrease to the revenue funding of capital expenditure from £13.8m to £3.9million, which results in the expected surplus for 2021/22. The original capital programme assumed significant investment in a new build scheme at Northstowe, which was to deliver 81 homes, The Council however, has withdrawn from contract negotiations after trying to resolve ongoing design issues with the developer over the past 2 years. Smaller new build schemes have been approved during the year and the capital program has been re-profiled over future years to allow for future new build schemes.

The HRA Self Financing system came into effect on 1st April 2012, under which councils now keep all rents in exchange for an allocation of housing debt. At the end of 2011/12 councils were required to pay to the Government their notional HRA surplus, as determined by the self-financing settlement. The Council borrowed £205 million in the form of 41 maturity loans, with rates ranging between 3.44% and 3.53%. The loans have varying maturity dates, with the first £5 million due to be repaid on 28 March 2037 and the last on 28 March 2057.

The current debt repayment strategy for the HRA, not to set-aside resource to repay housing debt, but to instead invest resource in new build housing, assumes the need to re-finance the borrowing when loans mature. The potential debt repayment or re-investment reserve stood at £8,500,000 on 1 April 2021, with the current assumption being that this will be re-invested in order to extend the life of the business plan, once other resources are exhausted.

The Council has produced a thirty year HRA Financial Plan for a number of years. However, with the advent of self-financing, this has taken on more prominence. The Financial Plan is reviewed and updated annually to check actual progress against the plan and where necessary make amendments.

## Management and Maintenance

Management costs in 2021/22 are lower than originally budgeted due to beginning the year with several vacant staff posts. These have been recruited to during the year.

Management costs rise in 2022/23 because of a large increase in the value of pension assets. Although this shows as a notional increase on the supervision and management budgets, it is counteracted by the credit IAS19 Adjustment shown on the HRA summary.

Repairs and maintenance costs increase in 2022/23 with the introduction of a programme to replace expired smoke alarms in our housing stock. This will be a 10 year rolling programme with annual expenditure of around £250,000.

## Major Repairs Reserve

This is a statutory reserve credited with depreciation in respect of the housing stock each year, with funding then in the Housing Capital Investment Plan, to meet the capital cost of works to HRA assets, or alternatively to repay housing debt. The Major Repairs Reserve balance as at 1 April 2021 was £3 million, and it is planned to use this balance to support the HRA capital programme over the next 3 years.

## Capital Expenditure

The HRA capital programme was agreed at Cabinet in December 2021 and the levels of direct revenue contributions to capital expenditure are based on the required level of funding after other sources of capital funding are taken into account and after affordability is assessed.

## Proposed Rent Increase

From April 2020 local authority rents have been regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing, alongside housing associations and other registered providers. Rent increases are currently limited to an increase of up to CPI plus 1% from April 2022 for a further 3 years (based upon CPI at the preceding September). CPI was 3.1% in September 2021 leading to a proposed rent increase of 4.1% from April 2022.



**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23**

**Interest on Receipts and Balances**

HRA interest income is higher in 2021/22 than originally assumed because reserve balances are expected to increase with an anticipated surplus on the HRA account. As discussed earlier, the aborted new build scheme at Northstowe led to a reduced financing requirement for the capital programme.

**Interest Payable on Loans**

This is for the servicing of loans the Council has taken to fund the self-financing debt settlement

**Minimum HRA Balance**

The Council's previously agreed minimum level of balance to be achieved is £2 million; this is expected to be achieved in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Summary**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Supervision & Maintenance General	4,340	5,105	4,652	5,547	-	5,547
Supervision & Maintenance Special	1,183	1,388	1,463	1,629	-	1,629
Rents, Rates & Other Charges	267	232	251	225	-	225
Repairs & Maintenance	3,832	4,931	5,235	5,414	-	5,414
<b>Management &amp; Maintenance Total</b>	<b>9,621</b>	<b>11,656</b>	<b>11,601</b>	<b>12,815</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,815</b>
Capital Charges	6,666	6,800	6,902	6,902	-	6,902
Corporate Management Charge	308	319	260	270	-	270
Democratic Representation Charge	284	313	296	337	-	337
Provision for Bad or Doubtful Debts	158	142	100	140	-	140
Treasury Management Charge	52	80	50	73	-	73
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>17,088</b>	<b>19,309</b>	<b>19,210</b>	<b>20,537</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,537</b>
Charges for Services & Facilities	(1,096)	(1,284)	(1,313)	-	(1,342)	(1,342)
Contribution from General Fund	(130)	(150)	(149)	-	(163)	(163)
De-Minimus Receipts	(5)	(3)	(11)	-	(3)	(3)
Garages	(379)	(398)	(355)	-	(370)	(370)
Gross Rent of Dwellings	(28,595)	(29,802)	(29,560)	-	(31,668)	(31,668)
Ground Rents	(11)	(14)	(13)	-	(13)	(13)
Other Income	(83)	(64)	(104)	-	(104)	(104)
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>(30,299)</b>	<b>(31,715)</b>	<b>(31,505)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(33,663)</b>	<b>(33,663)</b>
<b>Net Cost of Service</b>	<b>(13,211)</b>	<b>(12,406)</b>	<b>(12,296)</b>			<b>(13,126)</b>

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Summary**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Net Cost of Service	(13,211)	(12,406)	(12,296)			(13,126)
Interest Receivable on Balances	(1,034)	(630)	(992)	-	(960)	(960)
Interest Payable on Loans	7,193	7,194	7,193	7,193	-	7,193
Pension Deficit Funding	-	-	206	206	-	206
Pension Interest Payable	161	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(6,891)</b>	<b>(5,842)</b>	<b>(5,889)</b>	<b>7,398</b>	<b>(960)</b>	<b>(6,688)</b>
Revenue Funding of Capital Expenditure	7,844	13,788	3,946	9,162	-	9,162
IAS 19 (Pension Cost) Reversals	(329)	(173)	(147)	(613)	-	(613)
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves	-	(8,000)	-	-	-	-
Accumulated Leave Accrual	(29)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Appropriations Total</b>	<b>7,486</b>	<b>5,615</b>	<b>3,799</b>	<b>8,549</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,549</b>
<b>Deficit / (Surplus) for the Year</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>(227)</b>	<b>(2,090)</b>	<b>15,948</b>	<b>(960)</b>	<b>1,861</b>
Balance Brought Forward	(5,233)	(2,621)	(4,639)			(6,729)
Deficit / (Surplus) for the Year	594	(227)	(2,090)			1,861
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>(4,639)</b>	<b>(2,848)</b>	<b>(6,729)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,868)</b>

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Supervision and Maintenance General**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Communications	54	46	56	59	-	59	This heading covers the cost of time spent by the Communications department who organise all types of media interaction with residents across the district. This includes all social media and written publications.
Housing Repairs Administration	1,655	1,884	1,763	2,097	-	2,097	This budget is for the housing repairs team, administration and surveyors as well as software licence costs
New Homes Programme	258	270	258	293	-	293	This budget provides for the revenue costs associated with the Council's new homes programme. Such costs include the management and administrative costs which cannot be capitalised plus any abortive costs incurred when a particular site does not proceed.
Registration of HRA Land	5	5	9	9	-	9	The budget provides for the revenue costs associated with the payment of land registry fees. There are no significant variances in the budget between 2021/22 and 2022/23.
Self Build Plots	38	-	15	15	-	15	This budget provides for the revenue costs associated with preparing plots of HRA for sale as self-build plots
Supervision & Management General	2,177	2,697	2,333	2,847	-	2,847	This budget is for the housing management team, covering housing officers and neighbourhood support as well as management and administration. There were several vacant posts at the start of 2021/22, which account for the reduced spend in 2021/22. Most posts have now been recruited to during the year.
Tenant Participation	152	204	217	227	-	227	This budget is for activities working with tenants and leaseholders. We have established a Housing Engagement Board and Housing Performance Panel with tenant representatives. There are no major variances to report.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>4,652</b>	<b>5,547</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,547</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Supervision and Maintenance Special**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Communal Areas	68	29	71	78	-	78	This budget covers the maintenance & insurance costs of our flat blocks across the district. Leaseholders pay a service charge based on the costs associated with their block
Outdoor Maintenance	274	316	357	373	-	373	This covers grass cutting, tree, hedges and other ground works in the district. Additional spend is needed following a tree survey carried out to identify urgent tree works across the district. Projected to be carried out over the current and next 3 years.
Sewage Disposal - Housing Sites	7	5	4	5	-	5	This budget covers the maintenance of the council owned pumping stations located in the district and provision of sewerage services to some homes in Duxford
Sheltered Housing	833	1,037	1,031	1,174	-	1,174	Sheltered Scheme for the over 65 providing accommodation, communal facilities, alarm system and Estate Officers. Potential additional spend is required on tree maintenance following the tree survey carried out. This is projected to be carried out over the current and next 3 years
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,629</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Rents, Rates and Other Charges**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Other Charges	75	72	70	72	-	72	This is third-party management charges payable (predominantly estate charges on new build schemes) and water/sewerage charges payable.
Rents, Rates, Taxes & Insurance	183	151	173	145	-	145	Business rates, insurance payable on HRA property
Stock Valuation	9	9	9	9	-	9	Annual valuation of the council owned housing stock
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>225</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Repairs and Maintenance**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Communal Areas	0	77	35	44	-	44	This budget covers the maintenance (including regular emergency light testing) of our flat blocks across the district. Leaseholders pay a service charge based on the costs associated with their block
Housing Repairs Planned	638	1,499	1,336	1,779	-	1,779	This budget covers the planned cyclical repair programmes, including heating servicing, external decoration and electrical surveys.
Housing Repairs Response	3,016	3,196	3,680	3,423	-	3,423	This budget covers the responsive repairs programmes, including repairs on change of tenancy and maintenance of disabled adaptations as well as the responsive repairs contract. The spend in Year 2021-22 is higher as we catch-up on works, which couldn't be completed during the periods of Covid-19 lockdowns.
Sewage Disposal - Housing Sites	4	8	5	8	-	8	This budget covers the maintenance of the council owned pumping stations located in the district and provision of sewerage services to some homes in Duxford
Sheltered Housing	174	152	180	160	-	160	This budget covers the maintenance of the Communal rooms and facilities on the Sheltered Housing schemes across the district.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,832</b>	<b>4,931</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>5,414</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,414</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Other Expenditure**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Corporate Management Charge	308	319	260	270	-	270	Allocation of costs to the HRA for services provided within the General Fund relating to the overall management of the authority, including the heads of paid service and leadership team.
Democratic Representation Charge	284	313	296	337	-	337	Allocation of costs to the HRA for services provided within the General Fund relating to the cost of Member meetings and support.
Provision for Bad or Doubtful Debts	158	142	100	140	-	140	The bad debts provision is based on the level of arrears expected at the year end. Actual arrears in 2020/21 were higher than the forecast and the assumed level of arrears in 2021/22 is not expected to increase as much as originally anticipated. However, the potential impact of rising prices for cost of living is expected to result in increasing levels of arrears. Consequently, the provision has been increased by £140,000 for 2022/23.
Revenue Funding of Capital Expenditure	7,844	13,788	3,946	9,162	-	9,162	The direct revenue contributions made to partially fund the HRA capital programme can vary quite significantly. It will depend on: the level of capital investment each year, in particular the size of the housebuilding programme; other capital funding available; and the affordability of the contribution in terms of the surplus funds generated on the HRA. A large new build scheme planned for Northstowe was withdrawn and reduced the demand in year for capital financing.
Treasury Management Charge	52	80	50	73	-	73	The costs here relate to the allocation of managing the HRA cash balances, provided within the General Fund by the Treasury Management team.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,645</b>	<b>14,641</b>	<b>4,652</b>	<b>9,982</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,982</b>	



**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Capital Charges and Interest Payable on Loans**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Depreciation	6,666	6,800	6,902	6,902	-	6,902	Depreciation is based on the value of HRA assets and the expected useful lives of assets and components. The Probable Outturn figures for 2021/22 and Original estimates for 2022/23 reflect the revised average expected useful lives of the Council dwellings. The calculation has resulted in an increase in depreciation charges in both years.
Other Interest	-	15	-	-	-	-	This budget line is for the interest charges paid on any additional borrowing from the PWLB required. The original estimate for 2021/22 assumed some borrowing would be required to fund the capital program but this has not been necessary.
Self Financing Interest	7,193	7,179	7,193	7,193	-	7,193	Annual interest payments on the debt portfolio, which comprises loans totalling £205 million at fixed rates between 3.44% and 3.53%. The loans have varying maturity dates, with the first £5 million due to be repaid on 28th March 2037 and the last loan on 28th March 2057
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13,859</b>	<b>13,994</b>	<b>14,095</b>	<b>14,095</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,095</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Property Related Income**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Charges for Services & Facilities	(1,096)	(1,284)	(1,313)	-	(1,342)	(1,342)	This is the income received in the form of service charges for special services provided by the HRA, such as sheltered housing provision, lifeline alarm provision and sewerage services. Also included is service charges paid by leaseholders living in HRA owned flat blocks, equity-share and shared-ownership properties where the HRA is responsible for maintaining the fabric of the property.
Contribution from General Fund	(130)	(150)	(149)	-	(163)	(163)	This is the contribution made towards grounds maintenance costs of housing land in relation to properties that have been sold under the Housing Right to Buy legislation.
De-Minimus Receipts	(5)	(3)	(11)	-	(3)	(3)	This budget includes individual receipts below £10,000 from the sale of HRA land
Garages	(379)	(398)	(355)	-	(370)	(370)	Rental income from garages / storage units. Income was reduced in 2021/22 as some garage blocks required refurbishment during the year. Garage rents in 2022/23 will be increased by 4.1%
Gross Rent of Dwellings	(28,595)	(29,802)	(29,560)	-	(31,668)	(31,668)	Rental income from council homes. Income was lower in 2021/22 due to several long-term empty homes, which required refurbishment before re-let. Rents in 2022/23 will be increased by 4.1%
Ground Rents	(11)	(14)	(13)	-	(13)	(13)	This relates to Ground rent received from leasehold properties which remains static.
Other Income	(83)	(64)	(104)	-	(104)	(104)	Payments received from Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and wayleaves.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(30,299)</b>	<b>(31,715)</b>	<b>(31,505)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(33,663)</b>	<b>(33,663)</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Estimates 2022/23  
Interest Receivable on Balances**

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23			
	Actuals	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
External Interest Receivable	(1,014)	(630)	(972)	-	(940)	(940)	This is the interest received on general and ear-marked revenue balances, any funds set-aside in the major repairs reserve or the revenue debt repayment reserve and any unapplied capital balances. The expected interest income for 2021/22 is higher than originally budgeted due to the higher reserve balances arising from the reduced new build capital spend this year(Northstowe scheme has been aborted).
Internal Interest Receivable	(20)	-	(20)	-	(20)	(20)	This is the interest received on the small amount of internal lending to the General Fund from the HRA.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(1,034)</b>	<b>(630)</b>	<b>(992)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(960)</b>	<b>(960)</b>	

**Head of Housing  
Housing Revenue Account  
Subjective Analysis 2022/23**

	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies & Services	Contracted Services	Support Services	Asset Charges	Internal Recharges	Total Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Other Contributions	Misc Income	Total Income	Net Expenditure
<b>Capital Charges</b>														
Depreciation							6,902,280		6,902,280					6,902,280
Gain / Loss on Disposal of Assets							-		-					-
<b>Income</b>														
Charges for Services & Facilities										(1,304,380)	(38,000)		(1,342,380)	(1,342,380)
Contribution from General Fund										(163,230)			(163,230)	(163,230)
De-Minimus Receipts										(3,000)			(3,000)	(3,000)
Garages										(369,600)			(369,600)	(369,600)
Gross Rent of Dwellings										(31,668,100)			(31,668,100)	(31,668,100)
Ground Rents										(13,200)			(13,200)	(13,200)
Other Income										(18,000)	(85,900)		(103,900)	(103,900)
<b>Interest Payable on Loans</b>														
Other Interest					-									-
Self Financing Interest							7,192,810		7,192,810					7,192,810
<b>Interest Receivable on Balances</b>														
External Interest Receivable												(939,820)	(939,820)	(939,820)
Internal Interest Receivable												- (20,490)	(20,490)	(20,490)
<b>Other</b>														
Accumulated Leave Accrual		-												-
IAS 19 (Pension Cost) Reversals	(612,750)								(612,750)					(612,750)
Pension Deficit Funding	205,610								205,610					205,610
Pension Interest Payable	-								-					-
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves									-					-
<b>Other Expenditure</b>														
Corporate Management Charge														270,450
Democratic Representation Charge														336,550
Provision for Bad or Doubtful Debts				140,000										140,000
Revenue Funding of Capital Expenditure							9,162,000		9,162,000					9,162,000
Treasury Management Charge														73,420
<b>Rents, Rates &amp; Other Charges</b>														
Other Charges		71,530												71,530
Rents, Rates, Taxes & Insurance		144,500												144,500
Stock Valuation				9,380										9,380
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>														
Communal Areas		18,360				25,500								43,860
Housing Repairs Planned		-		322,530	1,456,460									1,778,990
Housing Repairs Response		-		-	3,422,770									3,422,770
Sewage Disposal - Housing Sites						8,000								8,000
Sheltered Housing		120,000				40,000								160,000
<b>Supervision &amp; Maintenance General</b>														
Communications								59,420	59,420					59,420
Housing Repairs Administration	1,254,740	-	31,410	115,700	5,000	703,850		(14,040)	2,096,660					2,096,660
New Homes Programme	355,850	-	2,000	124,500		110,440		(300,000)	292,790					292,790
Registration of HRA Land				9,400					9,400					9,400
Self Build Plots				15,000					15,000					15,000
Supervision & Management General	1,655,320		20,000	209,330		843,860		118,310	2,846,820	-	-		-	2,846,820
Tenant Participation	134,900		1,500	50,200		40,150			226,750	-	-		-	226,750
<b>Supervision &amp; Maintenance Special</b>														
Communal Areas		24,100		-	17,340	36,210			77,650					77,650
Outdoor Maintenance	7,500	289,050		3,550		72,780			372,880					372,880
Sewage Disposal - Housing Sites		-		-		4,550			4,550					4,550
Sheltered Housing	712,710	109,000	25,000	104,200		227,690		(5,000)	1,173,600					1,173,600
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,713,880</b>	<b>776,540</b>	<b>79,910</b>	<b>1,103,790</b>	<b>4,975,070</b>	<b>2,039,530</b>	<b>23,257,090</b>	<b>539,110</b>	<b>36,484,920</b>	<b>(33,539,510)</b>	<b>(123,900)</b>	<b>(960,310)</b>	<b>(34,623,720)</b>	<b>1,861,200</b>

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023/24	2024/2025	2025/26	2026/27
	Original Estimate	Probable Outturn	Original Estimate	Original Estimate	Original Estimate	Original Estimate	Original Estimate
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Supervision & Management - General	5,731	5,208	6,154	6,277	6,402	6,531	6,661
Supervision & Management - Special	1,393	1,463	1,629	1,661	1,694	1,728	1,763
Repairs & Maintenance	4,931	5,235	5,414	5,522	5,632	5,745	5,860
Depreciation – t/f to Major Repairs Res.	6,800	6,902	6,902	7,040	7,181	7,325	7,471
Debt Management Expenditure	80	50	73	75	76	78	79
Other Expenditure	374	557	571	582	594	606	618
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>19,309</b>	<b>19,415</b>	<b>20,743</b>	<b>21,158</b>	<b>21,581</b>	<b>22,012</b>	<b>22,453</b>
<b>Income</b>							
Rental Income (Dwellings)	(29,802)	(29,560)	(31,668)	(32,671)	(33,200)	(34,288)	(35,411)
Rental Income (Other)	(476)	(472)	(487)	(496)	(506)	(516)	(527)
Service Charges	(1,284)	(1,313)	(1,342)	(1,369)	(1,397)	(1,425)	(1,453)
Contribution towards Expenditure	(150)	(149)	(163)	(166)	(170)	(173)	(177)
Other Income	(3)	(11)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(31,715)</b>	<b>(31,505)</b>	<b>(33,663)</b>	<b>(34,706)</b>	<b>(35,276)</b>	<b>(36,405)</b>	<b>(37,571)</b>
<b>Net Cost of HRA Services</b>	<b>(12,406)</b>	<b>(12,090)</b>	<b>(12,921)</b>	<b>(13,548)</b>	<b>(13,695)</b>	<b>(14,393)</b>	<b>(15,118)</b>
HRA Share of operating income and expenditure included in Whole Authority I&E Account							
Interest Receivable	(630)	(992)	(960)	(870)	(849)	(839)	(845)
<b>HRA (Surplus) / Deficit for the Year</b>	<b>(13,036)</b>	<b>(13,082)</b>	<b>(13,881)</b>	<b>(14,418)</b>	<b>(14,544)</b>	<b>(15,232)</b>	<b>(15,963)</b>
Items not in the HRA Income and Expenditure Account but included in the movement on HRA balance							
Loan Interest	7,194	7,193	7,193	7,193	7,193	7,193	7,193
Appropriation from Ear-Marked Reserve	(8,000)						
Direct Revenue Financing of Capital	13,788	3,946	9,162	8,543	8,543	8,543	9,143
IAS 19 (Pension Cost) Reversals	(173)	(147)	(613)	(625)	(638)	(650)	(663)
<b>(Surplus) / Deficit for Year</b>	<b>(227)</b>	<b>(2,090)</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>(146)</b>	<b>(291)</b>
Balance b/f	(2,621)	(4,639)	(6,729)	(4,868)	(4,176)	(3,622)	(3,768)
<b>Total Balance c/f</b>	<b>(2,848)</b>	<b>(6,729)</b>	<b>(4,868)</b>	<b>(4,176)</b>	<b>(3,622)</b>	<b>(3,768)</b>	<b>(4,059)</b>

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## Appendix C

Housing Revenue Account	Budget 2021-22	Revised 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Improvements - Existing Stock</b>							
Water / Drainage Upgrades	85	30	87	88	90	92	94
Drainage Upgrades	310	170	0	0	0	0	0
Disabled Adaptations	908	500	926	945	964	983	1,003
Change of Tenancy - Capital	816	1,400	832	849	866	883	901
Rewiring	388	100	395	403	411	420	428
Heating Installation	969	1,500	988	1,008	1,028	1,049	1,070
Electrical Heating Replacement	510	100	520	531	541	552	563
Energy Conservation	250	460	255	260	265	271	276
Estate Roads, Paths & Lighting	71	121	100	102	104	106	108
Garage Refurbishment	51	170	52	53	54	55	56
Parking/Garages	163	154	166	170	173	177	181
Window Replacement	612	770	624	637	649	662	675
Re-Roofing	561	666	572	584	595	607	619
Full Refurbishments	306	340	312	318	325	331	338
Structural Works	204	625	208	212	217	221	225
Asbestos Removal	61	61	63	64	65	66	67
Kitchen Refurbishment	510	410	520	531	541	552	563
Bathroom Refurbishment	306	300	312	318	325	331	338
Compliance Works & Fire Door Replacement	141	270	144	146	149	152	155
Fencing	71	110	73	74	76	77	79
<b>Total Improvements - Existing Stock</b>	<b>7,293</b>	<b>8,257</b>	<b>7,149</b>	<b>7,293</b>	<b>7,438</b>	<b>7,587</b>	<b>7,739</b>
<b>Other Improvements</b>							
Sheltered Housing and Other Stock	50	140	50	50	50	50	50
Flats	20	25	20	20	20	20	20
<b>Total Other Improvements</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>HRA New Build</b>							
Grace Crescent, Hardwick (Rented)	232	417	0	0	0	0	0
Grace Crescent, Hardwick (Shared Ownership)	304	408	0	0	0	0	0
Bennel Farm, Toff	822	1,238	20	0	0	0	0
Babraham Road, Sawston	5,422	5,505	679	0	0	0	0
Impington Lane, Impington	35	450	0	0	0	0	0
Northstowe, Phase 2a	4,817	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emerson Road, Great Abington	427	233	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>	<b>Budget 2021-22</b>	<b>Revised 2021-22</b>	<b>Budget 2022-23</b>	<b>Budget 2023-24</b>	<b>Budget 2024-25</b>	<b>Budget 2025-26</b>	<b>Budget 2026-27</b>
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
High Street, Meldreth	1,409	1,094	600	0	0	0	0
Melbourn, Orchard Gardens	1,614	691	0	0	0	0	0
Swavesey, Boxworth End	0	265	2,113	0	0	0	0
Great Abington, Strawberry Farm	0	350	446	0	0	0	0
Orwell, Meadowcroft Way	0	0	626	0	0	0	0
Longstanton Rd, Oakington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bartlow Road, Castle Camps	0	770	0	0	0	0	0
Unallocated New Build / Acquisition Budget	6,841	0	12,680	12,680	12,680	12,680	12,680
<b>Total HRA New Build</b>	<b>21,923</b>	<b>11,421</b>	<b>17,164</b>	<b>12,680</b>	<b>12,680</b>	<b>12,680</b>	<b>12,680</b>
<b>Other HRA Capital Spend</b>							
Shared Ownership Repurchase	150	300	150	150	150	150	150
Self-Build Vanguard - Up front HRA Land Assembly Costs	100	25	25	25	25	25	25
<b>Total Other HRA Capital Spend</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Total HRA Capital Spend</b>	<b>29,536</b>	<b>20,168</b>	<b>24,558</b>	<b>20,218</b>	<b>20,363</b>	<b>20,512</b>	<b>20,664</b>
<b>Housing Capital Resources</b>							
Other Capital Receipts (Land, Dwellings, Shared Ownership)	(2,070)	(4,367)	(3,390)	(930)	(930)	(930)	(930)
Other Capital Receipts (Self-Build Plot Sales)	(450)	0	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)
Major Repairs Reserve	(6,799)	(8,422)	(7,219)	(7,363)	(7,508)	(7,657)	(7,809)
Direct Revenue Financing of Capital	(13,788)	(3,857)	(9,126)	(8,517)	(8,517)	(8,517)	(9,117)
Other Capital Resources (Grants / S106 funding)	(450)	(425)	(475)	(325)	(325)	(325)	(325)
Retained Right to Buy Receipts	(4,979)	(3,097)	(4,199)	(2,933)	(2,933)	(2,933)	(2,333)
HRA CFR / Prudential Borrowing	(1,000)						
<b>Total Housing Capital Resources</b>	<b>(29,536)</b>	<b>(20,168)</b>	<b>(24,559)</b>	<b>(20,218)</b>	<b>(20,363)</b>	<b>(20,512)</b>	<b>(20,664)</b>
<b>Net (Surplus) / Deficit of Resources</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>



## Service Charges

## Appendix D

Charge Description	Charge Basis	Current Charges 2021/22 (£)	Proposed Charges 2022/23 (£)	Increase (%)	Increase (£)
<b>General Housing</b>					
Use and Occupation Fee	Weekly	As per Target Rent	As per Target Rent	4.1%	Variable
Sewage	Weekly	4.60 to 5.00	As per Anglian Water Standard Rates	TBC	TBC
White Goods Charge (per item)	Weekly	1.50	1.50	0%	0.00
Management Charge (Third Party)	Weekly	As per third party charge	As per third party charge	TBC	TBC
<b>General Stock - Flats</b>					
Blocks with Door Entry	Weekly	3.53	3.64	3.1%	0.11
Blocks without Door Entry	Weekly	2.35	2.42	3.1%	0.07
<b>General Sheltered Schemes</b>					
Sheltered Charge (Staffing)	Weekly	5.82 to 7.86	5.98 to 8.07	Variable	Variable
Communal Premises Charge	Weekly	2.27 to 18.43	2.41 to 19.47	Variable	Variable
Grounds Maintenance Charge	Weekly	0.31 to 2.12	0.24 to 2.18	Variable	Variable
Communal Heating / Lighting (Elm Court)	Weekly	9.31	7.69	-17.4%	-1.62
Water (Elm Court)	Weekly	1.86	1.61	-13.4%	-0.25
White Goods Charge (per item)	Weekly	1.50	1.50	0%	0.00
Alarm Charge	Weekly	3.00	3.00	0%	0.00
Mobile Alarm Solution	Weekly	3.50	3.50	0%	0.00
<b>Elderly Equity Share (As per Sheltered Housing recovered quarterly, plus charges below)</b>					
External Property Repairs	Quarterly	2.08 to 20.67	1.04 to 20.28	Variable	Variable
Management Fee (10%)	Quarterly	10.01 to 35.88	9.49 to 37.70	Variable	Variable
<b>Temporary Accommodation</b>					
Temporary Let Charge	Weekly	32.00	32.00	0%	0.00
<b>Garage and Storage Unit Rents</b>					
Garages or Storage Unit Rented to Tenant	Weekly	9.17	9.55	4.1%	0.38
More than 2 Garages Rented to Tenant	Weekly	9.17 plus VAT	9.55 plus VAT	4.1%	0.38 plus VAT
All Other Garage and Storage Unit Rentals	Weekly	12.41 plus VAT	12.92 plus VAT	4.1%	0.51 plus VAT

### Leasehold Charges for Services

Solicitors' pre-sale enquiries (Standard sale pack)	One-Off	150.00	150.00	0%	0.00
Copy of lease / document provision	One-Off	30.00	30.00	0%	0.00
Re-mortgage Enquiry/Copy of Insurance schedule	One-Off	30.00	30.00	0%	0.00
Notice of Assignment/Notice of Charge/Notice of Transfer	One-Off	100.00	100.00	0%	0.00
Deed of Variation – Administration Plus SCDC Solicitor fees and own solicitor fees	One-Off	50.00 550.00+	50.00 550.00+	0%	0.00
Home Improvement – Administration Only Inclusive of Surveyor Visit	One-Off	30.00 125.00	30.00 125.00	0%	0.00
Retrospective consent for home improvements	One-Off	Above + 25.00	Above + 25.00	0%	0.00
Registering sub-let details	One-Off	75.00	75.00	0%	0.00
Advice interview for prospective purchasers	One-Off	50.00	50.00	0%	0.00

# HRA Earmarked & Specific Funds 2021/22 (£'000)

## Appendix E

### HRA Earmarked & Specific Revenue Funds (£'000)

#### Self-Insurance Reserve

	Current Balance
Self-Insurance Reserve	(1,000.0)

#### Debt Set-Aside (Revenue)

	Current Balance
Debt Set-Aside	(8,500.0)

### HRA Earmarked & Specific Capital Funds (£'000)

#### Debt Set-Aside (Capital)

	Current Balance
Debt Set-Aside	(5,979.6)

#### Major Repairs Reserve

	Current Balance
MRR	(3,027.4)

#### RTB Retained Receipts Reserve

	Current Balance
RTB Retained Receipts	(5,112.3)

#### Capital Receipts

	Current Balance
Capital Receipts	(4,593.3)

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# Agenda Item 14



**REPORT TO:** Cabinet 7 February 2022

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor John Williams,  
Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

**LEAD OFFICER:** Peter Maddock, Head of Finance

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## Capital Investments Programme 2022/2023 to 2026/2027

### Executive Summary

1. To consider the Council's Capital Programme for financial years 2022/2023 to 2026/2027.

### Key Decision

2. This is not a key decision.

### Recommendation

3. That Cabinet is requested to consider the report and, if satisfied, to recommend to Full Council the revised General Fund Capital Programme outlined at [Appendix A](#).

### Reason for Recommendation

4. To enable the Cabinet to consider variations to the Capital Programme 2021/2022 to 2025/2026 that was approved by Council at its meeting on 6 December 2021.

### Details

5. The Capital Programme is prepared on a five-year rolling programme in accordance with the Capital Strategy. The Cabinet is, therefore, requested to consider the programme for 2021/2022 (being the current year), 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024/2025, 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 financial years and to make recommendations to Council on 22 February 2022.
6. In determining its Capital Programme, the Council must comply with the regulations relating to the Prudential Framework for Capital Finance in local authorities and related prudential indicators, i.e. is it prudent, affordable (in Council Tax terms) and sustainable (in the Medium Term). Due regard should, therefore, be given to:

- (i) The estimate of available capital finance (from borrowing and capital receipts if any) needed to cover existing committed schemes and any residual sum available for uncommitted and future priority schemes.
  - (ii) The estimate of capital finance resource becoming available in the ensuing four years for uncommitted schemes and new priority schemes (e.g. from external borrowing, forecast new capital receipts (if any) or external funding).
  - (iii) The estimated revenue implications (estimated at £55,000 per year per £1 million borrowed over 25 years) of the proposed total programme and impact on Council Tax in terms of affordability.
7. Consequently, the number of new priority capital schemes which can be approved at each annual review of the programme, and during the financial year, will be limited by these affordability factors. The corporate focus of capital investment will need to accord with the Business Plan and the requirements of the updated Capital Strategy (see separate report on the agenda).
8. To enter into excessive long-term borrowing would only exacerbate the financial position and, on this basis, it is strongly recommended that the Council only agrees a level of capital investment that is affordable in the long term.
9. The proposed changes to the capital programme since it was approved by Cabinet on 6 December 2021 are identified in **Appendix A**. These changes include the re-profiling of existing schemes based on the latest estimates of project completion dates and cash flows.

#### New Capital Schemes

10. New bids for capital expenditure were included in the previous update to the capital programme submitted to Cabinet on 6 December 2021. The programme presented has not changed in relation to those schemes.

#### Revised Schemes

11. Since the Cabinet meeting, held on 6 December 2021, further changes to the capital programme have emerged to reflect recent developments and expectation of the timing of expenditure as summarised below:
- (a) Investment Strategy – The unallocated amount of £4.8m previously showing in 2021/2022 will not now be spent this year therefore £4.35m has been moved into 2022/2023. The costing and profile for the proposed Waterbeach Solar Project has also been updated to £4.2m reflecting the fact that the City Council will be funding half of this. This amount comes from the existing investment strategy allocation and is therefore not an additional amount in the programme. The intention is to fund the South Cambs element from the Renewables Reserve.

- (b) Ermine Street Housing – An additional £250,000 lending has been included in 2021/2022 to enable the company to reach its target of 500 properties. This will still be within the amount originally allocated for this of £100m in 2014.
- (c) Land Drainage – A number of vehicle and plant requirements have been identified and added to the programme and will be funded from reserves.
- (d) Parish Maintained Street Lights – An additional allocation from the Renewables Reserve has been included in 2022/2023 to enable the completion of phase 2 of the scheme which includes the ornate street lights.
- (e) Rapid Electric Charging Points - £150,000 has been included in 2022/2023 for proposed rapid charging facilities across the District including £40,000 for the facility at South Cambs Hall, again funded from the Renewables reserve.
- (f) Funding originally included in 2021/2022 for the Civic Hub at Northstowe has been moved into 2022/2023.

#### Scheme Re-profiling

12. The review of the capital programme has identified several schemes requiring a re-profiling of budget and these are outlined above. This has reduced the gross budget for 2021/2022 by £4.437 million, for 2022/2023 increased by £5.084 million and for 2024/2025 increased by £38,000. The revised spend profile is set out in detail in **Appendix A**.

#### Revised Capital Programme: 2022/2023 – 2026/2027

13. The consequent rolling programme, taking into account the variations outlined in the report, is detailed in **Appendix A**.

#### Capital Programme Financing

14. The Council utilises borrowing to fund capital investment where there is no other source of funding and this has a direct impact on the revenue budget. The level of borrowing is a factor that needs to be considered by the Council as increased borrowing will lead to increased revenue costs associated with the financing of borrowing and as such would fall on Council Tax.
15. The use of Capital Receipts is prescribed by Regulations made under the Local Government Act 2003. Where excess Capital Receipts are held, i.e. not needed to finance capital expenditure in year, then the Council can either (i) carry any unapplied balance forward into subsequent years or (ii) reduce the Capital Financing Requirement and, as a consequence, reduce MRP (i.e. generate a revenue saving with effect from the following year).

16. The table below sets out the forecast capital receipts applied for each year of the programme:

	2022/20 23 £'000	2023/20 24 £'000	2024/20 25 £'000	2025/20 26 £'000	2026/20 27 £'000
Receipts Applied	2,102	743	778	1,696	1,336

17. The table below sets out a summary of the revised Capital Programme based on the changes set out above. Details of the full Capital Programme from 2021/2022 (current year) to 2026/2027 are shown at [Appendix A](#).

Summary Capital Programme	2022/20 23 £'000	2023/20 24 £'000	2024/20 25 £'000	2025/20 26 £'000	2026/20 27 £'000
<b>Gross Directorate Budgets:</b>					
• Chief Executive	33,600	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
• Transformation & HR	1,422	49	83	1,075	515
• Finance	259	200	200	200	200
• Waste & Environmental	3,740	1,833	1,822	9,660	840
• Housing (General Fund)	9,871	11,405	1,405	1,405	1,405
<b>Gross Total</b>	<b>48,892</b>	<b>43,487</b>	<b>33,510</b>	<b>42,340</b>	<b>32,960</b>
<b>Financed By:</b>					
• Grants/Contributions	12,550	11,280	2,078	4,560	780
• Revenue	3,639	3,114	654	6,084	844
• Capital Receipts	2,903	743	778	1,696	1,336
• Borrowing	29,800	28,350	30,000	30,000	30,000
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>48,892</b>	<b>43,487</b>	<b>33,510</b>	<b>42,340</b>	<b>32,960</b>

#### Scheme Commitments

18. To help safeguard the Council capital resources, the revised Capital Strategy only allows schemes to be actually committed when sufficient capital finance has been identified to cover the full forecast cost and where the estimated ongoing revenue consequences have been taken into account and approved by Council as affordable.

#### Options



19. The option exists to vary the capital programme, but the allocations included reflect Business Plan priorities and decisions previously made by the Council, including the last update to the capital programme on 6 December 2021 and any further slippage identified since then.

## **Implications**

20. In the writing of this report, taking into account the financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

### ***Policy***

21. The Council has two policies which underpin the Capital Programme, namely the Capital Strategy and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The former provides the framework for the evaluation, approval and monitoring of capital schemes. The MTFS provides the framework for the financing of capital schemes in the rolling Capital Programme and, in line with good practice, no capital scheme can be authorised, and no commitment made until:
  - Capital finance is in place to cover the full capital costs; and
  - It has been determined by Council that the ongoing revenue cost consequences are affordable in the light of forward three-year Revenue Budget forecasts and related Council Tax consequences.
22. The approved Business Plan 2020-2025 outlines the key goals for the Council – the capital programme will support these objectives.

### ***Legal***

23. The Local Government Act 2003 provides the legal basis for capital finance, namely a general power to borrow and a duty to set an affordable borrowing limit. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2003 provides operational detail and specifically states that Authorities must have regard to CIPFA's Prudential Code when setting and reviewing borrowing limits.
24. In respect of individual capital schemes, some are legally unavoidable whereas others are discretionary but undertaken within the powers available to the Council.

### ***Financial***

25. The Capital Programme is financed from a number of sources including specific grants/external funding, capital receipts, direct revenue financing, Section 106 and borrowing. Borrowing defrays the cost of the capital spending over a predetermined period of time and gives rise to the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) being the setting aside of Revenue Budget for the repayment of debt. The overall programme must be assessed in terms of estimated

revenue implications of each scheme including their impact on Council Tax in terms of affordability.

26. In determining its Capital Programme, the Council must have regard to the Prudential Framework i.e. is it prudent, affordable (in Council Tax terms) and sustainable (in the Medium Term). The Capital Strategy, therefore, requires the Council to consider the proposed capital programme having regard to the CIPFA prudential indicators and the Council will consider the extent of borrowing based upon these.
27. Full Council, at its meeting on 6 December 2021, approved new schemes for inclusion in the General Fund capital programme for the period 2022/2023 to 2026/2027 and also the re-profiling of the existing programme. The full programme, approved by Council at that time, is summarised in the table below:

<b>Capital Programme: General Fund</b>	<b>2022/2023 £'000</b>	<b>2023/2024 £'000</b>	<b>2024/2025 £'000</b>	<b>2025/2026 £'000</b>	<b>2026/2027 £'000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Chief Executive	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Transformation and HR	1,382	49	83	1,075	515
Finance	259	200	200	200	200
Waste & Environmental	3,395	1,833	1,784	9,660	840
Housing Services	8,772	11,405	1,405	1,405	1,405
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,808</b>	<b>43,487</b>	<b>33,472</b>	<b>42,340</b>	<b>32,960</b>
<b>Funding</b>					
Capital Receipts	2,102	743	778	1,696	1,336
Grants/Contributions	9,952	11,280	2,040	4,560	780
Revenue	2,054	3,114	654	6,084	844
Borrowing	29,700	28,350	30,000	30,000	30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,808</b>	<b>43,487</b>	<b>33,472</b>	<b>42,340</b>	<b>32,960</b>

28. This report details the amendments to the programme, including re-phasing of work, since the last update in December 2021.
29. The net budget for the capital programme will need to be financed from the Council's resources (e.g. capital receipts, revenue financing or, primarily, by borrowing). The borrowing costs are approximately £55,000 per year for every

£1 million borrowed and these borrowing costs will need to be factored into the revenue budget when preparing the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

### ***Risk***

30. In relation to Capital resources, the following risks should be taken into account when considering this report:
- (i) New capital schemes can emerge at any time based on newly identified needs or changes in legislation which require funding.
  - (ii) The forecast cost/timing of existing schemes and the ability to undertake schemes may vary as implementation is undertaken.
  - (iii) Forecast capital receipts may not be achieved which will result in some schemes not proceeding until other sources of capital finance become available or unless further recourse is made to borrowing.
  - (iv) There is a risk that external contributions may not fully materialise and, as such, there is a risk that schemes relying on external funding may require alternative sources of funding to be identified.

### ***Environmental***

31. There are no environmental implications arising directly from the report. The environmental impacts of each capital scheme will be considered as part of the implementation.

### ***Equality Analysis***

32. In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.
33. The relevance test for equality has determined that the content of the report has no relevance to the Council's statutory equality duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relation. An equality analysis is not needed. Individual capital bids may, however, have specific equality impacts that need to be considered and evaluated.

### **Background Papers**

Where the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection:

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The following documents are relevant to this report:

- Budget Report – Report to Cabinet: 3 February 2021/Council: 23 February 2021
- Medium Term Financial Strategy – Report to Cabinet: 6 September 2021
- General Fund Capital Programme Update and New Bids – Report to Cabinet: 6 December 2021

## Appendices

### A Revised Capital Programme

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DIRECTORATE / SERVICE	Budget 2021-22	Revised 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Chief Executive</b>							
Investment Strategy	60,000	450	29,800	28,800	30,000	30,000	30,000
270 Cambridge Science Park		3,200	800				
Vitrum Building		10					
Northstowe EZ and Local Centre		105					
296 Cambridge Science Park		35					
Cambourne SCIP and 4010		15,000					
Waterbeach Solar PV project		0	3,000	1,200			
<b>Total Chief Executive</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>33,600</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Head of Climate, Environment &amp; Waste</b>							
Health and Environmental Services System	30	10					
<b>Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service :</b>							
Waste Management System		50					
Tenon Manager Vehicles (RV)	37	37					
Depot Electric Charging Infrastructure	100		100				
Refuse Collection Vehicles	1,900	865	3,015	1,680	1,680	9,660	840
<b>Street Cleansing :</b>							
Pavement Street Sweepers				73	74		
Mechanical Road Sweepers	123	152	280				
Truck Replacements	30	202			30		
<b>Land Drainage :</b>							
Tractors	80	76		80			
4x4 Vehicles			28		28		
Excavator			45				
Flail Mowers	37	49			10		
Trailer (funded from s106 Capital Contributions)	8	0	10				
Other Plant & Equipment			17				
<b>Environmental Protection :</b>							
Air Quality Monitoring Equipment	70	100					

DIRECTORATE / SERVICE	Budget 2021-22	Revised 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Footway Lighting :</b>							
Parish Maintained Street Lights		66	145				
<b>Renewable Energy:</b>							
Additional EV Rapid Charging Facility			60				
<b>Total Head of Climate, Environment &amp; Waste</b>	<b>2,415</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>1,822</b>	<b>9,660</b>	<b>840</b>
<b>Head of Finance</b>							
Cash Receipting System	69	30	39				
Loans to Ermine Street Housing	3,288	10,250					
Corporate Fraud Case Management System			20				
Contribution towards A14 upgrade (Inf)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
<b>Total Head of Finance</b>	<b>3,557</b>	<b>10,480</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning</b>							
Aerial Photography Refresh		15					
<b>Total Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Head of Housing</b>							
Housing management system	40	52					
<b>Northstowe</b>							
Civic Hub	549	549	4,600	10,000			
Sports Pavilion	1,032	230	1,770				
Community Centre	1,500		1,500				
<b>Other Housing General Fund</b>							
Required GF Share of HRA Capital Expenditure	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Repurchase of General Fund Sheltered Properties	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
<b>Improvement Grants / Loans :</b>							
Home Repairs Assistance	100		100	100	100	100	100
Disabled Facilities & Repairs Grants		850	877	780	780	780	780
Mandatory	840						
Discretionary	10						
<b>HEAD of HOUSING TOTAL</b>	<b>4,596</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>9,372</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,405</b>

DIRECTORATE / SERVICE	Budget 2021-22	Revised 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Head of Transformation, HR &amp; Corporate Services</b>							
<b>ICT Development :</b>							
New Server Technologies			15	15	15	15	15
Extend compute capacity in shared data centre	23	23					
Desktop Transformation Programme	89						
Telephony Replacement		148					
Wi-Fi Access Points		7					
Data Centre Generator		16					
Data Centre Capacity Growth		14					
OpenProcess Module	25	0					
Members laptops		50					
An Integrated Performance Management System	60	25					
A Complaints Management System	90	0					
A single source Council Business CRM system	20	10	10				
Data Centre Physical Refresh			75				
Replacement of Servers Running Windows/SQL 2012			13				
Extended Support for the Shared Datacentre			36				
Security Information & Event Management with Continuous Vulnerability Assessment			3				
<b>South Cambridgeshire Hall :</b>							
Energy Efficiency (Rnew)	1,527	2,000					
Rapid Electric Charging Facility			40				
Office adaptations and enhancements	1,365	495	1,230	34	68	1,060	500
Human Resources System		96					
<b>Total Head of Transformation, HR &amp; Corporate Services</b>	<b>3,199</b>	<b>2,884</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>515</b>
<b>GROSS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (GENERAL FUND)</b>	<b>73,767</b>	<b>35,992</b>	<b>48,353</b>	<b>43,487</b>	<b>33,510</b>	<b>42,340</b>	<b>32,960</b>

DIRECTORATE / SERVICE	Budget 2021-22	Revised 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed Assets	69,329	24,626	47,031	42,407	32,430	41,260	31,880
Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)	4,438	11,366	1,322	1,080	1,080	1,080	1,080
	<b>73,767</b>	<b>35,992</b>	<b>48,353</b>	<b>43,487</b>	<b>33,510</b>	<b>42,340</b>	<b>32,960</b>
<b>Financed By:</b>							
Capital Receipts	(966)	(1,557)	(2,903)	(743)	(778)	(1,696)	(1,336)
S106 Agreement Contribution (ring fenced for Housing)	(3,081)	(779)	(7,870)	(10,000)			
Capital Contributions (from s106)	(80)	(34)		(47)	(38)		
Cambridgeshire County Council (DFG)	(850)	(850)	(877)	(780)	(780)	(780)	(780)
Sale of Assets		(23)					
Revenue Contribution		(102)	(100)	(33)			
Revenue Contribution from HRA towards software etc	(85)		(14)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Revenue Contribution from General Fund							
Internal Borrowing - re Commercial Vehicles							
External funding from CCC for Trade Skips							
External funding from Cambridge City for Waste Vehicle	(1,140)	(432)	(1,755)	(420)	(1,260)	(3,780)	
External funding from Cambridge City for Waste IT System		(25)					
External funding from Cambridge City for Electric Charging Infrastructure	(50)		(50)				
Excess Funding for E-RCV vs Standard RCV from Renewables Reserve	(399)	(252)	(686)	(705)	(228)	(3,192)	(384)
Vehicle Sinking Fund	(551)	(572)	(854)	(555)	(222)	(2,688)	(456)
Waterbeach Solar PV project funding from Renewables Reserve		0	(1,500)	(600)			
Waterbeach Solar PV project funding from Cambridge City Council		0	(1,500)	(600)			
Earmarked Reserves	(1,917)	(2,316)	(445)	(200)	(200)	(200)	
Internal Borrowing ESH							
External Borrowing ESH							
External Borrowing	(64,648)	(29,050)	(29,800)	(28,800)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)
	<b>(73,767)</b>	<b>(35,992)</b>	<b>(48,353)</b>	<b>(43,487)</b>	<b>(33,510)</b>	<b>(42,340)</b>	<b>(32,960)</b>





**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

7 February 2022

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor John Williams,  
Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

**LEAD OFFICER:** Peter Maddock, Head of Finance

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## Treasury Management Strategy

### Executive Summary

1. To undertake the annual review of the Treasury Management Strategy and to consider a refreshed version of the Strategy for adoption by the Council.

### Key Decision

2. This is not a key decision.

### Recommendation

3. That Cabinet is requested to consider the report and, if satisfied, to recommend to Council the updated Treasury Management Strategy attached at Appendix A to the report which sets the policy framework for the Council's treasury management activity, including (i) the Treasury Management Policy Statement, (ii) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and (ii) Treasury Indicators.

### Reason for Recommendation

4. To establish and approve an updated Treasury Management Strategy that complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

### Details

#### Treasury Management Strategy

5. Treasury management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.
6. In addition to the annual report to Council on the treasury management strategy in advance of the financial year, a mid-year review of treasury management

performance and an annual review after the close of the financial year are submitted to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee for consideration.

7. By adopting the key recommendations of the CIPFA Code, the Council maintains as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:
  - A treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities.
  - A treasury management strategy, with supporting suitable treasury management practices, setting out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve the policies and objectives in the treasury management policy statement, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.
8. The Treasury Management Strategy was fully reviewed and refreshed as part of the 2021/2022 budget setting process having regard to established guidance and best practice and, as such, only minor updates are required. An updated version is attached at **Appendix A** with the proposed changes to the version approved by Council on 23 February 2021 identified in red and crossed through text.

### **Treasury Management Policy Statement**

9. The adopted Treasury Management Strategy incorporates a Treasury Management Policy Statement. This is reproduced below and it is considered that it will remain appropriate and applicable during 2022/2023:

*This statement relates to the management of the Council's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.*

*The Council has arrangements in place to meet the statutory requirements relating to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.*

*The Council requires that the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk will be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the organisation.*

*The Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is, therefore, committed to the principles of achieving best value in treasury management and to employing suitable performance measurement techniques within the context of effective risk management.*

*The Council's borrowing will be affordable, sustainable and prudent and consideration will be given to the management of interest rate risk and refinancing risk. The source from which borrowing is taken and the type of borrowing should allow the Council transparency and control over its debt.*

*The Council's primary objective in relation to its investments is to ensure that long term capital is not put at risk but that within acceptable risk parameters the portfolio is managed to ensure that interest is maximised. Liquidity is managed through the use of money market funds with additional access to the liquid PWLB and Local Authority borrowing market.*

*The Council will have regard to Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) considerations when monitoring performance and making investment decisions. As part of this the Council, as a responsible investor, will work with all Counterparties and Treasury Advisors to promote active ESG policies.*

### **Treasury Management Arrangements**

10. The Head of Finance, as the Council's designated Section 151 Officer, is responsible for implementing and monitoring the Treasury Management Strategy and for establishing effective treasury management practices. The Council has access to specialist advice where appropriate and, in this regard, Link Asset Services have been appointed to provide treasury management advice on developments and best practice in this area and to provide information on the creditworthiness of potential counterparties, deposit and borrowing interest rates and the economy generally.

### **Options**

11. The option of not adopting the revised Treasury Management Strategy is not considered to be appropriate. The CIPFA Code of Practice (2017) requires the Council to approve the Strategy before the start of each financial year. Local politicians and officers operate within local governance frameworks of checks and balances to ensure that decision-making is lawful, informed by objective advice, transparent and consultative.
12. Good governance means that proper arrangements are in place to ensure that an authority's intended treasury management objectives are achieved and establishing a policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of all treasury management activity.

### **Implications**

13. In the writing of this report, taking into account the financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

### **Policy**

14. The Treasury Management Strategy and associated Treasury Management Practices set out the parameters by which the Council's treasury management function is operated on a day-to-day basis.
15. A separate Capital Strategy sets out the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment. Investments held for service purposes or for commercial profit are also subject to a separate Investment Strategy. These Strategies are also scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 7 February 2022 for onward approval by Council on 22 February 2022.

### ***Legal***

16. The statutory framework for the prudential system under which local government operates is set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and Capital Financing and Accounting Statutory Instruments. The framework incorporates four statutory codes:
  - The Prudential Code prepared by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA).
  - The Treasury Management Code prepared by CIPFA.
  - The Statutory Guidance on Local Authority Investments prepared by MHCLG.
  - The Statutory Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision prepared by MHCLG.
17. CIPFA have published a revised Prudential Code (2017 edition) with accompanying Guidance Notes for Practitioners (2018 edition) and the Treasury Management Code (2017 edition).
18. The MHCLG have also published a revised Investment Guidance and Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance (both commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018). The most notable change is the requirement to expand the Investment Strategy to non-financial assets such as investments in property.

### ***Financial***

19. There are no additional resource requirements as a result of the refreshed Treasury Management Strategy. The prudential and treasury indicators have been amended to take account of known financial activities.

### ***Risk***

20. Compliance with the Treasury Management Strategy and associated Treasury Management Practices seeks to mitigate the risks inherent with the treasury management function. The consideration of Security, Liquidity and Yield, in that order, is critical when assessing potential treasury investments.

### ***Environmental***

21. There are no environmental implications arising directly from the report. The environmental impacts of each capital scheme are considered as part of the implementation stage of a specific project.

### ***Equality Analysis***

22. In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.
23. It is considered that the report has no relevance to the Council's statutory equality duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relation. An equality analysis is not needed. Individual capital bids may, however, have specific equality impacts that need to be considered and evaluated.

## **Background Papers**

Where the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection:

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The following documents are relevant to this report:

- HM Treasury Document entitled "Public Works Loan Board: future lending terms – Response to the consultation" issued on 25 November 2020.
- General Fund Budget Report – Report to Cabinet: 3 February 2021
- General Fund Budget – Report to Council: 23 February 2021
- Medium Term Financial Strategy – Report to Cabinet: 6 September 2021
- Medium Term Financial Strategy – Report to Cabinet: 23 September 2021

- Treasury Management Annual Report 2020/2021 – Report to Audit and Corporate Governance Committee: 28 September 2021
- Mid-Year 2020/2021 Treasury Management Report – Report to Audit and Corporate Governance Committee: 1 December 2021
- Investment Strategy– Report to Cabinet: 6 December 2021

## **Appendices**

A Treasury Management Strategy

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**South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council**



## **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**FEBRUARY 2021-2022**

Councillor John Williams  
Lead Member for Finance

Peter Maddock  
Head of Finance

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year.
- 1.2 This Strategy fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA code and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance.
- 1.3 The Treasury Management Strategy sets the framework for the Council's treasury management activity and includes:
- Treasury Management Policy Statement;
  - Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement;
  - Treasury Management Indicators for ~~2021/2022~~ 2022/2023.
- 1.4 The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and, therefore, has potential exposures to financial risks, including the loss of invested funds and the effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk is, therefore, central to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
- 1.5 The Strategy requires the Council to receive and approve, as a minimum, the following treasury management reports each year, namely:
- The annual review of the Treasury Management Strategy incorporating prudential and treasury indicators;
  - A mid-year treasury management report to update members on the progress of the capital position, the performance against approved prudential indicators as necessary and to advise if any policies require revision;
  - An annual report of the treasury management activities, including the outturn position that compares actual performance to the estimates in the Strategy.
- 1.6 Investments held for service purposes or for commercial ~~profit~~ reasons are considered in a different report called the Investment Strategy which ~~was~~ will also be considered by Cabinet on ~~3 6 February 2021~~ December 2021 for onward approval by Council on ~~23 February 2021~~ 22 February 2022.

## 2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To set a balanced General Fund Revenue Budget in accordance with Section 33 of the Local Government Act 1992.
- 2.2 Having regard to affordability considerations manage the Council's long-term debt. Variable rate and fixed rate borrowing and debt rescheduling will be considered as appropriate and as variations in interest rates occur.
- 2.3 To invest Council capital and revenue balances until they are used/spent in order that the Council gains investment income to help finance its annual revenue expenditure.



- 2.4 To keep within the Council's approved Treasury Management Policy and Practices.
- 2.5 The Council's primary objective in relation to its investments is to ensure that long term capital is not put at risk but that within acceptable risk parameters the portfolio is managed to ensure that interest is maximised. Liquidity is managed through the use of money market funds with additional access to the liquid PWLB and Local Authority borrowing market.

### **3. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT**

- 3.1 The Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement is as follows:

*This statement relates to the management of the Council's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.*

*The Council has arrangements in place to meet the statutory requirements relating to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.*

*The Council requires that the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk will be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the organisation.*

*The Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is, therefore, committed to the principles of achieving best value in treasury management and to employing suitable performance measurement techniques within the context of effective risk management.*

*The Council's borrowing will be affordable, sustainable and prudent and consideration will be given to the management of interest rate risk and refinancing risk. The source from which borrowing is taken and the type of borrowing should allow the Council transparency and control over its debt.*

*The Council's primary objective in relation to its investments is to ensure that long term capital is not put at risk but that within acceptable risk parameters the portfolio is managed to ensure that interest is maximised. Liquidity is managed through the use of money market funds with additional access to the liquid PWLB and Local Authority borrowing market.*

*The Council will have regard to Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) considerations when monitoring performance and making investment decisions. As part of this the Council, as a responsible investor, will work with all Counterparties and Treasury Advisors to promote active ESG policies.*

### **4. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.1 The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for monitoring treasury management activity and the Committee receives reports from the Section 151 Officer on treasury management policies and performance. The scrutiny and approval of the mid-term and annual treasury management reports is delegated to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.

- 4.2 Treasury management reports are required to be adequately scrutinised before being recommended to Council. The Treasury Management Strategy is scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee alongside the Council's budget papers each financial year.
- 4.3 Members of these Committees are responsible for ensuring that they have the necessary skills and training to properly discharge their responsibilities in relation to the Council's treasury management function.

## **5. ROLE OF S151 OFFICER**

- 5.1 The Head of Finance, as the designated Section 151 Officer, has delegated responsibility to implement and monitor the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Strategy approved by the Council.
- 5.2 All monies in the hands of the Council are controlled by the Head of Finance.
- 5.3 Decisions on borrowing, investment or financing are taken by the Head of Finance.
- 5.4 The Head of Finance is responsible for reporting to the Council on treasury management issues as set out in Section 1.5 above.
- 5.5 To ensure that members and officers with treasury management responsibilities have access to training relevant to their needs and responsibilities.
- 5.6 The Council has appointed a Treasury Management Advisor, Link Asset Services, to enable independent specialist advice to be obtained on all aspects of the treasury management function. This includes forecasts of the potential influence of interest rates on treasury management issues for the Council. A detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Link Asset Services is attached at [Annex A](#).

## **6. CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT**

- 6.1 The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:
- Financed immediately through the use of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, developer contributions, revenue contributions, use of earmarked reserves etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need, or;
  - If insufficient financing is available for the investment, or a decision is taken not to apply other resources, the funding of capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.
- 6.2 The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing. The proposed capital expenditure and how it will be financed is shown at [Annex B](#).

- 6.3 As at 5 January ~~2024~~ **2022**, the Council held ~~£224~~ **250** million of borrowing and ~~£124~~ **125** million of investments. The Council is committed to further short term borrowing of ~~£25~~ **15** million by year end. This portfolio is set out in further detail at [Annex B](#) with forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance analysis in [Annex C](#).
- 6.4 CIPFA's prudential code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities recommends that the Authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CRF over the next three years. [Annex C](#) shows that the Authority expects to comply with the recommendation during ~~2021/2022~~ **2022/2023**.

## 7. LIABILITY BENCHMARK

- 7.1 To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing at [Annex D](#). This assumes the same forecasts as [Annex C](#), but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £10 million at each year end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

## 8. BORROWING STRATEGY

- 8.1 The Council is permitted to borrow under the Prudential Framework, introduced with effect from 1 April 2004.
- 8.2 The Authority is forecast to hold £205.123 million of long-term loans with no scheduled repayments during the year. This represents the only debt currently held by the Council, relating to 41 loans from the PWLB for self-financing the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) taken out in 2012 and totalling £205.123 million.
- 8.3 Based on the Capital Programme approved by Cabinet on ~~7 December 2020~~ **6 December 2021** it is anticipated that there will be some external borrowing for capital financing purposes during ~~2020/2024~~ **2021/2022**. There may also from time to time be an operational cash flow need that requires short-term borrowing to be taken. The Authority could borrow in addition to this to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing of £10 million.
- 8.4 The Council will not borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be within forward approved Capital Financing Requirement estimates and will be considered carefully to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated and that the council can ensure the security of such funds.
- 8.5 In the event that external borrowing is undertaken the Council will be eligible to access funds at the PWLB Certainty Rate (that provides a 0.20% discount on loans).
- 8.6 **Objectives:** The Authority's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest rates and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.
- 8.7 **Strategy:** Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is

likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources or to borrow short-term loans instead.

By doing so, the Authority is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. The Council's treasury adviser will assist the Authority with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. This may determine whether the Authority borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in ~~2021/2022~~ **2022/2023** with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.

Alternatively, the Authority may arrange forward starting loans during ~~2021/2022~~ **2022/2023**, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period. In addition, the Authority may borrow short-term loans to cover unexpected cash flow shortages.

**8.8 Sources:** The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and any successor body.
- Any institution approved for investments (see below).
- Any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK;
- Any other UK public sector body;
- UK public and private sector pension funds;
- Municipal Bond Agency;
- Capital Market Bond Investors;
- Local Capital Finance Company and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues.

In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- Leasing;
- Hire purchase;
- Sale and leaseback.

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB, but it continues to investigate other sources of finance, such as local authority loans and bank loans that may be available at more favourable rates.

**8.9 Municipal Bond Agency:** UK Municipal Bonds Agency was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It plans to issue bonds on the capital markets and lend the proceeds to local authorities. This will be a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for three reasons:

- Borrowing authorities may be required to provide bond investors to guarantee the risk that other local authority borrowers default on their loans.
- There will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable.
- Up to 5% of the loan proceeds will be withheld from the Authority and used to bolster the Agency's capital strength.

Any decision to borrow from the Agency will, therefore, be the subject of a separate report to Full Council.

- 8.10 **Short-term and Variable Rate loans:** These loans leave the Council exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are, therefore, subject to the interest rate exposure limits in the treasury management indicators below.
- 8.11 **Debt Rescheduling:** The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Council may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk.
- 8.12 **PWLB:** Due regard will be given to the prevailing rules in relation to local authority borrowing from the PWLB and, in particular, the impact of borrowing for the acquisition of commercial assets on the Council's wider borrowing requirements. Due regard will be given to the guidance published by HM Treasury on 25 November 2020 entitled, "Public Works Loan Board: future lending terms – Response to the consultation". The new borrowing rules restrict the ability of local authorities to borrow from PWLB for pure investment in commercial property.

As a condition of accessing the PWLB, Local Authorities must submit a high-level description of their capital spending and financing plans for the following three years, including their expected use of the PWLB. As part of this, the Head of Finance will need to confirm that there is no intention to buy investment assets primarily for yield at any point in the next three years. This assessment is based on their professional interpretation of guidance issued. When applying for a new loan, the Local Authority must confirm that the plans they have submitted remain current and provide assurance that they do not intend to buy investment assets primarily for yield.

If the Council intends to buy commercial assets primarily for yield (even by using reserves) then they will be prevented from taking any PWLB borrowing and will need to consider alternative sources of funding. It is not, therefore, permitted to reprofile the capital programme so that borrowing is only used on allowed projects, with internal borrowing used for commercial activities.

## **9. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION**

- 9.1 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is the revenue charge that the Council is required to make for the repayment of debt, as measured by the underlying need to borrow, rather than actual debt. The underlying debt is needed to finance capital expenditure which has not been fully financed by revenue or capital resources. As capital expenditure is generally expenditure on assets which have a life expectancy of over one year it is prudent to charge an amount for the repayment of debt over the life of the asset or some similar proxy figure.
- 9.2 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) regulations require local authorities to calculate for the financial year an amount of MRP which is considered to be 'prudent'.
- 9.3 There is no requirement to charge MRP where the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is nil or negative at the end of the preceding financial year.
- 9.4 The Housing Revenue Account share of the CFR is not subject to an MRP charge.

- 9.5 There is no requirement to make an MRP charge on an asset until the financial year after that asset becomes operational.
- 9.6 The Government has issued revised guidance (in January 2018) on the calculation of MRP. The Council is required to have regard to the guidance based on the underlying principle that the provision should be linked to the life of the assets for which the borrowing is required. However, the guidance is clear that differing approaches can be considered if the resulting provision is prudent.
- 9.7 In general, the Council will make an MRP based on the equal instalment method, amortising expenditure equally over the estimated useful life of the asset for which the borrowing is required. However, no provision will be made in respect of expenditure on specific projects where the Chief Financial Officer determines that receipts will be generated by the project to repay the debt.
- 9.8 Where a loan is made to a wholly owned subsidiary of the council, the loan is deemed to be secured on the assets of the company. Evidence of the ability to repay the loan will be based on the company's business plan and asset valuation, and no MRP will be made. The Council will review the loan and business plan annually, where there is evidence that suggests the full amount of the loan will not be repaid it will be necessary to reassess the charge to recover the impaired amounts from revenue.
- 9.9 Exceptionally, where capital expenditure is part of a loan agreement to other than a wholly owned subsidiary, the Council may register a fixed and floating charge over the counterparty assets to secure the Council's interest in the investment, or alternately an equity share interest in an asset with value.
- 9.10 The Council continues to pursue a programme of investment in commercial property using powers under S12 of the Local Government Act 2003. This is deemed capital expenditure and will be financed from cash balances and/or external borrowing as appropriate at the time. MRP will ordinarily be provided for using the useful life determinant with regard to maximum lives permitted in the revised MHCLG MRP guidance of 50 years for freehold land and 40 years for all other assets. MRP will be made on the purchase of these properties in the year following the year of purchase and will be set having regard to its annual valuation. The application of MRP will be adjusted to reflect the annual valuation of these properties and will be determined on a property by property basis.
- 9.11 The Council's MRP Policy is summarised at [Annex E](#).

## 10. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- 10.1 The Council holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the investment balance has ranged between ~~£146.5~~ **£134.8** million and ~~£87.3~~ **£103.8** million. These levels ~~should be maintained in the forthcoming year, although it is expected that more will be invested in Ermine Street Housing and less in Banks and Building Societies.~~ **will reduce in the forthcoming year as these figures included Government Covid Grants prior to redistribution.**
- 10.2 **Objectives:** The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

The portfolio will target as a whole to achieve a return above the Bank of England Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) target in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Council will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested.

The Council will have regard to Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) factors in decision making, particularly when considering long term strategy funds as these issues can have a material impact on the value of financial assets and on the long-term performance of investments and, therefore, should be considered to better manage risk and generate sustainable, long-term returns. Well managed companies with strong governance are more likely to be successful long-term investments.

The Council will endeavour to be an active owner and steward of its investments, both internally and externally managed, by engaging with Fund Managers in relation to their ESG policies.

- 10.3 **Strategy:** To achieve the objective above the Council has set a target based on CPI inflation (November CPI is 5.1%). The aim is to exceed the Bank of England's target of 2% will ensure spending power of the sum invested. while maintaining security and liquidity. Inflation is expected to peak at 6% in April 2022 and then subside. To achieve this target the Council will continue to lend to Ermine Street Housing, and spread other investments across approved counterparties as set out in [Annex G](#). The Council will use Money Market Funds and Ultra Short Dated Bond Funds with limits of £10 million per entity to manage liquidity in low volatility price risk funds. The remaining funds will be assessed against the evolving cash flow outlook and invested in the approved counterparties.
- 10.4 **Business Model:** Under the IFRS 9 standard, the accounting for certain investments depends on the Authority's "business model" for managing them. The Council aims to achieve value from its internally managed treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and, therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.
- 10.5 **Approved Counterparties:** The Authority may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in [Annex F](#), subject to the cash limits (per counterparty) and the time limits shown. A more detailed breakdown of this can be seen in [Annex G](#).
- 10.6 **Credit Rating:** Investment limits are set decisions and made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from a selection of external rating agencies. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.
- 10.7 **Banks Unsecured:** Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail.
- 10.8 **Banks Secured:** Covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is



secured has a credit rating, the highest of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits. The combined secured and unsecured investments in any one bank will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

- 10.9 **Government:** Loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.
- 10.10 **Corporates:** Loans, bonds and commercial paper issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent. Loans to unrated companies will only be made following an external credit or to the value of £1 million per company as part of a diversified pool in order to spread the risk widely.
- 10.11 **Registered Social Landlords (RSL's):** Loans and bonds issued by, guaranteed by or secured on the assets of registered providers of social housing and RSL's, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are tightly regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, the likelihood of receiving government support if needed exists.
- 10.12 **Pooled Funds:** Shares or units in diversified investment vehicles consisting of any of the above investment types, plus equity shares and property. These funds have the advantage of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a fee. Short Term Money Market Funds that offer same-day liquidity and that offer very low or no volatility will be used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts, while pooled funds whose value changes with market prices and/or have a notice period will be used for longer investment periods.
- 10.13 **Bond, equity and property funds:** Offers enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Authority to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.
- 10.14 **Real estate investment trusts:** Shares in companies that invest mainly in real estate and pay the majority of their rental income to investors in a similar manner to pooled property funds. As with property funds, REITs offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile especially as the share price reflects changing demand for the shares as well as changes in the value of the underlying properties.
- 10.15 **Operational Bank Accounts:** The Authority may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments, but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will, therefore, be kept below £1 million per bank. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.



10.16 **Risk Assessment and Credit Ratings:** Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Authority's treasury advisor, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "rating watch negative" or "credit watch negative") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced.

This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

10.17 **Other Information on the Security of Investments:** The Authority understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisation's in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press and advice from the Council's treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2011, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Authority will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Authority's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, via the Debt Management Office or invested in government treasury bills for example, or with other local authorities. This will cause a reduction in the level of investment income earned, but will protect the principal sum invested.

10.18 **Investment Limits:** The revenue reserves available to cover investment losses are forecast to be ~~£18 million on 31 March 2021~~ **£16 million on 31 March 2022**. In order that available reserves will not be put at risk for unsecured investments in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £10 million per entity on unsecured investments.

A group of banks under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes. Limits will also be placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts, foreign countries and industry sectors as outlined in [Annex H](#). Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

- 10.19 **Liquidity Management:** The Authority uses purpose-built cash flow forecasting spreadsheets to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis, with receipts underestimated and payments over-estimated to minimise the risk of the Authority being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Authority's medium term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

## 11. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

- 11.1 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to have regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code) when determining how much money it can afford to borrow. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable, and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.
- 11.2 To demonstrate that the Authority has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out the following indicators that must be set and monitored each year and these are identified in the separate Capital Strategy.
- 11.3 The following indicators are identified in the Capital Strategy:
- (1) **Estimates of Capital Expenditure:** This indicator provides the level of gross capital expenditure that is estimated to be incurred. The estimated expenditure includes schemes where funding has already been approved.
  - (2) **Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement (CFR):** This indicator provides a limit for which net external borrowing will not be exceeded, except on a short-term basis.
  - (3) **Gross Debt and the CFR:** Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the CFR, except in the short term.
  - (4) **Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary for External Debt:** This determines the maximum total amount the Council will be able to borrow. The Operational Boundary indicator represents the prudent level of borrowing and will be reviewed annually.
  - (5) **Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream:** This indicator provides the ratio of financing costs to the Council's estimated net revenue expenditure (i.e. the expenditure financed by the revenue support grant, business rate redistribution, council tax and collection fund surplus share).

## 12. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

- 12.1 The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.
- A. Interest Rate Exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The Authority minimises its risk to interest rate changes by

undertaking all borrowing in fixed rate products such as PWLB or short term Local Authority loans.

**B. Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Refinancing Rate Risk Indicator	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	30%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	30%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	30%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	30%	0%
10 years and within 20 years	40%	0%
20 years and within 30 years	60%	0%
30 years and above	100%	20%

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

**C: Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than a year:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the end of the period will be:

Price Risk Indicator	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Limit on principal invested before year end	£10 million	£5 million	£3 million

**D: Security:** The Authority generally but not exclusively follows the guidance provided by its Advisers on the selection of Counterparties and duration of investments. The Advisers provide a Weighted Average Credit Risk score at the end of each month for the investment portfolio as part of its benchmarking service.

The lower the score calculated indicates a lower credit risk has been taken by the Council for its internal investments. The Council aims to perform at a level less than or equal to the target:

Link Credit Risk Indicator	Target
Portfolios weighted average risk number	< 5.0

**E: Liquidity:** The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

Liquidity Risk Indicator	Target
Total cash available within 3 months	£7 million

**F: Yield:** The Authority, in order to maintain the spending power of the money it invests, has adopted a voluntary yield target for the portfolio of the Bank of England Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) target. **In light of the current level of CPI (5.1% in the 12 months to November and expected to peak at 6%) it is unrealistic to achieve yields in line with actual CPI inflation while maintaining security and liquidity. Therefore the target has been retained at the Bank's target level of 2%. This though will need to be kept under regular review given the current uncertainties over future inflation trends.**

<b>Inflation Risk Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Minimum Yield on Portfolio	2%

### 13. OTHER ITEMS

13.1 The CIPFA code requires the Authority to include the following in its treasury management strategy.

13.2 **Policy on Use of Financial Derivatives:** Local authorities have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk (e.g. LOBO loans and callable deposits). The general power of competence in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 removes much of the uncertainty over local authorities' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).

The Authority does not use Financial Derivatives and does not expect to use these in ~~2021/2022~~ 2022/2023. The Authority will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Authority is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be taken into account when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transaction, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria. The current value of any amount due from a derivative counterparty will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.

In line with the CIPFA Code, the Authority will seek external advice and will consider that advice before entering into financial derivatives to ensure that it fully understands the implications.

13.3 **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive:** The Authority has opted up to professional client status with its providers of financial services, including advisers, banks, brokers and fund managers, allowing it access to a greater range of services but without the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Authority's treasury management activities, the Chief Financial Officer believes this to be the most appropriate status.

### 14. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The CIPFA Code does not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Chief Financial Officer having consulted the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on Income and Expenditure	Impact on Risk Management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses will be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses will be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs will be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long term costs will be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs will be less certain

## 15. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A glossary of terms and abbreviations used in Treasury Management is available at [Annex I](#).

## Treasury Management Adviser: Economic & Interest Rate Forecast as at January 2021

### ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

- COVID-19 vaccines.** These were the game changer during 2021 which raised high hopes that life in the UK would be able to largely return to normal in the second half of the year. However, the bursting onto the scene of the Omicron mutation at the end of November, rendered the initial two doses of all vaccines largely ineffective in preventing infection. This has dashed such hopes and raises the spectre again that a fourth wave of the virus could overwhelm hospitals in early 2022. What we now know is that this mutation is very fast spreading with the potential for total case numbers to double every two to three days, although it possibly may not cause so much severe illness as previous mutations. Rather than go for full lockdowns which heavily damage the economy, the government strategy this time is focusing on getting as many people as possible to have a third (booster) vaccination after three months from the previous last injection, as a booster has been shown to restore a high percentage of immunity to Omicron to those who have had two vaccinations. There is now a race on between how quickly boosters can be given to limit the spread of Omicron, and how quickly will hospitals fill up and potentially be unable to cope. In the meantime, workers have been requested to work from home and restrictions have been placed on large indoor gatherings and hospitality venues. With the household saving rate having been exceptionally high since the first lockdown in March 2020, there is plenty of pent-up demand and purchasing power stored up for services in sectors like restaurants, travel, tourism and hotels which had been hit hard during 2021, but could now be hit hard again by either, or both, of government restrictions and/or consumer reluctance to leave home. Growth will also be lower due to people being ill and not working, similar to the pingdemic in July. The economy, therefore, faces significant headwinds although some sectors have learned how to cope well with Covid. However, the biggest impact on growth would come from another lockdown if that happened. The big question still remains as to whether any further mutations of this virus could develop which render all current vaccines ineffective, as opposed to how quickly vaccines can be modified to deal with them and enhanced testing programmes be implemented to contain their spread until tweaked vaccines become widely available.

### A SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF THE FUTURE PATH OF BANK RATE

- In December, the Bank of England became the first major western central bank to put interest rates up in this upswing in the current business cycle in western economies as recovery progresses from the Covid recession of 2020.
- The next increase in Bank Rate could be in February or May, dependent on how severe an impact there is from Omicron.
- If there are lockdowns in January, this could pose a barrier for the MPC to putting Bank Rate up again as early as 3<sup>rd</sup> February.
- With inflation expected to peak at around 6% in April, the MPC may want to be seen to be active in taking action to counter inflation on 5<sup>th</sup> May, the release date for its Quarterly Monetary Policy Report.
- The December 2021 MPC meeting was more concerned with combating inflation over the medium term than supporting economic growth in the short term.
- Bank Rate increases beyond May are difficult to forecast as inflation is likely to drop sharply in the second half of 2022.

- However, the MPC will want to normalise Bank Rate over the next three years so that it has its main monetary policy tool ready to use in time for the next down-turn; all rates under 2% are providing stimulus to economic growth.
- We have put year end 0.25% increases into Q1 of each financial year from 2023 to recognise this upward bias in Bank Rate - but the actual timing in each year is difficult to predict.
- Covid remains a major potential downside threat in all three years as we ARE likely to get further mutations.
- How quickly can science come up with a mutation proof vaccine, or other treatment, – and for them to be widely administered around the world?
- Purchases of gilts under QE ended in December. Note that when Bank Rate reaches 0.50%, the MPC has said it will start running down its stock of QE.

### **MPC meeting 16<sup>h</sup> December 2021**

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 8-1 to raise Bank Rate by 0.15% from 0.10% to 0.25% and unanimously decided to make no changes to its programme of quantitative easing purchases due to finish in December 2021 at a total of £895bn.
- The MPC disappointed financial markets by not raising Bank Rate at its November meeting. Until Omicron burst on the scene, most forecasters, therefore, viewed a Bank Rate increase as being near certain at this December meeting due to the way that inflationary pressures have been comprehensively building in both producer and consumer prices, and in wage rates. However, at the November meeting, the MPC decided it wanted to have assurance that the labour market would get over the end of the furlough scheme on 30<sup>th</sup> September without unemployment increasing sharply; their decision was, therefore, to wait until statistics were available to show how the economy had fared at this time.
- **On 10<sup>th</sup> December we learnt of the disappointing 0.1% m/m rise in GDP** in October which suggested that economic growth had already slowed to a crawl even before the Omicron variant was discovered in late November. Early evidence suggests growth in November might have been marginally better. Nonetheless, at such low rates of growth, the government's "Plan B" COVID-19 restrictions could cause the economy to contract in December.
- **On 14<sup>th</sup> December, the labour market statistics** for the three months to October and the single month of October were released. The fallout after the furlough scheme was smaller and shorter than the Bank of England had feared. The single-month data were more informative and showed that LFS employment fell by 240,000, unemployment increased by 75,000 and the unemployment rate rose from 3.9% in September to 4.2%. However, the weekly data suggested this didn't last long as unemployment was falling again by the end of October. What's more, the 49,700 fall in the claimant count and the 257,000 rise in the PAYE measure of company payrolls suggests that the labour market strengthened again in November. The other side of the coin was a further rise in the number of vacancies from 1.182m to a record 1.219m in the three months to November which suggests that the supply of labour is struggling to keep up with demand, although the single-month figure for November fell for the first time since February, from 1.307m to 1.227m.
- These figures by themselves, would probably have been enough to give the MPC the assurance that it could press ahead to raise Bank Rate at this December meeting. However, the advent of Omicron potentially threw a spanner into the works as it poses a major headwind to the economy which, of itself, will help to cool the economy. The financial markets, therefore, swung round to expecting no change in Bank Rate.



- **On 15th December we had the CPI inflation** figure for November which spiked up further from 4.2% to 5.1%, confirming again how inflationary pressures have been building sharply. However, Omicron also caused a sharp fall in world oil and other commodity prices; (gas and electricity inflation has generally accounted on average for about 60% of the increase in inflation in advanced western economies).
- **Other elements of inflation are also transitory** e.g., prices of goods being forced up by supply shortages, and shortages of shipping containers due to ports being clogged have caused huge increases in shipping costs. But these issues are likely to clear during 2022, and then prices will subside back to more normal levels. Gas prices and electricity prices will also fall back once winter is passed and demand for these falls away.
- Although it is possible that the Government could step in with some **fiscal support for the economy**, the huge cost of such support to date is likely to pose a barrier to incurring further major expenditure unless it was very limited and targeted on narrow sectors like hospitality. The Government may well, therefore, effectively leave it to the MPC, and to monetary policy, to support economic growth – but at a time when the threat posed by rising inflation is near to peaking!
- This is the adverse set of factors against which the MPC had to decide on Bank Rate. For the second month in a row, the MPC blind-sided financial markets, this time with a **surprise increase in Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25%**. What's more, the hawkish tone of comments indicated that the MPC is now concerned that inflationary pressures are indeed building and need concerted action by the MPC to counter. This indicates that there will be more increases to come with financial markets predicting 1% by the end of 2022. The 8-1 vote to raise the rate shows that there is firm agreement that inflation now poses a threat, especially after the CPI figure hit a 10-year high this week. The MPC commented that “there has been significant upside news” and that “there were some signs of greater persistence in domestic costs and price pressures”.
- On the other hand, it did also comment that “**the Omicron variant is likely to weigh on near-term activity**”. But it stressed that at the November meeting it had said it would raise rates if the economy evolved as it expected and that now “these conditions had been met”. It also appeared more worried about the possible boost to inflation from Omicron itself. It said that “the current position of the global and UK economies was materially different compared with prior to the onset of the pandemic, including elevated levels of consumer price inflation”. It also noted the possibility that renewed social distancing would boost demand for goods again, (as demand for services would fall), meaning “global price pressures might persist for longer”. (Recent news is that the largest port in the world in China has come down with an Omicron outbreak which is not only affecting the port but also factories in the region.)
- On top of that, there were no references this month to inflation being expected to be below the **2% target in two years' time**, which at November's meeting the MPC referenced to suggest the markets had gone too far in expecting interest rates to rise to over 1.00% by the end of the year.
- These comments indicate that there has been a material reappraisal by the MPC of the inflationary pressures since their last meeting and the Bank also increased its forecast for inflation to peak at 6% next April, rather than at 5% as of a month ago. However, as the Bank retained its guidance that only a “**modest tightening**” in policy will be required, it cannot be thinking that it will need to increase interest rates



that much more. A typical policy tightening cycle has usually involved rates rising by 0.25% four times in a year. “Modest” seems slower than that. As such, the Bank could be thinking about raising interest rates two or three times next year to 0.75% or 1.00%.

- In as much as a considerable part of the inflationary pressures at the current time are indeed **transitory**, and will naturally subside, and since economic growth is likely to be weak over the next few months, this would appear to indicate that this tightening cycle is likely to be comparatively short.
- As for the timing of the next increase in Bank Rate, the MPC dropped the comment from November’s statement that Bank Rate would be raised “in the coming months”. That may imply another rise is unlikely at the next meeting in February and that May is more likely. However, much could depend on how adversely, or not, the economy is affected by Omicron in the run up to the next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Once 0.50% is reached, the Bank would act to start shrinking its stock of QE, (gilts purchased by the Bank would not be replaced when they mature).
- **The MPC’s forward guidance on its intended monetary policy** on raising Bank Rate versus selling (quantitative easing) holdings of bonds is as follows: -  
Raising Bank Rate as “the active instrument in most circumstances”.  
Raising Bank Rate to 0.50% before starting on reducing its holdings.  
Once Bank Rate is at 0.50% it would stop reinvesting maturing gilts.  
Once Bank Rate had risen to at least 1%, it would start selling its holdings.
- **US.** Shortages of goods and intermediate goods like semi-conductors, have been fuelling increases in prices and reducing economic growth potential. In November, **CPI inflation hit a near 40-year record level of 6.8%** but with energy prices then falling sharply, this is probably the peak. The biggest problem for the Fed is the mounting evidence of a strong pick-up in cyclical price pressures e.g., in rent which has hit a decades high.
- **Shortages of labour** have also been driving up wage rates sharply; this also poses a considerable threat to feeding back into producer prices and then into consumer prices inflation. It now also appears that there has been a sustained drop in the labour force which suggests the pandemic has had a longer-term scarring effect in reducing potential GDP. Economic growth may therefore be reduced to between 2 and 3% in 2022 and 2023 while core inflation is likely to remain elevated at around 3% in both years instead of declining back to the Fed’s 2% central target.
- Inflation hitting 6.8% and the feed through into second round effects, meant that it was near certain that the **Fed’s meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> December** would take aggressive action against inflation. Accordingly, the rate of tapering of monthly \$120bn QE purchases announced at its November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, was doubled so that all purchases would now finish in February 2022. In addition, Fed officials had started discussions on running down the stock of QE held by the Fed. Fed officials also expected three rate rises in 2022 of 0.25% from near zero currently, followed by three in 2023 and two in 2024, taking rates back above 2% to a neutral level for monetary policy. The first increase could come as soon as March 2022 as the chairman of the Fed stated his view – “maximum employment”. The Fed forecast that inflation would fall from an average of 5.3% in 2021 to 2.6% in 2023, still above its target of 2% and both figures significantly up from previous forecasts. What was also significant was that this month the Fed dropped its description of the current level of inflation as being “transitory” and instead referred to “elevated levels” of inflation: the statement also dropped most of the language around the flexible average inflation target, with inflation now described as having exceeded 2

percent “for some time”. It did not see Omicron as being a major impediment to the need to take action now to curtail the level of inflationary pressures that have built up, although Fed officials did note that it has the potential to exacerbate supply chain problems and add to price pressures.

*See also comments in paragraph 3.3 under PWLB rates and gilt yields.*

- **EU.** The slow roll out of vaccines initially delayed **economic recovery** in early 2021 but the vaccination rate then picked up sharply. After a contraction of -0.3% in Q1, Q2 came in with strong growth of 2%. With Q3 at 2.2%, the EU recovery was then within 0.5% of its pre Covid size. However, the arrival of Omicron is now a major headwind to growth in quarter 4 and the expected downturn into weak growth could well turn negative, with the outlook for the first two months of 2022 expected to continue to be very weak.
- **November’s inflation figures** breakdown shows that the increase in price pressures is not just due to high energy costs and global demand-supply imbalances for durable goods as services inflation also rose. Headline inflation reached 4.9% in November, with over half of that due to energy. However, oil and gas prices are expected to fall after the winter and so energy inflation is expected to plummet in 2022. Core goods inflation rose to 2.4% in November, its second highest ever level, and is likely to remain high for some time as it will take a long time for the inflationary impact of global imbalances in the demand and supply of durable goods to disappear. Price pressures also increased in the services sector, but wage growth remains subdued and there are no signs of a trend of faster wage growth which might lead to *persistently* higher services inflation - which would get the ECB concerned. The upshot is that the euro-zone is set for a prolonged period of inflation being above the ECB’s target of 2% and it is likely to average 3% in 2022, in line with the ECB’s latest projection.
- **ECB tapering.** The ECB has joined with the Fed by also announcing at its meeting on 16th December that it will be reducing its QE purchases - by half from October 2022, i.e., it will still be providing significant stimulus via QE purchases for over half of next year. However, as inflation will fall back sharply during 2022, it is likely that it will leave its central rate below zero, (currently -0.50%), over the next two years. The main struggle that the ECB has had in recent years is that inflation has been doggedly anaemic in sticking below the ECB’s target rate despite all its major programmes of monetary easing by cutting rates into negative territory and providing QE support.
- The ECB will now also need to consider the impact of **Omicron** on the economy, and it stated at its December meeting that it is prepared to provide further QE support if the pandemic causes bond yield spreads of peripheral countries, (compared to the yields of northern EU countries), to rise. However, that is the only reason it will support peripheral yields, so this support is limited in its scope.
- The EU has entered into a **period of political uncertainty** where a new German government formed of a coalition of three parties with Olaf Scholz replacing Angela Merkel as Chancellor in December 2021, will need to find its feet both within the EU and in the three parties successfully working together. In France there is a presidential election coming up in April 2022 followed by the legislative election in June. In addition, Italy needs to elect a new president in January with Prime Minister Draghi being a favourite due to having suitable gravitas for this post. However, if he switched office, there is a significant risk that the current government coalition could collapse. That could then cause differentials between Italian and German bonds to widen when 2022 will also see a gradual running down of ECB support for the bonds of weaker countries within the EU. These political uncertainties could have repercussions on economies and on Brexit issues.
- **CHINA.** After a concerted effort to get on top of the virus outbreak in Q1 2020, economic recovery was strong in the rest of **2020**; this enabled China to recover all the initial contraction. During 2020, policy makers both quashed the virus and implemented a

programme of monetary and fiscal support that was particularly effective at stimulating short-term growth. At the same time, China's economy benefited from the shift towards online spending by consumers in developed markets. These factors helped to explain its comparative outperformance compared to western economies during 2020 and earlier in 2021.

- However, the pace of economic growth has now fallen back in **2021** after this initial surge of recovery from the pandemic and looks likely to be particularly weak in 2022. China has been struggling to contain the spread of the Delta variant through using sharp local lockdowns - which depress economic growth. Chinese consumers are also being very wary about leaving home and so spending money on services. However, with Omicron having now spread to China, and being much more easily transmissible, this strategy of sharp local lockdowns to stop the virus may not prove so successful in future. In addition, the current pace of providing boosters at 100 billion per month will leave much of the 1.4 billion population exposed to Omicron, and any further mutations, for a considerable time. The **People's Bank of China** made a start in December 2021 on cutting its key interest rate marginally so as to stimulate economic growth. However, after credit has already expanded by around 25% in just the last two years, it will probably leave the heavy lifting in supporting growth to fiscal stimulus by central and local government.
- Supply shortages, especially of coal for power generation, were causing widespread power cuts to industry during the second half of 2021 and so a sharp disruptive impact on some sectors of the economy. In addition, recent regulatory actions motivated by a political agenda to channel activities into officially approved directions, are also likely to reduce the dynamism and long-term growth of the Chinese economy.
- **JAPAN.** 2021 has been a patchy year in combating Covid. However, recent business surveys indicate that the economy has been rebounding rapidly in 2021 once the bulk of the population had been double vaccinated and new virus cases had plunged. However, Omicron could reverse this initial success in combating Covid.
- The Bank of Japan is continuing its **very loose monetary policy** but with little prospect of getting inflation back above 1% towards its target of 2%, any time soon: indeed, inflation was actually negative in July. New Prime Minister Kishida, having won the November general election, brought in a supplementary budget to boost growth, but it is unlikely to have a major effect.
- **WORLD GROWTH.** World growth was in recession in 2020 but recovered during 2021 until starting to lose momentum in the second half of the year, though overall growth for the year is expected to be about 6% and to be around 4-5% in 2022. Inflation has been rising due to increases in gas and electricity prices, shipping costs and supply shortages, although these should subside during 2022. While headline inflation will fall sharply, core inflation will probably not fall as quickly as central bankers would hope. It is likely that we are heading into a period where there will be a **reversal of world globalisation** and a decoupling of western countries from dependence on China to supply products, and vice versa. This is likely to reduce world growth rates from those in prior decades.
- **SUPPLY SHORTAGES.** The pandemic and extreme weather events, followed by a major surge in demand after lockdowns ended, have been highly disruptive of extended worldwide supply chains. Major queues of ships unable to unload their goods at ports in New York, California and China built up rapidly during quarters 2 and 3 of 2021 but then halved during quarter 4. Such issues have led to a misdistribution of shipping containers around the world and have contributed to a huge increase in the cost of shipping. Combined with a shortage of semi-conductors, these issues have had a disruptive impact

on production in many countries. The latest additional disruption has been a shortage of coal in China leading to power cuts focused primarily on producers (rather than consumers), i.e., this will further aggravate shortages in meeting demand for goods. Many western countries are also hitting up against a difficulty in filling job vacancies. It is expected that these issues will be gradually sorted out, but they are currently contributing to a spike upwards in inflation and shortages of materials and goods available to purchase.

### Interest Rate Forecasts 2021 – 2025

PWLB forecasts shown below have taken into account the 20 basis point certainty rate reduction effective as of the 1st November 2012.

Link Group Interest Rate View 20.12.21														
	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25
<b>BANK RATE</b>	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.25
3 month ave earnings	0.20	0.30	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6 month ave earnings	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
12 month ave earnings	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
5 yr PWLB	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00
10 yr PWLB	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.30
25 yr PWLB	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50
50 yr PWLB	1.50	1.70	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30
<b>Bank Rate</b>														
Link	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.25
Capital Economics	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	-	-	-	-	-
<b>5yr PWLB Rate</b>														
Link	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00
Capital Economics	1.40	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.80	1.90	-	-	-	-	-
<b>10yr PWLB Rate</b>														
Link	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.30
Capital Economics	1.60	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.00	-	-	-	-	-
<b>25yr PWLB Rate</b>														
Link	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50
Capital Economics	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.30	-	-	-	-	-
<b>50yr PWLB Rate</b>														
Link	1.50	1.70	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30
Capital Economics	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.20	2.30	-	-	-	-	-

### Capital Programme & Financing: 6 December 2021

£'000	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate
<b>Capital expenditure:</b>					
General Fund	30,902	29,930	43,808	43,487	33,472
HRA	15,987	20,170	28,337	23,681	17,881
Third Party Loans - ESH	12,350	10,000	-	-	-
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>59,239</b>	<b>60,100</b>	<b>72,145</b>	<b>67,168</b>	<b>51,353</b>
<b>Resourced By:</b>					
Capital Receipts	(3,707)	(5,106)	(10,134)	(7,133)	(4,128)
Other Contributions	(21,267)	(21,194)	(32,311)	(28,185)	(17,225)
<b>Total Available Resource for Capital Financing</b>	<b>(24,974)</b>	<b>(26,300)</b>	<b>(42,445)</b>	<b>(35,318)</b>	<b>(21,353)</b>
<b>Unfinanced Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>34,265</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>29,700</b>	<b>31,850</b>	<b>30,000</b>

### Actual Portfolio: 6 January 2022

	Actual Portfolio £m
<b>External borrowing:</b>	
Public Works Loan Board	205.1
Local Authorities	45
LOBO loans from banks	Nil
<b>Total external borrowing</b>	<b>250.1</b>
<b>Other long-term liabilities:</b>	
Finance Leases	Nil
<b>Total other long-term liabilities</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Total gross external debt</b>	<b>250.1</b>
<b>Treasury investments:</b>	
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	25.5
Ermine Street Housing	87.6
Cambourne Town Council	0.5
Money Market Funds	6.9
Registered Social Landlords	3.5
Cambridge Leisure and Ice Centre	2.4
<b>Total treasury investments</b>	<b>126.4</b>
<b>Net debt</b>	<b>123.7</b>

Note: all values are on a principal/nominal basis

## Medium Term Forecasts: 6 December 2021

	31.3.2021 Actual £m	31.3.2022 Estimate £m	31.3.2023 Forecast £m	31.3.2024 Forecast £m	31.3.2025 Forecast £m
General Fund CFR	336.7	370.5	400.2	432.1	462.1
Less: Other debt liabilities					
<b>Loans CFR</b>	336.7	370.5	400.2	432.1	462.1
Less: External Borrowing	249.1	265.1	294.8	326.7	356.7
<b>Internal (over) borrowing</b>	87.6	105.4	105.4	105.4	105.4
Usable Reserves	67.6	56.8	55.2	55.0	54.5
Working Capital	35.8	25.0	24.8	25.0	25.0
<b>Minimum Liquidity</b>	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0

## Liability Benchmark

	31.3.2021 Actual £m	31.3.2022 Estimate £m	31.3.2023 Forecast £m	31.3.2024 Forecast £m	31.3.2025 Forecast £m
Loans CFR	336.7	370.5	400.2	432.1	462.1
Less: Usable reserves	67.6	56.8	55.2	55.0	54.5
Less: Working Capital	35.8	25.0	24.8	25.0	25.0
Plus: Minimum Liquidity	7	7	7	7	7
<b>Liability Benchmark</b>	240.3	295.7	327.2	359.1	389.6



## Minimum Revenue Provision Policy

- 1.1 Local Authorities are required to charge to their revenue account each year a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in relation to capital spend that has yet to be financed, i.e. borrowing. The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) reflects the underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure.
- 1.2 The MRP should be prudent and, although it is for each authority to determine the amount, the published guidance by the Government is that “local authorities should align the period over which they charge MRP to one that is commensurate with the period over which their capital expenditure provides benefits”.
- 1.3 The MRP policy is set out below:
- (1) There is no requirement to charge MRP where the CFR is nil or negative at the end of the preceding financial year.
  - (2) The Housing Revenue Account share of the CFR is not subject to an MRP charge.
  - (3) There is no requirement to make an MRP charge on an asset until the financial year after that asset becomes operational.
  - (4) For capital expenditure expected to be financed by borrowing between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2025, the MRP will be based on a straight-line basis, using equal annual instalments over the average estimated life of the assets for which borrowing is required. However, no provision will be made in respect of expenditure on specific projects where the Chief Financial Officer determines that receipts will be generated by the project to repay the debt.
  - (5) Investment in commercial property is deemed capital expenditure and will be financed from cash balances and/or external borrowing as appropriate at the time. There is a requirement for these investments to clearly demonstrate security, liquidity and yield and these factors will influence the applicability of MRP. MRP will ordinarily be provided for using the useful life determinant with regard to maximum lives permitted in the revised MHCLG MRP guidance of 50 years for freehold land and 40 years for all other assets. MRP will be made on the purchase of these properties in the year following the year of purchase and will be set having regard to its annual valuation. The application of MRP will be adjusted to reflect the annual valuation of investment properties and will be determined on a property by property basis; an increase in the valuation of a property that results in revaluation gains in the Council’s Capital Adjustment Account will result in a corresponding reduction in MRP whilst, conversely, falling valuations may result in voluntary increases in MRP to ensure that the authority is retaining increasing equity in the property.
  - (6) Investments in Council Wholly Owned Companies, in the form of borrowing or equity, will be assessed on an investment by investment basis. The general assumption is that the loan is deemed to be secured on the assets of the company such that the net value of the assets held by the company will be sufficient to repay any borrowings invested. Advances to the company will be met by loan repayments, treated as a deferred capital receipt, so over time there is no impact on the CPR and, therefore, no MRP needs to be charged. The Council will review the loan and business plan annually and, where there is evidence that suggests the full amount of the loan will not be repaid, it will be necessary to reassess the charge to recover the impaired amounts from revenue. MRP in relation to equity will be provided for over 20 years in line with CIPFA guidance.

- (7) Exceptionally, where capital expenditure is part of a loan agreement to other than a wholly owned subsidiary, the Council may register a fixed and floating charge over the counterparty assets to secure the Council's interest in the investment, or alternately an equity share interest in an asset with value.

## Approved Investment Counterparties and Limits

Counterparty	Minimum Short Term Rating	Minimum Long Term Rating	Maximum Duration	Suggested Duration
UK Government	N/A	N/A	Unlimited	N/A
UK Clearing Banks	Moody's P-2 Or equivalent	Moody's A3 Or equivalent	5 years	Provided by Link
Other Banks	Moody's P-2 Or equivalent	Moody's A3 Or equivalent	5 years	Provided by Link
UK Building Societies	Moody's P-2 Or equivalent	Moody's A3 Or equivalent	5 years	Provided by Link
Registered Social Landlords	Moody's P-2 Or equivalent	Moody's A3 Or equivalent	5 years	Provided by Link
Local Authorities	N/A	N/A	5 years	N/A
MMF's and USDBF's	AAA	N/A	MMF's: T+0 USDBF's: T+3	Liquidity Funds

## Approved Investment Counterparties: Detailed List

The full listing of approved counterparties is shown below, showing the category under which the counterparty has been approved, the appropriate deposit limit and current duration limits. These counterparties have also been shown under Specified and Non-Specified Investments (in line with MHCLG Guidance).

Name	Council's Current Deposit Period	Category	Limit (£)
<b>Specified Investments:</b>			
All UK Local Authorities	N/A	Local Authority	10m
All UK Police Authorities	N/A	Police Authority	10m
All UK Fire Authorities	N/A	Fire Authority	10m
Debt Management Account Deposit Facility	N/A	DMADF	Unlimited
Barclays Bank Plc	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Bank	10m
HSBC Bank Plc	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Bank	10m
Lloyds Bank Plc	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Bank	10m
Santander UK Plc	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Bank	10m
Other UK Retail & Clearing Banks	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Banks	10m
Subsidiaries of UK Banks (provided the subsidiaries are UK- incorporated deposit takers under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and provided loans are for a maximum period of three months)	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Banks	3m

Places for People Homes Ltd	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	Registered Housing Association	5m
Close Brothers Ltd	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Retail Bank	5m
Standard Chartered Bank	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Domiciled Bank	10m
Goldman Sachs International Bank	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Domiciled Bank	5m
SMBC Bank International PLC	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	UK Domiciled Bank	5m

Name	Council's Current Deposit Period	Category	Limit (£)
<b>Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds:</b> Aberdeen Standard Life Federated Hermes Other providers where approved by Head of Finance	Liquid Rolling Balance	Financial Instrument	10m (per fund)

Name	Council's Current Deposit Period	Category	Limit (£)
<b>Money Market Funds:</b> HSBC GLF MMF Aberdeen Standard Life Deutsche GLS Aviva Investors Liquidity Funds Barclays Call Account Other MMF's where approved by Head of Finance	Liquid Rolling Balance	Financial Instrument	10m (per fund)

Name	Council's Current Deposit Period	Society Asset Value (£'m) As at December 18	Limit (£)
<b>Other Specified Investments - UK Building Societies: -</b>			
Nationwide Building Society	Using Link Asset Services Credit Criteria	236,035 (Apr 19)	Assets greater than £10,000m <b>Limit - £10m</b>
Yorkshire Building Society		50,417	
Coventry Building Society		45,446	
Skipton Building Society		21,638	Assets between £10,000m and £5,000m <b>Limit - £5m</b>
Leeds Building Society		19,643	
Principality Building Society		9,502	Assets between £5,000m and £1,500m <b>Limit - £3m</b>
West Bromwich Building Society		5,552 (Mar 2019)	

Name	Council's Current Deposit Period	Category	Limit (£)
<b>Non-Specified Investments: -</b>			
All UK Local Authorities – longer term limit	Over 1 year and up to 5 years	Local Authority	10m per single counterparty
CCLA Local Authorities' Property Fund	Minimum of 5 years	Pooled UK Property Fund	Up to 10m
South Cambs Ltd - Housing Co.	Up to 5 years	Loan	107m
UK Municipal Bonds Agency	N/A	Share Capital	0.050m
Cambridge Leisure and Ice Centre	25 Years	Loan	2.4m
<b>Cambourne Town Council</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Loan</b>	<b>0.5m</b>



## Limits on Investment Per Sector

	Cash limit
Any single organisation, except the UK Central Government	£10million each
UK Central Government	Unlimited
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	£10million per group
Foreign countries	£5million per country
Registered providers and registered social landlords	£5million each
Unsecured investments with building societies	£10million each
Loans to unrated corporates	£5million in total
Money market funds	£30million in total
Real estate investment trusts	£5million in total



## Treasury Management: Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
Authorised Limit for External Borrowing	Represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing
Capital Expenditure	Expenditure capitalised in accordance with regulations i.e. material expenditure either by Government Directive or on capital assets, such as land and buildings, owned by the Council (as opposed to revenue expenditure which is on day to day items including employees' pay, premises costs and supplies and services)
Capital Financing Requirement	A measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need i.e. it represents the total historical outstanding capital expenditure which has not been paid for from either revenue or capital resources
Certificates of Deposit (CDs)	Low risk certificates issued by banks which offer a higher rate of return
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
Corporate Bonds	Financial instruments issued by corporations
Counterparties	Financial Institutions with which funds may be placed
Credit Risk	Risk of borrower defaulting on any type of debt by failing to make payments which it is obligated to do
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (formerly the Department for Communities & Local Government, DCLG)
Enhanced Cash Funds	Higher yielding funds typically for investments exceeding 3 months
Eurocurrency	Currency deposited by national governments or corporations in banks outside of their home market
External Gross Debt	Long-term liabilities including Private Finance Initiatives and Finance Leases
Government CNAV	Highly liquid sovereign stock based on a Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV)
HRA	Housing Revenue Account - a 'ring-fenced' account for local authority housing account where a council acts as landlord
HRA Self-Financing	A new funding regime for the HRA introduced in place of the previous annual subsidy system

London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

A benchmark rate that some of the leading banks charge each other for short-term loans

Term	Definition
London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID)	The average interest rate which major London banks borrow Eurocurrency deposits from other banks
Liquidity	A measure of how readily available a deposit is
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee - The Bank of England Committee responsible for setting the UK's bank base rate
Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV)	Highly liquid sovereign stock based on a Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV)
Non-Ring-Fenced Bank (NRFB)	Government & Bank of England rules will apply to all UK Banks which have to split their business into 'core' retail and investment units known as Ring and Non-Ring Fenced Banks for the 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019 deadline
Non-Specified Investments	These are investments that do not meet the conditions laid down for Specified Investments and potentially carry additional risk, e.g. lending for periods beyond 1 year
Operational Boundary	Limit which external borrowing is not normally expected to exceed
PWLB	Public Works Loans Board - an Executive Government Agency of HM Treasury from which local authorities & other prescribed bodies may borrow at favourable interest rates
Ring Fenced Bank (RFB)	Government & Bank of England rules will apply to all UK Banks which have to split their business into 'core' retail and investment units known as Ring and Non-Ring Fenced Banks for the 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019 deadline
Security	A measure of the creditworthiness of a counter-party
Specified Investments	Those investments identified as offering high security and liquidity. They are also sterling denominated, with maturities up to a maximum of 1 year, meeting the minimum 'high' credit rating criteria where applicable
Supranational Bonds	Multi-lateral Development Bank Bond
UK Government Gilts	Longer-term Government securities with maturities over 6 months and up to 30 years
Variable Net Asset Value (VNAV)	MMFs values based on daily market fluctuations to 2 decimal places known as mark-to-market prices
UK Government Treasury Bills	Short-term securities with a maximum maturity of 6 months issued by HM Treasury
Weighted Average Life (WAL)	Weighted average length of time of unpaid principal
Weighted Average Maturity (WAM)	Weighted average amount of time to maturity
Yield	Interest, or rate of return, on an investment

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# Agenda Item 16



**REPORT TO:** Cabinet 7 February 2022

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor John Williams,  
Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

**LEAD OFFICER:** Peter Maddock, Head of Finance

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## Capital Strategy

### Executive Summary

1. To undertake the annual review of the Capital Strategy and to consider a refreshed version of the Capital Strategy for adoption by the Council.
2. This is a key decision as the report seeks to establish a strategy that is designed to set the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of all capital investment and the prioritisation of the Council's capital resources.

### Recommendation

3. Cabinet is requested to consider the report and, if satisfied, recommend to Full Council the updated Capital Strategy attached at Appendix A to the report which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment, including Prudential Indicators.

### Reason for Recommendation

4. To establish and approve an updated Capital Strategy that complies with CIPFA's revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2017 edition) and Prudential Code Guidance Notes for Practitioners (2018 edition), CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes (2017 edition) and revised Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (3rd Edition) issued in February 2018.

### Details

#### Background

5. The Capital Strategy outlines the Council's approach to capital investment and seeks to ensure that it maximises the contribution of the Council's limited capital resources to priority areas. It also recognises the need to deliver value for money.
6. The Prudential Code (2017 edition) introduced a new requirement for Local Authorities to have an annually approved Capital Strategy and, as such, it is reviewed on an annual basis to reflect the changing needs, priorities and

circumstances of the Council. The review has also sought to ensure that the Capital Strategy reflects the requirements of the Prudential Code.

7. The Prudential Code requirements include:
- greater focus on the Local Authorities' approach to commercial investment activities, including processes ensuring effective due diligence and defining risk appetite including proportionality in respect of overall resources;
  - a requirement that the Capital Strategy is written in plain English and that it is concise enough to be read and understood by elected members that are not financial specialists;
  - a recommendation that the Capital Strategy includes the authorised limit and operational boundary indicators as well as other relevant prudential indicators;
  - a summary of the knowledge and skills available to the Council and confirmation that these are commensurate with the Council's risk appetite.

### **Capital Strategy**

8. The intention of the Prudential Code is to have an overarching document which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of all capital investment. The Strategy focuses on core principles that underpin the capital programme, the key issues and risks, and the governance framework required to ensure the capital programme is delivered and provides value for money.
9. The Capital Strategy was fully reviewed and refreshed as part of the 2020/2021 budget setting process having regard to established guidance and best practice and an updated version, reproduced at **Appendix A** was approved by Council for adoption at its meeting on 23 February 2021.
10. In reviewing the Capital Strategy, the following guiding principles continue to be applied as these underpin the strategy and approach:
- (a) The Council complies with the requirements of the Prudential Code when considering its capital investment requirements, linking this with the revenue budget. Compliance with the Prudential Code ensures that proposed investment is prudent, sustainable and affordable.
  - (b) Capital schemes are prioritised and that the forward capital programme only includes schemes that can be funded from approved borrowing levels, revenue contributions, grants and available and projected capital receipts during the life of the programme;

- (c) Capital investment requirements are considered in the context of a sustainable revenue budget and, as such, the revenue implications of proposed schemes are fully considered, including positive contributions from “invest to save” schemes;
  - (d) Endeavours will be made to support revenue contributions to capital expenditure to ensure that funding is available for essential ongoing investment needs. Asset maintenance (property) and replacement equipment (ICT and vehicles) will be fully funded depreciating assets from revenue, subject to affordability;
  - (e) Capital projects will be selected via an agreed capital project approval framework, incorporating a robust capital appraisal and feasibility process, and having full regard to affordability. Effective arrangements will be established for monitoring project deliverability, project outcomes and the achievement of value for money.
11. A review of the strategy has identified some minor updates to the Capital Strategy as follows:
- The requirement to provide an Infrastructure Funding Statement for the preceding year. The latest statement was produced for 2020/2021 during December 2021 and a link to that document is provided within the strategy
  - The need to reflect the focus of the Investment Strategy towards Commercial and Service Investment and, in particular, the presumption against the acquisition of commercial assets primarily for yield having regard to prevailing rules in relation to local authority borrowing.
  - The annual review and update of Prudential Indicators that are identified in the adopted Strategy at **Annex A**.
  - Changes to reflect the time period of the updated Strategy and minor designation variations.
12. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) identifies that an annual review of the Capital Programme will be undertaken and that, in doing so, full regard will be given to the Prudential Indicators before any proposals/decisions are made in respect of a revised programme. The range of Prudential Indicators to be adopted are summarised at **Annex A** to the revised Capital Strategy.
13. An updated version of the Capital Strategy is attached at **Appendix A** with the proposed changes to the current version of the Strategy, approved on 20 February 2020, identified in red and crossed through text.

### **Investment Strategy**

14. In addition to the Capital Strategy, the Council is now required to have a separately approved Investment Strategy. Guidance requires the Strategy to be

approved by Full Council on an annual basis and, moreover, that any mid-year material changes to the Strategy must also be subject to Full Council approval.

15. The Investment Strategy was reviewed in response to new borrowing rules for commercial investments introduced from 26 November 2020 and an updated version was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 6 December 2021. This is scheduled to be considered by Council at its meeting on 22 February 2022.

### **Treasury Management Strategy**

16. The Council also has a separate Treasury Management Strategy covering treasury investments and borrowing and this is subject to review on an annual basis. A separate report is included on the agenda following the annual review.

### **Options**

17. The option of not adopting the revised Capital Strategy is not considered to be appropriate. Local authorities are accountable to their communities for how they spend their money and for ensuring that this spending is prioritised and represents value for money. Local politicians and officers operate within local governance frameworks of checks and balances to ensure that decision-making is lawful, informed by objective advice, transparent and consultative. Good governance means that proper arrangements are in place to ensure that an authority's intended objectives are achieved and establishing a policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of all capital investment and the prioritisation of the Council's capital resources must be a key commitment to ensure that authorities remain financially sustainable and respond efficiently and effectively to service needs.

### **Implications**

18. In the writing of this report, taking into account the financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

#### **Policy**

19. The Capital Strategy is one of the fundamental resource management strategies of the Council which should be reviewed annually to determine its ongoing appropriateness in relation to the capital control framework. The Capital Strategy provides the framework for:
  - considering bids for inclusion in the Capital Programme;
  - maximising and allocating the finance available for investment;
  - determining the Council's capital investment priorities;
  - achieving Value for Money from capital schemes;
  - ensuring an ongoing review process;
  - enabling the implementation process of approved schemes;
  - partnership working;



- cross cutting issues;
- performance measurement;
- Minimum Revenue Provision.

### **Legal**

20. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2003 provides operational detail and specifically states that Authorities must have regard to CIPFA's Prudential Code when setting and reviewing borrowing limits. Local Authorities must also have regard to the Investment Guidance issued by Secretary of State under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003.

### **Financial**

21. The Capital Strategy sets out how the Council determines its capital investment priorities in particular in relation to corporate priorities taking into account the capital resources available including borrowing in line with the Council's approved Prudential Indicators. There are no additional resource requirements as a result of the Capital Strategy, but it does provide the framework for assessing and prioritising the use of the Council's limited capital resources.

22.

### **Risk**

23. The purpose of the Capital Strategy is to provide a key financial planning and resource management tool for the Council. An effective strategy for capital investment provides a framework for eliminating the risk of approving schemes which:

- are not affordable in either capital or ongoing revenue terms;
- do not meet legal obligations or the Council's key stated priorities.

### **Environmental**

24. There are no environmental implications arising directly from the report. The environmental impacts of each capital scheme are considered as part of the implementation stage of a specific project.

### **Equality Analysis**

25. In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.
26. It is considered that the report has no relevance to the Council's statutory equality duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relation. An equality analysis is not needed. Individual capital bids may, however, have specific equality impacts that need to be considered and evaluated.

## Background Papers

Where the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)

(England) Regulations 2012 require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection:

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The following documents are relevant to this report:

- Investment Strategy – Report to Council: 28 November 2019
- HM Treasury Document entitled “Public Works Loan Board: future lending terms – Response to the consultation” issued on 25 November 2020.
- Medium Term Financial Strategy – Report to Cabinet: 7 December 2020
- Medium Term Financial Strategy – Report to Council: 23 February 2021
- Capital Strategy – Report to Cabinet: 3 February 2021
- Capital Strategy – Report to Council: 23 February 2021
- Investment Strategy – Report to Cabinet: 6 December 2021

## Appendices

A Capital Strategy

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# Capital Strategy

FEBRUARY 2021-2022

## **1. Introduction**

The Capital Strategy forms a part of the Council's overall corporate planning framework. It provides the mechanism by which the Council's capital investment and financing decisions can be aligned with the Council's overarching corporate priorities and objectives over a medium term, five year, planning horizon.

It sets the framework for all aspects of the Council's capital expenditure; including planning, prioritisation, funding, management and monitoring. The strategy has direct links to the Corporate Asset Plan (CAP) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Asset Management Plan and forms a key part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The Capital Strategy includes sufficient detail to allow Members to understand how stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability will be secured and how this meets legislative requirements on reporting.

## **2. Strategic Aims**

- 2.1 The Council's long term vision is set out in the ~~2020-2025~~ **2021-2026** Business Plan in which four themes guide the approach, each focussed on enhancing South Cambridgeshire as a place where people, communities, businesses can grow and realise their potential.
- 2.2 The ~~2020-25~~ **2021-2026** Business Plan is seen as an overarching document that links individual Service Plans and Council Strategies, including the Capital Strategy. The Capital Strategy supports the achievement of the Council's vision through investment in the assets the Council owns, the delivery of key infrastructure to support growth and improvement in services, and through improvements to the services and systems that the Council utilises. The key aims of the Capital Strategy are to:
- Provide a clear context within which proposals for new capital expenditure are evaluated to ensure that all capital investment is targeted at meeting the Council's vision, aims, approaches and actions;
  - Deliver projects that focus on delivering revenue benefits in the form of spend to save, spend to earn or generate growth in revenue income;
  - Set out how the council identifies, programmes and prioritises capital requirements and proposals arising from the Business Plan, Service Plans, CAP and other related strategies;
  - Consider options available for funding capital expenditure and how resources may be maximised, to generate investment in the area, to determine an affordable and sustainable funding policy framework whilst minimising the ongoing revenue implications of any such investment;
  - Identify the resources available for capital investment over the MTFS planning period; and
  - Establish effective arrangements for the management of capital expenditure including the assessment of project outcomes, budget profiling, deliverability, and the achievement of value for money.

## **3. Investment Priorities**

- 3.1 Underlying the Capital Strategy is the recognition that the financial resources available to meet corporate priorities are constrained in the current economic and political climate. Central government support for capital investment has reduced

## Appendix A

- significantly over the last few years, along with these reductions is the recognition that the Council must rely on internal resources and find ways in which investment decisions can be either self-sustaining or generate positive returns both in terms of meeting corporate objectives and producing revenue savings.
- 3.2 Against the background of limited central government support the capital programme identifies the total investment needed to support the achievement of Council's aims and objectives such as housing, economic development and climate emergency. The Council's capital investment plans are also important to the ongoing financial resilience of the authority given the key objective of investing in commercial assets to deliver a positive financial return for the benefit of the revenue budget.
  - 3.3 Significant investment in council housing over the last few years has succeeded in producing a property portfolio generally at or above the decent homes standard and the delivery of a new build programme, ~~with the first 145 new properties being completed already~~. Imposed reductions in property rent of 1% for 4 years from April 2016 and the threat of the need to sell high value voids impacted the Council's ability to continue this level of programme in the longer term, necessitating a strategic review of assets, service delivery and financing. In the short term the new build programme has been maintained by utilising resources previously ear-marked for potential debt redemption, but this does mean that the authority will need to refinance its housing debt when it matures. A commitment to repeal the sale of high value voids legislation and the removal of the HRA borrowing cap mean that a longer-term program of new build can now be developed.
  - 3.4 ~~Although the Council has commercial property investments, housing continues to make up the Council's largest asset, so As the majority of the council's assets are housing,~~ there are limited opportunities to raise capital receipts through disposals, therefore, the limited capital resources available through grant, capital receipts and private sector contributions are prioritised to maximise outputs with minimum ongoing future revenue costs.
  - 3.5 Capital investment in the Council's wholly owned subsidiary, Ermine Street Housing, ~~and other loans for commercial & service investment purposes,~~ offer the opportunity to realise interest receipts which will contribute to the Council's revenue funding.
  - 3.6 Cambridgeshire is an area of growth with the Greater Cambridge Partnership (formerly City Deal) offering financial support to deliver infrastructure to facilitate the delivery of homes and business space, as set out in the draft local plans for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire council areas. This will in turn contribute towards council funding in the longer term in the form of additional council tax and business rates receipts.
  - 3.7 A further opportunity is the designation of Enterprise and Development Zones, including sites at Cambourne Business Park, Cambridge Research Park and Northstowe, which have the potential to offer incentives to enable the creation of new businesses and employment.
  - 3.8 The major themes of the Capital Programme are, therefore, as follows:
    - **Economic Investment:** The Council will continue to seek investments that generate longer term growth. These projects will yield a combination of revenue generation (business rates, **rent** or interest), jobs and capital infrastructure investment, based on sound business cases. This also includes investment to support the Business Plan priority "Green to the Core" with consequent carbon reduction and revenue payback benefits.

- **Existing Housing:** Significant investment has been made in recent years to raise the standard of council dwellings to meet the government's decent homes standard. In addition to the decent homes investment, the authority has previously invested in energy conservation projects such as external wall insulation, solar energy initiatives and renewable heating sources.
- **New Housing Supply and Housing Partnerships:** The Council are managing a new build programme in-house, which is anticipated to deliver an average of just over 50 new homes per annum to meet local housing need. Opportunities to work with the Combined Authority to deliver new affordable homes in the district are also being fully explored.
- **Commercial Housing Enterprise Initiatives:** The Council has established a Housing Company (South Cambs Limited trading as Ermine Street Housing) to enable the supply of private rented housing stock.
- **Strengthen the Council's Asset Base:** An approved Investment Strategy aims to provide a robust and viable framework for the acquisition of commercial property investments and in the pursuance of redevelopment and regeneration opportunities that contribute to Business Plan objectives and can deliver positive financial returns to the Council.
- **Maintaining Corporate Property Assets:** Significant investment is committed in the capital programme towards maintaining the Council's assets, including environmental improvements. To manage its maintenance liability, the Council is rationalising its office accommodation through sub-let of office space, providing a contribution to ongoing revenue savings. A process of on-going reviews will identify potential alternative use of office buildings and car park for capital investment to generate long term revenue savings.
- **Efficiency through Technology:** The Council is investing in technology to deliver a digital solution to the transformation of service delivery and in so will increase the accessibility of Council services and reduce operating costs. The Council's ICT service is shared with Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire District Councils, and appropriate investment into ICT hardware and software will continue to be undertaken on a case by case basis, the primary focus being improved technologies on a spend to save basis.
- **Refuse and Recycling Collection:** A shared trade and domestic waste collection service with Cambridge City Council, supported by capital investment, will achieve long term revenue savings through service rationalisation and vehicle efficiencies.
- **Community Projects:** Capital grants to other organisations will be considered where the council incurs no staff or other recurring costs; these organisations are, however, expected to raise additional capital resources from the National Lottery, Sports Council, etc. The Council has a funding toolkit on its website to assist organisations seeking funding.

#### **4. Governance Arrangements**

- 4.1 The Council has various mechanisms in place which seek to ensure that there is an integrated approach to addressing cross-cutting issues and developing and improving service delivery through its capital investment in pursuance of the Council's over-arching aims.

## Appendix A

- 4.2 An integrated service and financial planning process is followed. Within this framework all proposals for capital investment are required to demonstrate how they contribute to the Council's aims and objectives. The evaluation process for investment proposals aligns corporate objectives with costs and benefits ensuring delivery of efficiency and value for money. Investment appraisal forms and the criteria for prioritising capital bids are available to managers on the Council intranet.
- 4.3 Specific governance processes include:
- Democratic decision making and scrutiny processes which provide overall political direction and ensure accountability for the investment in the capital programme. These processes include:
    - The Council which is ultimately responsible for approving investment and the capital programme;
    - The Cabinet which is responsible for setting the corporate framework and political priorities to be reflected in the capital programme, with Cabinet receiving regular monitoring reports;
    - The Scrutiny and Overview Committee which is responsible for scrutiny of the Capital Strategy and capital programme;
    - The need for compliance with Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
  - Officer groups which bring together a range of service interests and professional expertise. These include:
    - The Executive Leadership Team which has overall responsibility for the strategic development, management and monitoring of the capital programme;
    - Corporate Management Team, providing service manager review and monitoring of key areas;
    - Specific project boards with wide ranging membership, for example the Greater Cambridge Partnership Board;
    - Management teams which overview reports for investments prior to Executive Leadership Team and Cabinet approval;
    - Project Teams created to oversee significant capital projects as required.
- 4.4 Council assets are kept under review, valuations of land and property being undertaken by a professionally qualified valuer every five years, with an annual review at year end to ensure material changes in asset value are accounted for. The CAP and HRA Asset Management Plan will ensure that a comprehensive forward plan of maintenance and improvement work is identified to support funding allocations in the Council's forward capital programme.

### **5. Capital Programme Monitoring**

- 5.1 Effective arrangements for the management of capital expenditure are essential, including the assessment of project outcomes, budget profiling, deliverability and the achievement of value for money. In terms of project outcomes and deliverability, the Cabinet will, therefore, receive an annual report covering:
- the details of schemes commenced on time;
  - the details of schemes completed on time;
  - how many schemes were completed within budget;
  - the extent to which predetermined investment objectives were met.
- 5.2 A post implementation review of key capital projects should be undertaken by the relevant Lead Officer and reported to Cabinet as part of the annual report.



- 5.3 Established monitoring processes should ensure that project risks, such as project slippage, lack of engagement from project managers, skills shortage, poor IT systems, are identified, evaluated and managed. Risks should be clearly identified in the Council's risk register and the impact of any such risks on key investment priorities should be reported to Cabinet as part of regular monitoring reports.

## **6. Capital Expenditure and Financing**

- 6.1 Capital expenditure is where the Council spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles that will be used for more than one year. For local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, i.e. loans and grants enabling them to acquire assets. The Council has limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure; capital spending below £10,000 (the deemed de-minimus value) is not capitalised and, as such, is charged to revenue.
- 6.2 Details of gross capital expenditure approved in the current Capital Programme are set out in Annex A **Prudential Indicator 1: Estimates of Capital Expenditure**.
- 6.3 Under certain circumstances the Council acts as an intermediary for central government in relation to transferring specific capital grants to third parties. The Council is committed to actively working with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to maximise capital investment in order to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the District and its residents.
- 6.4 Capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants/external contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves, and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing and leasing). The main sources of capital funding are summarised below:
- **Central Government:**
    - Grants are allocated in relation to specific programmes or projects and the Council would seek to maximise such allocations, developing appropriate projects which reflect government and partnership led initiatives and agendas while addressing the needs of the District. In general terms, the major source of capital funding available to the Council has been grant approvals allocated by Central Government to specific or non-specific projects. This is, however, a diminishing resource and, where a priority is identified, alternative funds need to be sourced.
    - A significant amount of current funding is in the form of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) part of which is allocated to fund future capital infrastructure through the Greater Cambridge Partnership.
  - **Third Party Funding:**
    - Capital grants represent project specific funding for capital projects, in addition to those from central government, more usually received from quasigovernment sources or other national organisations. In developing capital proposals, the Council will seek to maximise such external contributions, subject to any related grant conditions being consistent with the Council's policy, aims and outcomes.
  - **Private Contributions:**



- The Council will seek to maximise developer contributions (e.g. for the provision of affordable housing or sustainable community needs) through the Section 106 process and will also review the potential of the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to support on-going investment.
- The Council will continue to work with the private sector to utilise or re-purpose redundant assets to facilitate regeneration and employment creation.
- **Borrowing:**
  - The Council has discretion to undertake prudential 'unsupported' borrowing under the Prudential Code. This discretion is subject to compliance with the Code's regulatory framework which requires any such borrowing to be prudent, affordable and sustainable.
  - Given the pressure on the Council's revenue budget in future years, prudent use will be made of this discretion in cases where there is a clear financial benefit such as invest to save, spend to earn or regeneration schemes which do not increase expenditure in the longer term.
- **Capital Receipts:**
  - Unallocated capital receipts received prior to April 2012 are available for general use and, as such, will be used for General Fund and/or HRA capital expenditure. Capital receipts received after April 2012 primarily relate to HRA property and land sales, the use of which is subject to detailed national regulations and associated guidance. The Capital Programme will detail anticipated capital receipts and the proposed use of these within the constraints imposed.
  - Most disposals relate to dwellings sold under the government right to buy scheme; the scheme allows the retention of some of the receipts subject to certain conditions i.e. used to fund the delivery of new social housing to a maximum of 30% of any dwelling funded through this method, with the balance being funded from the Council's own resources or by borrowing.
  - Capital receipts from asset disposal are a finite funding source and it is important that a planned and structured manner of disposals is created to support the priorities of the Council. Cash receipts from the disposal of surplus assets are to be used to fund new capital investment as and when received, with restrictions on the use of HRA receipts for any other purpose.
- **Lease Finance:**
  - Where alternative funding is not available for vehicles or minor equipment, and the revenue budget does not allow for a full capital repayment, and there is a robust business case then the option of leasing may be considered.
- **Revenue Contributions:**
  - Capital expenditure may be funded directly from revenue as specific budget provision, however, the pressures on the Council's revenue budget and Council Tax levels limits the extent to which this may be exercised as a source of capital funding for the General Fund. Revenue is used extensively

## Appendix A

to support the HRA programme, whilst maintaining the minimum level of reserves.

- 6.5 External contributions include Section 106 developer contributions and CIL. Local Authorities in receipt of CIL or S106 contributions must now produce an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) as a result of recent changes to legislation - the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019. It sets out income receivable and how the money is being spent or plans to be spent. A link to The Council's IFS is included in the Strategy.
- 6.6 Council resources will be allocated to programmes based on asset values to manage long term yield and revenue implications. Where possible, capital receipts will be focussed on assets with short term life span, e.g. vehicles and equipment, and the unsupported borrowing on long term assets e.g. land and buildings.
- 6.7 Debt is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is, therefore, replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The Council sets aside the MRP for debt repayment in accordance with its MRP policy as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy.
- 6.8 The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to replace debt. The planned Capital Financing Requirement is set out in Annex A **Prudential Indicator 2: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement**.

## 7 Asset Management

- 7.1 To ensure that General Fund capital assets continue to be of long term use, the Council has a **Corporate Asset Plan (CAP)**. The CAP priorities are to:
1. Manage our assets strategically as a corporate resource and continue to embed the Corporate Landlord model;
  2. Support and empower local people by providing the right property, in the right place, at the right time;
  3. Provide value for money and secure efficiencies for the future;
  4. Support economic growth and regeneration by supporting and responding to local business needs;
  5. Work effectively with partners to maximise sharing and delivery opportunities;
  6. Reduce the environmental impact of our estate through initiatives such as energy reduction/efficiencies.
- 7.2 Asset condition assessments will be regularly undertaken to inform the identification of capital replacements within the CAP.
- 7.3 A separate HRA Asset Management Plan also exists to ensure the effective management of the Council's HRA assets.

## 8 Treasury Management

- 8.1 Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit

## Appendix A

balances or overdrafts. The Council typically has cash available in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, but in the long-term capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The short term revenue cash balances are offset against capital expenditure to reduce overall borrowing.

- 8.2 The Council's main objective when borrowing from external sources is to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future. These objectives are often conflicting and the Council, therefore, seeks to strike a balance between less costly short term loans and long term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but is higher.
- 8.3 Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing and lease liabilities) compared with the Capital Financing Requirement are shown in Annex A **Prudential Indicator 3: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement**. Debt remains below the Capital Financing Requirement as required by statutory guidance.
- 8.4 The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit. The Limits are set out in Annex A **Prudential Indicator 4: Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary for External Debt**.
- 8.5 Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain (i.e. commercial venture with a long term revenue stream anticipated) are not considered to be part of treasury management. The Council's policy on treasury investment is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield; that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in bonds, shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation.
- 8.6 Decision on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are, therefore, delegated to the Head of Finance, being the Council's Chief Finance Officer and appropriately qualified staff, who must act in line with the Treasury Management Strategy that is approved annually by Council.
- 8.7 Due regard will be given to the prevailing rules in relation to local authority borrowing from the PWLB and, in particular, the impact of borrowing for the acquisition of commercial assets on the Council's wider borrowing requirements. Due regard will be given to the guidance published by HM Treasury on 25 November 2020 entitled, "Public Works Loan Board: future lending terms – Response to the consultation". The new borrowing rules restrict the ability of local authorities to borrow from PWLB for pure investment in commercial property.
- 8.8 As a condition of accessing the PWLB, Local Authorities must submit a high-level description of their capital spending and financing plans for the following three years, including their expected use of the PWLB. As part of this, the Head of Finance will need to confirm that there is no intention to buy investment assets primarily for yield at any point in the next three years. This assessment is based on their professional interpretation of guidance issued. When applying for a new loan, the Local Authority must confirm that the plans they have submitted remain current and provide assurance that they do not intend to buy investment assets primarily for yield.

## Appendix A

- 8.9 If the Council intends to buy commercial assets primarily for yield (even by using reserves) then they will be prevented from taking any PWLB borrowing and will need to consider alternative sources of funding. It is not, therefore, permitted to reprofile the capital programme so that borrowing is only us

### **9 Investment Strategy**

- 9.1 In addition to the Capital Strategy, the Council is now required to have a separately approved Investment Strategy.
- 9.2 With central government financial support for local public services declining, Council investment in commercial property, although not purely for financial gain does nevertheless generate a financial return. In addition, the Council may lend to its wholly owned company Ermine Street Housing for financial gain.
- 9.3 A key objective of the Investment Strategy was to invest in commercial assets to achieve a positive financial return, however, following the PWLB consultation response of November 2020 there is now a presumption against investments made purely for yield. The capital programme currently assumes spend of £173 million between 2021/2022 and 2026/2027. This will be reviewed annually in light of progress against the Strategy and availability of potential investments that meet the new criteria. This Investment Strategy still continues to be important to the Council's capital investment plans and to the ongoing financial resilience of the authority.
- 9.4 With financial return of the existing investments being a key objective (i.e. not a subsidised provision), the Council acknowledges higher risk on commercial property investment than with treasury investments. The principal risk exposures include vacancy rates due to market conditions and external economic influences; potential reduction in both rental and capital values due to market changes; obsolescence due to changing demand and technological changes; and the impact of Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations 2015. These risks are managed in accordance with the Council's approved CAP through proactive estates management practices and regular reviews of the performance of and continued requirement for each asset.

### **10 Revenue Budget Implications**

- 10.1 Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, Business Rates and general Government Grants. Forecasts are set out in Annex A **Prudential Indicator 5: Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream.**
- 10.2 Due to the very long term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of capital expenditure incurred in the next few years could potentially extend for up to 50 years into the future. The Capital Programme is formulated within the financial constraints of the Council's Prudential Indicators set out in Annex A to this Strategy.
- 10.3 In assessing affordability, the Council takes a whole life costing approach to capital investment decisions whereby the Council not only has to consider the availability of internal and external resources but also has to quantify the impact of such investment decision on future revenue budgets and tax-payers.
- 10.4 The Council is committed to achieving value for money when making investment decisions and compliance with the regulations relating to the Prudential Framework for Capital Finance and reporting requirements set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. The Head of Finance as the Council's Chief Finance

## Appendix A

Officer is required, under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, to report on the robustness of estimates (in relation to the proposed budget) and the adequacy of financial reserves. This Section 25 Report takes into account the Council's capital investment plans and, as such, incorporates the Prudential Code requirements of the proposed capital programme being prudent, affordable and sustainable.

### **11 Knowledge and Skills**

- 11.1 The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. The Chief Executive is a qualified accountant with 44 ~~15~~ years' experience. The Head of Finance is a qualified accountant and has 27 ~~28~~ years' experience. A designated Accountancy Assistant with relevant experience completes the structure which will ensure the Council meets the requirements of MiFiD II Professional Investor. ~~The Head of Commercial Development & Investment is obtaining the RICS qualification.~~ The Council supports junior staff to study towards relevant professional qualifications including CIPFA and RICS.
- 11.2 Where Council staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisors and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Council currently contracts Link Asset Services as its Treasury Management Advisor and, where property consultants are required, they will be RICS qualified. The use of consultants is regarded as more cost effective than employing such staff directly, and the approach adopted ensures that the Council has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.
- 11.3 Councillors undertake training on the Capital Strategy and supporting Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy, and regular reports on treasury management performance are submitted to the established Audit & Corporate Governance Committee.

### **12 Reference Documents and Relevant Documents**

- 12.1 The key reference documents include:
- CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2017 Edition
  - CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities Guidance Notes for Practitioners 2018 Edition
  - CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes 2017 Edition
  - CIPFA Guidance on Prudential Property Investment
  - CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2019/2020
  - Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investment (3rd Edition) 2018
  - Statutory Guidance on the Minimum Revenue Provision 2018
- 12.2 Reference is made to a number of relevant documents that provides more details of the projects, risks, funding and timescales. The links are as follows:
- Business Plan:  
<https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/performance-and-plans/council-plans-and-reports/our-business-plan/>
  - Revenue and Capital Estimates: [2022/2023 budget to be considered at the meeting]

## Appendix A

- Corporate Asset Plan:  
<https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/performance-and-plans/council-plans-and-reports/corporate-asset-plan/>
- HRA Asset Management Plan: [Currently subject to review]
- Medium Term Financial Strategy:  
<https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/performance-and-plans/council-plans-and-reports/medium-term-financial-strategy/>
- Investment Strategy:  
<https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/performance-and-plans/our-investment-strategy/>
- Treasury Management Strategy: [Draft document to be considered at the meeting]
- Infrastructure Funding Statement  
[Infrastructure Funding Statement - South Cambs District Council \(scams.gov.uk\)](https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/performance-and-plans/our-investment-strategy/)
- Standing Orders:  
<https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s106702/01%20-%20Standing%20Orders>
- Financial Regulations:  
<https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s106707/06%20-%20Financial%20Regulations>

## Recommended Prudential Indicators

The Prudential Indicators and Limits are based on currently known information and, in particular, the approved capital programme. Consequently, the indicators and limits set out below are subject to change (e.g. if any amendments are made to the capital programme).

These indicators and limits are to ensure the Council manages its finances in a clear and transparent manner, and that the impact of capital expenditure decisions on current and future budgets is understood.

### 1. Estimates of Capital Expenditure (National Indicator)

This indicator provides the level of gross capital expenditure that is estimated to be incurred. The estimated expenditure includes schemes where funding has already been approved.

	2020/2021 Actual £000	2021/2022 Forecast £000	2022/2023 Forecast £000	2023/2024 Forecast £000	2024/2025 Forecast £000
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	59,239	55,576	73,450	63,705	53,873

### 2. Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement (National Indicator)

This indicator provides a limit for which net external borrowing will not be exceeded, except on a short-term basis. The Council has met this requirement in previous years and there are no difficulties envisaged in the current or future years based on current plans and policies known at this time.

	2020/2021 Actual £000	2021/2022 Forecast £000	2022/2023 Forecast £000	2023/2024 Forecast £000	2024/2025 Forecast £000
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	336,734	351,621	395,584	424,384	454,384

### 3. Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement (National Indicator)

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short term. As can be seen from the indicator, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

	2020/2021 Actual £000	2021/2022 Forecast £000	2022/2023 Forecast £000	2023/2024 Forecast £000	2024/2025 Forecast £000
<b>Debt (including Leases)</b>	249,123	270,123	299,923	328,723	358,723
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	336,734	351,621	380,331	407,802	436,248
<b>Difference</b>	87,611	81,498	80,408	79,079	77,525

#### 4. Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary for External Debt (National Indicator)

This Authorised Limit determines the maximum total amount the Council will be able to borrow. The limit for Other Long-Term Liabilities has been included to allow the Council to enter into Finance Leases; the limit needs to accommodate the new leasing Accounting Standard IFRS 16 (adopted by CIPFA in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting from 1 April 2020) which requires all leases and rental agreements to be held on the Council's Balance Sheet as an asset and lease liability. The Operational Boundary indicator represents the prudent level of borrowing and will be reviewed annually. **The figures from 2022/2023 onwards have been reduced due to the reduction in the capital programme relating to the investment strategy allocations.**

	2020/2021 Limit £000	2021/2022 Limit £000	2022/2023 Limit £000	2023/2024 Limit £000
Authorised limit – borrowing	433,693	479,142	359,908	394,468
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	-	-	-	-
<b>Authorised limit – total external debt</b>	433,693	479,142	359,908	394,468
Operational boundary – borrowing	428,693	474,142	354,908	389,468
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	-	-	-	-
<b>Operational boundary – total external debt</b>	428,693	474,142	354,908	389,468

#### 5. Proportion of Financing Costs to net revenue stream (National Indicator)

This indicator provides the ratio of financing costs to the Council's estimated net revenue expenditure budget (i.e. the expenditure financed by the revenue support grant, business rate redistribution, council tax and collection fund surplus share).

	2020/2021 Actual £000	2021/2022 Forecast £000	2022/2023 Forecast £000	2023/2024 Forecast £000	2024/2025 Forecast £000
<b>Financing Costs</b>	59	191	358	2,472	3,072
<b>% of Net Revenue Stream</b>	0.2	0.7	1.4	9.8	12.2

The national indicators for capital expenditure, capital financing requirement and debt expenditure as a percentage of net revenue stream show significant increases which need to be set against the context of significant income contributions to the revenue budget from commercial property investment. This is identified in the "Net Commercial Income to Net Service Expenditure" ratio at paragraph 8.4.2 of the separate Investment Strategy.



# Agenda Item 17



**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

7 February 2022

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor John Williams,  
Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

**LEAD OFFICER:** Peter Maddock, Head of Finance

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## LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT: 2022/23

### Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to review the Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme for 2022/23 and agree the LCTS scheme for 2022/23.

### Key Decision

2. This is not a key decision as the financial commitments are within the existing budget.

### Recommendation

3. **It is recommended that Cabinet recommends to Council, at its meeting on 22 February 2022 the adoption of Option 1, comprising the LCTS Income Bands scheme currently in operation, with an uprating of calculation figures in line with the Consumer Price Index.**

### Reasons for Recommendation

4. The current Income Bands LCTS scheme was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to enable the roll out of Universal Credit (UC) to be accommodated by minimising the number of amendments to Council Tax Support arising from UC thereby affording the Council and claimants some stability by not needing to constantly amend the amount of Council Tax payable which would have additional costs for the Council.
5. There is still economic uncertainty due to COVID 19 and the current LCTS scheme has supported South Cambridgeshire's residents to pay their Council Tax. and expenditure within the existing budget
6. An uprating of scheme in line with Consumer Price Index (CPI) will ensure that those residents in receipt of benefits and limited means will not be worse-off due to inflation.

### Details

7. The LCTS scheme previously in place was considered not fit for purpose following the rollout of Universal Credit (UC) in October 2018. There has been a significant increase in uptake from residents who have been financial impacted because of the of the COVID 19 Pandemic.

8. The LCTS schemes only applies to working age claimants as the government determine the scheme for those of pension age
9. The implementation of the new LCTS scheme in April 2019 has been successful and its objectives and aims have been achieved.
10. The Council consulted widely with residents and stakeholders in 2018. The option supported was a Banded Discount Scheme as it would be a longer-term option and ensure that those residents on UC would not encounter the issues which have highlighted in other local authorities where UC has been in place for a longer period.
11. It may be prudent to review the scheme in the spring of 2022 to review options for 2023-24 as it is likely that we will have more information about the on-going financial impact to residents of Covid 19. This would also enable consideration to be given to the Best Practice issued by MHCLG in September 2021 and it's levelling up approach.
12. The Revenues and Benefits team service review has already identified areas of the processing which can be automated. The provider of revenues and benefit back-office system has developed some bespoke software which will enable high numbers of changes to be processed without human intervention and enable a reduction in administration required. Initially testing of this software has commenced in January 2022 and we expect this to be implemented during 2022-2023 following completion of testing and minor amendments following this testing,
13. The DWP uprate the figures for calculation of Housing Benefit annually to reflect CPI, allowing those in receipt of benefits not to be worse off due to inflation a similar uprating for the scheme would enable residents to be not be worse off due to this inflation increase.
14. The current to date LCTS expenditure for 2021/22 is £7,107,450.71 expenditure for 2020/21 was £6,776,804.39 with an additional £458,906.24 paid in Covid 19 Hardship payments. The cost of LCTS is shared between the major Council Tax preceptors: -
  - a) Cambridgeshire County Council 71%
  - b) South Cambridgeshire District Council 13%
  - c) Cambridgeshire Police Authority 12%
  - d) Cambridgeshire Fire Authority 4%

This cost is accounted for as reduction of income received from Council tax; figures shown are averages. The current LCTS scheme is marginally less that estimate for 2021/22

### **Options**

15. The following options have been considered:

#### Option 1:

Continue with the current scheme in place with necessary adjustments for scheme uprating in line with CPI which represents an increase of 3.1%. The estimate of LCTS is broadly like the current scheme in place (Option2), excluding increases to the Council Tax charge.

The Banded Scheme enables smaller changes not to affect LCTS awards. The modelling undertaken based on uprating will increase total LCTS awarded in total by estimate of £17,000 annually; the increased cost would be shared between the major preceptors based on their share of total council tax.

#### Option 2:

Continue with the current scheme in place without any adjustments to calculation to allow for inflation.

This option will be broadly similar in cost to 2021/22 excluding increases to the Council Tax charge

This option would mean that some low-income households would be paying more council tax although the numbers are small; cost of living rises in income claimant received may not cover all increases in living cost and they may be financially worse off.

### **Implications**

16. In the writing of this report, taking into account the financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

#### **Financial**

17. The cost of LCTS as has been modelled based on estimates using current caseload; based on the options detailed within this report Option 1 or Option 2 scheme as modelled should be affordable in the context of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The cost of LCTS is split between the major Council Tax preceptors.

#### **Legal**

18. The scheme must be agreed before the end of February 2022 and fundamental changes to the scheme would require consultation with residents.

#### **Staffing**

19. The implementation of a major change to the LCTS scheme could require a large amount of extra resource within the Customer Contact Centre. The proposed Option 1 is not expected to require any extra resource.
20. Option 2 would reduce the amount of LCTS awarded to residents and may impact on the local economy. This option could result in increased staff resource required as residents may find the increase in council tax payable difficult to afford and more facing recovery action.
21. Whilst the cost of LCTS is shared between the major preceptors this excludes the cost of administration and any increases in staffing cost would be borne directly by the Council. However, the service will be implementing a program of automation and this is likely to result in a reduction in the costs of staffing.

## **Risks/Opportunities**

22. The continued impact of Covid-19 has result in a sustained demand for Council Tax Support, the cost of which would be borne directly by all major preceptors. The Council Tax base estimate for 2022-23 reflect the current financial

## **Environmental**

23. There are no specific environmental implications arising from the report.

## **Equality Impact**

There no changes based on the proposed scheme and the previous equality impact assessment is still applicable.

## **Effect on Council Priority Areas**

24. Localised Council Tax Support supports those residents with low incomes who live in South Cambridgeshire as the Council scheme particularly support those residents who are disabled or carers

## **Background Papers**

Where the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection:

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The following documents are relevant to this report:

## **Appendices**

None

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<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	7 February 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor John Batchelor – Lead Cabinet Member for Housing	
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Peter Campbell – Head of Housing	

## Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Asset Management Strategy 2021 – 2026

### Building Strong Foundations

#### Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to consider the Asset Management Strategy 2021-2026 relating to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
2. The Strategy sets out the strategic medium and long-term approach to maintaining, improving and developing the Council's housing assets which sit within the Housing Revenue Account. It details the key priorities for the physical care and improvement of the council homes we provide, along with their surrounding environment.
3. The Strategy explains how the Council can ensure that our housing offer continues to meet the needs of the local people of the District. It also sets out how the housing asset base can be used to assist in the delivery of some of the Council's other strategic priorities.

#### Key Decision

4. Yes

Definition of key decision:

- (a) it results in the authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to this Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; and
- (b) it is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.

The key decision was first published in the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 Forward Plan.

## **Recommendations**

- 5. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the HRA Asset Management Strategy 2021-2026, as set out at Appendix A, subject to the Foreword being agreed with the Lead Cabinet Member for Housing.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 6. To ensure we have an up to date Strategy that provides clear direction for the key priorities for investment in our housing stock, so that homes are future-proofed, are of a high quality and meet the future needs of our tenants and leaseholders.

## **Details**

- 7. The HRA Asset Management Strategy is a comprehensive document that provides an overview of the current national and local drivers relating to the housing service, background information on the demographic profile of the District and details of the current housing stock. This sets the scene for nine key priorities that are the key drivers in maintaining and improving the housing stock. An overriding Action Plan has been developed, setting out the activities required to deliver the Strategy. The Action Plan will be a live document monitored regularly through the Housing Management Service Team meetings and through the Housing Engagement Board.

8. Listening to our tenants and leaseholders is a fundamental part of the Strategy. The Council recognises the benefits of tenants being involved in the management of their homes and welcomes the vital role they can play in helping to improve the housing and repairs service. Over the previous two years, a new Resident Involvement Framework has been implemented which allows tenants and leaseholders opportunities to become involved in the management of their homes. We will continue to strengthen this work and embed resident involvement into the core of the housing service, ensuring that as a minimum we meet the commitments made to tenants in the Charter for Social Housing Residents.
9. The Vision for the Strategy states that our homes should be so much more than just bricks and mortar. Places to feel safe and secure, where communities thrive and grow. This includes providing high quality, energy efficient homes, alongside a housing service that is customer focused, supportive, accountable and professional.
10. The nine key priorities identified within the Strategy include:
  - **Priority A:** To ensure that our housing stock provides homes that are safe and secure and that we meet or exceed all statutory safety standards.
  - **Priority B:** To have in place well designed repair and maintenance systems that ensure homes are well maintained and kept in a good state of repair.
  - **Priority C:** To have a long-term strategy and programme in place to improve the thermal efficiency of homes and reduce their carbon emissions with the aim of being carbon neutral by 2050.
  - **Priority D:** To ensure that homes are brought up to and maintained at a locally determined Standard, remaining attractive and meeting modern requirements and tenant expectations.
  - **Priority E:** To replace obsolete or uneconomic properties with new homes that are better designed to meet future needs and create a better-balanced portfolio.

- **Priority F:** To identify opportunities to acquire through purchase or direct build, additional homes to increase the number of council-owned properties available of the type and quality needed in locations where people want to live.
- **Priority G:** To ensure our homes meet the requirements of people with specific needs.
- **Priority H:** To use procurement processes to best effect and adopt a strong approach to contract management to optimise quality and value in the delivery of all repairs, maintenance and improvement works.
- **Priority I:** To use the housing assets to help deliver the wider corporate priorities of the Council,

11. The Strategy also acknowledges the need to review other HRA assets and activities, such as garage sites and council-owned land, to ensure we are making best use of these and that they provide value for money.

## Options

12. To approve the HRA Asset Management Strategy 2021-2026 which sets out clear actions to be achieved.

13. To reject the HRA Asset Management Strategy 2021-2026. Without an up-to-date HRA Asset Management Strategy, the Council is unable to demonstrate a strategic vision and its key priorities to ensure our council homes and other housing assets are future-proofed, are of a high quality and meet the needs of the District.

## Implications

14. 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:-



## **Financial**

15. The Asset Management Strategy provides an indicative estimate (at today's prices) of the investment required to repair, maintain and improve the housing stock of around £443 million over the next 30 years. This estimate is based on existing stock data and early indicative costs for working towards net zero carbon by 2050. This estimated figure is subject to developing a better understanding of our stock through the stock condition survey which will help to progress our long term aims. The figure does not include costs associated with the Council's New-Build Programme.

## **Legal**

16. There are no significant legal implications for the implementation of the HRA Asset Management Strategy. However, it should be noted that there may be additional obligations placed on the Council relating to further legislation on health and safety following the 2021 publication of the Housing White Paper and the anticipated Building Safety Bill.

## **Staffing**

17. There are no significant staffing implications arising directly from the implementation of the HRA Asset Management Strategy. A new Service Manager – Housing Assets has recently been recruited who will oversee the key priorities for the improvement and maintenance of council homes, as well as providing robust contract management.

## **Risks/Opportunities**

18. Whilst there are no significant risk management implications for the approval of the HRA Asset Management Strategy, there will be individual risks and opportunities identified as part of the implementation of some of the actions. These will be managed as part of our risk management controls.

## **Equality and Diversity**

19. In developing the Asset Management Strategy, an equality impact assessment has been carried out. The expectation is that measures set out within the Strategy will have a positive impact overall for those living in our council homes. All tenants and leaseholders, regardless of their protected characteristic will be treated fairly and in a transparent way. There is recognition that there may be some need to treat those with a protected characteristic differently, such as developing a different housing standard for those in sheltered housing or special considerations for those with disabilities when planning works. Priority G within the Strategy makes reference to ensuring our council homes meet the requirements of people with specific needs, which would encompass all nine protected characteristics, such as older people, those with disabilities and families with children including expectant mothers.
20. The equality impact assessment also acknowledges that as specific key actions are developed there may be potential for some to feel a negative impact rather than a positive one, and action may be required to mitigate and minimise such situations. As an example, the move towards net zero carbon is likely to require a cultural change and older people may require additional support to help them to adjust to new technologies. Where tenant/leaseholders may be affected by any actions set out in the Strategy, these will be considered on an individual basis, with appropriate action agreed to help mitigate any negative impacts.

## **Climate Change**

21. Throughout the Strategy there is a key focus on climate change and how the Council's housing stock and other HRA assets can support the overall objectives of the Council in terms of mitigating the impacts of climate change. Priority C of the Strategy identifies the long-term vision to improve the thermal efficiency of homes and reduce their carbon emissions with the aim of being carbon neutral by 2050. The approach for implementing this is set out in a three-stage programme over a 30 year timescale that will allow informed decision making based on the use of new developed technologies that will take into account survey data and real-life performance of technical solutions.

22. As part of this work, South Cambridgeshire District Council have joined the NetZero Collective which brings together a number of organisations including the Department of Climate Change, Buildings and Energy, Southampton University and a number of social landlords.

23. In building new council homes, the Council is keen to demonstrate that new build social housing can be constructed following the principles of Net Zero Carbon and will work towards identifying a suitable site as a demonstrator scheme.

24. As part of the land appraisal work, the Council will seek opportunities to plant trees, establish wildflower strips and in other ways to enhance nature on council-owned estates as part of the aim of doubling nature and improving bio-diversity.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

25. The HRA Asset Management Strategy will provide positive outcomes for our tenants and leaseholders in terms of their health and wellbeing, ensuring homes are fit for purpose and meet the needs of existing and future residents.

### **Consultation responses**

26. As part of the development of the HRA Asset Management Strategy, a workshop consisting of tenant representatives and Members was held on 30 November 2021. Feedback from the workshop has been incorporated into the HRA Asset Management Strategy, with changes highlighted in yellow for ease of reference. The Strategy was also endorsed by the Housing Engagement Board on 20 December 2021 before final approval by Cabinet.

27. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee also considered the Strategy at their meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, and any changes following that meeting have been highlighted in green.

28. The Climate & Environmental Advisory Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 also considered the Strategy, and any changes following that meeting have been highlighted in red.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **Growing local businesses and economies**

29. Encouraging local businesses to bid for contracts.

30. The potential to deliver affordable housing for local workers to reduce commuting time and help with recruitment and retention issues that are key to the local economy.

### **Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in**

31. Increase the number of council homes each year to support people on lower incomes, that are energy efficient and affordable.

32. Ensure rents meet the Greater Cambridge Affordable Rents policy as a minimum.

### **Being green to our core**

33. Improving the energy efficiency of existing council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs.

34. Demonstrate that new build social housing can be constructed following the principles of Net Zero Carbon.

35. Seek opportunities to plant trees, establish wildflower strips and in other ways enhance nature on council-owned estates as part of the aim of doubling nature.

36. Through our tenant engagement target campaigns to promote the Council's priorities to be green to our core.

## **A modern and caring Council**

37. Preventing homelessness and providing support for vulnerable people.

38. Ensuring that our council homes are safe places for our tenants and their families.

39. Ensuring we have a robust framework, and sufficient communication channels for tenant engagement.

## **Background Papers**

Details of the Savills Report and the Net Zero Carbon Report referred to in the Strategy are held by the Service Manager – Housing Assets.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: HRA Asset Management Strategy 2021-2026

## **Report Author:**

Peter Campbell – Head of Housing

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## APPENDIX A

# Building Strong Foundations

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Asset Management Strategy 2021 -2026

Author: Peter Campbell – Head of Housing

DRAFT - Version 5 – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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## Foreword

(to be inserted from John B)

DRAFT

## 1) Introduction and Vision

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Housing Asset Management Strategy (the Strategy) has been developed to inform the strategic medium and long-term approach to maintaining, improving and developing the Council's housing assets which sit within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). It does not include the assets of the Council's housing companies, Ermine Street Housing which currently owns/manages 657 properties or Shire Homes Lettings which manages 60 properties on behalf of private sector landlords. These companies sit outside of the HRA and report to specific Boards. The two traveller sites managed by the Housing Service within the Council are also out of scope for this Strategy as they are funded by the General Fund.

The Strategy sets out our priorities for the physical care and improvement of the council homes we provide, along with their surrounding environment. It explains how, through sound planning, the Council can ensure that our housing offer continues to meet the needs of the local people of the District. It also sets out how the housing asset base can be used to assist in the delivery of some of the Council's other strategic priorities.

The Strategy is based on the Council's strategic needs within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). There has been a period of uncertainty for housing finances, with initial enthusiasm around self-financing followed quickly by needing to adjust to a government driven reduction in rents. With more certainty over future rent levels the Council can now put in place firm plans to make the most of the opportunities offered. This includes increasing the quality and sustainability of our existing homes, new Council housing from both acquisitions and new build, whilst at the same time securing a step change in the quality of service to tenants to improve levels of customer satisfaction.

Together, the Council's housing stock comprises its highest value assets and its repair and maintenance costs form its largest liability. The housing stock is valued at over £514.2 million (Social Housing Value) and at over £1,370 million (open market

value with vacant possession) (valuation dated 31/03/2021), therefore successful planning for its sustainable future is vital.

## **What is Asset Management?**

Asset Management is the range of activities carried out to ensure that a landlord's homes are affordable and attractive to tenants and are financially viable in the medium to long term. A strong approach to asset management is partly about investing in, maintaining and upgrading properties and partly about understanding the needs and aspirations of customers.

## **Why is a Housing Asset Management Strategy needed?**

A pro-active Housing Asset Management Strategy ensures that decisions about the homes we provide are made through effective business planning protocols rather than in the face of an impending crisis. The Housing Asset Management Strategy is one of the key tools which will be used by the Council to secure the significant long term investment needs of properties to meet our quality and net carbon zero targets as well as responding to the evolving pattern of housing need and demand.

The Council's housing stock is generally well maintained and has benefited from a range of upgrade and investment works. We have successfully achieved the Government's Decent Homes targets. However, a small proportion of homes remain non decent due to tenants declining to have decent homes works undertaken. These works are being completed when homes become empty or where tenants change their mind.

Whilst we will continue to have a focus on the management, maintenance and refurbishment of existing properties over the coming years, we are also keen to look at wider asset management issues such as the acquisition/development of new properties or pursuance of other regeneration activities.

The Council's total housing stock has decreased steadily over the years, largely as a result of tenants exercising their Right to Buy (RTB). Since the introduction of the RTB in 1980, about 4,400 units of housing stock have been sold (that's 46% of our original housing stock) with the losses being predominantly of family sized houses. Over recent years, the rate of stock losses has reduced significantly, and the Council has built or purchased new stock. The reduced number of Council owned properties translates into a sustained demand for the remaining homes.

We currently own and manage 5248 homes that are rented out as council housing. These are spread across all parts of the District with a significant proportion, almost 50%, being designated for occupation by older people.

## Our Vision

We believe that our homes should be so much more than just bricks and mortar. Places to feel safe and secure, where communities thrive and grow.



The Strategy has been prepared to support this vision, together with other broader strategic objectives of the Council.

## 2) The National and Local Drivers

A number of key national and local drivers have informed the development of, and have an impact upon, the Housing Asset Management Strategy.

### The National Drivers

#### Housing Revenue Account Reform

On 1 April 2012, the Government abolished the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system and introduced self-financing for council housing. This represented one of the most radical reforms of public housing policy for many years.

Under the new system, councils collectively controlled over £300bn of rental income, and could build up some £50bn of new investment capacity. This gave increased capacity to invest in housing assets but also responsibility for long term investment planning.

The key aspects of HRA reform are that:

- Efficient operation of the HRA could lead to the build-up of new investment resources.
- Councils can regard their housing as a real asset capable of generating additional investment resources.
- Councils can shape their “housing business” to deliver against their local service and investment priorities.
- Meaningful HRA strategic financial planning is now essential, whilst hitherto it has been impossible.

The Council’s debt settlement figure in 2012 was £205.123 million. There was no potential for additional borrowing as the Council was up to the debt cap.

In 2018 the Government ended the debt cap for local authorities which offered the opportunity for increase prudent borrowing within the HRA.

In 2020 the actual debt remained at £205.123 million. However, the Council has been able to build and/or purchase 201 new properties up to March 2021 through the use of capital receipts and internal borrowing. The ability to build was reduced as an impact of the government's 4 year compulsory rent reduction and as a consequence of the rent reduction future rents will remain below those used to calculate the debt settlement. By 2020 rental income was around £8m per year less than the amount used by government to calculate debt settlement, as a consequence there has been a reduction on the Council's ability to invest to improve or increase the number of HRA properties.

### **Social Housing Reform**

Since the Localism Act 2011 Government has again made changes to the way in which social or 'affordable' housing is provided by introducing new measures legislated in the:

- Housing and Planning Act 2016, and
- Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016

Key changes include:

- Offering fixed term tenancies to most new tenants and phasing out 'Lifetime Tenancies'.
- Building and promoting low cost forms of owner occupation in favour of affordable rented properties.
- 1% Social Housing rent reduction for four years from April 2016 to 2019.
- Welfare reforms including the introduction of Universal Credit.

In 2017 Government published a 'White Paper' (Fixing our Broken Housing Market) which is a statement of various aspirations on the part of Government.

Key proposals in the 'White Paper' for social and affordable housing include:

- Supporting developers to build more quickly



- Encouraging diversification of tenure including build to rent
- Changing the way the Homes and Communities Agency works (now renamed Homes England)
- Help Local Authorities to build including on public land – cross tenure
- Encouraging the use of modern methods of construction
- National housing need assessment method to take account of the needs of different groups such as older and disabled people

In April 2021 Government published its ministerial statement on the delivery of ‘First Homes’ and on the new model for Shared Ownership.

Key proposals in the ministerial statement for social and affordable housing include:

- As part of any planning obligation, 25% of any affordable housing contribution to be First Homes. These are discounted market homes for first time buyers. This will impact on the number of affordable rented homes built on new developments.
- Introduction of a new shared ownership model where the minimum share for initial purchases will be lowered to 10% from the current 25%, with the ability to purchase further 1% increments for 15 years. Also the inclusion of repairs and maintenance responsibilities for landlords for the first 10 years.

All of these reforms, in their own way, will have an impact on the way in which the Council maintains, improves and develops its housing assets.

### **The Charter for Social Housing Residents**

The Government published a White Paper in November 2020. The Charter for Social Housing Residents is based around commitments from social landlords to residents. The Commitments to tenants are:

- 1) **To be safe in your home.** We will work with industry and landlords to ensure every home is safe and secure.

- 2) **To know how your landlord is performing**, including on repairs, complaints and safety, and how it spends its money, so you can hold it to account.
- 3) **To have your complaints dealt with promptly and fairly**, with access to a strong ombudsman who will give you swift and fair redress when needed.
- 4) **To be treated with respect**, backed by a strong consumer regulator and improved consumer standards for tenants.
- 5) **To have your voice heard by your landlord**, for example through regular meetings, scrutiny panels or being on its Board. The Government will provide help, if you want it, to give you the tools to ensure your landlord listens.
- 6) **To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live in**, with your landlord keeping your home in good repair.
- 7) **To be supported to take your first step to ownership**, so it is a ladder to other opportunities, should your circumstances allow.

## Homes England

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was relaunched as Homes England with objectives and powers to deliver more new and affordable homes across all tenures.

## Decent Homes

The government's target was for all social homes to meet the Decent Homes Standard by December 2010. The Council was able to meet this target except for situations where tenants declined to have works undertaken.

However, unless the council develops a programme of ongoing maintenance of replacement of key elements, more properties will fall into 'non-decency' over time, This is because the standard considers the age and condition of property elements and not just their presence. The Council will need to make investment in our homes to prevent properties becoming non-decent. We will also need to respond to any forthcoming changes to the Decent Homes Standard that are brought in by the Government following a review.

There is also an opportunity for the Council to not just maintain the homes we provide at a decent level but to work to achieve a higher South Cambs Standard, investing capital and using proactive asset management approaches to ensure that pre-emptive improvements are delivered so homes do not fall below the agreed Standard. Where stock cannot be brought up to and/or maintained at the desired Standard the Council will need to explore alternative options.

### **Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018**

This Act places an obligation on landlords to ensure that each property is fit for habitation at the start and throughout a tenancy. The implication for the Council is that we need to offer an effective repairs system, to act quickly when repairs are reported and to back all this up by an investment programme that is pro-active and ensures that homes do not fall into disrepair.

### **The Local Drivers**

#### **Supporting Corporate Aims**

Our Housing Asset Management Strategy plays a key role in the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities as set out below:

- Helping businesses to grow
- Building homes that are truly affordable to live in
- Being green to our core
- Putting our customers at the centre of everything we do

The Council also has an Investment Strategy and whilst it is targeted primarily at general fund investments, there may be opportunities through the development partnerships, such as SCIP, for the Housing Revenue Account to purchase the affordable housing where residential schemes are delivered. On such schemes, we will be able to influence the design and finish standards of these properties more than s106 acquisitions and would therefore look to build exemplar schemes.

### 3) Demographic Profile

In order to help us to future-proof our housing stock, it is important to understand the demographic profile of the District to help us ascertain what the key priorities and drivers are. Below is a summary of the demographic profile for the area:

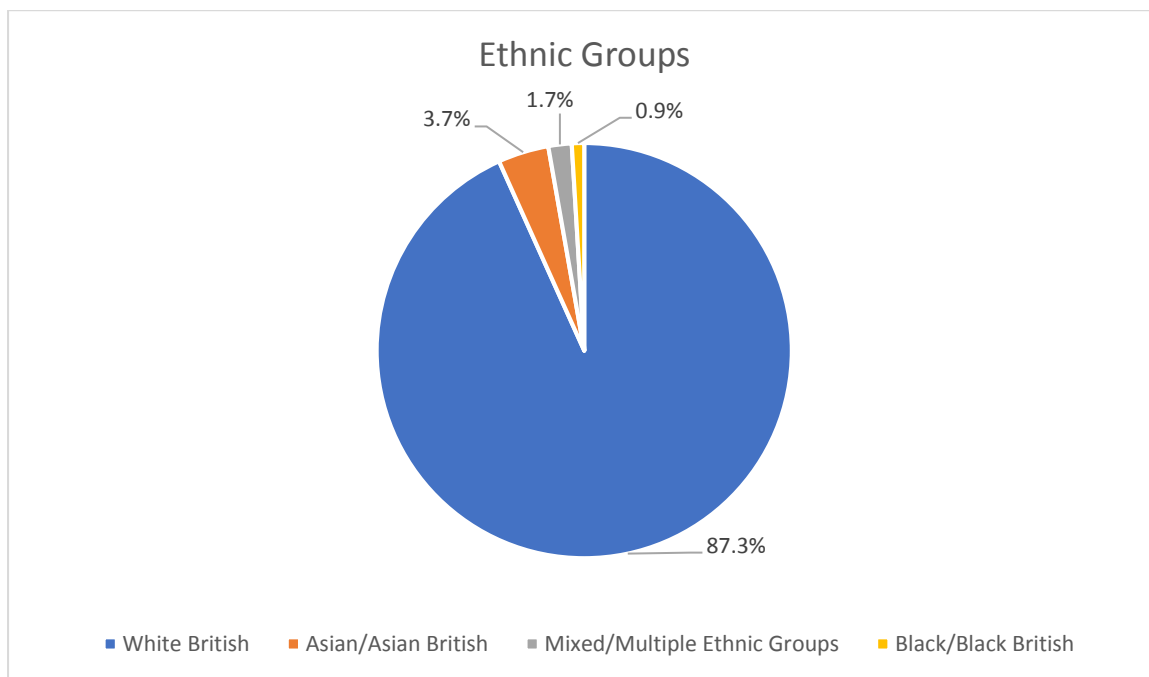
- The number of households in England is projected to increase by 235,486 households a year by 2040. In Cambridgeshire alone there will be an estimated increase of approximately 2,000 households per year by 2040. It is also anticipated there will be a sharp increase in the ageing population. By 2040 a quarter of all households will be headed by those aged 65 years or over.
- By 2040 people over 65 will outnumber those who are aged 19 and under by an estimated 28,600 in Cambridgeshire.
- Typically, as the local population increases, so does the number of people in housing need and on the waiting lists for social housing

**Table 1 : South Cambridgeshire District Population Projections to 2040**

Age Range	Males	Females	All Persons
All ages	82,751	81,929	164,680
0-14	13,859	13,327	27,186
15-29	12,393	11,425	23,819
30-49	18,677	19,180	38,857
50-64	16,551	16,040	32,590
65-84	16,955	17,355	34,311
85+	3,316	4,602	7,917

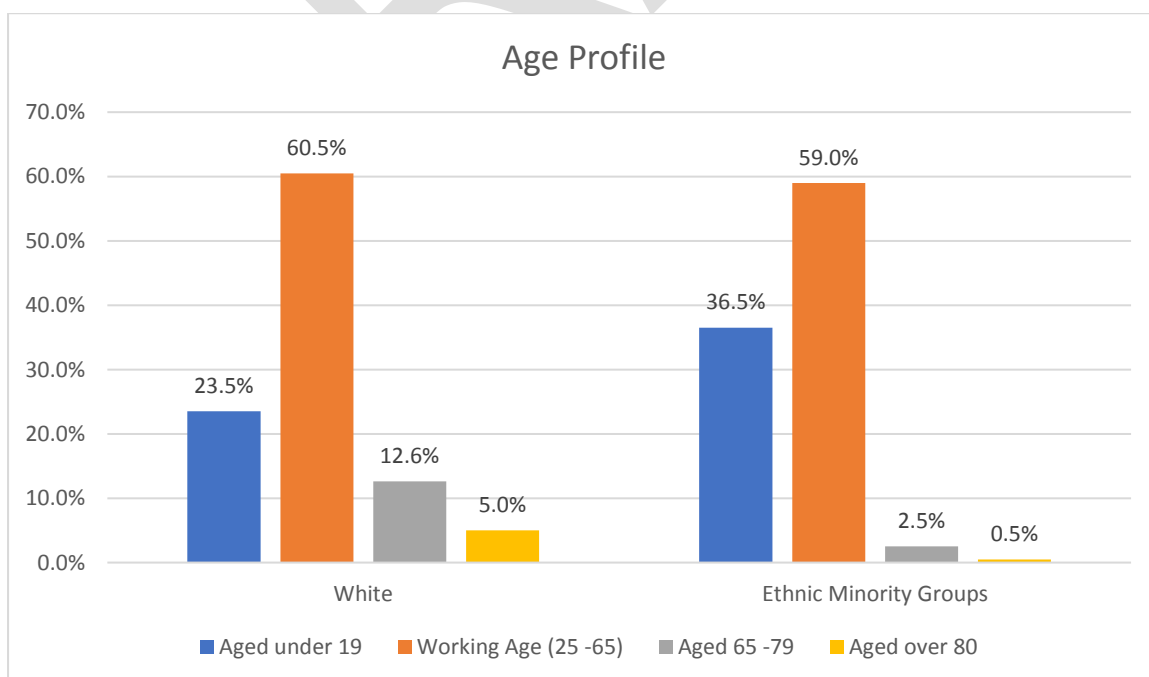
[Source: Office of National Statistics – 2018 based subnational population projections]

**Figure 1: Ethnic Groups in South Cambridgeshire**

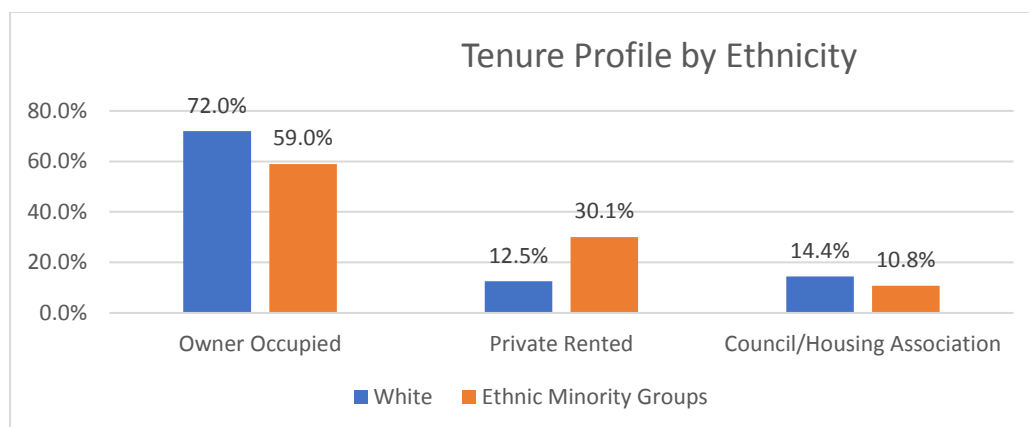


[Source: Census 2011]

**Figure 2: Age Profile by Ethnicity**



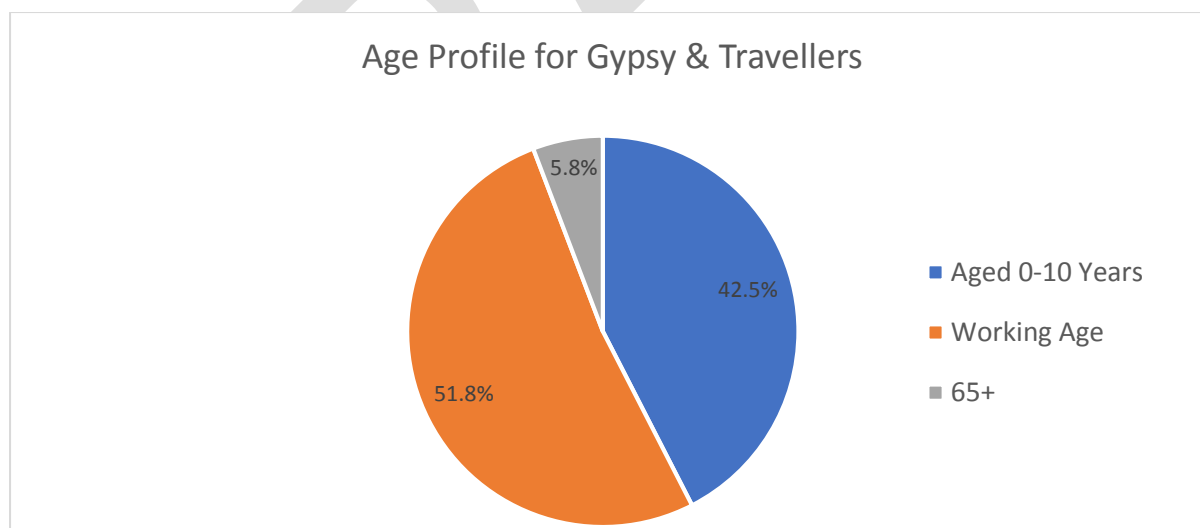
**Figure 3: Tenure Profile by Ethnicity**



- The most marked difference in tenure by ethnicity is those living in the private rented sector, with 12.5% of those identifying as White living in this sector and 30.1% of those from ethnic minority groups.

**Figure 4: Gypsy & Travellers**

- 485 people identified themselves as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller in the 2011 Census in South Cambridgeshire.



- Only 4 people identified themselves as being over the age of 80 in this group.

[Source: Census 2011, Tables DC4201EW and DC2101EW]

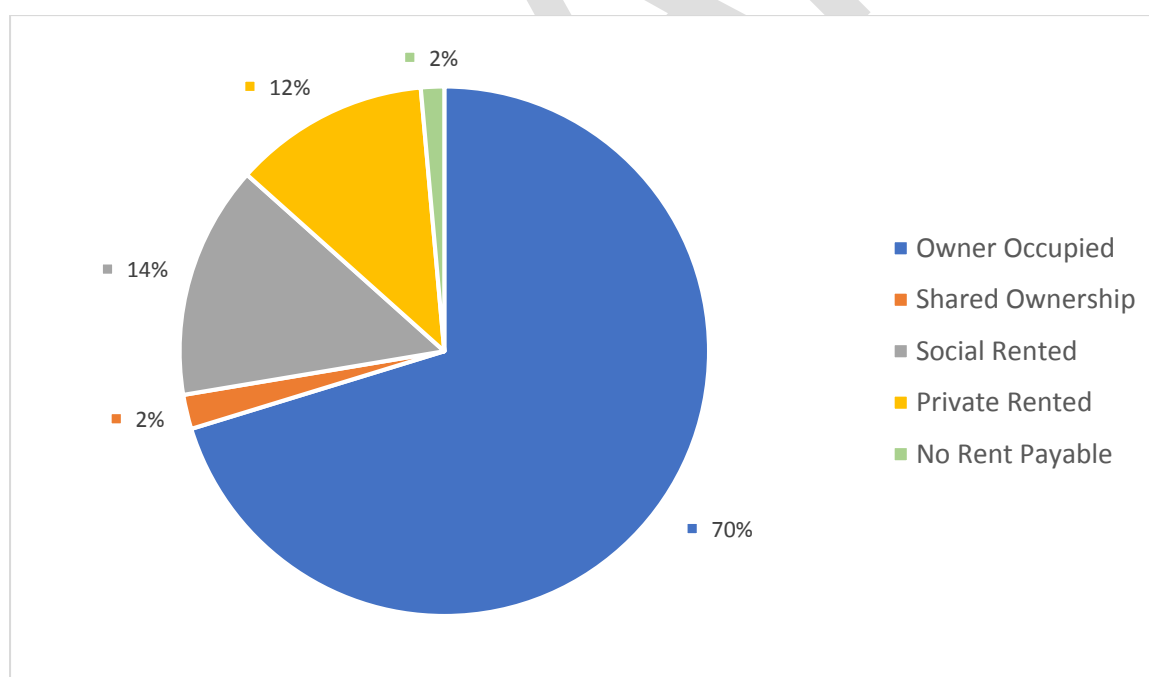
## 4) Housing Stock

### The Area

There are around 60,000 dwellings located in the District with 5,295 of these in the Council's ownership and management (including 1090 sheltered homes). There are a further 475 leasehold properties to which we provide management services. This means we provide around 10% of the total homes within the District.

Despite a significant loss of properties through the Right to Buy since its introduction in 1980, we remain by far the largest provider of rented accommodation. Whilst Registered Providers (RPs) have some housing within the District they only own around 5% of the total.

**Figure 5: South Cambridgeshire District Tenure Profile**



[Source: Census 2011]

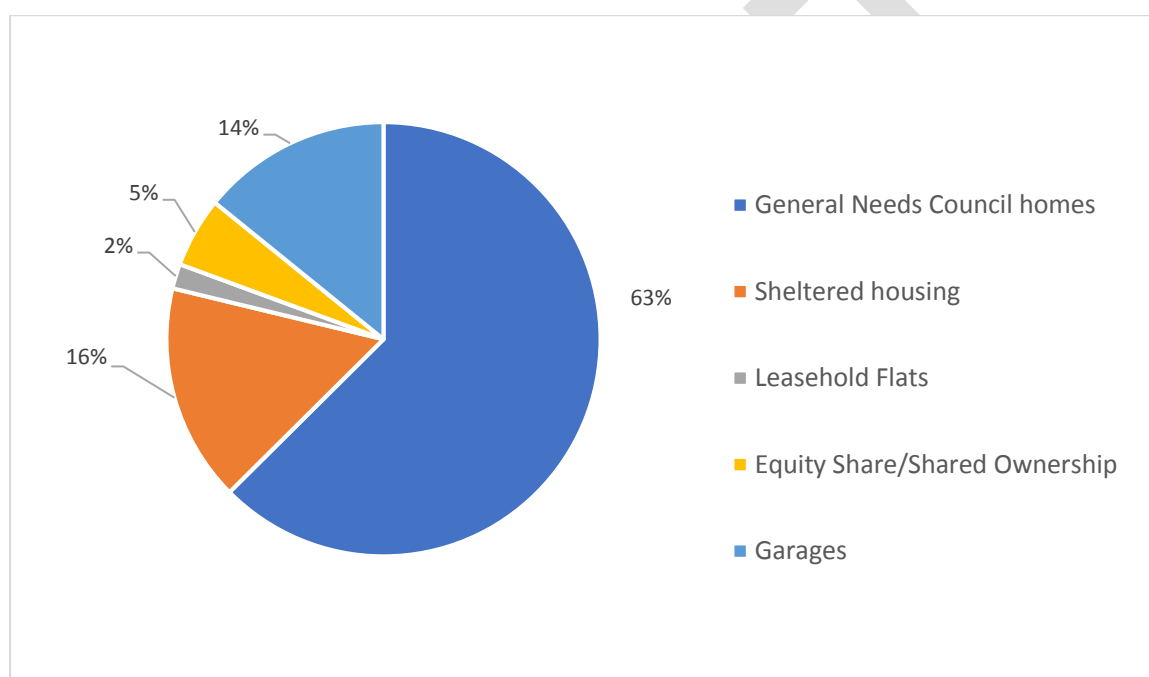
The Council remains firm in its view that we have a valuable role as a major housing provider and we are keen to ensure that the Housing Asset Management Strategy provides the framework for us to maintain and improve our existing properties to the

best possible standard, and to facilitate the acquisition/building of new council homes.

## Stock Profile

In addition to our social rented homes we manage 124 leasehold flats, 285 equity share bungalows and 66 shared ownership properties, as well as 952 garages in blocks across the District.

**Figure 6: Council Stock Profile**



The Council's own rented stock is predominantly between 40 and 100 years old, with only 3% having been built since 2002. It also has other significant characteristics with 48% of the total stock (2,561) being bungalows, the large majority of these being two bedroom properties. There are low levels of bedsits and one bedroom accommodation and limited numbers of larger 4+ bedroom accommodation. We have 286 properties that are of non-traditional construction.



**Table 2: Stock Profile by Age (Rented)**

Age Band	Total Properties	%
Pre 1919	14	0.26%
1919-1944	881	16.64%
1945-1964	1586	29.95%
1965-1982	1748	33.01%
1983-2002	901	17.01%
Post 2002	165	3.12%
-	5295	-

The stock profile has a strong bias towards provision for older people with 21% being sheltered housing and a further 29% being bungalow accommodation. Whilst there is no age restriction on our bungalow accommodation, this is likely to be more attractive to older people and priority is given to those with mobility issues where adaptations have been provided in the bungalows.

Sheltered housing is available to those of pensionable age, or those with disabilities. Each sheltered scheme has a sheltered estate officer who is on duty from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday. Each sheltered estate officer is responsible for around four sheltered schemes and offers support and advice to make sure sheltered tenants have access to services and facilities to help maintain their independence. They are also responsible for the housing management and maintenance of the scheme. In addition, the Council owns 41 communal rooms, which are attached to sheltered schemes and are used for a variety of functions. Many have communal kitchens or laundry facilities for the use of the residents. This cost in providing these facilities is met from service charges paid for by sheltered housing tenants and a small element of fees charged for external use.

**Table 3: Type and Size of Rented Accommodation (by number of bedrooms)**

Stock Category	Bedsit	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4+ Bed	Total
House (general needs)	0	40	551	1801	70	2462
Flats (general needs)	0	133	95	0	0	228
Bungalow (general needs)	13	393	1077	31	1	1515
Sheltered housing	7	489	592	2	0	1090
Total	20	1055	2315	1834	71	5295

The lack of smaller/single person accommodation is increasingly presenting difficulty in re-housing single homeless people in priority need, a group where presentations have been consistently increasing. This trend is likely to continue as welfare reforms have resulted in an increased demand for smaller accommodation. Meanwhile, pressures remain on the stock of family housing especially for 2 bedroom accommodation. Through the Strategy, the Council will be seeking to establish what action is necessary to ensure its properties are of the right type and in the right locations to continue to meet current and future housing needs.

A detailed breakdown of the Council's stock profile (a Housing Stock Analysis) is provided at Appendix A.

### Type of Stock

The majority of SCDC housing stock is of traditional construction. With less than 5% (256 properties) that are of non-traditional construction. Some properties that are not of traditional structures can be problematic and expensive to maintain well, and heat efficiently. With some of these properties being near the end of their intended life, the Council will need to consider if further investment in these properties are a worthwhile/cost effective investment when compared to re-provision. The Asset Management Team are looking to develop a methodology to determining these decisions.

**Table 4: Non Traditional Council Stock**

Property Type	Number
Bungalow Aluminium	30
End Terrace Unity House	2
End Terrace Wimpey	15
Flat First Floor Unity	3
Flat Ground Floor Unity	8
Mid Terrace Unity House	6
Mid Terrace Wimpey	18
Semi Detached Addison	10
Semi Detached Airey	26
Semi Detached Swedish	13
Semi Detached Unity	30
Semi Detached Wimpey	123
Terraced Industrial House	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>

### Insuring our Housing Stock

The Council currently has a self-insurance approach to its housing stock whereby the Council bears the risk for any structural property damage, such as fire or flooding, rather than having specific property insurance cover. This practice is to be reviewed.

### Stock Condition

The Council's stock condition information indicates that the large majority of the housing stock is of good design and sound construction with life cycle costs showing 'normal' levels of projected expenditure.

The Council has recently invested in a new IT system that allows better use of asset management data and once fully implemented will allow more efficient planning of future works, and better integration between revenue (day to day repairs) and capital (investment) for council housing.

There is however some concern about the reliability of some of the data that currently exists within the asset management system. This is because the data is based on a sample survey being carried out, and this information is extrapolated across all properties including the majority of properties where no inspection have been carried out. This may lead to errors and inefficiencies in the way that investment decisions are made. We therefore intend to commission a further stock condition survey of all of our properties, so that we can review the robustness of our stock condition data, the element lifecycles and costs used. This data will provide key information as to the basis for future stock investment expenditure and associated timescales.

Within the first 12 months of the Strategy Action Plan, there will be an appraisal plan produced that considers options to ensure that the information used by the asset management system is sufficiently robust to allow detailed planning.

The average energy efficiency of the housing stock currently provides a SAP rating of 77.04 (using the 0 -120 scale). However, there is a considerable disparity between the best performing homes with ratings above 75 (12.6% or 666 homes) and the worst performing homes which fail to achieve a SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) of 45 (estimated at 12.3%, 650 homes)

This information is more clearly understood with reference to EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) bandings of the existing stock.

**Table 5: EPC Bandings of Existing Stock**

EPC Band	No. of Properties
A	961
B	1017
C	2,285
D	958
E	64
F	9
G	1

The government target is for all homes to be rated at EPC band C or above by 2030. This data suggests that most properties are already at that level, and others can easily be brought up to the required level. However, more detailed work is required to understand the longer term suitability of, and demand for, properties that currently perform poorly and to understand if it is economical to bring these properties to the required standard.

Using the existing data, there is a requirement for investment of over £210 million over the next 30 years to keep the stock at its current conditions, with the breakdown of expenditure between key elements set out below. It is important to note that this is the cost of maintaining the stock at its current standard and it does not include expenditure on new or acquired buildings, or the cost of ensuring that existing and new council properties are net zero carbon contributors by 2050.

**Table 6: Breakdown of 30 Year Capital Expenditure by Building Element based on existing data (excluding any upgrade to standards or net zero carbon contributors)**

Element	Cost £1000
Bathrooms	20,605
Chimneys	1,032
Communal Areas	3
Doors	5,509
Electrical	12,044
External Works	15,543
Garage Blocks	646
Heating & Water	51,665
Kitchens	31,788
Miscellaneous	1,716
NHER	959
Outbuildings/Extensions	4,783
Roofs	23,756
Safety & Security	806
Walls	6,230
Windows	17,263
Unrepresented Costs	129
Total	210,478

## **The Approach to Reletting Properties**

The approach to managing and maintaining our homes includes how we go about reletting properties. The aim is to provide properties to incoming tenants that meet a good standard, meet their needs and which offer excellent value for money. Moving forward we will be striving to use our improved approach to asset management to explore improvements to the management of empty properties to achieve continuous improvement through efficient management of relets at all levels.

### **General Needs: Demand**

Whilst the Council's housing stock has decreased over the last 30 years, there is a sustained level of demand, mainly due to the significant affordability challenges that face the District. As at September 2021 there were 1,661 applicants on the housing register. This was made up of 701 (42%) transfer requests from current council and housing association tenants and 960 (58%) new applications. The housing register is reviewed on a rolling monthly basis to ensure that the housing register is a robust reflection of need at any given time.

The majority of applicants (1346, equating to 81%) are waiting for general needs accommodation, with the highest need for one and two bedroom properties. Those who are eligible for sheltered accommodation, equate to 19% of those on the housing register.

Most of the applicants joining the housing register are in some form of housing need and meet eligibility criteria. Each applicant goes through a robust process to identify the scope of their need and is banded accordingly. The number of applicants in each of the bands as at September 2021 is provided at Table 7. The Council has an obligation to manage all housing needs, so as well as general needs of applicants it must ensure the needs of more vulnerable and homeless families/individuals are considered. This includes adaptations to houses for disabled people or those with a physical impairment; together with supported accommodation for those that have mental health or learning difficulties. This is achieved by working in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council Care Teams, the Multi-agency Public Protection

Arrangements Group (MAPPA), the rough sleeping outreach service and floating support service P3 and with other support services including the voluntary sector.

**Table 7: South Cambridgeshire District – Housing Applications [Sept 2021]**

Band	Number of Applicants
A	130
B	449
C	542
D	477
D*	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>1661</b>

The Council can only meet a proportion of this need, making in the region of around 200 lettings each year for general needs housing and around 80 lets per year for sheltered accommodation. When including housing association lettings, this figure increases to around 540 new lettings per year, all of which clearly demonstrates a demand for more social housing to meet need arising from the housing register.

The highest demand for properties on the register is for one and two bedroom properties, with over 49% requiring one bedroom and 29% requiring a two bedroom. There is a significant imbalance between the current housing stock and demand for properties, especially for general needs accommodation with only 10% making up one bedroom properties, and 21% of our overall stock being sheltered accommodation.

**Table 8: Stock Numbers compared to Need**

Stock Numbers				
Property Type	Number of General Needs	Percentage	Number of Sheltered	Percentage
Bedsit	13	(0%)	7	(0%)
1 bed	566	(11%)	489	(9%)
2 bed	1723	(33%)	592	(11%)
3 bed	1832	(35%)	2	(0%)
4+ bed	71	(1)	0	(0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4205</b>	<b>(79%)</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>(21%)</b>

Waiting List Demand				
Property	Aged under 60	Percentage	Aged 60+	Percentage
Bedsit	0	0	0	0
1 bed	551	(33%)	281	(17%)
2 bed	446	(27%)	29	(2%)
3 bed	247	(15%)	0	(0%)
4+ bed	107	(6%)	0	(0%)
<b>Total</b>	1351	(81%)	310	(19%)

Whilst the majority of council properties in the District are in high demand, there is some sheltered accommodation that is more problematic to allocate due to the high proportion of council owned sheltered properties and such a high natural turnover. Anecdotally larger homes in some of the more rural villages with limited facilities are also harder to let. Bedsit accommodation is also much less attractive to tenants and whilst we have redeveloped the majority of bedsits, there are still 20 bedsits remaining.

We have started to address the imbalance of demand and supply for smaller homes through our new build programme including specifying on all new developments the need for more one and two bedroom affordable homes. Moving forwards, we will also explore the opportunity to re-designate/redevelop some older persons accommodation to provide more general needs homes.

The decrease in the number of council owned family houses in popular areas means it is difficult to match housing demand with available stock. The problem is exacerbated by the difficulties in freeing up under-occupied family housing due to the reluctance of older people to downsize. The Council's allocation policy aims to address this by giving priority to council tenants who wish to downsize

The Council has embarked on a new build programme to deliver 70 homes per year, with an aspiration to deliver up to 100 a year if feasible. So far, up to March 2021 we have built/purchased 181 new council homes (136 rented and 45 shared ownership), acquired 29 properties from the open market and have a further 133 schemes in the pipeline as of October 2021, with further opportunities currently being explored. These are a mixture of affordable rent and shared ownership homes.



**Table 9: Acquisitions from the Open Market**

-	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Property Type	Rented	Rented	Rented	Rented	Rented	Rented
One Bed House	0	1	1	0	0	0
Two Bed House	2	3	1	9	4	5
Three Bed House	0	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

**Table 10: NewBuild Completions**

-	2016/17	2016/17	2017/18	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19
Property Type	Rented	Shared Ownership	Rented	Shared Ownership	Rented	Shared Ownership
One Bed Flat	2	0	10	0	2	0
One Bed House	8	0	0	2	0	0
One Bed Bungalow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Two Bed Flat	0	0	8	0	0	0
Two Bed House	18	0	4	4	5	0
Two Bed Bungalow	0	0	0	0	1	2
Three Bed House	10	0	0	5	1	0
Four Bed House	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>

-	2019/20	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	Overall Total	Overall Total
Property Type	Rented	Shared Ownership	Rented	Shared Ownership	Rented	Shared Ownership
One Bed Flat	11	0	28	0	53	0
One Bed House	0	1	0	0	8	3
One Bed Bungalow	0	0	2	0	2	0
Two Bed Flat	2	0	0	0	10	0
Two Bed House	4	11	11	9	42	24
Two Bed Bungalow	0	0	1	0	2	2
Three Bed House	2	3	4	7	17	15
Four Bed House	0	0	1	1	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>45</b>

**Table 11: NewBuild Pipeline Schemes (approved up to October 2021)**

Scheme	No. of Units
Grace Crescent, Hardwick	7
Bennell Farm, Toft	25
Impington Lane, Impington	10
Babraham Road, Sawston	48
Emerson Road, Great Abington	3
High Street, Meldreth	7
Orchard Gardens, Melbourn	9
Boxworth End, Swavesey	12
Strawberry Farm, Great Abington	3
Meadowcroft Way, Orwell	4
Longstanton Road, Oakington	1
Bartlow Road, Castle Camps	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>

**Table 12: Affordable Net Gain**

Year	Right to Buy Sales	Acquisitions	New Build Rented	Net Gain/ Net Loss	Demolitions	Total Net Gain/Net Loss
2013-2014	28	2	0	-26	0	-26
2014-2015	29	5	0	-24	0	-24
2015-2016	23	2	0	-21	0	-21
2016-2017	33	0	39	6	0	6
2017-2018	20	4	22	6	23	-17
2018-2019	15	7	9	1	0	1
2019-2020	19	0	19	0	2	-2
2020-2021	10	0	47	37	0	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>-21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-46</b>

Prior to the government changes to the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system in 2012 and the ending of the debt cap for local authorities in 2018, the government had a strictly enforced borrowing cap. This meant that the Council did not have the resources to tackle its worst properties where redevelopment was the most

appropriate course of action. Therefore, between 2004 and 2017, it was Council policy to transfer homes to housing associations for redevelopment purposes where the homes were no longer fit for purpose. During that period around 300 homes were transferred to housing associations for redevelopment to provide new affordable homes. This included a redevelopment programme for some of the Council's 'Airey' properties at Coton, Elsworth and Sawston and the Council's largest regeneration scheme at The Windmill Estate, Fulbourn. Any future redevelopment opportunities will remain within the Council's housing stock and delivered through the Council's Newbuild programme.

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## **5) Involving Customers and Delivering their Priorities**

The Council recognises the benefits of tenants being involved in the management of their homes and welcomes the vital role they can play in helping improve the housing and repairs service. Tenants are at the heart of the Council's decision-making processes and various options exist to ensure effective tenant consultation and engagement and for the Council to be accountable to tenants and customers.

We are constantly seeking to improve and enhance the way in which tenants are involved in informing, developing and enhancing the accommodation and services we provide. We are also mindful that we provide management services to leaseholders with legal rights regarding consultation for larger maintenance contracts or works programmes.

### **Tenant Priorities**

Through existing consultation methods, the Council aims to seek the views of tenants to better understand their priorities beyond the existing Decent Homes Standard. This work will be completed by September 2022 and be used to develop a South Cambs Standard (or Standards).

### **Tenant Satisfaction**

As part of our ongoing commitment to seek the views of residents, we intend to commission Research to carry out a survey in Winter 2021 to establish perceptions of the services provided to both its general needs and supported tenants. This survey will follow a nationally accepted methodology which will allow comparisons with other organisations and over time.

### **Involvement Mechanisms**

Over recent years the Council has significantly increased the opportunities for tenants to become involved in the management of their homes. We recognise that tenants may wish to be involved in a variety of ways and at different levels.

Therefore, procedures have been developed to enable tenants to have the opportunity to be involved in a way that suits them. A new Resident Involvement Framework and Strategy was implemented from April 2019.

The Council also has Right to Buy properties in blocks of flats. We have developed our procedures to ensure 'Section 20' consultation takes place with these leaseholders when letting larger contracts or works which fall under the requirements for such consultation to take place but realise there is more to be done.

## Future Vision

To ensure that tenants and customers continue to play a valuable role in the development and improvement of the repair, maintenance and investment services and programmes we provide, we aim to effectively scrutinise our performance through service specific panels. This includes providing qualitative information about our services from a customer view in order for the panel to have the ability to challenge both the scope of services and the way in which they are delivered.

The tenant's panel will also play a role in the contractor's complaints process. It is envisaged that the panel will have an active role in contractor complaint handling, ensuring that problems can be resolved locally and that the service improves.

Looking in more detail, and with reference to the principles set out in the Charter for Social Housing Residents (Government White Paper 2020) **To know how your landlord is performing**, we will seek to:

- Maximise opportunities for tenants to have a voice and input to the repairs, maintenance and asset management service.
- Give opportunities to tenants to question and discuss issues in relation to repairs, maintenance and asset management.
- Provide tenants with regular progress and performance reports.
- Actively promote repairs and maintenance issues.
- Develop the arrangements for monitoring and scrutinising the repairs standards, services and asset management plans.

- Ensure value for money for tenants is achieved.
- Increase tenant involvement in the development of specifications for programmes of work.
- Monitor and scrutinise all contracts and programme of works.
- Increase tenant involvement in contract selection and monitoring.

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## 6) Strategic Priorities for Asset Management

The Housing Asset Management Strategy has been built around one major aim and seven key strategic priorities that have been developed specifically in response to the range of distinct issues for the Council, our stock and future residents' needs.

Accompanying the priorities is an Action Plan, which clearly sets out what the Council wants to achieve, and by when. It is anticipated that the actions will be monitored, reviewed and revised during the life of this Strategy as works are completed and new actions are established. An Asset Management Investment Plan will also be developed once the outcome of the stock condition survey has been completed that sets out a 30 year profile of annual expenditure.

**Overall Aim – To provide good quality, sustainable homes that are affordable to live in and where people choose to live.**

### Specific Priorities

- a) Ensure the homes we provide are safe and secure and meet or exceed all statutory safety standards.
- b) To have in place well designed repair and maintenance systems that ensure homes are well maintained and kept in a good state of repair.
- c) To have a long-term strategy and programme in place to improve the thermal efficiency of homes and reduce their carbon emissions with the aim of being carbon neutral by 2050.
- d) To ensure the homes are brought up to and maintained at locally determined standards, remaining attractive and meeting modern requirements and tenant expectations.

- e) To replace obsolete or uneconomic properties with new homes that are better designed to meet future needs and create a better balanced portfolio.
- f) To identify opportunities to acquire through purchase or direct build, additional homes to increase the number of council owned properties available of the type and quality needed in locations where people want to live.
- g) To ensure our homes meet the requirements of people with specific needs.
- h) To use procurement processes to best effect and adopt a strong approach to contract management to optimise quality and value in the delivery of all repairs, maintenance and improvement works.
- i) To use the housing asset base to help deliver wider corporate priorities and statutory duties of the Council.

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**Priority A: To ensure that our housing stock provide homes that are safe and secure and that we meet or exceed all statutory safety standards**

The Council ensures that we not only comply with the statutory duties around health and safety but are more proactive in tackling issues. We will clearly demonstrate to customers and the Regulator for Social Housing that our approach to building safety and statutory compliance is based centrally in everything we do,

The government's increased focus on safety arises from the tragedy at Grenfell Tower and has been reinforced with measures in the White Paper. Consequently, the issue of building safety and compliance has been given increased prominence in this Asset Management Strategy. But that is not to say these activities are new and the Council has a good track record in ensuring compliance.

There are a wide range of statutory duties with which the Council as a landlord must comply. Failure to comply with these duties could result in action against the Council, such as criminal prosecution for offences including corporate manslaughter and/or civil claims for personal injury or damage.

The Council's will therefore ensure that all dwellings meet relevant health and safety requirements allowing tenants to live in a safe and secure environment. This will be achieved by identifying and managing risks including those from:

- 1) Housing Health and Safety Rating defects
- 2) Asbestos
- 3) Legionella/water hygiene
- 4) Gas installations
- 5) Electrical testing and renewal
- 6) Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors
- 7) Fire Risk Assessments
- 8) Fire doors
- 9) Estate Risk Assessment inspections
- 10) Aids and Adaptations

## **1) Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)**

The HHSRS replaced the Fitness Standard element of the Decent Homes Standard. The HHSRS assesses the 29 main health and safety risks inherent in a property. If a property fails the HHSRS, it automatically fails the Decent Homes Standard.

We will classify HHSRS failures as priority works, addressing them at the earliest opportunity. All Council Officers involved in surveying properties will be trained to identify potential HHSRS failures with key surveying staff receiving full training in HHSRS assessments.

This will enable us to build up an accurate figure of how many homes may be considered non-decent because of HHSRS failure. To achieve the HHSRS aims the Council will:

- a) Train staff to identify failures during their normal day-to-day activities.
- b) Ensure that contractors offer similar training to their own staff
- c) Record any failures on the asset management IT system
- d) Carry out these works as a high priority by including in planned works; and
- e) Continually review the programme of HHSRS work undertaken to ensure the Council maintains compliance with the Decent Homes Standard.

## **2) Asbestos**

The Council has an Asbestos Management Policy for all council homes, which sets out how we identify and manage asbestos. We conduct surveys and sampling and manage asbestos containing materials in accordance with the Asbestos Policy and Management Plan and the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

Management surveys are undertaken to all properties, including sheltered schemes and shared entrances to flats. This information is held in an Asbestos Register

together with an Asbestos Management Plan. All high-risk asbestos containing materials are programmed for removal as they are identified. Medium and Low risk asbestos containing materials are left in-situ and are only removed if the risk should change, for example should they become damaged for instance or they require removal to enable repair or alteration work to be carried out. Contractors are made aware where Asbestos materials are located before undertaking repairs or refurbishment work. If Refurbishment and Demolition Surveys are required, these are undertaken prior to work commencing.

### **3) Legionella/Water Hygiene**

The Council has a water hygiene policy for properties with some communal facilities. Risk assessments have been completed and are reviewed on a periodic basis regarding the risk of Legionella to our sheltered housing sites and other sites with common stored water as required under the HSE Approved Code of Practice L8. We will carry out risk mitigation work by flushing hot and cold-water systems to empty properties just before they are occupied, and weekly for any empty properties in sheltered housing schemes.

Although single household accommodation is not covered by legislation. The Council will develop practical advice for tenants to minimise risk.

### **4) Gas safety**

We have a policy that ensures the safety of tenants in homes that contain a gas supply and connected appliances. We take all reasonably practicable steps to gain access to tenanted properties to make sure we meet our legal duties under the current Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations. Landlords have a duty to maintain all appliances they own, undertake a safety check and produce a safety record. It is a legal requirement to complete these checks and issue a landlord's certificate annually. NOTE: - safety checks do not include tenants' own appliances.

Whilst gas safety inspection and service of council owned appliances is undertaken by a contractor on the Council's behalf this does not absolve the Council from responsibility.

Each completed electronic generated Landlords Gas Safety Record is checked by the contractors before loading onto the Compliance Document Management System (CDMS) that records reported outcomes. The contractor operates their own risk based engineer audit process which is monitored by the Council.

In addition, the Council employs an independent auditor, where 5% of gas servicing is checked by a third-party contractor.

Whilst most tenants cooperate fully with the Council, there are a small number who refuse access to their homes. In these cases, we have an agreed procedure and take action against tenants who do not allow access to undertake gas safety inspection and/or service our appliances.

It should be noted that there is dispensation in the Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998 that a person shall not be guilty of an offence in any case in which it can be shown that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent the contravention. This procedure sets out records that must be kept for use as evidence to prove the Council took all reasonable steps to gain access.

### **5) Electrical Installations**

Electrical safety inspections of the fixed wiring installations are undertaken every five years, or when the property becomes vacant. If the property is empty, we also test the electrical heating if present. The next periodic inspection date is detailed on each certificate issued. At the time the inspections are carried out all essential electrical responsive type remedial work is undertaken in-conjunction with the inspection.

### **6) Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors**

Although there is no statutory requirement in existing dwellings to provide either smoke or Carbon Monoxide Detectors it is considered good practice to do so. Therefore, the Council provides smoke detectors to all properties. In addition, Carbon Monoxide Detectors are provided to all properties with gas heating. Around 84% of the Council's housing stock has hard wired smoke alarms (the rest are

battery). The Council has allowed for the full replacement of both wired in CO and smoke detectors on a rolling programme of 10 years for smoke detectors and 10 years for Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Battery alarms are replaced more frequently, between 5-10 years.

## **7) Fire Risk Assessments**

In accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 the Council has undertaken Fire Risk Assessments of communal areas to flats and sheltered schemes. The Fire Risk Assessments are reviewed annually and recorded on the Council's asset management database. Any remedial work required to mitigate the risks identified is undertaken and management processes put in place.

In addition, Council officers carry out regular checks of the common parts of flats and Sheltered Schemes. These activities are recorded on our asset management system via a job being allocated to each member of staff.

The Council has no high rise (six stories or higher) blocks and has never used the Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) implicated in the spread of fire at the Grenfell Tower tragedy. All current and past cladding used on the Council's dwellings meet all British and European standards.

## **8) Fire Doors**

After the Grenfell tower disaster the Council removed all fire doors deemed to be high risk and replaced them and we continue with a pro-active approach to replacing existing fire doors.

We are now replacing all fire doors (approximately 300) over the next 12 months. We are installing composite FD30S doors (such as, doors that will withstand over 30 minutes of exposure to fire and smoke).

Fire doors will be included within an annual yearly maintenance programme to make sure they are serviced annually and remain fully compliant. The installation and maintenance will be carried out by contractors.

## **9) Inspections of Estate and Common Part Risk Assessment**

Council officers are regularly out on our estates, as well as formally undertaking inspections of the estate areas, garage sites and common parts of our assets. Alongside formal assessments to the Health and Safety of tenants, residents and visitors to our estates, officers are expected and required to identify risks and ensure appropriate action is taken. Where high risks are identified, mitigating works are undertaken either through Planned or Responsive repairs. This will include appraisal of the following options:

- a) Repair, replacement, or improvement of boundaries, including urgent repairs where they are found to be unstable
- b) Repair, replacement, or improvement of paving or tarmac paths, both to make safe and to improve environmental conditions
- c) Repairs, refurbishments, and improvements to communal areas, both external and internal (e.g. refuse areas and stairwells to blocks of flats)
- d) The development of long-term sustainable solutions to problematic garage blocks/sites, ranging from minor environmental improvements to repairs to potential demolition/redevelopment.

More formal Estate Inspections are carried out on a regular basis by housing officers and with the help of local tenants.

## **10) Inspection of Aids and Adaptations**

The Council has an increasing amount of equipment that is provided for tenants. We have developed an annual servicing and inspection regime for this equipment including the following

- Personal Lifts
- Stair lifts,
- Hoists,

- Wash and dry toilets

### **Reporting**

There is an increased focus on building safety and compliance within the Social Housing 'industry' and with this, there is a need to provide reassurance to elected members, tenants and customers. It is proposed to develop a new suite of indicators to measure compliance, within the first 6 months of the Asset Management Strategy Action Plan. These will be reported on a quarterly basis.

The Head of Housing is the named responsible person within the Council who is accountable for ensuring compliance with our health and safety obligations.

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**Priority B: To have in place well designed repair and maintenance systems that ensure homes are well maintained and kept in a good state of repair**

The Council recognises that the efficient and effective repair and maintenance of the housing properties is an essential requirement of the Strategy and that there will always be a need for routine, planned and cyclical maintenance to be carried out. In 2021/22 we anticipate spending £3.195 million during the year on responsive repairs and a further £1.499 million on cyclical/planned works giving a total of £4.694 million investment on our existing stock. This is on top of the indicative capital investment of £210,478 million estimated over the next 30 years (based on existing data) for the improvement of our stock (as set out in Table 6).

**Table 13: HRA Revenue Budget for Routine, Planned and Cyclical Maintenance for 2021/22**

<b>Responsive Repairs</b>	<b>Budget 2021/22</b>
Change of tenancies	£1,122,000
Maintenance of Disabled Adaptations	£33,660
Responsive Repairs	£2,040,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,195,660</b>

<b>Non Responsive Maintenance (Planned &amp; Cyclical)</b>	<b>Budget 2021/22</b>
Cyclical Works	£367,200
Heating Service Contracts	£581,000
Asbestos Surveys/Removals	£91,800
Thermostat & other Electrical Surveys	£193,800
Drainage Surveys	£193,800
Garden Works	£40,800
Special Investigations	£30,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,499,000</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>£4,694,660</b>



Whilst the Council's housing properties already meet the Decent Homes Standard it is clear that considerable challenges will remain in ensuring the existing properties are well maintained for the long term and that, as a minimum, they continue to meet the Decent Homes Standard. To meet these challenges, the Council aims to have in place well designed repairs and maintenance systems that encompass the ongoing requirements for day to day, cyclical, planned and improvement works for our tenant and leaseholder customers.

We will ensure that we have systems in place to develop and maintain:

- A responsive, effective and efficient day-to-day or 'responsive' repairs service.
- A relet service that is efficient and effective so as to help speed the repairs process and minimise loss or rental income.
- A cyclical and planned maintenance programme for inspection and servicing of various installations and for internal and external redecoration, designed to achieve economies by replacing components just before they would otherwise require responsive repairs, anticipating changes in the determined Standards and reducing future requirements for cyclical or planned works.

In this way, we will be equipped to deliver an excellent repairs and maintenance service for tenants and leaseholders, enabling them to live in well maintained, modern and safe homes.

Thus, our repair and maintenance services are grouped into three main categories. These are responsive maintenance; empty property works and cyclical/planned maintenance.

### **Responsive Maintenance**

These are repairs which are carried out when components fail, and that cannot wait to be undertaken under a planned programme. These works, which are revenue funded, comprise of day-to-day responsive repairs to items such as plumbing/sanitary equipment, door/window fittings, electrical equipment etc.

The Council has made significant investment in ICT and has a long relationship with our repairs contractors who carry out the majority of responsive repairs. The repairs service will be retendered with the next contract starting in July 2022.

We have taken steps to minimise work being undertaken through responsive repairs and no major works are financed by this budget. Instead, these are covered in the programme to maintain properties at the Decent Homes Standard. In addition to this, repairs to items such as fencing are batched into small programmes to achieve better value for money.

As part of the more proactive approach to asset management that we will be taking through our new Asset Management Strategy our aim is to reduce the proportion of expenditure spent on responsive repairs to no more than 30% of the total repairs and maintenance annual spend.

### **Relet Works**

Relets works refers to the work that is needed to an empty property to prepare it for a new tenant. This generally occurs when a property is being re-let through termination of the previous tenancy. Relet works include statutory testing of gas and electrical systems, as well as the works required to ensure the property is in good order for incoming residents.

Work to relet properties is carried out in accordance with the standard set by the Council. It is proposed to develop a South Cambs Relet Standard following the implementation of this Strategy. The Relet Standard will provide a new tenant with a fit for purpose “decent home” to start their tenancy.

We recognise that empty properties are a very visible measure of the performance of the Housing Service and therefore it remains an important target to reduce relet times and report relets and relet performance on a regular basis.

## **Cyclical maintenance**

Cyclical maintenance comprises the regular servicing of mechanical and electrical equipment (such as boilers) and would ordinarily include external decoration together with pre-painting repairs. Servicing occurs at regular pre-defined intervals.

Gas Servicing is carried out annually and the Council has a statutory duty to inspect every gas appliance within every one of its housing properties every year. The process is covered in the Health and Safety and Compliance section above.

Cyclical maintenance is essential to maintaining and increasing standards within the housing stock in addition to providing regular inspection of each property to identify any issues with individual dwellings.

## **Challenges**

The Council's current arrangements with external contractors for the repair and maintenance of the housing properties will end in mid-2022. Newly reconfigured arrangements are currently in the process of being put out to competitive tender. The new contract is being designed to 'reinvent' our repairs service for the 2020s and will be intelligence led and customer driven.

**Priority C: To have a long-term strategy and programme in place to improve the thermal efficiency of homes and reduce their carbon emissions with the aim of being carbon neutral by 2050**

The Council has an ambition of being the leading green district within the country and this very much links with our vision to provide good quality, sustainable homes for our tenants. This is reflected in two of the four corporate priorities

- Building homes that are truly affordable to live in, and
- Being green to our core

**Meeting the Carbon Neutral Challenge**

The Council aims to be Carbon Neutral by 2050 which includes the housing stock. In 2019 the Council commissioned a study by an external consultant on how the council can best meet this aim.

The study looked at both energy consumption and carbon emissions, and with other options being either unavailable (included where the distribution infrastructure is lacking) or prohibitively expensive, electricity is the only realistic option to heat homes once fossil fuels are removed.

The reliance on electricity does however have its own challenges:

1. The electricity grid has insufficient current capacity to take over from gas for all domestic heating and therefore the switch from gas for domestic heating will need to be phased.
2. **The report also stated that at that time, electricity was** more expensive than gas and therefore switching fuels without reducing the amount of fuel required would result in much higher fuel bills for tenants and probably resulting in increased fuel poverty.

The findings of the report do not advocate switching from gas boilers to heat pumps without considering the overall implications and being selective in respect of property types. However, some dwellings that currently have good insulation levels may already be suitable.

It is recommended that the Council approach carbon reduction as a three stage project whilst ensuring overall costs to tenants are kept to a minimum.

### **Stage One**

Reducing energy demand in dwellings by improving the level of insulation, including external walls (even those with insulated cavities of a certain age) and ground floors. **The Council recognises the impacts on both mental and physical wellbeing for those facing fuel poverty. Therefore, where possible, tenants who are most at risk of fuel poverty will be a priority when programming this work.**

### **Stage Two**

Install alternative heating systems. The options are either air source or ground source heat pumps, both will require individual building appraisals to determine technical suitability.

Calculations show that these measures will reduce the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the housing stock from approx. 11,500 tons CO<sub>2</sub> per year to 2,274 tons per year with average carbon emissions per dwelling reducing from 2.1 tons CO<sub>2</sub>/kg per year to 0.4 ton per year. However, as this energy is now all electricity, which has a higher tariff than gas, energy bills per tenant only reduce by an average of 33% from £690 to £465 per year. In some specific circumstances (an existing well insulated property using gas), there is a possibility that fuel costs could marginally increase if the reduction in energy demand does not offset the higher cost of electricity (based on current fuel costs).

### Stage Three

Eliminate residual carbon in order to become net zero. If the grid has been decarbonised by 2050 in line with UK Govt targets then SCDC will be net zero carbon. SCDC has already installed solar PV to over 40% of its houses and bungalows so if the grid has not been decarbonised then it could introduce additional renewable generation measures, such as PV (possibly with battery storage) to those dwellings currently without.

Alternatively, SCDC could invest in community wind farm or solar farm projects which would offset these emissions at the same time as generating clean power and a financial return. The extent of renewables required to offset any residual carbon emissions cannot be determined until the decarbonisation of the grid is more widely understood.

There is a significant financial cost for this work. The estimated budget (at today's price) to become 'near zero carbon' is in the region of £157.6m gross, excluding VAT, over the next 30 years inclusive of undertaking ground floor insulation. This equates to an average cost of £30,000 per property. However, taking into consideration the £65.5m estimated of related work contained in the current 30 year capital delivery programme), the additional budget requirement reduces to approx. £92m, or £17,547 per dwelling on average.

In order to work towards net zero on the Council's stock, a strategic approach will be adopted that takes advantage of the 30 year timescales and allows informed decision taking. This will include:

- a) Modelling the stock to determine financial performance in light of the zero carbon standard and confirm the long term future to support the levels of investment required
- b) Review difficult to treat properties – solid ground floors, historic buildings, complex tenure mixes etc and agree a suitable strategy and work scope.

- c) For stock with a long-term sustainable future, develop a new holistic and sustainable investment plan that reflects both normal decent homes type work as well as zero carbon work.
- d) Review all work components in relation to life cycle replacements.
- e) Undertake detailed surveys across the stock to identify technical suitability for zero carbon measures.
- f) Explore and trial technical solutions across building archetypes to ensure suitability and affordability.
- g) Embark on the implementation of improvement measures to selected sustainable pilot properties/blocks/estates that reflect the wider agreed strategy and build up a level of expertise internally as well as a supply chain..
- h) Consult with tenants and leaseholders.
- i) Develop a detailed delivery plan, taking into account survey data and real-life performance of technical solutions
- j) Monitor the extent of grid decarbonisation and develop a strategy to offset the residual emissions if required.

**NetZero Collective:**

As part of the work to explore and trial technical solutions, South Cambridgeshire District Council joined NetZero Collective in 2019, which brings together a number of organisations including the Dept Climate Change, Buildings and Energy, Southampton University and a number of Social Landlords.

The NetZero Collective has 2 key aims:

1. Determine the most cost-effective way to retrofit properties to deliver 'netzero' using fabric first approach combined with deployment of renewable technologies.
2. Identify how the delivery of decarbonisation of properties at scale can maximise economic regeneration in local communities.

The Council has contributed 5 properties into this first phase. These properties were empty at the time and surveys have been completed.

In order to create the capacity and capability to deliver retrofit at scale, we are working with NetZero Collective to create a 'blueprint' for a Centre of Excellence for Decarbonisation to present to members. If successful this Centre will recruit, train, and employ local people to retrofit properties – using the data, tools, methodologies and training programmes developed through the research provided by the Netzero Collective. This provides an opportunity for the local college to become a training hub – delivering accredited programmes for **training and apprenticeships** that build the capacity required to meet the target for 2050

**We recognise that the effectiveness of some carbon reduction methods are dependent on the lifestyles of occupants, especially around ventilation and drying of clothes. We will work with others to identify solutions to these issues.**

### **Net Zero New Homes**

The Council is keen to demonstrate that new build social housing can be constructed following the principles of Net Zero Carbon.

The Council will identify a suitable site for such a build and will consider suitable procurement to deliver a 'proof of concept' development. This will be subject to available funding and the agreements of Members.



**Priority D: To ensure that homes are brought up to and maintained at a locally determined Standard, remaining attractive and meeting modern requirements and tenant expectations**

The Council is committed to ensuring that the housing properties it owns and manages not only continue to meet the national Decent Homes Standard (as defined by the government) but that they are brought up to and maintained at a higher, locally determined, South Cambs Standard. This is because we recognise that Decent Homes is a 'minimum standard' and acknowledge that social landlords should aspire and plan for 'decency plus'; in other words, adopt a better standard that also takes into account the views and aspirations of residents.

The Council will therefore develop and maintain a detailed 30-year investment programme to sit alongside this Strategy. It will be designed to deliver cyclical, planned and improvement works in a timescale determined by the need to ensure we continue to meet the Decent Homes Standard as otherwise some homes would become non decent each year without adequate investment. However, the investment programme will also provide for properties that are assessed to be 'long term sustainable' to be brought up to and maintained at a higher, locally determined, Standard.

We recognise that our stock condition survey data is incomplete. Some of the data is out of date and much is based on assumed knowledge of the individual 'elements' within each property as much of the data is 'cloned' from known 'beacon properties'. This means the information is not sufficiently good for making detailed investment decisions.

We therefore intend to commission external surveyors to carry out a 100% stock condition survey by the end of 2022. This will provide a baseline for future investment planning. Once this baseline is established a sample of properties will be resurveyed each year, and when empty, and the database updated in respect of capital and other work to keep the data current.

## **The South Cambs Standard**

The Council will work with tenants to develop a new south Cambs Standard to ensure the homes we provide not only continue to meet statutory and/or regulatory minimum standards but offer a quality of accommodation that meets current and future residents' needs and aspirations.

In developing this Standard, we will consider:

- The desire to have a locally determined, enhanced standard over the required minimum, including external areas
- The need to meet the climate change agenda and targets and to help reduce levels of fuel poverty
- The need to ensure long term neighbourhood sustainability
- Tenant/customer needs/demands/requirements

In addition to this Standard we will consider the need to ensure flexibility to meet the special needs of particular resident groups, such as older tenants and disabled tenants. We will also explore whether an additional standard should be developed for sheltered housing schemes (this may include both individual accommodation and communal areas).

Once established, we will put into place procedures for measuring and monitoring the attainment and maintenance of homes at this Standard in partnership with tenants to ensure that we continue to meet the changing needs, expectations, and aspirations of residents.

## **Tenancy Types**

From April 2013, the Council introduced the use of fixed term tenancies. For the majority of new tenants (excluding those aged 65+, disabled or some transfers) a fixed term 10 year tenancy is issued once an introductory tenancy has been successfully completed. This policy was brought in following the Localism Act 2011, with some of the initial 10-year fixed term tenancies coming up for renewal in 2023. Many housing providers who had originally moved to fixed term tenancies are now

opting to return to lifetime secure tenancies, as it was resource heavy with little benefit. The Council will therefore review its Tenancy Policy in the light of good practice and current policy direction. The policy will be reviewed during 2021/22 and will involve consultation with tenant groups.

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**Priority E: To replace obsolete or uneconomic properties with new homes that are better designed to meet future needs and create a better-balanced portfolio**

The Council recognises that some of the current housing properties may not be sustainable for the long term and that some schemes and/or property types may be of a poor quality design or construction, or in a condition which makes long-term investment in the property either uneconomic or otherwise inappropriate.

This is a particular issue in respect of some of the properties that are of a non-traditional construction, where the fundamental design makes lettings and/or housing management difficult or where the work will be uneconomical, for example the level of necessary investment over the next 30 years will exceed the level of rental income projected to be received. This may include properties where the investment needed to reduce carbon emissions to an acceptable level is disproportionately high. Thus, in some cases, simply maintaining homes at the Decent Homes Standard or bringing homes up to the South Cambs Standard will not be enough to achieve the Council's wider goals. Rather than simply committing large amounts of money trying to improve properties that fall into this category the Council will consider working with others, as appropriate, to re-provide new, high quality properties that are better designed to meet the future needs of residents in the District and which are of a type that aids the development of a balanced housing portfolio.

We have therefore developed a methodology to review the future of some of the Council's homes, identifying the obsolete or uneconomic properties through an appraisal process that incorporates:

- Review and analysis of stock condition survey information
- Net Present Value assessment techniques
- Examination of neighbourhood sustainability factors

**It is our ambition to include within these appraisals an analysis of the embedded carbon involved in demolishing and rebuilding buildings compared to retrofitting buildings. A methodology to do this will be developed during the life of this plan.**

Decisions about which properties to retain or redevelop, and where to build and for which client groups, will be taken in the context of robust analysis of neighbourhoods and local demand. Opportunities will also be provided to local residents to give their views, become more involved in the process and help shape the future of their neighbourhoods.

In some areas there may be a greater mix of tenures and landlords. Working effectively in such areas will require joint strategies or at least regard for the wider context when considering:

- Whether and on what basis we should retain and invest in properties
- For what end use the properties are to be retained
- The alternatives to retention and investment in the properties
- The impact on tenants of the alternative approaches
- The impact on the HRA Business Plan and the Council's asset base

Those properties found to be unsustainable will be reviewed to identify the most effective mechanism to remodel or renew them.

In the assessment and planning of any redevelopment programmes we will ensure that clear processes are in place for planning and consultation with residents, working with them to secure appropriate re-housing which meets their needs.

Furthermore, in determining the nature and type of re-provision we will work with strategic partners to identify and respond to changing demand within the District, seeking to better understand and anticipate shifting patterns in the housing market. However, this assessment is likely to confirm a particular requirement for more smaller homes, both smaller family homes to counteract the number of family homes lost under the right to buy, and more one bedroom homes where there is an increased demand.

**Priority F: To identify opportunities to acquire through purchase or direct build, additional homes to increase the number of council owned properties available of the type and quality needed in locations where people want to live**

Right to Buy (RTB) has reduced the number of Council owned homes considerably since it was introduced in the early 1980s. Whilst the rate of disposals has currently slowed the rate may increase again if proposals to increase discounts come to fruition and if mortgages become more readily available. The large majority of RTB sales have been family sized properties, but demographic changes and welfare reform has seen an increase in demand for smaller homes. Therefore, the Council will try and redress this situation through the active purchase of homes focusing on the acquisition of:

- Opportunities through the Council's Investment Partnerships
- New build properties that are offered by developers, through section 106 obligations.
- Properties that have been previously sold under RTB
- Registered Provider (RP) disposals
- Properties that are in the process of being repossessed by lenders
- Newly built properties from speculative house builders
- Open market sales to meet specific housing needs,

We will also consider options for either direct build, or acquiring land to enable direct build when this is appropriate.

Under self-financing, there is flexibility within the Council's HRA allowing it to borrow and therefore to consider the purchase of these types of homes, with the activity helping to boost any new build and bring additional homes on-stream more quickly. The following approach will therefore be used to identify and assess the appropriateness of purchasing new properties.

### **Purchase Appraisal**

- a) Consideration of location and housing need factors

- b) Viewing and preliminary survey of property
- c) Determine how property would 'fit' with existing stock profile
- d) Determine scope and investment needed in the property to bring it up to the South Cambs Standard (not applicable to new properties)
- e) Determine open market value of property, given its location and current condition
- f) Determine rent for the property
- g) Undertake financial appraisal (NPV) to determine viability of potential acquisition
- h) Subject to above, negotiate acceptable purchase price and proceed with acquisition

In delivering our work in this area, we will be mindful of the need to ensure long term sustainability of estates, the retention of an appropriate tenure mix and the way in which acquisitions help meet to deliver the broader objectives of the Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy.

### **Standards**

We will work with our tenants to develop a new Standard for properties that we build or acquire. This will not only include internal facilities, but external and communal facilities and the relationship of council owned homes and other properties on the development.

## **Priority G: To ensure our homes meet the requirements of people with specific needs**

We recognise that there is likely to be an increasing need for the Council's housing properties to cater particularly for the changing needs of older people (given the ageing population) and to meet the specialist needs of people who are otherwise vulnerable or who have support needs. Therefore, we will aim to ensure that the homes we provide have features and attributes that respond effectively to these needs, especially given the lack of suitable accommodation in the private sector.

### **Meeting the Needs of an Ageing Population**

To ensure our sheltered housing continues to be of good quality and responds to population demographics and housing need we will review the appropriateness and 'fit for purpose' characteristics of each of the sheltered housing schemes. We will do this by examining issues such as property archetypes, locations, accessibility, individual attributes and demand in order to draw conclusions as to the investment works needed to ensure their ongoing sustainability.

The aim is that all of our long term sustainable sheltered housing will be modernised and re-structured as necessary to bring it up to a locally determined 'sheltered housing standard' which ensures that it is 'fit for purpose' to meet local need, focusing on issues such as quality of dwelling, accessibility and provision of appropriate amenities. We intend to put in place a clear, implementation plan for how we will achieve this by a specific target date and will include identification of any funding required from the HRA. This process will ensure that the Council continues to provide attractive housing solutions for older and otherwise vulnerable people.

The Council will also need to balance the demand for sheltered or supported housing against the overall demand for 1 and 2 bedroomed properties. We may need to consider re-designating some units that are currently designated for older people into properties that are suitable for general needs housing. However, in doing so we need to be aware of the needs of current residents and take account of their views and the availability of local support networks.



## **Adaptations**

The Council will also continue to undertake work to our existing stock to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the increasing number of older and vulnerable people to remain in their home for longer.

One of the ways in which we will meet the changing needs of our current and potential customers is through the adaptation of our existing stock through a Disabled Adaptations Policy. We will continue to work with stakeholders to identify the needs of tenants and carry out adaptations to meet these needs where appropriate, enabling people to remain in their current home for longer and therefore improving the quality of life for our tenants. In addition, where appropriate, tenants will be encouraged and supported to move in instances where more suitable accommodation is available.

It is sometimes the case that adaptations are no longer required by the original beneficiary, such as walk-in-shower units or specialist bathing equipment. However, this equipment may be of use to other customers. As adaptations are often expensive to carry out we will maintain a live register of adaptations and adapted properties on the Asset Management System, enabling us to make a re-let to a household with similar equipment needs and/or to recycle adaptation items, ensuring value for money.

## **Other Support needs**

When appropriate the Council will work with other organisations and stakeholder to ensure that local residents with unmet housing or support needs can be offered appropriate accommodation within the district.

**Priority H: To use procurement processes to best effect and adopt a strong approach to contract management to optimise quality and value in the delivery of all repairs, maintenance and improvement works**

Effective procurement and contract management plays a significant role in ensuring that the Council obtains best value for money from its expenditure as well as ensuring we meet the requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2020, the legislation regarding procurement for public bodies.

The Council has a robust approach to Procurement with detailed procedures set out within the constitution (Contract Regulations) as well as a dedicated qualified Procurement Officer.

We will work closely with the Procurement Officer when examining how best to secure repairs, maintenance and improvement works so as to ensure that we achieve the best value for money and outcomes.

We recognise that in delivering our repairs, maintenance and improvement works that we are providing a service to tenants and customers. Therefore, it is especially the case that 'value for money' is about much more than simply securing the lowest price and involves an assessment of the combination of quality and cost to establish the best outcome for each contract.

**Value for Money Aims**

- Our services are fit for purpose - that is - of the right quality.
- We deliver our services as efficiently as possible.
- We make the best use of technology to enhance and improve the service delivery.
- We listen to tenants and plan delivery programmes based on what people tell us but make a special effort to reach people who cannot easily express their views.
- We always balance the best contract price against the quality of the product delivered, to ensure that our tenants receive a high level of service at the best price.

- We will aim to target financial resources to the areas where maximum impact can be achieved and will work with other agencies and partners to deliver the most appropriate solution.
- Modern day slavery and safeguarding checks are undertaken.
- The operational services, project and contract management arrangements, delivered by qualified resources, provide consistent well run services that minimise disruption to our tenants.
- Environmental and sustainability considerations are taken into account and that carbon is reduced throughout the supply chain over the life of the contract working towards net zero carbon.
- Safe practices and Covid-19 working practices are integrated into our contracts, protecting the workforce and our residents.
- Social value is considered with regards to benefits for the local community during the procurement process including positive impacts on sourcing locally, equality and diversity.
- Wherever possible we will look to evaluate Life Cycle Costs when undertaking procurement.
- We match our strategy and programme to meet the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

As part of our approach to continuous improvement we will ensure we work with contractors to improve our repairs services. We will establish regular contract management meetings, require information on performance and satisfaction which will be shared with tenants' groups.

Where contractors are unable to meet our expectations, then as part of our regular review process early intervention and performance management will be undertaken to resolve issues quickly and effectively. Following reasonable periods for improvement, where performance issues continue, then appropriate remedies will be undertaken to resolve the issue.

## **Priority I: To use the housing assets to help deliver the wider corporate priorities of the Council**

The Housing Service is integral to supporting the Council's Business Plan and corporate aims. It will help achieve these by:

### **Growing local businesses and economies**

- Encouraging local businesses to bid for contracts.
- The potential to deliver affordable housing for local workers to reduce commuting time and help with recruitment and retention issues that are key to the local economy.

### **Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in**

- Increase the number of council homes each year to support people on lower incomes, that are energy efficient and affordable.
- Ensure rents meet the Greater Cambridge Affordable Rents policy as a minimum.

### **Being green to our core**

- Improving the energy efficiency of existing council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs
- Demonstrate that new build social housing can be constructed following the principles of Net Zero Carbon.
- Seek opportunities to plant trees, establish wildflower strips and in other ways enhance nature on council-owned estates as part of the aim of doubling nature **and improving bio-diversity.**
- **Where feasible and viable, consider the installation of bike storage to support cycling to help reduce the carbon footprint through travel.**
- Through our tenant engagement target campaigns to promote the Council's priorities to be green to our core

### **A modern and caring Council**

- Preventing homelessness and providing support for vulnerable people, including those in fuel poverty and household's suffering financial hardship.
- Ensuring that our council homes are safe places for our tenants and their families
- Ensuring we have a robust framework, and sufficient communication channels for tenant engagement

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## 7) Other Assets/Activities

As well as providing council housing the Housing Service also owns, operates and manages a range of other physical assets **within the HRA Estate. There is a need to ensure that these assets are fit for purpose, safe to use, and are actively managed.**

These **assets** include:

### **Communal Areas and Community Rooms in Sheltered Housing Schemes**

The Council owns and manages 41 communal rooms and is responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of these areas. The cost of this is recovered through service charges and fees generated for external use.

We are responsible for the maintenance of communal areas within blocks of flats, for example stairwells and corridors, to ensure they are free from hazards and meet health and safety requirements. However, the tidiness and cleanliness of some of these areas has been raised and we will be reviewing what additional measures can be put in place to improve the standard of these communal areas.

We are also responsible for maintenance of external communal areas, such as open spaces, and have a grounds maintenance contractor to oversee this work on a planned and re-active basis.

### **Gardens to Council Properties**

As part of the tenancy agreement, tenants are responsible for the maintenance of their garden. The Council operates a welfare garden scheme to provide grass cutting services for elderly or disabled tenants who are unable to manage their gardens and have no-one locally who can help. Footpaths and fencing in tenants' gardens are the responsibility of the Council to maintain. Upon property relet, all gardens are inspected as part of the relet process.

### **Leaseholder and Shared Equity Properties**

There are three types of leaseholder:

- Right to Buy owners living in flats where they are unable to purchase the freehold because of the communal aspects to their property. The Council has 124 leasehold flats.
- Shared Equity owners who have purchased a percentage of their home (generally 75%) and the Council own the remaining 25% equity. No rental is charged for those that own 75% equity. The Council has 285 equity share bungalows.
- Shared Ownership. These are generally on newbuild schemes where the shared owner can purchase initial shares from 25% of the property, with the Council retaining the remaining shares to which rent is charged. Some properties are restricted through planning so that owners can only purchase up to 80% of the property but are never able to own it outright, for all other shared owners they are able to purchase up to 100% ownership. The Council currently has 66 shared ownership properties.

In broad terms, the responsibility for the maintenance of the interior of leasehold properties (excluding any communal areas) falls to the leaseholder. In the majority of cases the Council is responsible for the exterior maintenance of the properties, including communal areas but excluding shared ownership houses. The costs of works are recharged to the leaseholder on a fair and proportionate levy dependent on the number of homes included in a particular works programme.

### **Garages (site and garages)**

The Council owns 952 garages, with the average rent per week: £9.17 plus VAT for tenants and £12.41 plus VAT for non-tenants. Income from the rental of garages is around £390,000 per annum and the budget for repairs and improvements for garages is around £51,000 per annum. There is high demand for garages, typically 15-20 applications are received per week, with the Council holding a waiting list. There are some garage sites that are vacant that require major works or where alternative options for the site are being explored.

## Land Appraisal

The Council will look to undertake an appraisal of all non-housing assets, such as land and garage sites, to determine their notional value and identify opportunities for development and other uses, **which may include contributing towards the Council's corporate aims of doubling nature and promoting biodiversity.**

Whilst the Council does not own large amounts of land, there are small pockets distributed across the District. Following the land appraisal, the Council will develop a policy on how to deal with land owned by the Council, including surplus land and in some cases garden land.

## Communal Spaces, Land and Infrastructure (including pathways and street lighting)

Generally, the Council is responsible for maintaining all HRA owned land, this will include pathways and street lighting where they are positioned on HRA land, such as in communal areas.

All non-housing assets held within the HRA have a set of key principles:

- Regular inspections
- Appropriate charging for the use of some of these assets, through service charges or are fee income based, to ensure they are not a cost burden to the Council.



## 8) Equality and Diversity

The Council values and respects the wide variety of people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and lifestyles who are part of the community we serve. As such, we are constantly trying to improve our knowledge and understanding of the demographic profile of our residents to ensure that new and existing services reflect the needs of our diverse community. We are also determined to make sure our policies and procedures and working practices reflect this commitment.

In terms of managing and investing in our assets we take the different and varying needs of the people who live in the properties into account. For example, we recognise that in certain circumstances the standard package of works within the proposed South Cambs Standard may not meet the particular needs of some individuals or the way in which the works are programmed may not be consistent with their lifestyle. We will try to identify these instances and will also consider individual requests to be more flexible. Examples of the diverse needs of tenants include replacing a bath with a shower where residents are unable to use a bath due to disability, installing flashing smoke detectors for the hearing impaired and vibrating pillows for the visually impaired or mixer taps over washbasins to allow washing in running water before prayer.

In terms of considering the needs of individuals in the delivery of works programmes, examples include offering same sex interviews, translation and interpretation services and arranging temporary re-housing during improvement work where necessary. We also work with our contractors and delivery partners to ensure we hold shared aspirations of an equal and diverse work force offering training and development opportunities to the local population.

## 9) Impact of the Strategy

We are keen to see that tangible benefits and real impacts are delivered through the Asset Management Strategy for our Customers and for the Council and wider communities.

We anticipate that the Strategy will have the following positive impacts:

For our customers

- Homes which are well managed and maintained
- Homes which are warmer and energy efficient reducing fuel costs
- Homes which are in high quality and sustainable environments
- Homes that meet the individual needs of residents
- A stock of properties which changes over time to provide a balanced portfolio which responds to customers' needs

For the Council

- Supporting and facilitating wider objectives, notably the net zero carbon targets
- Improving stakeholder satisfaction with the accommodation and maintenance services provided
- Having a well maintained portfolio which allows us to ensure efficiencies (capital and revenue) by managing property running costs effectively and efficiently and releasing capital and then recycling it into corporate priorities.
- Delivering new projects effectively and efficiently.
- Maximising returns on any "investment".
- Delivering continuous improvement through performance management.

## 10) Delivering the Strategy

### 30 Year Investment Programme

The Council will develop a 30 year investment programme based on the priorities in this document that prioritises and programmes all capital improvement projects. Our aim is to review all relevant evidence to make objective, informed decisions about programmed repair, investment, re-provision and disposal activities.

The Asset Management Investment Plan (AMIP) will set out a 30 year profile of annual expenditure in the following principal works categories:

Planned Maintenance	works to the external envelope of properties, e.g. roof, walls, windows, doors etc.
Improving Homes	internal modernisation programmes to bring homes up to and maintain them at the South Cambs Standard, e.g. kitchen and bathroom replacements, floor coverings, ceilings, redecoration, installation of showers over baths etc.
Better Use of Stock	e.g. conversion of bedsits to one bedroom, self-contained accommodation
Asbestos Management	removal of asbestos containing material that is either damaged or is likely to be disturbed or damaged.
Carbon Reduction	installation and replacement of central heating systems and boilers
Insulation/ventilation	improved thermal insulation and ventilation systems

Electrical works	rewires and installation of safety alarm systems including empty properties, as well as maintenance of existing systems
Sheltered Housing	upgrades/renewals to installations such as lifts and boilers
Disabled Adaptations	adaptations that help allow tenants to continue living in their home

In total, based on the existing data, the Council’s investment required would be in the region of **£443 million** over a 30 year period repairing, maintaining and improving its stock. This estimate includes the indicative costs for working towards net zero carbon by 2050 but is also subject to developing a better understanding of our stock through the stock condition survey which will help to progress our long term aims.

**Table 14: Indicative 30 Year Investment Plan**

Investment Works	Cost
Responsive Repairs	£96 Million
Cyclical/Planned Works	£45 Million
Capital Expenditure based on existing data	£210 Million
Net Zero Carbon Works	£92 Million
<b>Total</b>	<b>£443 Million</b>

## Performance Management and Measurement

We will monitor performance through a set of agreed performance indicators and data provided on a quarterly basis to the Housing Performance Panel, which comprises tenant reps, officers and Members. Where possible we will benchmark performance with other housing providers through the use of Housemark, the leading data and insight company for the UK housing sector.

## Information Technology

The Asset Management Strategy is underpinned by appropriate IT systems informing all relevant decisions on planned investment and maintenance. A robust and integrated system is in place that is able to hold stock condition information, surveys, completions information, decency scoring and so on. The Council's integrated approach allows key housing management data/information to be linked with asset management data to ensure that relevant information on investment and the Council's assets is shared across the organisation. The operational benefits of a consolidated IT system are:

- Staff across Housing Services are able to see details of investment completed and planned to enable informed housing management decisions e.g. on allocations or repair works to empty properties.
- Properties where tenants have 'omitted' or refused improvement works will be held in the system for re-organising as required at the next change of tenancy.
- Information on warranties, guarantees, asbestos surveys etc. will be available to all users for informed management of front line repairs and CDM compliance, together with enforcement of warranties.
- Servicing programmes can be managed more proactively, taking into account all replacements completed under planned programmes, feeding back recommendations from servicing engineers on condition and likely replacement requirements for the future.

## Funding

The Council's aim is to seek to optimise access to funding sources, both capital and revenue, by aligning programmes and priorities to serve the objectives of national and local housing and housing related strategies. The underlying asset management principle of maintaining existing assets in the best condition will underpin and direct the use of resources. This process will direct the application of finance from the following sources:

- Homes England
- The Combined Authority

- Prudential borrowing
- Capital receipts
- General fund
- Internal borrowing
- Major repairs allowance
- Specific initiative grants (e.g. energy efficiency funding)

## **Action Plan**

In order to deliver the Strategy and secure the impacts that are sought a Delivery Action Plan has been prepared – Appendix B. The Action Plan pulls together all the various tasks which need to be undertaken to deliver each of the strategic priorities set out in the Strategy, providing brief details of the work needed, assigning of responsibility and a target date for completion.

## **Responsibility for the Strategy**

The Council's Head of Housing has overall responsibility for the ongoing development of this Strategy and ensuring the successful completion of the Delivery Action Plan.

## **Review of the Strategy**

This Strategy is designed to cover a short period of about three years. This allows for the better collection of data and the development of business plans based on this data.

Once this process is completed it is intended to review this Strategy with a view of producing a robust strategy based on sound information.

# Appendix A

## South Cambridgeshire District Council – Housing Stock Analysis

### Key

1BH	1 Bedroom House		Bedsit	Bedsit Bungalow
2BH	2 Bedroom House		1BB	1 Bedroom Bungalow
3BH	3 Bedroom House		2BB	2 Bedroom Bungalow
4BH	4 Bedroom House		3BB	3 Bedroom Bungalow
6BH	6 Bedroom House		4BB	4 Bedroom Bungalow
Bedsit	No separate Bedroom		1BF	1 Bedroom Flat
			2BF	2 Bedroom Flat
			3BF	3 Bedroom Flat

### General Needs Housing

Village	1BH	2BH	3BH	4BH	6BH	Bedsit	1BB	2BB	3BB	4BB	1BF	2BF	Total
Arrington	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	20
Babraham	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Balsham	-	5	24	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	7	2	66
Bar Hill	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Barrington	-	1	19	-	-	-	2	20	-	-	-	-	42
Barton	-	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Bassingbourn	3	18	66	1	-	-	20	12	-	-	-	-	120
Bourn	-	22	19	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
Boxworth	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	7
Cambourne	2	18	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Carlton	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Castle Camps	-	1	10	-	-	-	2	20	-	-	-	-	33
Caxton	-	3	6	1	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	18
Comberton	-	3	28	2	-	-	4	13	-	-	12	-	62
Conington	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Coton	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	8	1	31
Cottenham	1	26	69	4	-	-	-	29	-	-	5	-	134
Croxton	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Croydon	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Dry Drayton	-	-	17	1	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	28
Duxford	7	7	46	1	-	-	16	9	9	-	-	-	95
Elsworth	-	4	2	-	-	-	5	12	-	-	-	-	23
Eltisley	-	-	8	-	-	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	20
Fen Ditton	-	6	19	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	5	34

Village	1BH	2BH	3BH	4BH	6BH	Bedsit	1BB	2BB	3BB	4BB	1BF	2BF	Total
Fen Drayton	-	3	9	1	-	-	8	2	-	-	4	-	27
Fowlmere	-	4	16	-	-	-	3	14	-	-	-	-	37
Foxton	4	16	32	1	-	-	3	15	-	-	4	-	75
Fulbourn	-	19	29	2	-	-	-	13	-	-	1	-	64
Gamlingay	-	15	51	1	-	-	-	9	-	-	2	4	82
Girton	-	5	41	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	52
Grantchester	-	11	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Graveley	-	-	4	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	9
Great Abington	-	6	18	2	-	-	-	16	-	-	8	-	50
Great Eversden	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great & Little Chishill	-	1	8	-	-	-	3	8	-	-	-	-	20
Great Shelford	-	27	74	1	-	-	21	50	-	-	25	11	209
Great Wilbraham	-	7	11	1	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	30
Guilden Morden	-	3	8	1	-	-	8	18	-	-	-	-	38
Hardwick	-	17	12	2	-	-	8	8	-	-	16	-	63
Harlton	-	-	8	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	13
Harston	-	25	25	3	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	62
Haslingfield	-	3	20	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	4	-	31
Hatley	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	5
Hauxton	1	2	6	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	20
Heydon	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	6
Hildersham	-	-	9	-	-	-	2	9	-	-	-	-	20
Hinxton	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Histon	-	21	54	-	-	-	9	10	-	-	2	-	96
Horningsea	-	3	3	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	13
Horseheath	-	-	14	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	20
Ickleton	-	-	7	-	-	-	6	10	-	-	-	-	23
Impington	-	16	39	2	-	-	8	43	-	-	-	-	108
Kingston	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Knapwell	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Landbeach	-	5	17	-	-	-	18	1	-	-	-	2	43
Linton	4	13	103	3	-	-	21	66	-	-	2	5	217
Litlington	-	-	26	-	-	-	4	28	-	-	-	-	58
Little Abington	-	-	3	-	-	-	14	14	-	-	-	-	31
Little Eversden	6	4	5	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	24



Village	1BH	2BH	3BH	4BH	6BH	Bedsit	1BB	2BB	3BB	4BB	1BF	2BF	Total
Little Gransden	-	-	8	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	12
Little Shelford	-	6	18	-	-	-	8	5	-	-	-	-	37
Little Wilbraham	-	1	9	1	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	26
Lolworth	-	1	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	7
Longstanton	-	8	23	1	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	52
Longstowe	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	6
Madingley	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Melbourn	2	28	81	2	-	-	11	84	-	-	-	-	208
Meldreth	1	10	40	2	-	-	8	30	-	-	-	-	91
Milton	-	1	17	2	-	-	1	5	-	-	6	8	40
Newton	-	2	9	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	22
Oakington	-	4	23	1	-	3	4	18	-	-	-	-	53
Orwell	-	2	25	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	35
Over	-	3	9	-	-	-	2	14	-	-	-	8	36
Pampisford	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	21
Papworth Everard	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Rampton	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7
Sawston	-	17	155	6	2	-	38	118	21	-	3	34	394
Shepreth	-	6	18	-	-	-	4	7	-	-	-	-	35
Shingay cum Wendy	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Shudy Cambs	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Stapleford	1	6	16	4	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	31
Steeple Morden	-	2	10	-	-	-	10	24	-	-	-	-	46
Stow cum Quy	-	2	8	-	-	-	7	10	-	-	-	1	28
Swavesey	4	24	16	1	-	-	12	4	-	-	-	-	61
Tadlow	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	6
Teversham	1	11	18	-	-	4	20	32	-	-	3	7	96
Thriplow	-	-	11	2	-	-	4	12	-	-	-	-	29
Toft	-	4	16	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	25
Waterbeach	-	35	46	-	-	4	14	30	-	1	11	6	147
Weston Colville	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	17
West Wickham	-	1	11	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	15
West Wrating	-	-	9	-	-	-	4	6	-	-	-	-	19

Village	1BH	2BH	3BH	4BH	6BH	Bedsit	1BB	2BB	3BB	4BB	1BF	2BF	Total
Whaddon	-	-	7	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	13
Whittlesford	2	2	25	-	-	-	2	9	1	-	-	-	41
Willingham	-	28	45	3	-	-	6	27	-	-	8	-	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>4,205</b>

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## Sheltered Housing

Village	Bedsit	1BB	2BB	3BB	1BF	2BF	3BF	Total
Arrington	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	21
Balsham	-	8	13	-	-	-	-	21
Barton	-	9	8	-	-	-	-	17
Bassingbourn	-	17	20	-	-	-	-	37
Bourn	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	28
Comberton	-	3	12	-	-	-	-	15
Cottenham	-	47	55	-	-	-	-	102
Duxford	-	32	5	-	-	-	-	37
Fulbourn	-	37	10	-	-	-	-	47
Gamlingay	-	18	37	-	-	-	-	55
Girton	-	33	31	-	-	-	-	64
Grantchester	-	18	16	-	-	-	-	34
Harston	-	27	6	-	-	-	-	33
Haslingfield	-	2	10	-	-	-	-	12
Histon	7	34	27	-	4	-	-	72
Impington	-	36	2	1	-	-	-	39
Linton	-	6	21	-	-	-	-	27
Longstanton	-	6	14	-	-	-	-	20
Melbourn	-	15	19	-	-	-	-	34
Meldreth	-	5	12	-	-	-	-	17
Orwell	-	15	21	-	-	-	-	36
Over	-	-	9	-	-	11	-	20
Papworth Everard	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	21
Sawston	-	14	47	-	-	-	-	61
Great Shelford	-	8	10	-	23	-	-	41
Stapleford	-	3	21	-	-	-	-	24
Swavesey	-	8	7	-	-	-	-	15
Waterbeach	-	19	28	-	3	1	1	52
Whittlesford	-	19	16	-	-	-	-	35
Willingham	-	20	33	-	-	-	-	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,090</b>

## Equity Share and Shared Ownership Properties

Village	1BH	2BH	3BH	4BH	1BB	2BB	1BF	2BF	Total
Balsham	-	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	7
Barton	-	-	-	-	2	9	-	-	11
Bassingbourn	-	-	-	-	2	20	-	-	22
Bourn	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Boxworth	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Caldecote	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Comberton	-	8	2	1	1	12	-	-	24
Conington	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cottenham	-	-	-	-	10	12	-	-	22
Duxford	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
Fowlmere	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Foxton	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
Fulbourn	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	9
Gamlingay	2	2	-	-	4	8	-	-	16
Girton	-	-	-	-	4	6	-	-	10
Grantchester	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	9
Great Abington	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Great Shelford	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	9
Hardwick	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	4
Harston	-	1	-	-	6	3	-	-	10
Haslingfield	-	-	-	-	1	7	1	-	9
Histon	-	-	-	-	5	7	-	-	12
Impington	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	6
Linton	-	-	-	-	4	6	-	-	10
Litlington	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Little Abington	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Longstanton	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	-	6
Melbourn	-	1	-	-	5	15	-	-	21
Meldreth	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	6
Orwell	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	9
Over	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	8	13
Pampisford	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Papworth Everard	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Sawston	-	1	-	-	3	9	-	-	13
Stapleford	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	7
Swavesey	-	-	-	-	3	7	-	-	10
Teversham	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Waterbeach	-	3	7	-	2	9	1	-	22
West Wickham	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whaddon	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Whittlesford	-	-	-	-	6	4	-	-	10
Willingham	-	1	-	-	3	6	-	-	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>351</b>

## Leasehold Properties

-	House	Flat	Flat	-
-	2 bed	1 bed	2 bed	Total
Comberton	-	22	-	22
Coton	-	7	-	7
Cottenham	-	3	-	3
Fen Ditton	-	1	7	8
Fulbourn	-	1	-	1
Great Shelford	2	12	9	23
Great Wilbraham	-	4	-	4
Haslingfield	-	3	-	3
Linton	-	-	4	4
Milton	-	6	4	10
Over	-	-	8	8
Sawston	-	1	19	20
Stow-Cum-Quy	-	-	3	3
Swavesey	-	1	1	2
Teversham	-	1	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>124</b>

Summary of Overall Stock	
General Needs	4,205
Sheltered Housing	1,090
Leasehold	124
Equity Share / Shared Ownership	351
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,770</b>
Number of villages with housing stock	95

## Appendix B

### Draft Action Plan (from Housing Asset Management strategy (HAMS))

Headline	Ref.	Action	Lead / Resources	Target Date	Intended / Actual Outcome
Business Planning	B1	Use information from the stock condition survey (reference I2) to develop a new holistic and sustainable 30 year investment plan that reflects both normal decent homes type work as well as zero carbon work	-	6 months after completion of stock survey.	Stock condition survey will give expected lifespan of each elements of existing stock allowing better planning.
Business Planning	B2	Model the stock's net present value to determine financial performance in light of the zero-carbon standard and confirm the long-term future to support the levels of investment required	-	-	NPV will help to determine which, if any, properties cannot be economically maintained and / or improved.
Business Planning	B3	Develop an agree a disposal strategy for properties that are uneconomic to repair and / or uneconomic to introduce carbon reduction.	-	-	Properties that cannot 'was their own face' to be replaced with other stock.
Business Planning	B4	Review the appropriateness and 'fit for purpose' characteristics of each of the sheltered and older / vulnerable person's housing schemes, examining issues such as property archetypes, locations, accessibility, individual attributes and demand in order to draw conclusions as to the investment works needed to ensure their ongoing sustainability	-	-	To ensure that the council makes best use of all HRA housing assets. Analysis of need suggests there is less demand / greater supply of housing for older people.
Business Planning	B5	Undertake an appraisal of all the non-housing assets, including land and garage sites.	-	-	To identify the notional value of our non-housing assets and identify opportunities for development and other uses, such as contributing towards the Council's corporate aims of doubling nature.

Headline	Ref.	Action	Lead / Resources	Target Date	Intended / Actual Outcome
Business Planning	B6	Review the Council's self-insurance policy for its housing stock	-	-	Consider the risks associated and whether this policy is still fit for purpose.
Green Measures	G1	Continue to explore and trial technical solutions across building archetypes to ensure suitability and affordability for net carbon zero as part of the wider work of the Net Zero Collective	-	-	Field testing, what works best.
Green Measures	G2	Explore options of a zero-carbon new build scheme within the housing stock.	-	-	Consider exemplar scheme to demonstrate new zero housing. Intention to monitor effectiveness
Green Measures	G3	Ensure that the programme of zero carbon measures identified within the Savills report are reflected in the new investment plan	-	-	Investment plan needs to balance existing needs and carbon reduction measures.
Green Measures	G4	Complete a survey of all trees across HRA open spaces	-	-	-
Green Measures	G5	Develop an open spaces maintenance policy reflecting the councils doubling nature strategy.	-	-	-
Green Measures	G6	Working with others departments, the Net Zero Collective and local colleges to explore options of training local people in the installation and maintenance of low carbon technologies.	-	-	-
<b>Green Measures</b>	<b>G7</b>	<b>Where feasible and viable, consider the installation of bike storage.</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>To support cycling to help reduce the carbon footprint through travel.</b>
Compliance	C1	Establish a suite of indicators to demonstrate compliance and ensure regular to reports. To include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gas Safety</li> <li>• Electrical Upgrades</li> <li>• Water Safety (Legionella)</li> <li>• Fire Safety</li> </ul>	-	-	Increasing important from green paper.

Headline	Ref.	Action	Lead / Resources	Target Date	Intended / Actual Outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asbestos</li> </ul>			
Compliance	C2	Embed the HHSRS within the department including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide training to all staff who survey properties to identify HHSRS failures and ensure contractors offer similar training.</li> <li>All HHSRS failures to be recorded on the asset management IT system and works carried out as a high priority by including in planned works</li> <li>Continually review the programme of HHSRS work undertaken to ensure the Council maintains compliance with the Decent Homes Standard</li> </ol>	-	-	Housing Health and Safety Rating System used to assess other safety issues within the home.
Compliance	C3	Undertake a programme of works to replace all fires doors with composite FD30S doors over the next 12 months.	-	-	Priority
Compliance	C4	Develop practical advice for tenants to minimise risk of Legionella	-	-	Although individual properties are out with current legislation, it is considered good practice
Compliance	C5	Ensure that responsible officers are identified for all aspects of compliance (gas, electricity, water safety, fire risk, and asbestos) and that all staff have appropriate training.	-	-	Compliance with all aspects of the Homes standard and the requirements of the white paper.
Improve Information	I1	Appoint specialist contractors to conduct 100% stock condition survey of all council properties.	Service Manager – HRA assets	-	Specialist consultancy advice may be needed to tender for this work.



Headline	Ref.	Action	Lead / Resources	Target Date	Intended / Actual Outcome
Improve Information	I2	Fully implement Orchard Housing Management System.	Service Manager – HRA assets	-	Full implementation includes mobile surveys, population of database and ability to use this to plan future capital projects.
Tenant Involvement	T1	Ensure that customers are involved in setting a range of new standards (example, South Cambs Standard, Relet Standard)	-	-	-
Tenant Involvement	T2	Conduct a 100% satisfaction survey using agreed methodology to allow comparisons over time and with other organisations.	Housing Strategy	Survey & analysis completed by March 2022	To use the industry standard STAR survey methodology. Consider option of using external contractors.
Tenant Involvement	T3	Establish a Housing Engagement Board in 2021 and implement the new tenant engagement framework	-	-	As in existing plans
Performance	P1	Develop a new set of performance indicators for the new repair contract.	-	-	Need to be a mix of management information and information that allows comparison with others (example, House mark)
Performance	P2	Develop a new suite of indicators to measure overall service performance	-	1 September 2021	Monitoring is given high priority within the HAMS and the green paper.
Repairs Contract	R1	Retender the repairs service. New contract to start q2 2022`	Head of Housing	1 July 2022	To develop a new repairs service that allows the council to deliver its priorities / services improvements and is cost effective.  ARK are currently engaged to deliver options appraisal

Headline	Ref.	Action	Lead / Resources	Target Date	Intended / Actual Outcome
Service Improvement	S1	Develop and agree new 'South Cambs' standard(s) for Council Housing reflecting needs to go further than Decent Homes	Service Manager – HRA assets	-	This reflects aims contained within Housing Green Paper. Additional standards to be considered for sheltered housing.  Tenant input into process is essential
Service Improvement	S2	Review the Tenancy Policy and the use of fixed term tenancies.	-	-	To have an updated policy in place by April 2022.
Service Improvement	S3	To review the property relet process with the aim of increasing efficiency and avoid loss of rental income.	-	-	Empty properties are a very visual measure of performance. Need to minimise rent loss.
Service Improvement	S4	Establish options to allow leaseholders to benefit from carbon reduction work and for the Council to recover costs from the leaseholders	-	-	Many blocks of flats contain a mix of council owned properties and leaseholders. The council may want / need to recover costs from leaseholders who benefit from work (example, external insulation)
Service Improvement	S5	To establish a regular inspection regime of non-housing assets to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate Inspections</li> <li>• Open space inspections (including footpaths and lighting)</li> <li>• Garage batteries and sites.</li> </ul>	-	-	The implications from the white paper is that housing providers need to pay more attention to the appearance and liveability within Council Estates.
Service Improvement	S6	Review standards within internal communal areas within blocks of flats, such as corridors and stairwells	-	-	To improve the cleanliness and tidiness for communal areas within blocks of flats
Service Improvement	S7	Develop a policy on how to deal with land owned by the Council, including surplus land and in some cases garden land.	-	-	To provide clear guidance and policy in terms of our non-housing assets.

Service Improvement	S8	Recruitment of two new posts to provide additional support for households facing financial hardship or those suffering from mental ill health.	Service Managers – Neighbourhood & Housing Advice/Options	-	<p>To support those impacted by the high cost of living and the pandemic through money advice.</p> <p>To support the increasing number of tenants suffering from mental ill health to help them sustain their tenancy.</p>
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