

Greater Cambridge Local Plan The first conversation

(Regulation 18: Issues and Options 2019)

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Foreword

This Issues and Options consultation is the first stage towards preparing a new joint Local Plan for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, together to be referred to as the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This is your first opportunity to comment on this plan making process, which will be undertaken over a period of around 4 years.

The next local plan will be crucial to the future of our area. It has been described as the most important document most people have never read. It has an important role in establishing policies that will influence the way we live, work and play in Greater Cambridge over the next 20 years and beyond, As well as the ongoing need to provide for economic growth and jobs, and the homes needed to support them, it comes at a time when we face great challenges in how we respond to climate change. There is also an opportunity here to take a significant step towards becoming a net zero carbon society, and towards our target of doubling biodiversity.

We want you, our communities, to be central to creating the next Local Plan. This consultation sets out what we think are the issues that the plan needs to consider and some of the big questions we need the plan to answer. We now seek your views on whether these are the full range of issues and potential options to help us solve them. We therefore hope you will all get involved in shaping this important emerging plan for Greater Cambridge.

Cllr Tumi Hawkins

Lead Cabinet Member for Planning

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Cllr Katie Thornburrow

Executive Councillor, Planning and Open Spaces

Cambridge City Council

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Glossary

A glossary explaining terms used in this material is included at the end of this document.

Executive Summary

The new Greater Cambridge Local Plan will shape how our area changes over the period to 2040, and possibly beyond.

The material presented here is the first stage towards preparing the next Local Plan, but it is not the actual plan. It is intended to begin the conversation about the kind of place we want Greater Cambridge to be in the future. There are big issues to be debated, and we will have to prioritise carefully. There are existing projects that will continue to be built out, and requirements from national planning policy and regulations, which we must meet. Alongside this, we know our communities have diverse views about how our area develops, and we want to make sure that we create a Plan that balances these fairly.

The first part of this document explains the context and process for the Local Plan – how we plan to work with you, our communities, and with our neighbouring local authorities, regional partners and other important groups.

After that, we have set out the big themes and spatial options that we must consider with your help. We have tried to reflect the issues that have emerged through our early workshops with a range of groups, but this is just a starting point and we want to hear if we have got this right. We have grouped the key issues under the following big themes:

- Responding to Climate Change
- Increasing Biodiversity and Green Spaces
- Promoting Wellbeing and Equality
- Delivering Quality Places
- Jobs
- Homes
- Infrastructure

Within each of these themes we have explained:

- What we are required to do by national legislation and policy
- What we are doing already, including our existing commitments and growth sites
- What we think the key issues are, and the big questions that we want you to help us answer.

A key issue affecting our response to all these themes will be the number of jobs and homes to plan for. We need to plan for at least the minimum number of homes set by Government, which is 40,917 homes over a plan period 2017-40. As a rough estimate, if recent fast jobs growth was to continue, we might need to plan for up to around 66,700 homes 2017-40. We already have a supply of homes for that period of 36,400 which will contribute to meeting whatever homes figure is eventually

determined. We are exploring potential jobs and housing growth in detail to support future stages of the plan. We want your views on whether to deliver a higher housing number than the minimum required by government, to support the growing economy.

After the themes, we have set out some of the spatial approaches that might be possible. These include:

- City densification
- Edge of Cambridge
- New settlements
- Village growth
- Transport corridors

Alongside this we want to hear your views on Green Belt issues. While the Plan is likely to involve some growth in all these areas, we want to know what you think our priorities should be, and which areas should be the focus. You will also be able to compare your preferred approach, with the balance of development in the adopted and previous Local Plans.

We are committed to an honest and open conversation with you all, and doing this better than we have done in the past. We know that there will be difficult choices to be made, and we will have to find a fair balance between the competing interests and priorities that you talk to us about. This first conversation is the moment we need to hear from as many of you as possible, and particularly those who feel that their voices are not always heard.

We look forward to continuing this debate as the Local Plan develops over the next four years, and creating a Plan that guides us into the future with confidence.

1. About

1.1 What is the Greater Cambridge Local Plan?

Figure 1 Illustrative map of Greater Cambridge

For the first time, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (referred to as ‘the Councils’ in this consultation) are working together to create a joint Local Plan for the two areas – which we are referring to as Greater Cambridge. This will ensure that there is a consistent approach to planning, and the same planning policies, across both areas.

The material presented here is the first stage towards preparing the next Local Plan, but it is not the actual plan. It is intended to begin the conversation about the kind of place we want Greater Cambridge to be in the future, exploring the big themes and spatial choices we have to make. This does not include any firm proposals for land use or policy as this will be done at the next stage in 2020, when we prepare a draft Local Plan informed by the feedback we receive in this consultation.

A Local Plan is a legal document that the Councils are required to prepare, that sets out the future land use and planning policies for the area over a set time frame. It identifies the need for new homes and jobs, and the services and infrastructure to support them, and guides where this growth should happen. It follows a process set out in national legislation and guidance and is independently tested at a public examination. Local Plans are used to guide decisions on future planning applications in the area, alongside national planning policy and other supplementary guidance.

In legal terms, this material is described as an Issues and Options report for public consultation, in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

1.2 Why do we need a new Local Plan?

The Local Plan will guide how Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, together referred to as ‘Greater Cambridge’, will change over the next two decades and beyond. It will be a key influence over how the area evolves and responds to the challenges and opportunities the area faces.

In the past Cambridge City Council (CCC) and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) have produced separate Local Plans, but with a shared development strategy, including a number of development sites straddling the administrative boundary. This time we intend to prepare a single Local Plan for both council areas. We committed to do this when we signed up to the City Deal in 2014, which will bring in up to £500m over a 15 year period from central government towards transport and infrastructure projects managed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

Both Councils adopted their current Local Plans in 2018. Both include a commitment to an early review of those plans, in particular to update the assessment of housing needs, review the progress of delivering planned developments including new settlements, and consider the needs of caravan dwellers and government changes to the approach to planning for Gypsies and Travellers.

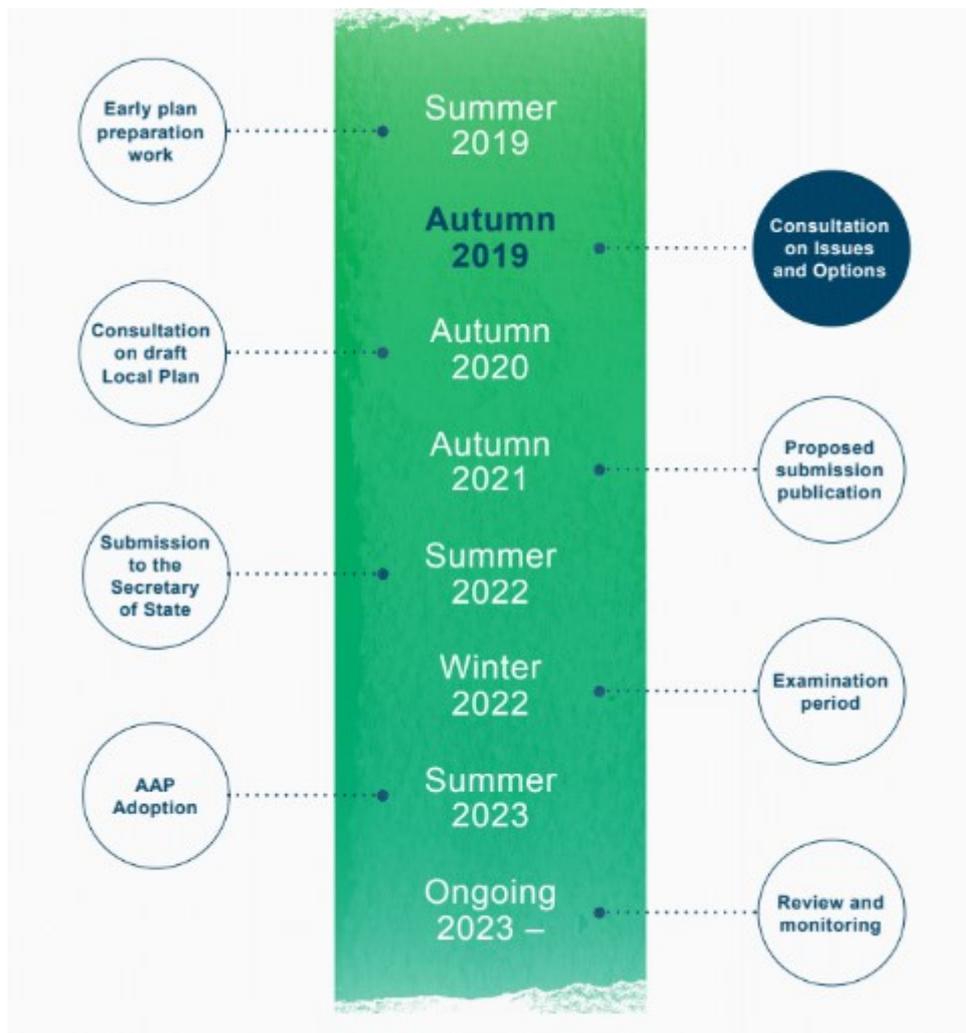
In February 2019 the Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which places new requirements on local plan making. This means that our Local Plan review also needs to ensure the next Local Plan will comply with the revised NPPF.

On adoption the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will replace the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 and the Cambridge Local Plan 2018. The adopted Local Plans remain in force until they are replaced.

1.3 How we are developing the plan

We are currently at an early stage in the development of the new Local Plan, which will be prepared in stages over about four years. The diagram below shows the outline timetable that was included in the adopted Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme 2018. At each stage we will check that the process is moving forward positively towards a new Local Plan and, if necessary, we will adjust the timetable.

Figure 2 Local Plan Timetable in the Local Development Scheme



1.3.1 Evidence Base

We are preparing and commissioning detailed but proportionate evidence to inform the plan, as is required by national policy. This will include further research on:

- Housing and Economic Land Availability
- Housing types & specialist needs
- Employment Land Needs
- Retail & Leisure Need
- Visitor Accommodation
- Responding to climate change and the transition to Net Zero Carbon
- Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Net Gain
- Green Belt
- Landscape
- Transport
- Infrastructure & Phasing of development
- Viability

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Habitats Regulations Assessment

We will publish this evidence as it is produced and as the Local Plan develops, so you will be able to read and comment on it.

1.3.2 Sustainability Appraisal

Each stage of plan making will be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal. The aim of this process is to test the options and policies being considered by identifying potential positive and negative social, economic and environmental impacts, and highlighting opportunities to improve the plan.

At this stage we are consulting on a Scoping Report, which sets out our approach to the appraisal of the plan, and an initial Sustainability Appraisal of the Issues and Options identified in this consultation. You will be able to find these on our websites alongside the issues and options report. Comments on these documents are welcomed.

1.3.3 What Happens Next

The views expressed by individuals, communities, businesses, academic institutions, and stakeholders during this consultation will help us develop and refine the preferred approach to the themes and spatial options, and draft the plan itself.

All the comments received during the consultation will be analysed and a summary report produced and published on our websites. Further details of the next steps will be published on our websites.

A draft Plan will be published for further public consultation, which is currently scheduled for Autumn 2020.

1.4 The Greater Cambridge Councils

Figure 3 Map of the Greater Cambridge Area

The two Councils (Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) cover an area of over 360 square miles in the southern part of Cambridgeshire. The Cambridge City Council area is entirely surrounded by South Cambridgeshire and the two Councils have a long track record of joint working on our development strategy. The area includes the City of Cambridge and over 100 nearby villages, as well as a number of new towns and villages which are being

developed. The area is bordered by a number of market towns, like Huntingdon, Royston and Haverhill, which fall outside the area.

The vision for Cambridge has long recognised its qualities as a compact, dynamic city, located within the high quality landscape setting of the Cambridge Green Belt. The city 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. This has already helped to support the transition to a more environmentally sustainable and successful low carbon economy but the next Local Plan will need to do more.

Greater Cambridge is a centre of excellence and world leader in the fields of higher education and research, and has fostered the 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 sub-regional centre for a wide range of services.

Provision of homes to meet the needs of all the community and support the continued success of the economy has been a particular challenge for the area for some years. Access to a mix of sizes and types of homes, including a high proportion of affordable housing, is a key issue. Both Councils have sought through their adopted Local Plans 2018 to guide and facilitate growth in a positive way, supported by necessary infrastructure, so that Greater Cambridge grows in a sensitive and sustainable manner.

Both Councils have published visions and Council-wide plans setting out how they want their areas to evolve. These provide an important context for the preparation of the next Local Plan for Greater Cambridge. These are available in full on each Council's own website.

[Cambridge City Council Vision](#)

To lead a united city, 'One Cambridge - Fair for All', in which economic dynamism and prosperity are combined with social justice and equality:

- 'One Cambridge – Fair for All'
- Cambridge - a great place to live, learn and work
- Cambridge - caring for the planet

[South Cambridgeshire District Council Vision](#)

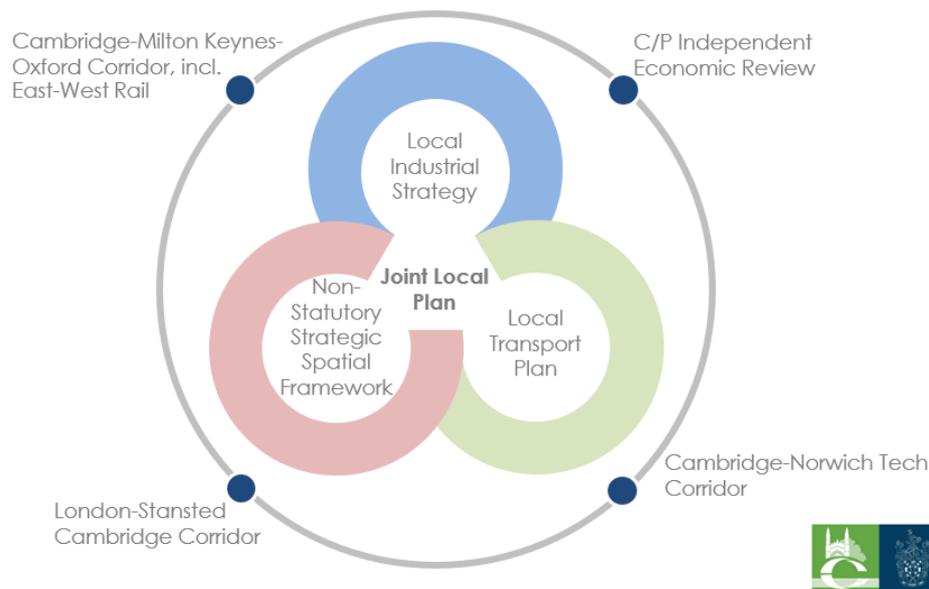
Putting the heart into Cambridgeshire by:

- 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

1.5 The Wider Region

Figure 4: Illustration of Strategies influencing the Local Plan



We cannot plan for Greater Cambridge in isolation. We have a legal duty to cooperate with key stakeholders and surrounding areas on cross boundary issues, and Greater Cambridge also sits at the heart of many other cross-boundary structures and initiatives. These include:

- The key economic corridors – the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, the London-Stansted-Cambridge corridor and the Cambridge-Norwich tech corridor
- The Combined Authority and its strategies – the Local Transport Plan, the Non-Statutory Spatial Framework and the Cambridge and Peterborough Independent Economic Review
- Greater Cambridge Partnership
- Cambridgeshire County Council strategies
- Our neighbouring Local Authorities and their plans

1.5.1 Key Economic Corridors

Figure 5 Map illustrating Oxford Cambridge Arc, London Stansted Cambridge corridor, Cambridge-Norwich Tech corridor

Greater Cambridge falls at the crossroads of a number of economic corridors. The two most important are the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, and London-Stansted-Cambridge.

Oxford-Cambridge Arc

A report by the National Infrastructure Commission produced a report called [Partnering for Prosperity: a new deal for the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc](#) setting out actions required to continue its success. The Government designated the Oxford-Cambridge Arc a key economic priority, with an ambition for up to one million high-quality new homes by 2050, committed to completing East West Rail and an Expressway, and committed to achieving growth in the Arc while improving the environment for future generations.

London-Stansted-Cambridge

The [UK Innovation Corridor](#), supported by the London-Stansted-Cambridge Consortium, recognises the significant economic linkages in this area creating a world class hub of science and innovation. They offer significant opportunities through developing closer economic connections.

Cambridge – Norwich tech corridor

The [Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor](#) is are seeking to forge closer links between the two cities, and opportunities to support cluster of innovative businesses.

1.5.2 Working with the Combined Authority

Figure 6 Map illustrating Combined Authority Area

The [Combined Authority](#), founded in March 2017, is made up of representatives from the seven councils in the area (including Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) and a Business Board.

The Combined Authority is led by an elected Mayor; the Leaders of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council sit on the Combined Authority Board. As the Local Transport Authority, the Combined Authority is producing the Local Transport Plan for the area. The Combined Authority commissioned the [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review \(CPIER\)](#), to explore what was needed to create a coherent economic growth strategy for the whole sub-regional economy. This has informed the Local Industrial Strategy, which sets out how Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will maximise the economy's strengths and remove barriers that remain to ensure the economy is fit for tomorrow's world.

The Combined Authority is also preparing a Non Statutory Spatial Framework for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. [Phase 1](#) of this, reflecting the growth in our adopted Local Plans and how the Combined Authority will support implementation, was published in 2018. Phase 2, providing a long-term strategy towards 2050 is being prepared, and an issues document is planned to be subject to public consultation at the end of 2019, potentially overlapping with this consultation. Although the Framework will be non-statutory, whereas the Local Plan is a statutory planning document, the aim is that they provide a complementary vision for the area, and draw the big picture of change across the wider area.

1.5.3 Working with the Greater Cambridge Partnership

The [Greater Cambridge Partnership](#) is the local delivery body for the [City Deal](#). The partners are Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the University of Cambridge. The Greater Cambridge Partnership aims to boost growth and accelerate the delivery of new homes by investing in local infrastructure, housing and skills. This includes the delivery of transport schemes supporting growth sites identified in the adopted Local Plans, and improving the transport network for Greater Cambridge to make it easy to get into, out of, and around Cambridge by public transport, by bike and on foot.

1.5.4 Working with Cambridgeshire County Council

We also need to work closely with [Cambridgeshire County Council](#) on issues relating to its roles. For example, they are responsible for managing the local highway network, they are the lead local flood management authority, and the Local Education Authority responsible for schools planning.

1.5.5 Working with our Neighbouring Local Authorities

Figure 7 Map of areas surrounding Greater Cambridge including the Combined Authority area

Whenever we prepare a new Local Plan, we collaborate with our neighbours on strategic cross-boundary issues. For the next Local Plan we consider that the main strategic cross-boundary issues include:

- Assessing housing need, including Gypsy & Traveller accommodation needs
- Wildlife habitats and green infrastructure
- Carbon offsetting and renewable energy generation
- Transport
- Water, including supply, quality, waste water and flood risk

We will also need to consider the impact of planned growth on the edges of Greater Cambridge, such as the proposal for a North Uttlesford Garden Community in the draft Uttlesford Local Plan currently undergoing examination.

Question

1. Do you agree with the strategic-cross boundary issues we have identified as being particularly important?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please add any comments and ideas. Are there other issues we should be considering?

1.6 How Long are We Planning For?

Our adopted Local Plans cover the period from 2011 to 2031, although a number of large-scale developments, like the new settlements of Northstowe, the new town north of Waterbeach and new village at Bourn Airfield will take longer to be completed.

While development and change is an ongoing process, we need to identify a start and end date for the Local Plan, because we must be able to monitor our progress in meeting the targets we set. We hope to adopt the new Local Plan in 2023, but its start date will be 2017, because this is the most recent year for which data is available to provide a baseline for us to monitor against.

National Planning Policy states that plans should look ahead at least 15 years from the point of adoption, which suggests a plan end date of 2040 would be sensible. This is to anticipate and respond to long-term requirements and opportunities, for example major improvements in infrastructure.

Some of the strategic planning that is going on for the Greater Cambridge area is taking a longer view by looking to 2050 (for example the Combined Authority's Non Statutory Spatial Framework). A longer outlook would provide opportunities to plan strategically for how the area will develop in the long term. A balance needs to be achieved between planning far enough ahead to make informed decisions about growth and reliability of long term future predictions. Planning over a longer plan period would also mean that we would need to plan for even greater numbers of new homes, employment and infrastructure, although there is inevitably increasing uncertainty the further ahead we look.

On balance we think the best approach is to plan to 2040, in the knowledge that some of the strategic sites that we have already planned, plus any new large scale strategic sites that we might identify, will continue to deliver homes and employment land after this date.

Question

2. Do you agree that planning to 2040 is an appropriate date in the future to plan for? If not, what would be a more appropriate date?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please add any comments and ideas

1.7 Learning from the adopted Local Plans

The two adopted Local Plans contain a large number of detailed strategic and development management policies. In bringing these two plans together into one, we will have to decide which policies to keep, which policies to amend, which policies to delete and what new policies to create.

Our overall aim is to create a succinct Local Plan that does not unnecessarily repeat national policy but provides the right policies for making decisions on planning applications in Greater Cambridge. We want to make sure we have well-worded, useful policies that help everyone make clear and consistent decisions across the area. We want to know which of our existing policies you think are effective, and which are not so effective, so we can learn from this for the next Local Plan.

Question

3. Do you have any views on specific policies in the two adopted plans? If so, what are they?

Please add any comments and ideas

2. Getting Involved

2.1 Involving our communities

The next Local Plan will directly affect the lives of everyone in the area, and we want to make sure we have an active and honest public conversation about how it should take shape. This means involving all parts of our community - individuals, groups, businesses, academic institutions, and stakeholders of all kinds. We are committed to genuinely listening and learning from you all, and ensuring that we explain the plan-making process clearly to you, so you understand how and why decisions are made.

We particularly want to involve groups who usually don't get heard in the planning process – young people, people from diverse backgrounds, people from less prosperous parts of the area, and those who usually find it difficult to get involved for different reasons.

Therefore we are making this material easily available online and in print, but also taking the conversation to you in a number of different ways:

- Taking a pop-up stand to places around the area such as shopping centres, schools, community centres and other places where it is easy for people to spend a few minutes finding out more and sharing their views.
- Holding workshops with different groups in the area
- Using social media and video to encourage young people in particular, to get involved.
- Spreading the word via local TV, radio and newspapers
- Working with leaders from our diverse communities to encourage greater participation.

The plan making process involves several stages, and the input we gain from you will be balanced with other evidence that we gather. You can read more about what's already been done and what is planned in our Statement of Consultation [link to be added], which will be updated at each stage of the Plan process. This has been drawn up in accordance with our [Statement of Community Involvement 2019](#).

Question

4. How do you think we should involve our communities and stakeholders in developing the Plan?

Please add any comments and ideas

2.2 Relationship with Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning is a way for local communities to take a proactive approach to deciding the future of the places where they live and work. It is a right, not a legal requirement, which communities can use to shape how their neighbourhood

develops, including influencing the location and design of homes, shops, offices, industry and infrastructure.

Neighbourhood Plans need to generally conform to the strategic policies of the Local Plan to be valid. When made (formally adopted) they have equal weight in the planning system to the Local Plan.

In Cambridge, community groups interested in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan will need to be formally established as “neighbourhood forums” for a specified part of the city. No draft neighbourhood plans have yet been submitted to us for any part of Cambridge, although one Neighbourhood Area has been designated at Newnham. You can find more information on the [Cambridge Neighbourhood Plans](#) web pages.

In South Cambridgeshire, Neighbourhood Plans are normally prepared by Parish Councils. Currently one Neighbourhood Plan has been made (adopted) by South Cambridgeshire District Council. A further 17 villages are preparing plans, and are at various stages of the neighbourhood plan making process. You can find more information on the South Cambridgeshire [Neighbourhood Plans](#) web pages.

2.3 How can I respond?

This consultation and all supporting documentation can be found on the Councils’ websites. Hard copies of the First Conversation consultation document are available for inspection at the Councils’ offices and at selected public libraries. A response form containing all the questions posed can also be obtained at the above locations and can be downloaded from the Councils’ websites.

During this extended ten-week consultation to allow for the holiday period, a series of events are planned. The times and locations of the drop-in events are set out in the public notice and on the Councils’ websites. These events will be informal and offer the opportunity for the public to come in and discuss the issues and options with officers.

For more information, including the accompanying documents, go to the Councils’ websites:

- XXXXXX

2.3.1 How you can make your comments

Comments on the consultation can be made in a number of different ways:

- On the dedicated Local Plan website for quick comments and views
- if you want to make a longer and more detailed comment, you can do so in the following ways:
 - Through the Councils’ [consultation portal](#)

- By filling in the response form (available on the website) and sending it back to us either by email to: planning.policy@cambridge.gov.uk or planning.policy@scambs.gov.uk
- Alternatively, you can post the form back to either:

Cambridge City Council:

Planning Policy Team
 Planning Services
 Cambridge City Council
 PO Box 700
 Cambridge
 CB1 0JH
 Tel: 01223 457384

South Cambridgeshire District Council:

Planning Policy Team
 South Cambridgeshire Hall
 Cambourne Business Park
 Cambourne
 Cambridge
 CB23 6EA
 Tel: 01954 713183

The closing date for receipt of comments is **xxxxxx 2020 at 5pm.**

Representations, including names, will be available to view on the Councils' websites. Full representations including addresses will also be available to view on request. Our privacy notice for planning policy consultations and notifications sets out how your personal data will be used and by whom. You can view both [South Cambridgeshire](#) privacy statement and [Cambridge](#) privacy statement.

2.3.2 Tell us about employment and housing site options

The Councils have previously carried out a 'Call for Sites' in Spring 2019, providing the opportunity for landowners, developers and communities to let us know about potential sites or broad locations for development that they wish the Council to consider as it progresses with this local plan. If you wish to put any further sites to us through this Issues and Options Consultation, a site form can be found on our website, setting out the information that we need. There is no need to resubmit sites already provided to the Councils as part of the Call for Sites 2019.

Question

- 5. Please submit any sites for employment and housing you wish to suggest for allocation in the Local Plan**

2.3.3 Tell us about wildlife habitats and green space opportunities

We will also be commissioning evidence identifying opportunities for large scale new green space in Greater Cambridge. To support this work you can submit sites for open space, wildlife habitats or other green infrastructure uses to us through this

Issues and Options Consultation. A site form can be found on our website, setting out the information that we need.

Question

- 6. Please submit any sites for wildlife habitats and green space you wish to suggest for consideration through the Local Plan**

3. The Big Themes

Our Local Plan must provide a positive vision for the future of Greater Cambridge. The aim is simple: **to ensure sustainable development**. This means meeting the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

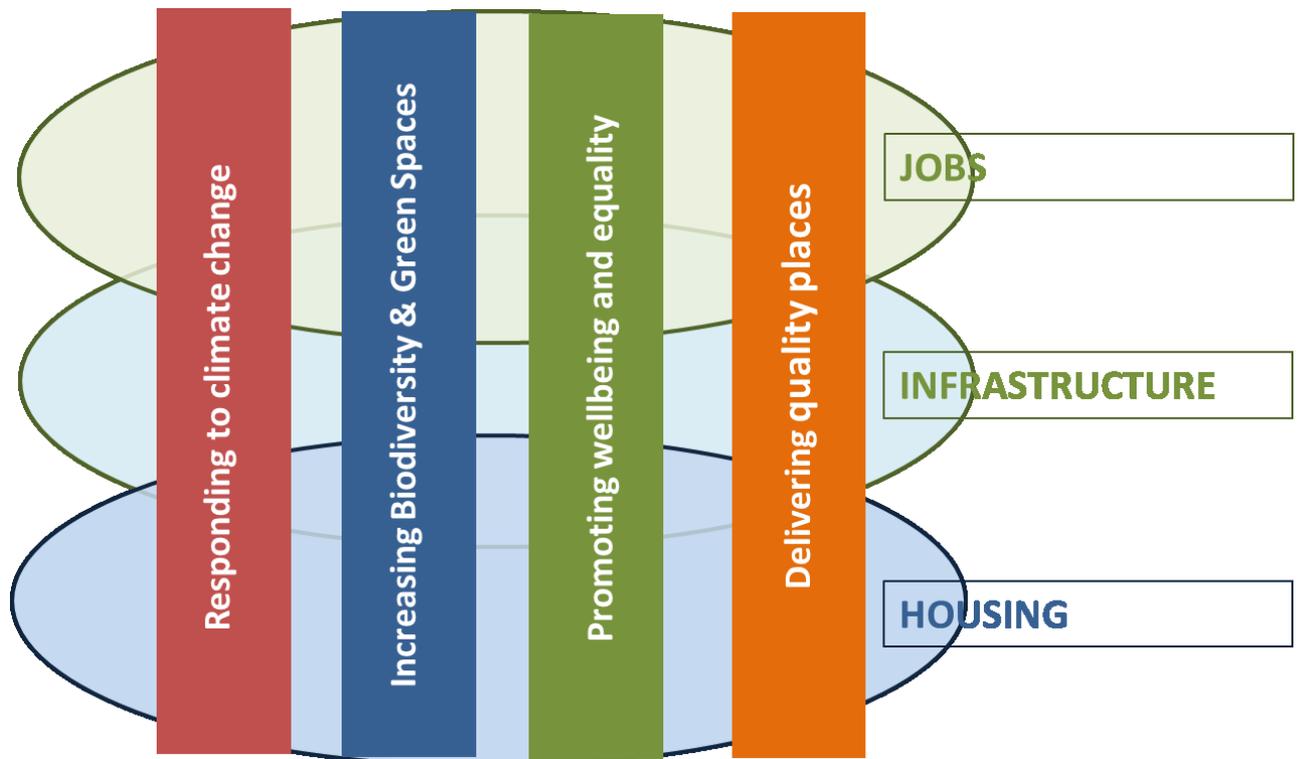
Sustainable development has social, economic and environmental dimensions. It is about delivering the right homes, jobs and other facilities to meet our needs, in appropriate locations, as well as protecting and enhancing the environment.

Both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council's corporate plans set out a vision for the future. Our Local Plan needs to build on the vision for the future in those plans and will need to make difficult choices about future policies and spatial choices involved. Achieving this is complex and will need us to balance a range of competing priorities and issues. The aim of this consultation with our communities is to understand what you think about these issues, and how they should be balanced.

From the analysis of the big issues facing this area and feedback we have received from Councillors and communities in the run up to preparing this document, we have tried to present these complex choices through discussions around "big themes." These suggested themes cross the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

The themes are our initial suggestions – but we want to hear your views on whether these are the right themes for the next plan, and what you think they should encompass.

Figure 8 The potential big themes for the Local Plan



Question

7. Do you agree with the potential big themes for the Local Plan?

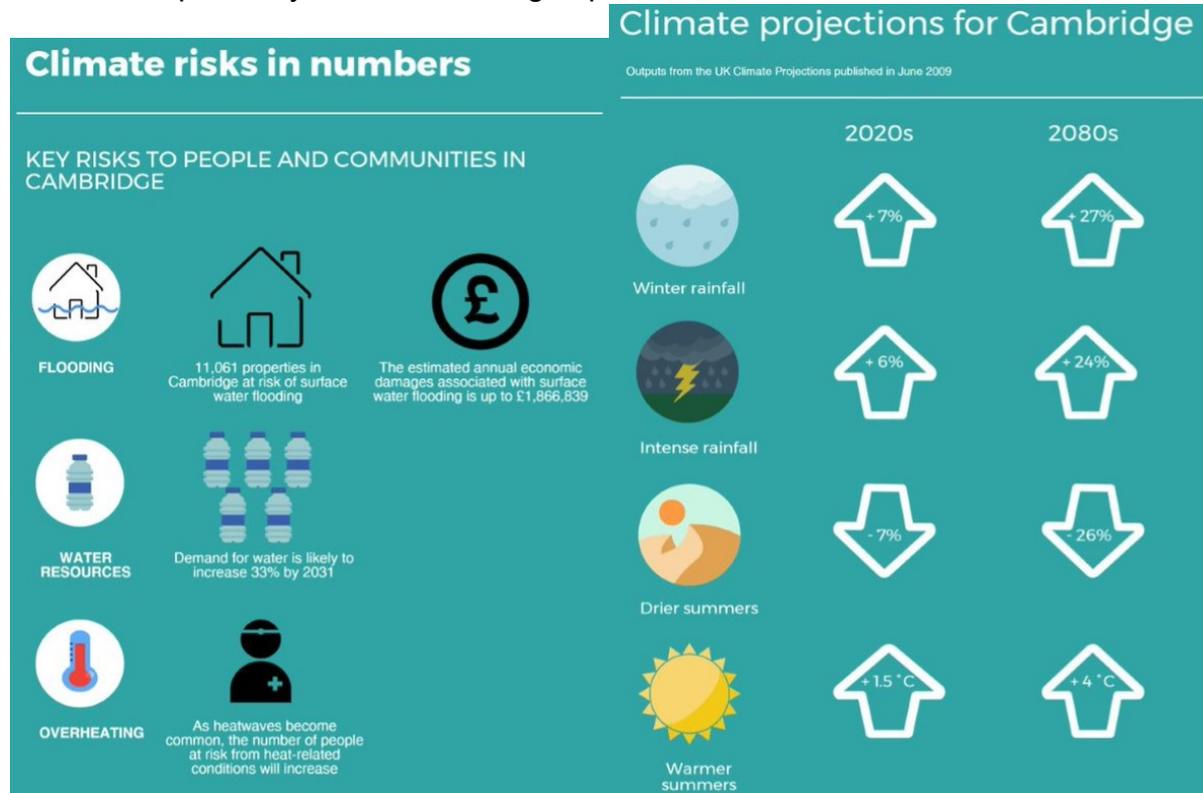
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please add any comments and ideas. Are there other themes or issues we should be considering that could inform our new vision for Greater Cambridge?

3.1 Responding to Climate Change

Figure 9 Infographic – Climate Change Issues

Note: Examples only, these are being improved.



Add:

- Flood Risk % of land in Greater Cambridge in high risk zone for river flood risk 9.6%
- Average household in Greater Cambridge uses 140 litres per person per day.
- Based upon 2018 Climate Projections, UK Weather will change by 2070:
- Winter rainfall: +35%
- Warmer Winters: +4.2C
- Summer rainfall: -47%
- Warmer Summers: +5.4C

Climate change is a defining issue of today and will have serious impacts for future generations. The County Council, City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have committed to achieve net zero carbon by 2050. The Local Plan will play a key part in helping this part of Cambridgeshire to realise that challenging objective.

This will mean doing things very differently and may impact on how we can achieve other priorities that are important to the area. It will influence where we plan for development, and how it is designed. We want to hear from you about how we should best meet the climate challenge and balance this with other issues for the Local Plan.

Question

8. How important do you think climate change is, as a priority for the next Local Plan?

- Top priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

3.1.1 What do we have to do?

National Planning Policy requires local planning policies to be “in line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008”. In August 2019, the Climate Change Act was amended to set a target for carbon emissions in the UK to become net zero by 2050.

Net zero carbon means that, on balance, the UK will not create more CO₂ than it stores up or offsets. This means that any carbon emissions we create through burning fossil fuels, must be balanced out by using renewable energy and schemes to absorb it back out of the atmosphere – such as planting trees or using technology such as carbon capture and storage.

3.1.2 What are we already doing?

Our adopted Local Plans include policies which seek to respond to climate change. Large scale developments currently planned are required to be exemplars in sustainability standards, for example by increasing the amount of renewable energy generation on site or using new construction methods to minimise construction waste and maximise energy efficiency through offsite construction and modular build techniques. Once adopted in 2020, our new Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document will support adopted planning policies. However, there needs to be a big step up in order to meet the net zero target by 2050 and we need to start addressing it now.

Both Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have pledged to support net zero¹. This will require action across all the ways we live, but

¹ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/news/2019/02/22/cambridge-city-council-declares-climate-emergency> and <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-as-council-aims-to-make-south-cambridgeshire-zero-carbon/>

the planning system and the development of the next Greater Cambridge Local Plan will be an important part of addressing this.

We have commissioned new research that will inform the Local Plan, which will include understanding the level of carbon emissions within the Greater Cambridge area today, known as carbon footprinting. This is currently being carried out in collaboration with Cambridge University's Science Policy Exchange and Department of Land Economy, and the outputs of Carbon Neutral Cambridge's Zero Carbon Symposium, held in Cambridge in May 2019². Further work will also be commissioned to test options for higher standards of carbon reduction to help us understand potential to achieve net zero carbon new development.

3.1.3 What are the key issues?

Figure 10 Illustration of Designing to Respond to Climate Change

We want to know what you think we should focus on, and how we should use the next Local Plan to meet the key challenges of reducing our climate impacts, and preparing us for the changing climate in the future.

Mitigating our climate impacts

Climate change mitigation means reducing our impact on the climate as far as possible. This involves:

- Designing new communities, infrastructure and buildings to be energy and resource efficient, both in the way they are built and the way they are used over their lifespan.
- Using renewable and low carbon energy generation
- Promoting patterns of development that enable travel by low-carbon modes such as walking, cycling and public transport
- Discouraging our communities from using private cars where possible, and other lifestyle choices that affect the climate
- Retrofitting existing buildings to be more energy efficient
- Thinking about the materials used in the construction process.
- Considering how carbon offsetting can be supported through tree planting and other measures

Question

9. How do you think we should be reducing our impact on the climate? Have we missed any key actions?

Please add any comments and ideas

² <https://carbonneutralcambridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Zero-Carbon-Futures.pdf>

Adapting to climate change

Climate change adaptation means ensuring that our communities can evolve as our climate changes. This includes:

- Ensuring that we are safe from flood risk and extreme weather events
- Designing buildings and places so that they are easy to keep cool in a warming climate without using increasing amounts of energy for air conditioning, and without increasing the 'heat island' effect
- Being efficient in our use of water, and ensuring that we have enough water resources to meet our needs.
- Ensuring food security and the adaptation of agriculture and food growing to our changing climate

Question

10. Are there any other things we should be doing to adapt to climate change? We want to hear your ideas!

Please add any comments and ideas

3.2 Increasing Biodiversity and Green Spaces

Figure 11 Infographic – Biodiversity & Greenspace

Types of figures to include in infographic:

- Number of protected sites (SAC, SSSI, Local wildlife sites) - SSSI = 42, LNR = 16, CWS = 129, CWS = 51 (SCDC and Cambridge Adopted Local Plan)
- Country parks (Milton, Wandlebury, Trumpington Meadows, Coton Countryside Reserve)
- Number of ancient woodland sites: 43 (SCDC and Cambridge Adopted Local Plan at Sept & Oct 2018)
- Number of Cambridge Parks & commons: Parks and Gardens = 55, Semi Natural Green Space = 43, Amenity Green Space = 100 (Cambridge Adopted Local Plan)
- Number of priority species = 320 (CPERC Species Data 2018)
- Number of protected spaces, LGS, PVAA = Protected Open Spaces = 332, LGS = 83, PVAA = 193 (SCDC Adopted Local Plan Sept 2018)
- Tree cover in Greater Cambridge = 11.11% (not available for UK whole)
- Percentage of Green Belt coverage in Greater Cambridge 25.67%

Biodiversity is the term used to describe the richness of the living environment around us. A healthy and biodiverse environment is important to ensure Greater Cambridge's future prosperity and the wellbeing of all who live, work and study here.

Biodiversity is supported by green infrastructure - a term for the network of natural and semi-natural areas, and other environmental features across the area. Green infrastructure includes parks and recreation spaces to more wild spaces like woodland, scrubland and grassland areas, as well as rivers and other water bodies.

Greater Cambridge on the face of it seems very green. The River Cam is a designated county wildlife site in recognition of the river's importance in linking semi-natural habitats, including ecologically-designated sites in Cambridge such as Stourbridge Common Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Sheep's Green and Coe Fen LNRs. In South Cambridgeshire there is a network of wildlife habitats, including ancient woodlands, orchards, rivers and wildlife corridors. These include sites like Eversden and Wimpole Woods, of international importance.

However, the rural area is dominated by agricultural land which is often not biodiverse, and in urban areas, loss of gardens and increase in urban uses reduce biodiversity. In recent decades due to the changes in the way we use land, biodiversity in the area has been decreasing. Chalk Streams which feed the river Cam, and get their water from the aquifer that provides much of our drinking water, have run very low in recent years, again impacting on the wildlife that lives there.

Both Councils have recognised the pressure on the natural environment, and want to explore how the next Local Plan can do more to improve the Green Infrastructure

network. This will form a key part of the overall development strategy for the area, as and part of the response to climate change.

Question

11. How important do you think biodiversity and green spaces are, as a priority for the next Local Plan?

- Top priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

3.2.1 What do we have to do?

National planning policy requires us to protect and enhance valued wildlife habitats and sites of biodiversity importance. Whilst we have previously been required to protect and enhance biodiversity through development, national policy now requires development to achieve a net gain for biodiversity. Biodiversity net gain requires developers to ensure habitats for wildlife are enhanced and left in a measurably better state than they were pre-development.

Local Plans also need to take a strategic approach to promoting the restoration and enhancement of the green infrastructure network, taking into account its varied benefits including supporting biodiversity, providing opportunities for recreation, mitigating and adapting to climate change and enhancing landscape character. This means having a clear understanding of what is present in the area, and exploring how planning can help protect and improve it.

3.2.2 What are we already doing?

Our adopted Local Plans seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and open space, but the next local plan provides an opportunity to explore how we can do more.

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have declared biodiversity emergencies³. As members of the Natural Cambridgeshire Local Nature

³ Cambridge: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/biodiversity-emergency> South Cambridgeshire: <https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=78136>

Partnership⁴, the Councils support the Partnership's vision to double the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural greenspace within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough⁵.

The Partnership has prepared a Developing with Nature Toolkit⁶ to help developers and infrastructure providers to demonstrate their commitment to achieving a net biodiversity gain to the public, local authorities or shareholders.

We are also working as part of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc exploring investment across this wider area in natural environment.

To support the next Local Plan we are commissioning an evidence base study to inform how our Local Plan can support delivery of an enhanced and expanded Green Infrastructure network. This will include consideration of where development is planned, and how it can help deliver new or improved wildlife areas and green spaces.

3.3.3 What are the key issues?

Improving the green infrastructure network

Greater Cambridge has an extensive network of green spaces that make an important contribution to its character, biodiversity and health and wellbeing of residents. However, in some places it is of poor quality, and not well linked up to form a functional network. We need to consider how attractive, accessible and well-designed open space is created and protected. Key issues include:

- How we can enhance and grow the network of green spaces
- How our green infrastructure can support wellbeing through places to relax and socialise, and healthy lifestyles through places for play and sport.
- How to balance public access to nature, which is known to have health and well-being benefits, with the need for some natural habitats to be undisturbed and wild.
- Making green infrastructure multi-functional – absorbing and storing stormwater, improving biodiversity, and absorbing carbon emissions.
- How rural green infrastructure is balanced with other demands on the countryside, such as agriculture
- How new development can directly unlock or contribute to the enhancement of green infrastructure.

⁴ <https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/>

⁵ <https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Doubling-Nature-LR.pdf>

⁶ <https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/nc-developing-with-nature-toolkit.pdf>

We would like your views on sites that could be suitable for new green infrastructure. If you have ideas, please respond to question 6.

Achieving biodiversity net gains on future developments

For individual developments the Local Plan will need to require biodiversity net gains. We will need to consider how we guide developers to achieve this. For example:

- How the design of buildings themselves can support biodiversity, through the materials and features they include, such as green roofs
- How landscape design can encourage biodiversity while meeting other functional requirements, and being easy to maintain in the future
- How development supports wildlife in the face of climate change, through creating resilient new habitats
- How developments are phased and monitored to ensure that biodiversity net gain is achieved in practice and not just in theory.

Tree cover

Tree cover improves the character of urban areas and helps to mitigate the rate of climate change through absorbing CO2 and decreasing the urban heat island effect. Cambridgeshire has a very low proportion of woodland, compared to the rest of England. The new Local Plan will need to consider how we can increase tree cover as part of new developments, and support the implementation of the [Cambridge Tree Strategy](#).

Question

12. What do you think the Local Plan should do to improve and protect our biodiversity and green spaces?

Please add any comments and ideas

3.3. Promoting Wellbeing and Equality

Figure 12 Infographic – Promoting Wellbeing and Equality

Types of figures to include in infographic:

- 16-19 year olds who are not in education, employment or training, high in parts of Cambridge, creates a barrier to local people accessing jobs in the knowledge-intensive activities
- Average life expectancy in Greater Cambridge is near national average, within Cambridge 82.4, in South Cambridgeshire 83.7 and the UK being 82.9 years, however this hides inequalities between the wards and parishes, with the more deprived areas having a lower figure (88.8 in Newnham, 80 in East Chesterton).
- Population of Greater Cambridge: 290,000 people
- Population of Greater Cambridge is expected to increase by around 26% between 2011 and 2031
- Aging population - proportion of those aged over 65 significantly increasing, especially within South Cambridgeshire.
- People aged 24 and under, including students, make up around 37% of the City's population
- Quality of life index: comparison with region and uk
- Index of multiple deprivation: South Cambs 13th, Cambridge 100th out of 327 English Local Authorities. Some deprived wards in Cambridge (1 ward include areas amongst 20% most deprived in UK)
- 9.5% of households experience fuel poverty in Greater Cambridge
- Two Air Quality Management Areas (A14 and Cambridge City Centre)

Greater Cambridge overall is a prosperous area, but it includes communities which do not experience the benefits of the wealth relative to the wider area, for a variety of reasons. Cambridge includes areas that are among the most deprived in the UK⁷, and within South Cambridgeshire there are specific issues facing some of those living in rural communities particularly those with limited access to services and transport.

The Local Plan can be a powerful tool to improve wellbeing and equality. It can help direct where, and what kind, of jobs are created, the availability of suitable and affordable housing, access to cultural facilities, green spaces, learning opportunities and employment, as well as individuals' health and lifestyle. Therefore promoting

⁷ As defined by the Index of Multiple Deprivation, a measure of income, employment, education, health, crime, housing, and environment.

wellbeing and equality will be affected by our response to all the other themes in this consultation.

Question

13. How important do you think promoting wellbeing and equality is, as a priority for the next Local Plan?

- Top priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

3.3.1 What do we have to do?

Responding to national policy for climate change, green spaces, quality places, housing, jobs and infrastructure set out in the other themes will promote wellbeing and equality.

For health and wellbeing specifically, national planning policy requires that Local Plans should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places. This includes creating places that promote social interaction between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other; making sure places are safe and accessible so that fear of crime does not undermine quality of life; and supporting healthy lifestyles by provision of greenspaces and sports facilities, and opportunities to walk and cycle, and meeting the variety of needs in our community.

Plans need to ensure development is right for its location, and consider impacts of the development itself, including for issues like air quality and noise. Plans should also consider how they can contribute to the achievement of wider objectives, such as in Air Quality Management Plans.

3.3.2 What are we already doing?

Our adopted Local Plans include policies seeking to create strong, sustainable, cohesive and inclusive mixed-use communities.

Cambridge City Council has an [Anti Poverty Strategy](#) which includes an action plan. This identified that while the Cambridge economy continues to thrive, there are high levels of income inequality in the city, with Cambridge identified as the most unequal city in the UK by the Centre for Cities. There are also lower levels of social mobility for young people from poorer backgrounds.

South Cambridgeshire District Council undertakes a range of activities aimed at tackling rural issues. South Cambridgeshire District Council employs an extensive grants program to support statutory services within the district, by funding organisations to deliver vital services including; rural car schemes, general and specialist advice, independent living, support for local parishes and communities, homelessness prevention and support for families in crisis or under extreme stress.

As part of the Greater Cambridge Partnership we are working with partners across education, training and business to deliver apprenticeship opportunities, and encouraging uptake of training opportunities. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is also supporting the development of skills.

Recently the new town of Northstowe became part of the NHS Healthy Towns Initiative. This considers how health, and the delivery of healthy communities, can be a key driver in the planning and design process for a new community. It has provided an opportunity to explore innovation and best practice. The principles it has explored include promoting inclusive communities, good access to health services, walkable neighbourhoods, high quality public transport and cycling links, and opportunities for physical activity.

We are commissioning evidence on jobs, green spaces, transport, cultural facilities and other topics that will support the plan's response to promoting wellbeing and equality.

Cambridge City Council [Air Quality Action Plan 2018 – 2023](#) sets out Cambridge City Council's priority actions for improving areas of poor air quality in the city and maintaining a good level of air quality in a growing city. South Cambridgeshire District Council also has an Air Quality Action Plan and publishes [annual status reports](#).

3.3.3 What are the key issues?

Involving communities in planning for their future

Making places inclusive happens more successfully if we involve our diverse communities in planning them in the first place. This makes developments more functional, accessible and safe, as well as increasing the sense of ownership that local people feel. Involving community members and stakeholders needs to happen from an early stage, and throughout the process. This will allow social value to be generated from all parts of the planning and development process, from the big ideas, such as the kind of public spaces that should come with development, to the detail, such as the use of local suppliers and job creation through the construction process.

The Local Plan can help to encourage more community involvement in the development process through considering:

- How masterplans for new communities and major developments are prepared

- How communities can be involved in key decisions about developments in their local area, for example the location and type of public open space or new facilities.
- How design proposals should respond to local community views about the character of their built environment.

Creating safe and inclusive communities

The Local Plan needs to be socially inclusive, and to help people access local services and a broad range of amenities including sports, social and education facilities. We need to consider how planning policy can:

- Ensure that the needs of diverse groups are considered in the siting, design and layout of new development, and that conflicting requirements are fairly balanced.
- Create well-used and active public places which help to foster a sense of community and reduce crime.
- Secure investment in services and infrastructure to go with new housing and jobs, as well as protecting existing facilities that are important to local people such as pubs, community buildings, sports and leisure facilities. There is also a role for the Local Plan in supporting arts and culture.

Supporting healthy lifestyles

The importance of supporting healthy lifestyles is growing, supporting people to live healthy and long lives in their homes, and reduce pressure on health services, whilst ensuring that support, services and infrastructure are available at the right time for the community. The next Local Plan will provide an opportunity to consider how we can further promote healthy lifestyles through planning. For example, we can think about:

- How planning and development encourage walking and cycling and exercise
- How loneliness and mental health issues are tackled through creating places that offer natural sociability, interaction and access to nature
- Ensuring a range of shops and services, and facilities like allotments, that ensure communities can access healthy and affordable food.

Promoting Equality

Promoting equality is not just a matter for the Local Plan, but planning is a powerful tool which can help in a number of ways. These include:

- Creating new homes for all of the community – including a range of affordable housing choices and different types of housing to suit specialist housing needs, and ensuring that new homes are cost efficient to maintain – for example through energy efficiency measures.
- Encouraging the development of a range of jobs, which provide different options for work to suit the varied circumstances of our residents This is covered further in our ‘Jobs’ theme.

- Supporting delivery and access to new and affordable low-carbon transport infrastructure.
- . For larger new developments funding can be sought from developers to carry out community development work
- We will also consider how developers can support employment, skills development, apprenticeships, and other education and training opportunities in both during construction and on completion of a development, to make a direct contribution to the local community.

Improving Places

Our next plan will need to respond to constraints and opportunities that exist in the area. Parts of Greater Cambridge suffer from poor air quality. The Local Plan has a role to play in implementing air quality action plans, by considering where growth should be located, opportunity to travel by walking, cycling and public transport, and availability of infrastructure to support electric vehicles.

Question

14. How can the next Local Plan help support the creation of inclusive communities?

Please add any comments and ideas

Question

15. How can the Local Plan create places that are healthy, and support the wellbeing of our communities?

Please add any comments and ideas

3.4 Delivering Quality Places

Figure 13 Infographic – Delivering Quality Places

Types of figures to include in infographic:

- Number of listed buildings and conservation areas: Greater Cambridge Listed Buildings = 2578, Conservation Areas = 89 (LB – EH Jan 2019) (Conservation Areas, SCDC and Cambridge Adopted Local Plan at Sept & Oct 2018 Layer)
- Award winning developments (Accordia, Marmalade Lane, Eddington & Great Kneighton): number of RIBA Awards
- Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service Design Review Panels have carried out 241 design reviews since April 2014.

Cambridge is an iconic historic centre of national significance. It is surrounded by a rural area with a unique landscape character, from the Greensand Ridge to the Fens. It contains over 100 villages which are treasured for their architectural heritage and distinctive qualities, making them very desirable places to live and to visit.

There has been considerable growth in Greater Cambridge over recent years. The aim has always been to achieve high quality developments, and there have been several award winning schemes. The overall quality of design has been high, but there is always room for improvement. In planning for future new development, we need to consider how the next plan will protect and respond to the landscapes and townscapes that make our area special, and continue the fantastic track record of Cambridge as a place where contemporary design and the historic environment co-exist in harmony.

Question

16. How important do you think protecting heritage and demanding high quality design is, as a priority for the next Local Plan?

- Top priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

3.4.1 What do we have to do?

National planning policy states that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Plans should set out a clear design vision,

and expectations of developers. Plans should also support making effective use of land, taking opportunities to regenerate brownfield land, and delivering densities that make efficient use of land.

Local Plans should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. This includes seeking to protect and enhance landscape and townscape, and the historic environment such as listed buildings and conservation areas.

3.4.2 What are we already doing?

The adopted Local Plans include policies seeking to secure good design through new developments, and these are supplemented by detailed design guidance, including joint guidance regarding sustainable design and construction, and an ongoing programme of conservation area appraisals.

The [Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth](#), developed by Cambridgeshire local authorities and partners, sets out key principles to improve the quality of new developments under the four broad themes of community, connectivity, climate and character. This has been reviewed by the Combined Authority in July 2019, with an additional fifth topic of cohesion, addressing measures to help create socially inclusive communities.

Cambridge City Council is also developing a [Making Space for People supplementary planning document](#) for central Cambridge. This will be used to prioritise the delivery of improvements to key public spaces. South Cambridgeshire District Council is working with communities to develop individual [Village Design Statements](#).

3.4.3 What are the key issues?

Protecting the best of what already exists

In planning for the future it will be important to protect what is best about the landscape and townscape of Greater Cambridge, including the many important historic buildings, conservation areas, and historic landscapes. We will need to consider:

- How to balance heritage protection with the demands of growth
- How to ensure that our historic buildings are have viable uses, so they can be maintained and safeguarded
- How to balance public access to heritage with protecting sensitive sites from harm
- How to sustain our historic landscapes while increasing biodiversity and adapting to climate change.
- Ensuring local distinctiveness

Question

17. How important is protecting our built and natural heritage to you?

- Top priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

Creating beautiful new buildings and places

We must not just protect the best places created by past generations – we should be creating outstanding new buildings and landscapes that will become the treasured heritage of future generations. ‘Place-making’ – creating and sustaining a positive and distinctive character in an area – is also important to our economic success, and this was identified by the CPIER. Some of the key issues we need to consider include:

- How successful our existing design policies have been in ‘place-making’ and ensuring quality
- Continuing to benefit from the clear approach to design principles provided by the Cambridgeshire Quality Charter
- How both the ‘special’ landmark buildings, and more everyday structures such as homes, shops, business units and infrastructure, can contribute to a positive sense of place and local identity through their design.
- How designing for climate change mitigation and adaptation can be an opportunity to create distinctive and characterful developments.

Question

18. How important is the quality of design of new developments to you?

- Top priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

3.5 Jobs

Figure 14 Infographic – Jobs

Types of figures to include in infographic:

- A globally significant hi-tech economy that provides around 19% of employment in Cambridge. 1,500 technology-based firms in the area, which have combined annual revenue of over £13 billion (GCP website)
- Number of patents per 100,000 people in Cambridge, 341, the highest in the UK (CPIER)
- 14,000 active businesses in Greater Cambridge (Cambridge Insight)
- Overall employment rate (aged 16-64): Low unemployment 2.9% in Cambridge, 2.2 % in South Cambs (compared to 4.1% nationally) (Nomis)
- Income and employment: disparities between wards in the north and east of the city and rest of Greater Cambridge (Kings Hedges 4.8% unemployed in 2011) (Cambridge Insight)
- Population aged 19-59/64 qualified to at least level 2 or higher (83.2% Cambridge, 84.8% South Cambs, compared to 74.9% nationally): well qualified population (Nomis). However, parts of three wards Cambridge amongst 20% most educationally deprived in England (Cambridge Insight).
- Cambridge Tourism Economy: £835m accounting for 22% of employment in Cambridge; in 2017, 8m people visited Cambridge (30% visiting friends and family locally), only 12% explore beyond Cambridge.

The success of the Greater Cambridge economy is of national importance. Greater Cambridge has grown as a centre for high technology employment since the 1970s, and is seen as a world leader in innovation, much of it as a result of ideas coming out of Cambridge University and new companies starting up and expanding.

However, our local economy is not just about technology. Greater Cambridge is also a thriving education, retail, leisure and tourist destination, while industry and agriculture also play an important role and ensure a variety of jobs for local people. It is important that the city centre continues to provide a wide range of uses including shopping, leisure, entertainment, museums, university faculty buildings and colleges, offices and housing. There are also district and local centres in the city, and village centres at a range of scales, which meet more local needs, as well as providing valuable and varied employment. New town centres are also being developed at Northstowe, and soon at the new town north of Waterbeach.

The Councils have committed to a goal of doubling the total economic output of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area over 25 years (measured as Gross Value Added – GVA – which here is about the measure of the value of goods and services produced in the area). This target formed part of the devolution deal with government that created the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. It has implications for future jobs and homes growth in our area.

How important do you think continuing economic growth is, as a priority for the next Local Plan?

Question

19. How important do you think continuing economic growth is, as a priority for the next Local Plan?

- Top priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

3.5.1 What do we have to do?

National planning policy places significant weight on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and opportunities for development that arise from outside the area. Our Local Plan needs to provide a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth. This includes identifying sites to meet economic growth needs.

Plans should also support the continued vitality and viability of town centres, as well as supporting a prosperous rural economy.

3.5.2 What are we already doing?

The 2018 [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review](#) (CPIER) provided an important baseline of evidence about our local economy.

Building on the CPIER, the Government and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority recently published the [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Industrial Strategy](#). It aims to improve the long-term capacity for growth in Greater Cambridge by supporting the foundations of productivity, increasing sustainability, broadening the base of local economic growth including in the north of Cambridgeshire, and building on the clusters and networks that have enabled Cambridge to become a global leader in innovative growth.

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, together with the Greater Cambridge Partnership and Combined Authority are preparing an Economic Development Action Plan to deliver the priorities set out in the Local Industrial Strategy, as well the Councils' own more local economic ambitions.

The adopted Local Plans have sought to support the continued success of the economy of the Greater Cambridge area. Through the allocation of sites and granting of planning permission there is a large supply (135 hectares) of employment land that continues to be developed. This includes developments in the centre of Cambridge around the Station, and on the edges of Cambridge at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and West Cambridge. There is also further capacity at a range of sites outside Cambridge, including Babraham Research Campus and Granta Park. New settlements like Northstowe will also include opportunities for employment growth.

Through the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan we are exploring the potential for further development at Cambridge Science Park and the area around the new Cambridge North Station to create an Innovation District, which will include homes, jobs, services and facilities. We consulted on options for this area in early 2019 and will be consulting on a draft plan in early 2020.

Beyond the identified growth sites, our adopted Local Plans support continued employment growth in appropriate locations. They also seek to protect important employment spaces from competing uses, including industrial land in Cambridge, and employment sites in villages.

The Councils have commissioned their own research into jobs growth to inform the draft Local Plan, drawing on evidence highlighted by the CPIER of recent fast employment growth. The study will also explore the supply and demand for employment land of different types.

3.5.3 What are the key issues?

Forecasted jobs growth

The 2018 [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review](#) (CPIER) identified that our recent employment growth has been faster than anticipated. It considered future scenarios regarding continuation of that growth, including those that achieve the target to double GVA over 25 years.

The next Local Plan needs to identify the number of jobs that should be planned for, so that appropriate sites can be identified, and so that they are accompanied by the homes and infrastructure to support them. This will be informed by the new research that we have commissioned, but it is expected that the level of forecast economic growth will be greater than the level that would be supported by the Government's standard method of calculating new homes. For more detail on what this may mean for housing growth, see the Homes Theme.

Space for businesses to grow

The Local Plan needs to ensure that there is sufficient land for business uses, in the right places and to suit different business types and specific business clusters. Greater Cambridge firms come in a range of sizes, from start-ups with a few

individuals to major firms with hundreds of employees, and the area needs to have the right range of premises to support this. Alongside this, more and more people are working flexibly, and do not need to travel to a specific place of work on a daily basis. We need to consider:

- Demand for 'start-up', incubator and grow-on space as a feature of Greater Cambridge's economy is a high rate of 'business 'churn', with large numbers of firms starting up each year.
- The increasing popularity of flexible workspace and co-working hubs, providing shared facilities.
- How new business space can adapt to fast changing working practices which will continue to evolve over time
- Demand for specialist space, such as for laboratories

Protecting existing employment land

The protection of existing business space is also a concern of local residents. Industry, such as manufacturing, is an important part of the local economy but there is pressure from competing higher value land uses, particularly in Cambridge. We will need to consider:

- The future need for employment space, including for industry
- How effective our current policies have been, in protecting employment land, in particular industrial land in Cambridge, and employment land in villages from being redeveloped for other uses where not allocated for other uses in the plan
- Which key existing sites should be specifically safeguarded.

Creating a range of jobs

Whilst we are proud of the success of Cambridge's high technology businesses, there are parts of Greater Cambridge where people do not perceive the opportunities as being for them. This includes areas adjoining some of our most successful business parks. Supporting different kinds of business, which create a range of different jobs, is important so that everyone can benefit from economic growth. Through the preparation of the next Local Plan we will explore how we can:

- Support a range of businesses to be successful in this area, providing a range of job types and at a range of different skills levels
- Ensure that there is sufficient appropriate business space for the supply chain of other firms which support the high technology sector

Where jobs are created

A feature of the Greater Cambridge economy is the range of businesses located at South Cambridgeshire villages, in both small premises and business parks or industrial estates. These complement the businesses based in or on the edge of

Cambridge, or the large business parks in South Cambridgeshire. We will need to consider:

- Where new business space should be sited, in relation to public transport and residential areas, given we have a highly mobile workforce who tend to move jobs much more frequently than they move house.
- Whether and how we should plan for new business space, or flexible co-working space, in neighbourhoods or villages, thereby reducing the need to travel, and supporting our net zero carbon aspirations.

Question

20. How should we balance supporting our knowledge-intensive sectors, with creating a wide range of different jobs?

Please add any comments and ideas

Question

21. In providing for a range of employment space, are there particular types and locations we should be focusing on?

Please add any comments and ideas

How our city, town and village centres evolve and adapt

Cambridge city centre, as well as district, local and village centres, provide important services and a large amount of retail space.

Retail is changing with the growth of internet shopping, and centres need to adapt if they are to remain vibrant destinations. The Local Plan will need to consider:

- How our town centres adapt to the change in retail and the growth of online shopping
- What other uses, such as leisure, culture, workspace or homes, should be encouraged in our centres
- If and where shops should continue to be protected from competing uses unless it is shown to be no longer viable.
- How to improve the public realm in centres to allow a variety of local activities.
- Ensuring well located, suitable community facilities available to meet the day-to-day needs of residents and visitors. These already make an important contribution to the vibrant and diverse character of Cambridge and its charm as a place to inhabit and visit. It is therefore essential that these facilities be given careful consideration with regard to any related development proposals that may affect their provision. Similarly, it is important that residents of new

urban extensions/towns and other rural villages/centres also have access to local services and facilities to meet their day-to-day needs.

Question

22. How flexible should we be about the types of uses we allow in our city, town and district centres?

- Very flexible
- Flexible
- Neither flexible nor inflexible
- Inflexible
- Very inflexible

Please add any comments and ideas

Managing the visitor economy

Cambridge is a major tourism location, which brings both opportunities and challenges. In recent years, several new hotels have been built in the area with more proposed in Cambridge's city centre. These developments will support the continued vitality of the city centre, encourage place making investment and local job creation. However, it is important that Greater Cambridge is able to secure and spread the economic benefits of the tourist sector in a sustainable manner.

The Local Plan will need to consider:

- Where new visitor accommodation should be allowed, not just in the city centre but in urban and rural locations, including residential areas.
- How we support business diversification while also recognising potential impacts on residents and other businesses as well as the historic environment.

Question

23. What approach should the next plan take to supporting or managing tourist accommodation in Cambridge and rural area?

Please add any comments and ideas

3.6 Homes

Figure 15 Infographic – Homes

Types of figures to include in infographic:

- Number of Homes in Greater Cambridge: 117,000
- Average house prices (£541,514 Cambridge, £441,539 South Cambs).
- Lower quartile price to income ratio 14.3 (for Cambridge City) 10.8 (for South Cambridgeshire)
- Median monthly cost to rent a 2 bed house £1190 Cambridge, £893 South Cambs

Housing is one of the most important issues in planning. The next Local Plan will need to identify the number of new homes we should be planning for over the plan timeframe, and where they should be built.

Updates to national planning policy have introduced a new way of calculating the minimum number of homes needed, referred to as the standard method. The method takes account of population growth and affordability issues. We need to plan for at least this minimum figure in the Local Plan.

The standard method of calculating housing requirements set out in National guidance does not attempt to predict changing economic circumstances or other factors, and says that there will be circumstances where it is appropriate to consider higher figures. Our early estimates are that we would need more homes than the standard method minimum, in order to support Greater Cambridge's forecast continued economic growth, and help achieve the goal of doubling the total economic output of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area that formed part of the devolution deal (see Jobs Theme).

Question

24. How important to you is creating new homes, as a priority for the Local Plan?

- Top priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

Question

25. Do you agree that we should deliver a higher housing number than the minimum required by government, to support the growing economy?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please add any comments and ideas

3.6.1 What do we have to do?

The next Local Plan will need to identify the number of new homes we should be planning for, and where they should be built. It will also need to identify the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community, and plan for how those needs can be met. Our adopted Local Plans include a commitment to an early review of those plans to update the assessment of housing needs, consider progress of delivering planned developments including new settlements, and consider the needs of caravan dwellers and government changes to the approach to planning for Gypsies and Travellers.

Updates to national planning policy have introduced a new way of calculating the minimum number of homes needed, referred to as the standard method. The method takes account of population growth and affordability issues. We will need to consider how we apply this when developing targets in our next Local Plan. National guidance acknowledges that the minimum does not account for changing economic circumstances or other factors, and says that higher figures can be considered.

To promote the development of a good mix of sites and to help speed up delivery, national planning policy requires the Local Plan to accommodate at least 10% of the new homes required, on small sites no larger than one hectare. We will need to identify land to meet this requirement.

Another recent change is that national planning policy requires that Local Plans should also set out a housing requirement for designated neighbourhood areas to plan for, when they are preparing their Neighbourhood Plans. This figure would need to reflect the overall strategy for the pattern and scale of development in the next Local Plan.

3.6.2 What are we already doing?

The adopted Local Plans identify land to meet the target of 33,500 homes between 2011 and 2031 (1,675 per year).

Our current forecasts estimate that 36,400 homes will be built between 2017 and 2040 on sites that already have permission or are allocated in the adopted Local Plans. A further 9,660 homes on these sites may be built after 2040 but there are no policy constraints on them being built earlier if developers wish to do so.

There is therefore a significant amount of development already identified which will contribute to meeting future housing need for the next Local Plan. Many of these homes are on major sites on the edge of Cambridge like Darwin Green and North West Cambridge, and at new settlements like Northstowe, and the new town north of Waterbeach.

The Councils have also adopted a joint Housing Strategy ([Homes for our future Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019 – 2023](#)). This sets the context as to how both Councils aim to meet the housing challenges facing the area, setting out key priorities for action.

3.6.3 What are the key issues?

The need for new homes

The next Local Plan will need to establish the number of homes required in the area. Our current calculations using the Government's 'standard method' indicate a minimum need for 1,779 homes per year, or 40,917 homes for the 23-year period of 2017-2040 for Greater Cambridge – but these numbers will be updated as further data becomes available. If we fail to meet the targets set by the 'standard method', planning applications may have to be approved on sites that are not allocated for housing in the Local Plan.

However, the Councils signed up to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution deal when the Combined Authority was created, which includes the goal of doubling the total economic output of the area over 25 years (measured as Gross Value Added – GVA – which is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy). This target has implications for future jobs and homes growth in our area.

As set out in the Jobs theme, the CPIER showed that recent jobs growth in the Greater Cambridge economy has been faster than anticipated, and that growth is likely to continue. Demand for new housing in this area has been exceptionally high, and housebuilding has not kept up. Looking at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole, the CPIER concluded that roughly speaking, 6,000 – 8,000 homes per year over the next 20 years may be needed. This compares with the current figure of 4,670 homes per year set out in existing Local Plans.

Whilst there is considerably more work to do on this, a rough indicative calculation based on CPIER, and using the current proportions of development in each district across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, indicates that Greater Cambridge would need to build in the order of 2,900 homes a year over the suggested plan period of 2017-2040 – an indicative total of 66,700 homes. This compares with the current

annual figure in the adopted plans of 1,675 homes per year and 1,779 homes per year using the Government's standard method. We are commissioning more research into the amount of homes and jobs we should be planning for in Greater Cambridge, but the indications are therefore that to support continued economic growth, a level of housing provision above that under the standard method, would be required.

Our current forecasts estimate that 36,400 homes will be built between 2017 and 2040 on sites that already have permission or are allocated in the adopted Local Plans. Against the rough indicative calculation above, this would indicate that we could need to identify sites for around an additional 30,000 homes, subject to the further research referred to above and a decision on the jobs growth to be planned for. Our current forecasts do not include North East Cambridge, or Cambridge Airport which is safeguarded land for development in the adopted Local Plans, and both of these have the potential to deliver a significant number of new homes.

Figure 16 Housing Needs - a Summary

Affordable homes

Greater Cambridge is an expensive place to buy or rent a home. High prices are fuelled by high demand, which itself is fuelled by the strength of the local economy which attracts highly skilled workers. Whilst the Councils can and do build new council homes, most new affordable homes will come from private developments. The Local Plan must:

- Continue to ensure that new developments do include appropriate levels of affordable housing.
- Plan for a balance of tenure types - affordable rented, shared ownership and community-led housing,

Diverse housing for diverse communities

We need to provide market and affordable homes that meet the varied needs of our communities, from students to the elderly, and ensure that those who need specialist housing, or are vulnerable, can find a home that is right for them.

- With people living longer, we need more homes that are flexible in terms of their accessibility and adaptability as we age, as well as specialist housing for older people. Providing suitable homes in the right locations for those looking to downsize will also enable family homes to be freed up, making best use of the housing that exists already.
- We must plan for the needs of people with disabilities as well as specialist housing, through setting the right standards of provision. This will need to be considered within the context of broader social care and health priorities.
- We will need to consider whether growth over the period covered by the next local plan of the universities and other higher education institutions in

Cambridge could create a need for additional student accommodation, so that students do not increase the demand for local housing.

- Cambridge's Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) play an important role, providing a range of shared accommodation. However, it is acknowledged that HMOs can reduce the number of family homes available, and can have a negative impact on the character of an area and contribute to local parking problems if there is an overconcentration. We will need to consider how the Local Plan can address the need for shared accommodation, through planning for of specifically designed HMOs as part of inclusive communities.
- Custom and self-build housing is housing built or commissioned by individuals (or groups of individuals) for their own use. This can help local residents develop their own lower cost market housing, support the local economy by providing work for local builders and tradesmen, increase the diversity of housing supply and facilitate innovative housing design.
- We will need to consider how the local plan can help deliver sites for self-build. Not everyone wants to own their own home. We need to consider how 'Build to Rent' homes should form part of our housing mix. Homes in such developments are typically 100% rented, and are professionally managed by a single management company. They will usually offer longer tenancy agreements of three years or more, so they can offer a better quality and more stable alternative to other privately rented housing.
- South Cambridgeshire is also exploring whether businesses should be helped to provide homes for their workers and whether there are specific requirements to provide essential local worker accommodation as part of the overall mix of housing.

The needs of Gypsies and Travellers and caravan dwellers

Greater Cambridge has a large Gypsy and Traveller community. Under the Housing & Planning Act 2016, local authorities have a duty to assess the housing needs of both those residing in caravans and on inland waterways where houseboats can be moored.

A key priority for South Cambridgeshire District Council is to identify new sites to accommodate those that wish to live in a caravan. Although a recent assessment did not identify any need for Gypsy & Traveller sites for those meeting the planning definition (in essence those who have a nomadic habit of life), it did show a need to provide sites for those residing in caravans who no longer travel, as well as pitches to accommodate Travelling Showpeople.

In terms of houseboat dwellers, there is currently space for around seventy residential boats plus some additional space for visitors, on the river Cam. The adopted Local Plans identify a site to the north of the City that has been allocated for off-river residential moorings.

Housing quality

We need to create high quality homes which are safe, secure and long-lasting. In the adopted Local Plans the Councils applied the National Space Standards, which set minimum room sizes to ensure homes are fit for purpose. For the new Local Plan we need to consider:

- Whether the minimum space standards in national regulations remain appropriate
- Whether we should have specific standards for energy efficiency, accessibility and adaptability, to reflect our local needs and how this might affect affordability
- How housing design impacts on health and wellbeing – this is covered further in the Promoting Wellbeing and Equality theme
- How housing design responds to the increasing trend for working from home, and other changing lifestyle demands
- How new homes should contribute to lowering our energy use, and adapt to our changing climate. This is covered in more detail in the Climate Change theme.

Question

26. Do you agree that we have identified the relevant issues relating to meeting the housing needs of all parts of the community?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please add any comments and ideas

Supporting villages

Creating homes in well-connected and vibrant areas is important for both young and old. It reduces reliance on cars and increases access to facilities that enhances an active lifestyle. Our villages are wonderful places to live, and providing homes here can support the continued vitality of our rural communities.

The population of many of the villages in South Cambridgeshire is aging. Many villages also struggle to support the range of services and facilities that residents would wish to see.

Early Local Plan community workshops in summer and autumn 2019 suggested that an important issue is to decide how flexible the plan should be in supporting growth of jobs, homes and services in villages, as part of supporting their economic and social sustainability.

The adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan categorises our villages into different types, sets a framework (boundary) for each village, and sets the size of housing development that would be permitted in each type of village. This limits how many homes can be built on a single development within the village boundary, for example on a brownfield site that becomes available. The plan does allow for rural exception sites, adjacent to village frameworks, where there is evidence of local need for affordable housing, as an exception to normal policy

In 'Rural Centres' like Sawston there is no limit on how many homes can be built on a single site, whereas in an 'Infill Only' village like Knapwell, the adopted Local Plan allows only two new houses per site, if it has an existing frontage (or slightly more for a brownfield site). These restrictions are intended to restrict growth in the smallest villages, where transport alternatives to the car often limited, and where there is a need to travel for basic services like schools. Outside the village framework (boundary), development is heavily restricted – this is intended to protect the countryside from gradual encroachment, and guard against incremental growth in less sustainable locations.

The next Local Plan could re-examine the approach to village growth, being more flexible to the scale of development within the village framework, and/or allowing a more flexible approach to development on the edge of villages. It could also continue to restrict growth of the more remote villages, in order to focus growth in the most sustainable locations.

Question

27. How flexible should the Local Plan be, towards development of both jobs and homes on the edge of villages?

- Highly flexible
- Somewhat flexible
- Keep the current approach
- Restrict further

Please add any comments and ideas

Question

28. Do you think the Local Plan should be more flexible about the size of developments allowed within village boundaries (frameworks), allowing more homes on sites that become available?

- Highly flexible
- Somewhat flexible
- Keep the current approach

- Restrict further

Please add any comments and ideas

3.7 Infrastructure

Figure 17 Infographic – Infrastructure

Types of figures to include in infographic:

- Around 206,000 vehicles travel in and out of Cambridge every day, with 50,000 workers travelling in alone (Cambridge Clean Air Zone feasibility study).
- Around 50% of vehicle trips in the City are within Cambridge and only 10% are through trips.
- On the average day recorded an ANPR survey in 2017, 35% of vehicles in Cambridge were petrol, 47% diesel and <1% electric/hybrid.
- 32% of Journeys to work in Cambridge made by Bike (LTP). South Cambridgeshire has more journeys to work are undertaken by cycle than in any other rural district in the country (7.6%) census)
- Of people who work in Cambridge, 40% live in Cambridge, 28% live in South Cambs (census)
- In South Cambridgeshire only 22% of residents are within 30 minutes of walking or public transport access of a town centre (Draft LTP)
- Greater Cambridge Partnership has committed to achieving a 24% reduction in traffic by 2031 in Cambridge
- Number of new schools delivered in Greater Cambridge in last 10 years, and the number of new schools currently planned TBC

New growth needs new infrastructure, and the next Local Plan needs to show how planned housing and jobs will be accompanied by the services and facilities to support them sustainably. This includes schools and health facilities, but also utilities networks like water and power, and increasingly important telecommunications such as broadband.

Infrastructure timing is important. Our early workshops have told us that having infrastructure available when it is needed to serve new developments is a key community concern. We also need to consider opportunities for growth to improve existing areas, and provide access to new services and facilities for existing residents.

Growth creates both challenges and opportunities for transport. We need to reduce the number of cars on the road and support more sustainable transport if we are to achieve the net zero carbon challenge. There are already significant new transport improvements being brought forward by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership, alongside nationally-led schemes like East West Rail. We will need to consider the opportunities these provide as we are preparing the next Local Plan.

Question

29. How important to you is infrastructure provision, for example transport services, schools and health, as a priority for the Local Plan?

- Top priority
- High Priority
- Medium Priority
- Low Priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

Question

30. How important do you think potential for public transport, walking and cycling access should be when locating and designing new development?

- Top priority
- High Priority
- Medium Priority
- Low Priority
- Not a priority

Please add any comments and ideas

3.7.1 What do we have to do?

Growth and development in the area places demands on services and infrastructure. National planning policy requires that Local Plans make sufficient provision for infrastructure within developments, particularly on large sites, or funding for provision off-site, including contributions from developers. This includes the infrastructure required for transport, and measures to support sustainable forms of travel like cycling, walking and public transport, as well as other services such as schools and health care facilities and utilities essential to support growth, including electricity, water supply and sewerage. Critically, national policy requires Local Plans to show that they are deliverable, which for infrastructure means identifying what infrastructure is needed, when it is needed by, how much it will cost, and how that cost will be met.

3.7.2 What are we already doing?

Transport was a big influence on the adopted Local Plans. The shared development strategy focused growth in areas where transport by sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and public transport was available or could be improved.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership are developing a number of transport schemes designed to improve active travel in the area, including links between Cambridge and the new settlements at Cambourne, Bourn Airfield and north of Waterbeach. Funding of up to £500million has been secured through the City Deal, which will be combined with other sources of funding, including from developers.

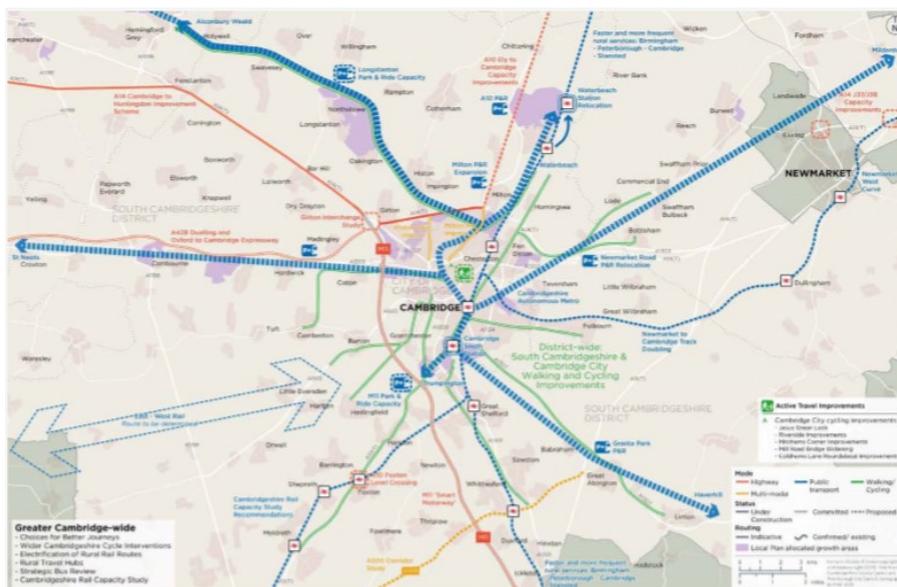
As the Local Transport Authority, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have just finished consulting on a [draft Local Transport Plan](#). The plan has objectives to achieve a ‘world-class transport network’ which meets the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors and deliver sustainable growth.

The Combined Authority is developing plans for a Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM). This would build on the work of the Greater Cambridge Partnership by linking destinations in Cambridge, such as the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, City Centre and North East Cambridge, to each other and key corridors out from the city, including to St Ives, Cambourne, Waterbeach, Trumpington, Haverhill and Mildenhall.

Major improvements are also planned to the rail network, including a new station in the south of Cambridge near to Addenbrookes. Government-led plans for a new rail line linking Oxford to Cambridge⁸ include a station at either Bassingbourn or Cambourne. The choice of route, expected soon, could significantly influence future growth patterns in Greater Cambridge; the rail line itself will have major environmental implications for South Cambridgeshire’s communities; in particular the Council is lobbying the East West Rail Company for the project to achieve biodiversity and wider environmental net gain. The Councils are also involved in a project to improve rail services between Cambridge and the east.

Figure 18 Map of Planned Major Transport Projects in Greater Cambridge (source: Draft Local Transport Plan 2019)

⁸ <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/the-project>



3.7.3 What are the key issues?

Securing new infrastructure to accompany growth

The next Local Plan will be supported by an infrastructure plan which will need to consider issues including:

- What upgrades are needed to our electricity infrastructure - Work carried out to assess electricity grid capacity for Greater Cambridge has highlighted the need to treble capacity to support the current growth agenda and electrification of transport. Further reinforcement will also be required to achieve the net zero carbon challenge. We need to consider ways in which the planning system can help support both traditional grid reinforcement as well as the development of smart energy grids
- How our water and waste water infrastructure is developed to meet the needs of new development, and to increase efficiency to ensure we are resilient to our changing climate.
- Service needs, such as whether any new schools are needed.
- How our digital infrastructure will develop to meet demand. The [Connecting Cambridgeshire](#) programme is improving the county's digital infrastructure: superfast broadband rollout has already reached over 97% of homes and businesses, and is aiming for over 99% coverage countywide in the next two years. Programmes are now being extended to include full fibre networks and improve mobile coverage. Our Local Plan will need to consider how new development can benefit from this infrastructure.

Identifying land for minerals and waste, including recycling centres, is identified in a separate Minerals & Waste Plan produced by Cambridgeshire County Council. Linked to this, the Councils are partners to the RECAP Waste Management Design

Guide⁹ which sets out how new development should be designed to support effective waste management.

Reducing the need to travel and increasing access to sustainable transport options

The Local Plan will need to consider how new development encourages a shift towards decreasing car use and increased use of sustainable transport. The way we move around is likely to significantly change over the plan period and our communities will need to be able to adapt to this.

This will involve:

- Considering opportunities provided by existing or planned transport improvements (such as public transport stops) when determining where future growth should take place.
- Assessing how potential development sites could provide new opportunities for transport infrastructure improvements.
- Designing new development so that active ways of getting around like walking and cycling are supported, and there are real public transport alternatives to using the car.
- How we can make the delivery of packages and goods more sustainable, such as by supporting the development of local delivery hubs.
- Making the most of the opportunities provided by new technology. The Greater Cambridge Partnership and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority are investing in a '[Smart Cambridge](#)' programme. This is exploring how data, emerging technology and digital connectivity can be used to transform the way people live, work and travel in the Greater Cambridge area and beyond.

Question

31. What do you think the priorities are for new infrastructure?

Please add any comments and ideas

⁹ <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/planning-policy/recap-waste-management-design-guide/>

4. Where should we Plan for Growth?

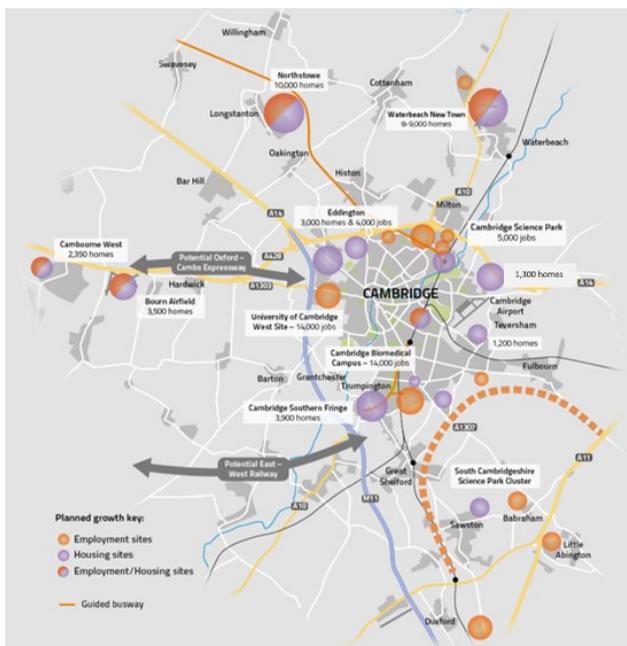
As well as planning for the right amount of growth, it is important to make sure the Local Plan provides the right strategy for where this growth should happen that will bring environmental, economic and social benefits.

4.1 Our Current Spatial Approach

Previous plans for the Greater Cambridge area have adopted a development sequence which prioritised development firstly within Cambridge, then on the edge of Cambridge (subject to consideration of the Green Belt), at new settlements close to Cambridge, and at better served villages.

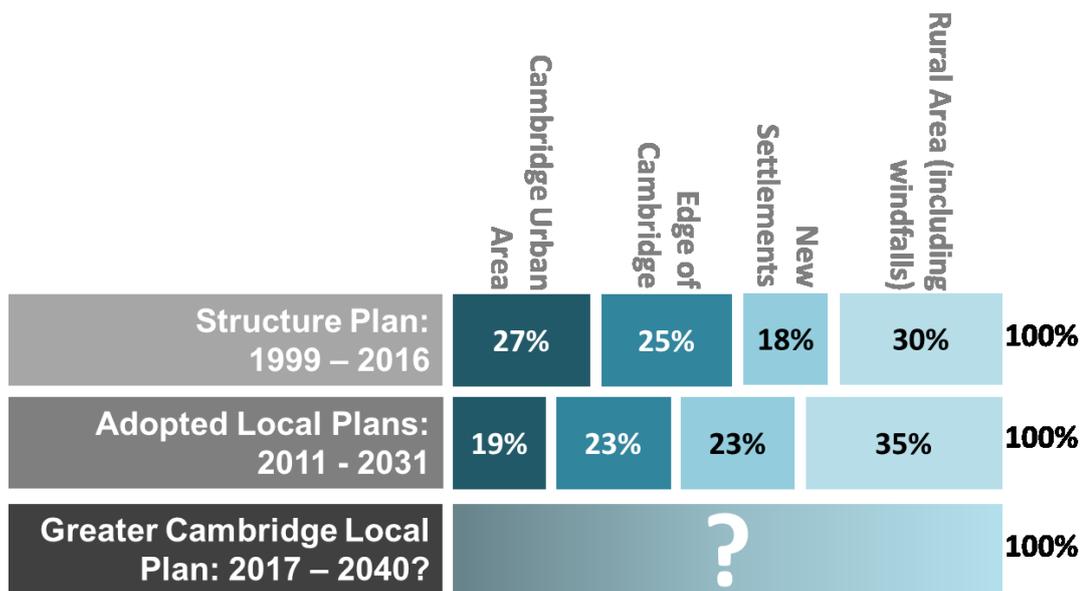
Sites in the adopted Local Plans provide for a significant amount of the future housing and employment needs in Greater Cambridge, both during the current plan period of 2031, but also beyond, as new settlements in particular will continue to be built out over a much longer period. In planning for future growth, we will be adding to the current development strategy.

Figure 19 Existing planned growth in the adopted Local Plans



The diagram below shows the proportions of housing growth in different types of location that were chosen in previous strategies. It is likely that the most suitable spatial strategy for the next Local Plan will again involve a balance of elements to provide the most sustainable and achievable strategy. At this early stage in plan making, we would like to hear your views on what the balance should be.

Figure 20 Impact of Previous and Current Development Strategies



4.2 Significant influences on the spatial choices

There are a number of existing known factors that are likely to be important as we consider future development options.

4.2.1 Key sites already identified

A key site that will feed into the new development strategy is North East Cambridge, where an Area Action Plan is in preparation and will identify potential for significant levels of jobs and homes. While this site is allocated in the current adopted local plans, neither plan includes any numbers from this site so it will all be additional supply for the next Local Plan.

Also significant is Cambridge Airport. Previous plans had allocated the Airport and other land to the north and south for a major new urban quarter for Cambridge of 10-12,000 new homes and a strategic scale of jobs. Marshall advised during preparation of the adopted Local Plans that it had not secured an alternative site and the land would not be available until at least 2031. The adopted Local Plans therefore safeguard the land for development in the event that it becomes available, recognising that it is in a very sustainable location on the edge of Cambridge and has already been identified as suitable for development and is no longer in the Green Belt. In May 2019, Marshall announced that it intends to relocate and has identified three possible options, one of which is in Greater Cambridge at the IWM site at Duxford. The deliverability of the site will be a factor in considering whether to allocate it in the draft Local Plan.

4.2.2 New Transport Infrastructure

Committed infrastructure proposals being progressed by Greater Cambridge Partnership will provide significant transport capacity to support the delivery of committed development.

The Combined Authority's Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) scheme described above, could enable efficient and low impact travel into and around Cambridge, easing congestion issues in the area and also enabling further growth close to stations. This project is at a relatively early stage of its development and will be progressing as the next Local Plan is prepared. How it should be taken into account in the Plan will depend on the progress it makes during the period of Plan preparation.

The East West Rail project between Oxford and Cambridge described above also has implications for significant growth wherever a station was located within South Cambridgeshire. As with the CAM scheme there is currently uncertainty as to the timing of this project, and progress during the period of Plan preparation will affect how it should be taken into account.

4.2.3 Small Sites

National planning policy requires the Local Plan to promote a good mix of sizes of sites for housing. It requires us to identify small sites, no larger than one hectare, to accommodate at least 10% of the housing requirement.

4.3 Where growth might go

There are many different places that we could choose to focus growth:

- Densification of Cambridge
- Edge of Cambridge
- Dispersal: New Settlements
- Dispersal: Villages
- Along transport corridors

There is more detail in this section about these different options, and their advantages and disadvantages.

These deliberately conceptual options have been identified drawing on the previous development strategy options, alongside considering the spatial options set out in the CPIER and other approaches nationally. They cover a broad range of spatial choices, although the chosen strategy for the Local Plan may involve growth in a number of these locations.

Choices in the proportions of growth in different locations will be influenced by the prioritisation of the big themes in this consultation, such as:

- Responding to climate change – our net zero carbon target suggests that we should site development in places which can reduce the need to travel by private car.
- Increasing biodiversity and green spaces – this could be through large scale new development that could provide opportunities to support the creation of accompanying large scale green space or contributions from smaller sites towards provision of new areas of green space.
- Promoting Wellbeing and Equality – opportunities to locate new development where it can bring wider benefits to existing communities in terms of access to services, facilities and green space. Development could also support access to a range of employment opportunities to both existing and new communities.
- Delivering quality places – supporting development where it provides opportunities to protect, enhance and improve places and deliver high quality design.
- Jobs – The success of the high-tech jobs cluster in and around Cambridge is based in part upon businesses in key sectors being allowed to locate where there is good access to each other and to Cambridge so that businesses can work together. Equally, allowing some jobs growth in villages can help sustain local services and sustain vibrant communities.
- Homes – the distance and journey time between homes and jobs, and encouraging residents to use sustainable transport to get to work.
- Infrastructure – access to existing and planned public transport, walking and cycling, would enable people to get to live their lives in a way that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

The Councils are required to consider the implications of the choices open to us and how they impact sustainability for the area. The [LINK] Sustainability Appraisal considers each of these options in further detail.

Question

32. Where should we focus future growth? Rank the options below 1-5 (1 – Most Preferred 5 – Least Preferred)

- Densification
- Edge of Cambridge
- Dispersal: New Settlements
- Dispersal: Villages
- Transport Corridors

Please add any comments and ideas



4.3.1 Densification

Illustration of Spatial Choice



This approach would focus new homes and jobs within Cambridge, because it is the main urban area and centre for services and facilities, and could also look to increase provision in planned new settlements. This would be done by encouraging intensive use of brownfield land, building taller buildings, building on existing residential back gardens or in-between existing buildings, or redeveloping underused sites at higher densities.

Advantages

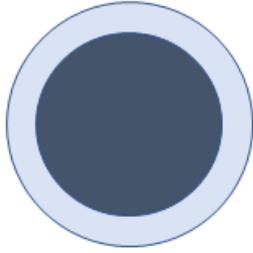
- Reduces the need to use greenfield land to accommodate growth.
- Living in central, well-connected and vibrant areas is important for many young professionals
- Delivers growth near to existing centres, which can continue to support their vitality and viability.

Challenges

- Needs to respond to the character of Cambridge, and protect its historic environment and green spaces, and therefore not suitable in all areas.
- Land assembly can be challenging with multiple landowners often involved.

4.3.2 Edge of Cambridge

Illustration of Spatial Choice



This approach would create new homes and jobs in extensions on the edge of Cambridge.

Advantages

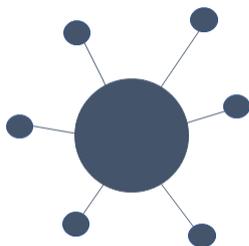
- benefits from the services and infrastructure at the existing centre, maximising the potential for sustainable transport.
- large scale urban extensions present the opportunity for new on-site infrastructure, such as schools, local centres and green spaces that can bring benefits to the existing and new community

Challenges

Requires the use of greenfield land on the edge of urban areas, which around Cambridge would require the release of Green Belt land, which would be subject to national policy requirement that alternatives have been fully explored.

4.3.3 Dispersal: new settlements

Illustration of Spatial Choice



New settlements would provide a whole new community in a new location, and would need to be supported by strategic transport infrastructure connecting to Cambridge.

Advantages

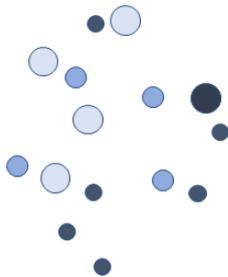
- Provides an opportunity for significant new infrastructure to be delivered
- Provides an opportunity for substantial growth in a new location connected to the transport network

Challenges

- Potential major impact on the landscape and loss of agricultural land
- Potential to avoid removing land from the Green Belt as part of responding to national policy requirement that alternatives have been fully explored before Green Belt release considered.
- Can take longer to deliver housing due to starting from scratch.

4.3.4 Dispersal: Villages

Illustration of Spatial Choice



This approach would spread new homes and jobs out to the villages.

Advantages

- Can help with the continued viability of existing facilities and infrastructure in the village
- Can help provide for a diversity of population in the village

Challenges

- Can result in increased commuting by car particularly if the village is away from main transport corridors
- Small sites are unlikely to generate infrastructure needs alone, so are unlikely to significantly contribute to improvements to infrastructure
- Potential impact on village character needs to be considered

4.3.5 Public Transport Corridors

Illustration of Spatial Choice



This approach would focus homes and jobs along key public transport corridors and around transport hubs, extending out from Cambridge. This could be by expanding or intensifying existing settlements, or with more new settlements.

Advantages

- Concentrates development on transport corridors where there are opportunities for high quality public transport.
- Supports expansion of economic benefits outwards from Cambridge

Challenges

Requires the use of land along transport corridors, including locations within the Green Belt. This approach has implications for fundamentally changing the nature of the Cambridge Green Belt

4.3.6 Green Belt

Decisions about the Green Belt impact on all spatial choices. The Green Belt covers around 25% of South Cambridgeshire. It adjoins the built edge of Cambridge and surrounds villages sitting within the Green Belt, including several of the largest villages. The Green Belt plays an important role in maintaining the special qualities of Cambridge and the surrounding area. However, it also restricts growth in closest proximity to Cambridge.

Previous plans released land from the Green Belt where it was possible to develop whilst avoiding significant harm to the purpose of the Green Belt, such as at Darwin Green, and on the southern edges of Cambridge. The evidence supporting the adopted Local Plans identified that further Green Belt releases would result in significant harm to the purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt.

National Planning Policy requires plans to consider the impact on sustainable development of channelling growth outside the Green Belt, but recent changes also set strict requirements if land is to be removed from the Green Belt, including that alternatives have been fully explored.

Figure 21 Map of the Cambridge Green Belt

Question

33. Should we look to remove land from the Green Belt if evidence shows it provides a more sustainable development option by reducing travel distances, helping us respond to climate change?

- Yes
- No

Please add any comments and ideas

4.4 How will we develop the spatial plan

The choices set out at this stage explore the high-level principles. In the coming months we will gather further evidence to inform the full consideration of choices, and take account of the feedback you offer us at this stage, to help us develop a preferred strategy which we will share with you for more feedback, at the draft plan stage. This will include:

1. Confirming how many homes and jobs we need to plan for
2. Assessing the sites available to deliver the spatial choices: we will produce a Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment to explore the options for development in Greater Cambridge, including drawing on the results of the Call for Sites in Spring 2019.
3. Creating more detailed spatial options that reflect different approaches to balancing growth across the different areas described above.
4. Testing the transport and other impacts of those spatial options.

Appendix 1 Full list of consultation questions

34. Do you agree with the strategic-cross boundary issues we have identified as being particularly important?
35. Do you agree that planning to 2040 is an appropriate date in the future to plan for? If not, what would be a more appropriate date?
36. Do you have any views on specific policies in the two adopted plans? If so, what are they?
37. How do you think we should involve our communities and stakeholders in developing the Plan?
38. Please submit any sites for employment and housing you wish to suggest for allocation in the Local Plan
39. Please submit any sites for wildlife habitats and green space you wish to suggest for consideration through the Local Plan
40. Do you agree with the potential big themes for the Local Plan?
41. How important do you think climate change is, as a priority for the next Local Plan?
42. How do you think we should be reducing our impact on the climate? Have we missed any key actions?
43. Are there any other things we should be doing to adapt to climate change? We want to hear your ideas!
44. How important do you think biodiversity and green spaces are, as a priority for the next Local Plan?
45. What do you think the Local Plan should do to improve and protect our biodiversity and green spaces?
46. How important do you think promoting wellbeing and equality is, as a priority for the next Local Plan?
47. How can the next Local Plan help support the creation of inclusive communities?
48. How can the Local Plan create places that are healthy, and support the wellbeing of our communities?
49. How important do you think protecting heritage and demanding high quality design is, as a priority for the next Local Plan?
50. How important is protecting our built and natural heritage to you?
51. How important is the quality of design of new developments to you?
52. How important do you think continuing economic growth is, as a priority for the next Local Plan?

53. How should we balance supporting our knowledge-intensive sectors, with creating a wide range of different jobs?
54. In providing for a range of employment space, are there particular types and locations we should be focusing on?
55. How flexible should we be about the types of uses we allow in our city, town and district centres?
56. What approach should the next plan take to supporting or managing tourist accommodation in Cambridge and rural area?
57. How important to you is creating new homes, as a priority for the Local Plan?
58. Do you agree that we should deliver a higher housing number than the minimum required by government, to support the growing economy?
59. Do you agree that we have identified the relevant issues relating to meeting the housing needs of all parts of the community?
60. How flexible should the Local Plan be, towards development of both jobs and homes on the edge of villages?
61. Do you think the Local Plan should be more flexible about the size of developments allowed within village boundaries (frameworks), allowing more homes on sites that become available?
62. How important to you is infrastructure provision, for example transport services, schools and health, as a priority for the Local Plan?
63. How important do you think potential for public transport, walking and cycling access should be when locating and designing new development?
64. What do you think the priorities are for new infrastructure?
65. Where should we focus future growth?
66. Should we look to remove land from the Green Belt if evidence shows it provides a more sustainable development option by reducing travel distances, helping us respond to climate change?

Appendix 2 List of supporting Evidence Documents and Plan Making Documents

Evidence Documents

Document (Author) Year

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Commission) 2018

Homes for our future Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019 – 2023 (Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2019

Draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority) 2019

Plan Making Documents

Document (Author) Year

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Land Use Consultants Ltd (LUC) for Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2019

Sustainability Appraisal of the Issues and Options Report (LUC for Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2019

Greater Cambridge Local Plan Consultation Statement (Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2019

Appendix 3 Glossary

Adopted Local Plans

Sets out the council's vision and strategy for the area over a length of time and provides the basis for decisions on planning applications. Plans can be adopted after they have been through a plan making process involving consultation and examination. The current Local Plans in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire were adopted in 2018.

Affordable housing

Housing for sale or rent for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is essential for local workers). Eligibility is determined using local incomes and local house prices.

Biodiversity

The variety of life in all its forms. This includes the plant and animal species that make up our wildlife and the habitats in which they live.

Business churn

Levels of businesses starting up and businesses ending. A high level of business churn means a lot of businesses start, and a lot of businesses end each year.

Carbon footprinting

This is an exercise that measures the impact of our activities on the environment and climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating, transportation etc.

Climate change adaptation

Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harmful or exploit beneficial opportunities. (Source: NPPF, 2018)

Climate change mitigation

Action to reduce the impact on human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions. (Source, NPPF, 2018)

Combined Authority

A legal body made up of two or more councils that work together to decide and carry out region-wide decisions.

Community Land Trusts

Not-for-profit organisations that own and rent out low cost housing and land for community use.

Greater Cambridge

Both areas of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire together.

Greater Cambridge Partnership

A partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District and the University of Cambridge to support continued growth of the Greater Cambridge area.

Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure is a multi-functional network of public green spaces and routes, landscapes, biodiversity and heritage. It includes a wide range of elements such as country parks, wildlife habitats, rights of way, commons and greens, nature reserves, waterways and bodies of water, and historic landscapes and monuments.

Grow on space

Premises suitable for small growing businesses.

GVA / Gross Value Added

A measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area.

Local Plan

Sets out policies to guide the future development of Greater Cambridge. It also sets out where future development will take place, and identifies land for new housing, community facilities, shops and employment. It is the key document used to determine planning applications for new development in the Greater Cambridge region.

Natural Capital

The stock of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things.

Nature Recovery Network

As set out in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, the Nature Recovery Network is an expanding and increasingly-connected network of wildlife-rich habitat. It comprises a core network of designated sites of importance for biodiversity and adjoining areas that function as stepping stones or wildlife corridors and areas identified for new habitat creation

Neighbourhood Plan

A plan prepared by a Parish Council or neighbourhood forum for a particular neighbourhood area. They must be consistent with the strategic policies in the current suite of Local Plan documents.

Net zero carbon

Net zero carbon means that carbon emissions cannot exceed zero. In practice, a net zero carbon target means that in addition to phasing out fossil fuels and the role of renewable energy and energy reduction measures, there is also a role for balancing a certain measured amount of carbon released with an amount of carbon offsets, through, for example, tree planting or carbon capture and storage.

Oxford-Cambridge Arc

An area covering Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge, identified by the Government as a unique opportunity to become an economic asset of international standing.

Productivity

Being able to produce or provide goods and services.

Shared ownership

Homes in which the occupier owns a share of the property and pays rent on the remainder, typically to a housing association or local authority.

Standard method

A government formula that helps councils to work out how many homes are needed in a given local area.

Start-up

The early stage of a new business.

Sustainable development

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.