



North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

Topic Paper: Community Safety

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

July 2020

North East Cambridge: Community Safety Topic Paper

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Introduction

The aim of this paper is to explore issues of community safety in and around North East Cambridge to inform the Area Action Plan and the broader corporate initiatives of both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. It discusses how to make the new development feel physically safe and socially inclusive while promoting community resilience in the area, and with the neighbouring communities.

Whilst evidence set out in this paper shows that crime levels in Cambridgeshire are generally low, it is important to provide context and discuss the key themes surrounding community safety such as designing out crime, county lines, governance and safeguarding issues so they may be addressed appropriately.

The paper includes the national and local planning policy and sets out Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridge City Council's, and South Cambridgeshire District Council's approach to addressing community safety.

Key Evidence Documents

- National Planning Policy Framework / Guidance
- National Design Guide; Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places (2019) MHCLG
- Building for Life 12 (2015)
- Secured by Design Guidance (2019)
- Cambridge Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Plan 2020-2021
- South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Plan 2019-2021
- Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: Police and Crime Plan 2017-2120 – Community Safety and Criminal Justice
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Mission, Vision and Values
- Think Communities August 2018
- Cambridge Local Plan 2018
- South Cambridge District Council Local Plan 2018
- South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2020
- Cambridge City Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2019

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework¹ (NPPF) discusses several issues relating to community safety and community resilience. Chapter five promotes the need to deliver sufficient supply of homes to support different groups within the community. Paragraph 72 further states that in order to support a sustainable community, new developments should be of appropriate size and location, with access to services and employment opportunities. Chapter 8 highlights the promotion of healthy and safe communities. Paragraph 91 discusses the need for mixed-use developments to create strong neighbourhood centres, high quality public spaces and legible street layouts that promote social interaction and easy pedestrian and cycle access. It emphasises the need for new developments to be ‘places that are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion’.

Paragraph 92 discusses the need to provide social, recreational and cultural facilities and services to support community needs. It promotes the need to plan positively for communities through an integrated approach that considers location of services and community facilities alongside housing and other uses in order to improve social and cultural well-being.

Paragraph 127 establishes the need to create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible. It further emphasises that developments should promote health and well-being where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

Paragraph 128 discusses the importance of design quality and the need to consider the local community needs and involvement in the early stages of emerging development plans. Further, Paragraph 129 highlights the need for implementation of safe, inclusive and accessible new developments through planning policy and decision making.

¹[National Planning Policy Framework: 2019](#)

National Design Guide; Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places (2019)

In 2019, MHCLG published the National Design Guide; Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places. It provides guidance that supports the NPPF requirements to create well designed, high quality buildings and places by identifying 'ten characteristics of a well-designed place' (these are: context; identity; built form; movement; mature; public spaces; uses; homes and buildings; resources; and lifespan). Community safety aspects are all encompassing and can be influenced by many different factors and what follows are the key influences contained in the identified characteristics.

In Community Safety terms, 'context' will mean that development is well integrated into its surroundings and relates well to them. 'Identity' means that development will have a positive and coherent identity that everyone can identify with, including local residents and communities, and so contribute to inclusion and well-being. 'Built form' will be designed to create recognisable streets and spaces whose edges are well defined by buildings to make places that are easy to navigate and promote safety and accessibility. Memorable and active places help to promote inclusion and cohesion. 'Movement' requires clear networks to be established to create safe and accessible streets and spaces that promote activity and positive social interaction. 'Nature' needs to be well integrated into developments that is attractive and easy to access. With the right mix of activities, well-being and social inclusion can be promoted that lead to a sense of ownership. The creation of high quality 'public spaces' is crucial to achieving places that feel safe, secure and attractive for all to use and which promote activity, surveillance and positive social interaction. The right mix of 'uses' will support the function and vitality of a new place. The right mix of uses, in the right locations, need to be well integrated with housing and other facilities that are tenure neutral and socially inclusive. 'Homes & buildings' have a role to play in community safety by being well designed and able to meet the needs of residents now and into the future. Crucially they need to relate positively to private and public spaces and help contribute to social interaction and inclusion. Even 'resources' or the materials used in the design and construction of a development have a role to play in community safety. Materials that are robust and enduring and well detailed, will ensure that buildings and spaces remain attractive

and well maintained and so foster a sense of community ownership. Resources also links to 'lifespan' considerations which links to effective management by all those involved in the upkeep of buildings and spaces.

Building for Life 12 (2015)

Building for Life 12 (BfL12) is a government-endorsed industry standard for helping to achieve well designed homes and neighbourhoods. It poses a series of key questions to be considered and answered to help understand the key components that structure places and to ultimately help to achieve well designed, high quality places.

The way BfL12 works is to use a simple traffic light system to award schemes a score that reflects how well it performs against a series of set questions. However, it can also be used to help structure discussions and evaluate design decisions as schemes are being planned. In the context of the AAP, it is the latter that is considered useful when considering Community Safety aspects.

BfL12 is organised around three themes; 1. Integrating into the neighbourhood; 2. Creating a place; and 3. Street & home.

1. Integrating into the neighbourhood:

Considers how well the new place connects to and into the surrounding neighbourhood.

2. Creating a place:

Considers how buildings and landscape are designed to define streets and spaces.

3. Street & home:

Considers how streets will be low speed, how well parking will be integrated and crucially whether public spaces are clearly defined, well managed and safe.

Secured by Design (2019)

Secured by Design² (SBD) standards also ensure safety of residents on new developments built. Research conservatively estimates the carbon cost of crime within the UK to be in the region of 6,000,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum, roughly equivalent to the total carbon dioxide output of 6 million UK homes. The environmental benefits of SBD are supported by independent academic research consistently proving that SBD housing developments experience up to 87% less burglary, 25% less vehicle crime and 25% less criminal damage. It also has a significant impact on reducing anti-social behaviour. Building to SBD standards ensures homes and surrounding community areas are safe and secure, with good site planning and the careful design of buildings and spaces. As well as being inherently safer, such developments will have a sense of public ownership and meet the need of communities, well managed and feel safer.

In practice this means that Secured by Design status for new housing developments can be achieved through careful design ensuring routes through are well used, effectively lit and overlooked, thereby creating a safe and secure atmosphere. Developers should, at an early stage, seek advice from the Police Designing out Crime Officers at Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters on designing out crime who work extensively at Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) – one of the main enablers being Secured by Design.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)

Community Safety Partnerships (CSP - formerly Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships) were established following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (The Act) to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse.

CSPs are statutory partnerships. There is one covering each district authority area across Cambridgeshire, including one for Cambridge City and another for South Cambridgeshire. Each Local Authority is one of a number of named 'responsible authorities', the others being Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service (CFRS), Cambridgeshire and

² https://www.securedbydesign.com/images/downloads/HOMES_BROCHURE_2019_update_May.pdf

Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (C&P CCG), Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Community Rehabilitation Company (BeNCH CRC Ltd) and the National Probation Service.

In brief, the statutory requirements are:

- set up a strategic group to direct the work of the partnership
- regularly engage and consult with the community about their priorities and progress achieving them
- set up protocols and systems for sharing information
- analyse a wide range of data, including recorded crime levels and patterns, in order to identify priorities in an annual strategic assessment
- set out a partnership plan and monitor progress
- produce a strategy/ies to reduce reoffending and substance misuse
- commission domestic violence homicide reviews

The Police and Crime Commissioner must have regard to the CSP priorities within their police and crime plan. A few topic-based countywide delivery partnerships exist to support the work of the local CSPs in meeting their statutory duties. These were set up with the agreement of local CSPs and cover issues that can be tackled more appropriately on a larger scale (e.g. reoffending, substance misuse).

In addition to the statutory partnerships, responsible authorities are also required, under s.17 of The Act, to consider the implication on crime and disorder of all their day to day activities.

[Cambridge Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Plan \(2020-2021\)](#)

The Community Safety Plan provides priorities from the strategic statement assuring community safety is achieved in Cambridge. These priorities are:

Priorities for 2020-2021 are:

- Safeguarding young people against violence and exploitation
- Listening to community needs and responding together to reduce harm

Domestic Abuse is business as usual supporting countywide work.

South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Plan (2019-2021)

The Community Safety Partnership is responsible for improving community safety, including reducing crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending in South Cambridgeshire. The partnership includes the local authorities, police, fire service, NHS, probation service, community rehabilitation company and the voluntary sector. We work alongside the Police and Crime Commissioner. The two-year priorities of the Community Safety Partnership are designed around three key aims:

- Ensuring we understand our vulnerabilities and supporting vulnerable groups
- Responding to what we learn and developing resilient communities
- Supporting other communities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

The work of the Partnership is detailed in two action plans covering:

- i) business as usual activity to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, including communications and engagement work, and;
- ii) Transformation work to produce toolkits to support local community action.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: Police and Crime Plan 2017-2120: Community Safety and Criminal Justice

The Police and Crime Plan vision is to work together to keep Cambridgeshire safe. A number of strategic themes, aim and shared outcomes are highlighted in the plan:

- Victims – Deliver a victim first approach - Victims and witnesses are placed at the heart of the criminal justice system and have access to clear pathways of support
- Offenders – Reduce re-offending - Offenders are brought to justice and are less likely to reoffend
- Communities – Support safe and stronger communities - Communities have confidence in how we respond to their needs
- Transformation – Ensure value for money for taxpayers now and in the future - We deliver improved outcomes and savings through innovation and collaboration

Drawn from these Strategic Themes some of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Priorities for Actions which are most applicable to the North East Cambridge development and the wider community include:

- use a partnership approach to tackle crimes which are of greatest concern to the public such as violent, drink and drug related crime, burglary and rural crime.
- improve partnership working to ensure resilience of services and effective and efficient action to address long-term causes of offending such as health issues, housing, drug and alcohol misuse, education, employment and training.
- hold the responsible authorities to account for meeting their duties to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.
- Jointly engage with all communities to understand and respond to local concerns.
- ensure the public have easy and effective ways to contact the appropriate service provider to get the information they need.
- Bring together services and systems to respond to community issues in a sustained and co-ordinated way e.g. co-location, aligned activity and information sharing.
- Build relationships with communities to gather information and intelligence to prevent crime: high levels of witnesses, low levels of crime.
- Promote public involvement through active participation and support initiatives aimed at building community understanding and resilience.
- educate and support local people to recognise vulnerable members of their community and know how to help them.

[Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Mission, Operational Priorities and Partnerships](#)

Mission - Cambridgeshire continues to be one of the fastest growing areas with an expected population growth of a further 25 percent by 2031. Despite this, Cambridgeshire remains one of the safest counties in the country due to our focus on safeguarding the most vulnerable, supporting victims of crime and robustly investigating and bringing offenders to justice. We continue to look at new and better ways to deliver a policing service, which includes making the best use of new

technology and working to better understand and manage demand to allow us to respond and adapt to the needs of the public and help keep people safe.

Operational priorities - Although every crime is important to us, we have five operational priorities:

- safeguard the vulnerable, with a focus on: Domestic abuse (repeat victims and offenders), Child sexual abuse and exploitation, Modern slavery and human trafficking, Fraud (repeat victims and emerging trends), Serious sex offences
- combat acquisitive crime, with a focus on targeting those responsible for committing: Burglary, Vehicle crime
- reduce harm to communities, focusing on targeting high harm offenders and locations, in relation to: Youth gangs, Knife crime, Drugs (disrupting county lines and street dealers), Hate crime (repeat offenders)
- tackle serious and organised crime and disrupt their gangs as their impact is felt across a wide range of criminal activity and causes harm to our communities
- increase public satisfaction by responding appropriately and improving communication, focusing on improving public confidence, maintaining call handling times, the timeliness of our initial response, improving communication with victims

Partnerships - The force will improve partnerships with:

- Criminal Justice partners
- Local Resilience Forum partners
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Police alliances
- Academic partners and the College of Policing

Think Communities (2018)

Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough progress is being made in developing the 'Think Communities' (TC) approach³. This approach favours collaboration between

³ <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/community-resilience>

local agencies and communities directly where it makes sense to do so. In some areas, this may lead to the development of 'place based boards'. These boards will bring together a variety of partnership structures pertinent to some areas within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. In other areas a more 'hyper-local' approach is being taken. This means recognising small communities that are often self-defined communities existing within larger geographic areas. This is often driven from within the communities themselves, which have actively chosen to tackle a concern or proactively establish community assets or activities.

The approach has a shared vision, approach and priorities for building Community Resilience across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which is formulated around three key streams;

- People: Resilient communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where people can feel safe, healthy, connected and able to help themselves and each other.
- Places: New and established communities that are integrated, possess a sense of place, and which support the resilience of their residents.
- System: A system wide approach in which partners listen, engage and align with communities and with each other, to deliver public service and support community-led activity.

The pledge: The Think Communities partners will work together to:

- Empower and enable communities to support themselves and encouraging community-led solutions and intervention. (People)
- Work with communities to harness their local capacity targeted towards those in the community requiring the most help. (Places)
- Support active, healthy communities to play a clear and evidenced role in improving people's lives, thereby preventing, reducing or delaying the need for more intrusive and costly public services. (Places)
- Align resources to create multi-agency support which can flexibly meet the changing needs of our communities. (Systems)
- Be prepared to be experimental in our approach, in order to deliver individual local solutions and support ideas that can be replicated. (Systems)

Cambridge Local Plan (2018)

The Cambridge Local Plan⁴ includes objectives aiming to create and maintain inclusive communities and promoting social cohesion through provision of sports, recreation, community and leisure facilities. The Plan also promotes accessible and innovative economic areas whilst ensuring centres and shopping facilities are within reach for people living, working and studying in the city.

Policy 56: Creating successful places promotes 'development that is designed to be attractive, high quality, accessible, inclusive and safe'. This policy highlights the need to ensure that developments provide natural surveillance, create active edges and spaces that are inclusive, useable, safe and enjoyable. Policy 56 also states that 'open space and landscaped areas' are an integral part of developments in order to 'remove the threat or perceived threat of crime and improve community safety'.

Policy 57: Designing new buildings provides guidance relevant to community safety. It states that high quality new buildings will be promoted when they can demonstrate that they are 'convenient, safe and accessible for all users'. This maximises opportunities to ensure the safety and inclusivity of residents on new developments.

Other areas where community safety is relevant include: Policy 68: Open space and recreation provision through new development, Policy 73: Community, sports and leisure facilities, Policy 74: Education facilities, Policy 75: Healthcare facilities and Policy 80: Supporting sustainable access to development.

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018)

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Local Plan⁵ sets out a number of policies relevant to community safety. Policy HQ/1: Design Principles in Chapter 5: 'Delivering High Quality Places' states that developments should have 'user friendly and conveniently accessible streets' that focus on delivering 'safe opportunities for walking, cycling, public transport'. Policy HQ/1 promotes integration of mixed-uses 'that contribute to the creation of inclusive communities providing the facilities and services to meet the needs of the community'. Furthermore, the policy outlines the

⁴[Cambridge Local Plan: 2018](#)

⁵ https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918_sml.pdf

need to 'design-out crime and create environment that is created for people that is and feels safe and has a strong community focus'.

Policy SC/4: 'Meeting Community Needs' highlights the need for housing developments to contribute to community services and facilities on site. It states that 'sites with 200 or more dwellings should provide a range of services including 'primary and secondary schools, meeting places, health facilities, libraries, sports facilities, childcare nurseries, local shops, restaurants, cafes and provision for faith groups. Policy SC/5: 'Community Healthcare Facility Provision' and Policy SC/6: 'Indoor Community Facilities' also support the provision of these facilities in new developments.

Background Context

Crime Data Sources

The Cambridgeshire Research Group routinely receives police recorded crime data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary for analysis and is the primary source of data for this Topic Paper. This data also informs the Community Safety Strategic Assessments for both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire and is used by the Community Safety Partnerships and Councils community safety teams in planning for new developments in the area and reducing crime. The Cambridge Research Group/Cambridgeshire Constabulary data is available at Appendix A.

Cambridge City Community Safety Strategic Assessment (2019)

The strategic assessment⁶ for Cambridge City explores the issues surrounding community safety, presenting priorities and recommendations. In more recent years, the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership has moved to prioritising those things that cause the most harm, have impacted the most vulnerable or pose the highest risk. These complex issues have required some investigation in order to further understand the complex issues, some exploration of options within new legal powers and for creating opportunity for innovative practice. The review of the assessment focused on a number of issues including city centre issues, case management of complex cases including anti-social behaviour through the Problem Solving Group, and Street Community.

Crime and Community Safety key findings for Cambridge City

Cambridge remains a safe place to live relative to other comparative towns and cities of the same size. There was a total of 16,199 recorded crimes in Cambridge for the period May 2019 to April 2020⁷ in the categories of crime relevant to considerations of community safety in a new development. These include, arson and criminal damage, burglary, drug offences, public order offences, theft, vehicle offences and violence against the person.

⁶ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/7774/community-safety-strategic-assessment-2018-19-review.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/7753/north-area-community-development-profile.pdf>

Table 1: Recorded Crimes for Cambridge City (May 2019- April 2020)

Home Office crime types	Cambridge City
Arson and Criminal damage	1523
Burglary	886
Drug Offences	372
Miscellaneous crimes against society	215
Possession of weapons	140
Public order offences	1370
Robbery	165
Sexual Offences	366
Theft	6248
Vehicle offences	1050
Violence against a person	3864

The table provides a breakdown of the data for the higher volumes of crimes in Cambridge. For example, violence against the person can be broken down further with 2,130 of the total incidents being violence and 922 incidents being incidents of violence with injury.

Of the total number of theft incidents in the city, 2,725 were bicycle thefts.

The total number of criminal damage incidents in the city was 1469, and there was 54 were incidents of arson.

Public order offences total 1,370 and cover a number of issues such as ‘public fear, alarm or distress and race and religious aggravated public fear.

[Data for Cambridge City wards](#)

The crime data for Cambridge City is broken down by ward in Table 2. This data shows that the wards closest to North East Cambridge (Abbey, Kings Hedges, East Chesterton, West Chesterton and Arbury) are mostly in the upper half in terms of number of crimes within the city, but the highest is within central Cambridge.

Table 2: Number of crimes in Cambridge City Wards between May 2019 and April 2020

District	Ward	Crime data for May 2019 - April 2020
Cambridge	Market Ward	4370
Cambridge	Petersfield Ward	1596
Cambridge	Trumpington Ward	1524
Cambridge	Abbey Ward	1334
Cambridge	Kings Hedges Ward	1021
Cambridge	East Chesterton Ward	969
Cambridge	West Chesterton Ward	947
Cambridge	Arbury Ward	787
Cambridge	Romsey Ward	763
Cambridge	Queen Ediths Ward	739
Cambridge	Coleridge Ward	728
Cambridge	Cherry Hinton Ward	485
Cambridge	Castle Ward	470
Cambridge	Newnham Ward	403

Anti-social Behaviour in Cambridge City

Making Cambridge safer and more inclusive is part of the City Council's vision. Responding to anti-social behaviour, racial harassment and hate crime is therefore a key issue for the City Council and its partners in the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership.

It is recognised through the work of the Community Safety Team and the Neighbourhood Policing Team and other partners that the impact of anti-social behaviour on a community can be significant. In the three months period March 2020 to May 2020, the Council received 161 reports of anti-social behaviour covering issues from neighbour nuisance, noise, vandalism, drug dealing and use, victimisation and harassment.

Drug dealing and drug use connected to County Lines activity (a drug dealing approach which exploits young and other vulnerable people to deal and deliver drugs using mobile phone lines) is an increasingly emerging issue across the city. In cities like Cambridge, and specifically areas like North East Cambridge, where there are good rail and bus networks to other major cities, localised hotspots of crime and drug

distribution close to the station can arise and should be considered and addressed at an early stage.

Learning from previous developments in Cambridge

There have been some major developments in and on the fringes of Cambridge from which many lessons on planning for community safety issues have been learned and could be incorporated into the new development, for example developments in Trumpington and CB1.

South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment (2020)

The strategic assessment⁸ of community safety issues for South Cambridgeshire was commissioned by the South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in order to examine issues in the district and make recommendations to the board for the following year's priorities. The aim of this strategic assessment is to support the South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (SCCSP) in understanding local community safety issues and to develop priorities that will help to guide Partnership activity through 2019/20. These priorities are guided by local issues and needs; however, the Partnership should also continue to work to support broader priorities across the County. The recommendations are broken down into two categories; ways of working and priorities. This allows the partners to understand the impact of their joined-up working, and how to adapt their way of working to extend current practice and enhance the 'Think Communities' approach.

Crime and Community Safety key findings for South Cambridgeshire

South Cambridgeshire remains an area of low crime, this is within the context of national stability in overall crime and continued growth for the district in terms of housing and population. This makes working in a place-based way a more effective approach. Whilst total police recorded crime has increased slightly, the rate remains fairly constant (2% increase from last year). However, this masks the changes that have been taking place in individual crime types and does not highlight where some groups of people are more vulnerable to crime.

⁸ <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/communitysafety/community-safety-partnerships/south-cambridgeshire/>

Table 3: Recorded Crimes for South Cambridgeshire (May 2019- April 2020)

Home Office crime types	South Cambridgeshire
Arson and Criminal damage	1107
Burglary	1132
Drug Offences	185
Miscellaneous crimes against society	145
Possession of weapons	50
Public order offences	549
Robbery	29
Sexual Offences	205
Theft	1554
Vehicle offences	846
Violence against a person	2247

Locally, the data shows a mixed picture with both increases in subgroups of police recorded crime and decreases in others. Given the low numbers for the district, caution must be taken when interpreting these changes.

Increases are noted in:

- Stalking and Harassment
- Residential burglary
- Violence against the person

Decreases are noted in:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Total vehicle crime
- Total fires

Detailed Analysis of Crime Type

Within Cambridgeshire work has been ongoing looking at responding to the serious violence strategy and tackling County Lines.

A key theme has been about designing and delivering a clear, consistent message across the County particularly in the work developed for delivery into schools through the Healthy Schools programme of work.

Police recorded vehicle crime in South Cambridgeshire is predominantly theft from a vehicle. However, the subcategory of vehicle taking has increased in volume by 20.5% since the year ending November 2017.

Residential burglary appears to be the main subcategory of burglary offences for South Cambridgeshire since the recent recording rules were applied to this crime type. The rate of residential burglaries per household in South Cambridgeshire stands at 11.2 per 1,000 households in the year ending November 2019, up 9% from the year ending November 2017.

Since December 2016, 26% of fires attended by the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service were recorded as deliberate and 12% had an unknown cause.

The volume of police recorded incidents of criminal damage and arson have remained relatively stable in South Cambridgeshire since November 2016. Within the total for this crime category for South Cambridgeshire (November 2016- October 2019):

- 4.3% Arson
- 95.7% Criminal Damage

While the rate of police recorded Violence Against the Person (VAP) has marginally risen in South Cambridgeshire since the year ending November 2017, it remains an area with a consistently low rate relative to the surrounding districts. In the year ending November 2019, South Cambridgeshire had the lowest rate of VAP per 1,000 population across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (13.03 crimes per 1,000 population).

It is important to understand the makeup of the VAP category, which includes a relatively diverse mix of offence types. Violence without injury accounts for most of

the crimes recorded in the VAP category for South Cambridgeshire across all years included in this analysis. There has been a 63% volume increase in the subcategory of stalking and harassment when comparing the year ending November 2019 to the previous year. While improvements to how the data is recorded may have increased this figure, the underlying details of crimes within this category would need to be analysed to understand this increase.

Police recorded substance use crimes are recognised as predominantly being driven by police activity rather than the level of crime occurring as a whole.

The most recent annual public health report for Cambridgeshire describes hospital admission rates for alcohol related conditions in South Cambridgeshire as currently similar to the national average.

Data gaps regarding drug and alcohol related crimes or misuse exist locally. However, there is a countywide delivery group tackling this issue. This issue also overlaps with the health agenda and the CSP would be advised to seek input from health partners to have a clearer understanding of local issues around drug and alcohol misuse going forward.

Overall the data does not indicate a substantial drug or alcohol issue for the district. However, it should be noted that where mental health and substance misuse overlaps within cases these can sometimes be more resource intensive in managing.

South Cambridgeshire district has maintained a relatively low rate of police recorded hate crime (per 1,000 population) when compared to other districts in Cambridgeshire since the year ending November 2016.

The prevalence rate for police recorded domestic abuse in the Cambridgeshire Force area is 7.6 crimes per 1,000 population. In the most recent complete financial year South Cambridgeshire remained in line with the previous year. The data for 2019/20 to date (April to November) indicates that a slight increase in the year total is likely.

[Data for South Cambridgeshire wards](#)

The crime data for South Cambridgeshire is broken down by ward in the table below. This analysis highlights the three closest wards (Milton & Waterbeach, Fen Ditton & Fulbourn, and Histon & Impington) to North East Cambridge as having the highest

number of offences. This may be a result of their size in terms of population, their relatively more urban context and proximity to the city.

Table 4: Number of crimes in South Cambridgeshire City Wards between May 2019 and April 2020 (source Cambridgeshire Research Group – Appendix A)

District	Ward	Crime data for May 2019 - April 2020
South Cambridgeshire	Milton and Waterbeach	825
South Cambridgeshire	Fen Ditton and Fulbourn	697
South Cambridgeshire	Histon and Impington	648
South Cambridgeshire	Cambourne	567
South Cambridgeshire	Caxton and Papworth	461
South Cambridgeshire	Melbourn	416
South Cambridgeshire	Harston and Comberton	393
South Cambridgeshire	Cottenham	352
South Cambridgeshire	Longstanton	314
South Cambridgeshire	Bassingbourn	310
South Cambridgeshire	Shelford	305
South Cambridgeshire	Over and Willingham	304
South Cambridgeshire	Bar Hill	287
South Cambridgeshire	Sawston	261
South Cambridgeshire	Linton	258
South Cambridgeshire	Duxford	205
South Cambridgeshire	Swavesey	185
South Cambridgeshire	The Mordens	182
South Cambridgeshire	Girton	180
South Cambridgeshire	Caldecote	162
South Cambridgeshire	Whittlesford	152
South Cambridgeshire	Gamlingay	142
South Cambridgeshire	Foxton	115
South Cambridgeshire	Balsham	112
South Cambridgeshire	Barrington	102
South Cambridgeshire	Hardwick	100

Representations from Issues and Options Consultation

Whilst there were very few comments that directly referenced crime and community safety there were a number that are relevant to Community Resilience.

Question 5: Do you agree with the proposed vision for the future of the North East Area Cambridge area? If not, what might you change?

The responses were generally supportive of the vision for the area however, there were some concerns regarding social cohesiveness with existing surrounding communities. Comments also emphasised the need to create a well-connected area through cycling and public transport to allow for inclusivity for residents, workers and visitors to the area.

Question 6: Do you agree with the overarching objectives? If not, what might you change?

The responses supported walkable and sustainable transport but were concerned that the Milton Road would limit opportunities and therefore not meet the claim that the area would have a strong identity. Other objections highlighted that the design and layout of North East Cambridge should be carefully considered and learn from previous development issues such as the CB1 Station development.

Question 7: Do you support the overall approach shown in the Indicative Concept Plan? Do you have any comments or suggestions to make?

The indicative concept plan responses supported the provision of new green spaces as an opportunity to improve permeability and enhance walking and cycling opportunities. Some comments highlighted the need to involve the surrounding community in order to ensure the development integrates all communities.

Question 11: Are there any particular land uses that should be accommodated in the North East Cambridge area?

Some comments highlighted the need to ensure sustainable and flexible facilities that will support the new and wider communities, for example cafes and community spaces that can be used for early residents to establish a sense of community. Other leisure facilities including arts spaces were supported alongside accessible healthcare facilities to facilitate interaction and achieve community cohesion early on in the development stages.

Question 12: What uses, or activities should be included within the North East Cambridge AAP area which will create a district of culture, creativity and interest that will help create successful community where people will choose to live, work and play?

Comments supported the need for public areas to encourage inclusion. There was support for community and sports centres alongside green spaces that are easily accessible. Other comments suggested free to access facilities such as community centres, libraries and playgrounds to promote inclusivity.

Question 13: Should the AAP require developments in the North East Cambridge AAP area to apply Healthy Town principles?

Responses emphasised the need to ensure mental health and wellbeing is addressed through high quality design and green spaces. Additionally, leisure and sports centres were suggested as an opportunity to deliver a sustainable and healthy community.

Question 15: Should clusters of taller buildings around areas of high accessibility including district and local centres and transport stops form part of the design-led approach to this new city district?

Comments suggested that clusters of tall buildings will create an unwelcome area with no feeling of place. A comment also highlighted that provision of short-term lets would also lead to an unwelcoming setting.

Question 17: Should we explore delivery of a cycle and pedestrian bridge over the railway line to link into the River Cam towpath?

Responses generally supported the delivery of a cycle and pedestrian bridge to ensure that the development is permeable and well connected. Further, comments suggested using other locations as the railway level crossing at Fen Road is currently closed for long periods and does not feel safe to use for cyclists or pedestrians.

Question 24: Within the North East Cambridge area green space can be provided in a number of forms including the following options. Which of the following would you support?

There were many comments in support of providing multi-functional district scale green spaces that can be used by the community at all times of the day for cultural and leisure events in order to bring people together. Some comments suggested that smaller scale spaces would be better suited for residents to use, promoting a safe and welcoming area with natural surveillance. Comments further supported provision of green and open space in order to improve the quality of life, health, well-being and community cohesion in the North East Cambridge.

Question 25: As set out in this chapter there are a range of public transport, cycling and walking schemes planned which will improve access to the North East Cambridge area. What other measures should be explored to improve access to this area?

Comments highlighted the need to provide improved access to public transport alongside safe cycling and walking routes. There was emphasis on ensuring that the routes are accessible, comfortable to use and well-lit to maintain the safety of the community.

Question 38: Should the AAP require a mix of dwelling sizes and in particular, some family sized housing?

A mix of dwellings was generally supported by comments with the Crime Prevention Design Team Cambridgeshire asking to be involved in advising on designing out crime in regard to all types of housing and key worker accommodation. Emphasis was made on ensuring there was a mix of sizes and tenures to achieve a balanced and stable community providing equal opportunities for all.

Key Issues

Community Resilience

The Community Safety Partnerships stress the importance of developing strong Community Resilience to give the community a voice and the strength to report issues of anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, scams etc. Key to this is community development and supporting social integration both within NEC and with the wider communities. This will give the place a sense of community of cohesion and 'ownership' of space where there is pride in their area. Such areas are less susceptible to crime.

This should involve a partnership between the community and the public, private and voluntary sectors who can all play an important role in the management of the area. Forming a strong stakeholder partnership at an early stage to include developers and management companies to oversee the development for the benefit of all. Furthermore, a focus on establishing community engagement at the very early stages and consulting on the development and use of public realm and green spaces should result in the space benefitting all the community.

Key Stakeholders are currently proposing the setting of Community Forums, meanwhile uses, and other community programmes. These initiatives can be enhanced by digital and other forms of communication.

These initiatives are supported by proposals in other NEC AAP evidence documents, including the Cultural Placemaking Strategy, Anti-Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Topic Paper, the Health and Wellbeing Topic Paper, and the Skills, Training and Local Employment Opportunities Topic Paper.

Physical Considerations

The draft NEC AAP, including the spatial framework, has been developed through a design-led approach where 'Designing out Crime' is an integral part of the approach. This includes promoting activity, incorporating natural surveillance of public/semi-private spaces, and providing clearly defined and protected buildings and spaces. Much of this will be consistent with the principles of Secured by Design and as such

should minimise the opportunities for crime. The spatial framework also provides suitable access for the emergency services.

There will nevertheless be some more detailed design issues which will require closer scrutiny from a community safety perspective, including;

- Key pedestrian routes such as bridges and underpasses and Guided Busway where natural surveillance can be limited and can be quiet particularly during night times. Consideration should be given to adding activities where possible, orientating buildings to provide natural surveillance, avoiding hiding areas, maximising visibility lines, and providing alternative routes where practical.
- Defensible and robust open space will be an important asset for the community, providing it is overlooked, well managed, and consistent action is taken to prevent anti-social behaviour which discourages its use.
- The provision of community facilities and meeting places within buildings to give the community somewhere to go and have something to do. This will mitigate against people gathering outside their buildings and creating noise and litter issues.
- It is important that car and cycle parking is secure to encourage usage, and especially when it is situated away from the homes in car barns. Similarly, any storage and other facilities should be designed to be secure including public and communal bike parking.
- Appropriate landscaping and planting to avoid potential hiding places and dark or secluded areas.
- The use of additional external lights and manned CCTV should be kept to a minimum, but there will be places like the bridges and underpasses where they should be considered.

Housing and Community Mix

With the creation of a new, 8,000 homes, high density development the demographics and range of tenures are important for the future community mix. This includes private housing, 40% affordable housing and other new forms of housing such as build-to-rent. The mix of housing types and tenures should complement

each, as well as associated requirements, other locally and across the development as a whole.

Development Phasing

The NEC development is expected to take over 20 years to be completed. It means the community will take several years to be established and will go through a series of transitional periods before it matures. This means the issues and risks are likely to change over time as will nature of crime in the wider community.

In the early days, there will be few people on-site and this limit opportunities for natural surveillance. Evidence from other new settlements has also shown some people will have feelings of isolation and loneliness which requires support.

Vulnerable Groups

The Community Safety Partnerships also emphasise the importance of looking after the Vulnerable Groups in society. These groups can be subjected to anti-social behaviour, abuse, prejudice, hate and violence which can be in many forms. Whilst these issues go beyond the remit of the planning process, the community resilience and housing/community mix can play an important part in addressing these concerns. The Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the NEC AAP highlights some of the key disadvantaged groups in the area, but vulnerable groups can be much broader and include;

- Addiction (Drugs, alcohol, Gambling etc.)
- Dementia
- People with Disabilities
- Domestic Abuse
- Elderly
- Gypsies and Travellers (there are two neighbouring communities to the east and north of the NEC)
- Hate
- Isolation/Loneliness in early phases
- Mental Health issues

- People in Multiple Deprivation (Cambridge has a stark difference in the income levels among its population)
- Many people may be in more than one vulnerable group

County Lines

It is understood that County Lines drug operations have used the new Cambridge North Station and tend to 'cuckoo'⁹ in premises which are close to stations (often within 200 metres). It is therefore important that new development and in particular the housing mix is given careful consideration in these areas, including limiting short-term lets. A mix of tenures is recommended.

Preferred Approach

Community Resilience

The North East Cambridge should be firmly integrated with surrounding communities to create a place that fosters community wellbeing and social cohesiveness. The development will provide social and cultural facilities for existing residents living in the surrounding areas, as well as new residents and workers to encourage further social interaction and a safe, inclusive community.

Key Physical bridge and underpasses

The development should be planned around walking, cycling and public transport that area accessible to all. Key connections, whether in the form of a bridge or an underpass, should be well designed to create routes with good levels of activity and natural surveillance. There should be clear sight lines through and over such features to promote good wayfinding and to seamlessly tie into the movement network. Lighting, quality of materials and an overall inclusive design approach will ensure that the safety and usability of either bridge or underpass links is maximised.

⁹ **Cuckooing** is a form of crime, termed by the police, in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for county lines drug trafficking. The crime is named for the cuckoo's practice of taking over other birds' nests for its young.

Supporting Vulnerable Groups and Mental Health

The North East Cambridge must be a healthy district where wellbeing, recreation and community safety are provided for through appropriate services and facilities. The development should accommodate for community services including education, health provision and green spaces.

Reason for Preferred Approach

The mixed-use nature of NEC will provide a range of housing types and tenures, jobs, services and facilities to ensure the area caters for the broad needs of the community and will be able to support vulnerable groups. These facilities will be integrated through high quality design and accessible public open spaces to benefit the residents', workers' and visitors' mental health and wellbeing.

North East Cambridge will be physically well-connected to its local and wider context, through breaking down existing barriers to movement, and creating new routes for walking and cycling.

Appendix A: North East Cambridge Area Data

Data Notes:

1. The data is pulled from the policy system Athena and is not published audited data and is therefore subject to corrections.
2. Data from the period May 2019 to April 2020 and includes approximately 6 weeks in which England was under 'lockdown' measures due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
3. The data is supplied by Cambridgeshire Research Group for the use by Community Safety Teams in the planning of developments and reducing crime.
4. District and ward geocoding is based on the police methodology and GIS.
5. Individual crimes may not map to all geographic levels and therefore totals may not be comparable between worksheets.
6. It is important to note that with police data there are 2 methods/options for mapping which are either using postcodes or easting and northings. Both have limitations, and neither are 100% complete for the data.

Table 5: Police recorded Crime for the period May 2019 - April 2020, by Home Office group and subgroup for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire City (Source Cambridgeshire Constabulary/Cambridgeshire Research Group)

Home Office Crime Types	South Cambridgeshire	Cambridge City
ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1107	1523
ARSON	38	54
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1069	1469
BURGLARY	1132	886
BURGLARY - BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY	482	344
BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL	650	542
DRUG OFFENCES	185	372
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	139	208
TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS	46	164
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	145	215
MISC CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	145	215
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	50	140
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	50	140
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	549	1370
OTHER OFFENCES PUBLIC ORDER	67	284
PUBLIC FEAR, ALARM OR DISTRESS	438	955
RACE OR RELIGIOUS AGG PUBLIC FEAR	44	130
VIOLENT DISORDER	0	1
ROBBERY	29	165
ROBBERY OF BUSINESS PROPERTY	16	14
ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY	13	151
SEXUAL OFFENCES	205	366
OTHER SEXUAL OFFENCES	132	227
RAPE	73	139
THEFT	1554	6248
BICYCLE THEFT	202	2725
OTHER THEFT	991	1411
SHOPLIFTING	328	1729
THEFT FROM THE PERSON	33	383
VEHICLE OFFENCES	846	1050
AGGRAVATED VEHICLE TAKING	9	8
INTERFERING WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE	112	114
THEFT FROM A VEHICLE	593	725
THEFT OR UNAUTH TAKING OF A MOTOR VEH	132	203
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	2247	3864
HOMICIDE	1	1
STALKING AND HARASSMENT	653	811
VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	515	922
VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	1078	2130
Grand Total	8049	16199

Table 6: Crime counts per district ward (Source Cambridgeshire Constabulary/Cambridgeshire Research Group)

District	Row Labels	Crime count May 2019 - April 2020
Cambridge	Abbey Ward	1334
Cambridge	Arbury Ward	787
Cambridge	Castle Ward	470
Cambridge	Cherry Hinton Ward	485
Cambridge	Coleridge Ward	728
Cambridge	East Chesterton Ward	969
Cambridge	Kings Hedges Ward	1021
Cambridge	Market Ward	4370
Cambridge	Newnham Ward	403
Cambridge	Petersfield Ward	1596
Cambridge	Queen Ediths Ward	739
Cambridge	Romsey Ward	763
Cambridge	Trumpington Ward	1524
Cambridge	West Chesterton Ward	947
South Cambridgeshire	Balsham	112
South Cambridgeshire	Bar Hill	287
South Cambridgeshire	Barrington	102
South Cambridgeshire	Bassingbourn	310
South Cambridgeshire	Caldecote	162
South Cambridgeshire	Cambourne	567
South Cambridgeshire	Caxton and Papworth	461
South Cambridgeshire	Cottenham	352
South Cambridgeshire	Duxford	205
South Cambridgeshire	Fen Ditton and Fulbourn	697
South Cambridgeshire	Foxton	115
South Cambridgeshire	Gamlingay	142
South Cambridgeshire	Girton	180
South Cambridgeshire	Hardwick	100
South Cambridgeshire	Harston and Comberton	393
South Cambridgeshire	Histon and Impington	648
South Cambridgeshire	Linton	258
South Cambridgeshire	Longstanton	314
South Cambridgeshire	Melbourn	416
South Cambridgeshire	Milton and Waterbeach	825
South Cambridgeshire	Over and Willingham	304
South Cambridgeshire	Sawston	261
South Cambridgeshire	Shelford	305
South Cambridgeshire	Swavesey	185
South Cambridgeshire	The Mordens	182
South Cambridgeshire	Whittlesford	152
Unknown	(blank)	133
	Grand Total	24304