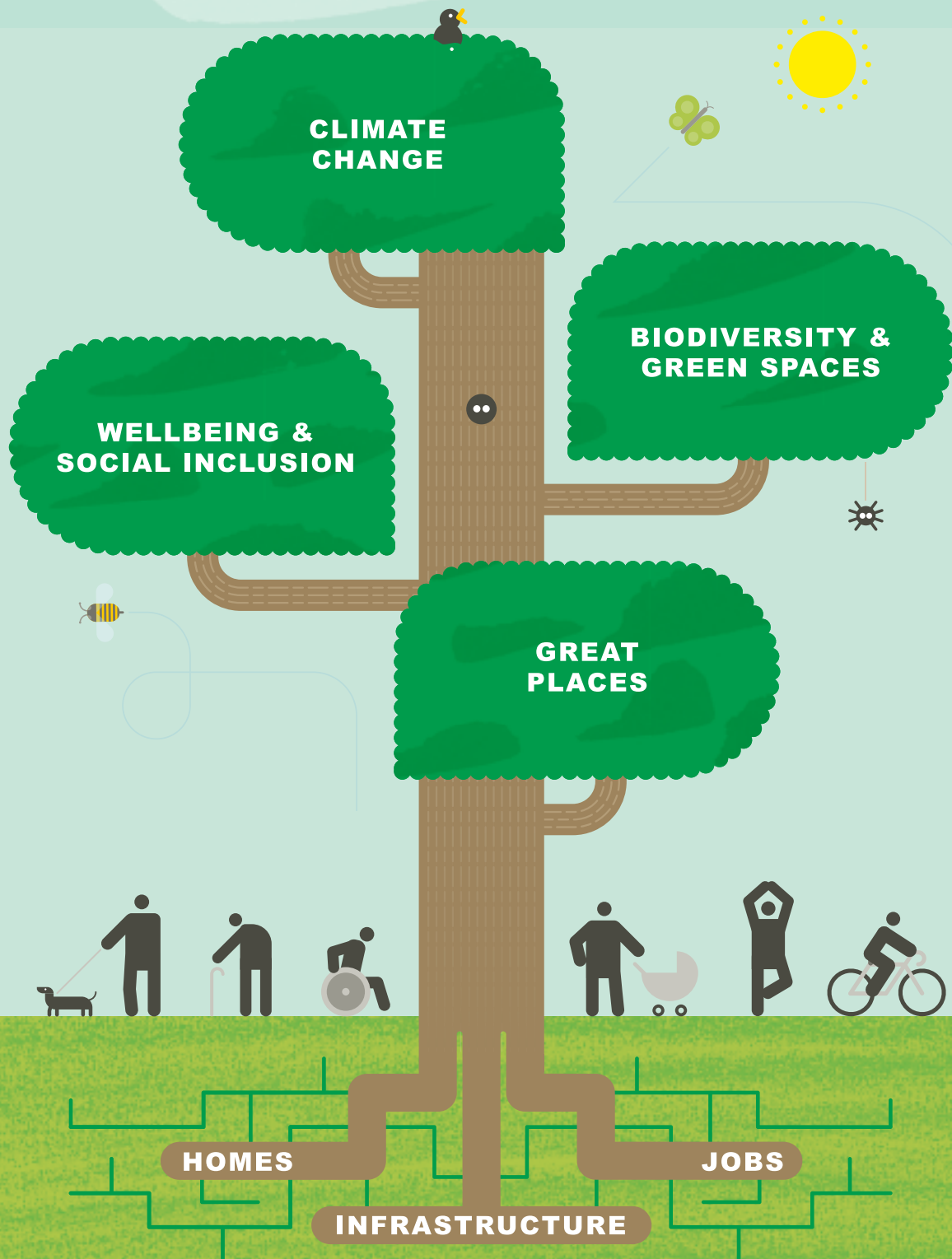


# The first conversation



**Greater Cambridge Local Plan**

(Regulation 18: Issues and Options 2020)

# Welcome

This consultation is the first stage towards preparing the Greater Cambridge Local Plan – a new joint [Local Plan](#) for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Together, we will shape the Plan over the next few years, and this is the start of that conversation.

The next Local Plan will affect the way we live, work and play in Greater Cambridge over the next 20 years and beyond. We are committed to growing our economy, and planning for new homes and a range of jobs which meet the needs of all our community, while meeting the climate change challenge. The Local Plan is an important tool to help us become a [net zero carbon](#) society, and towards meeting our target of doubling biodiversity.

There are big issues to be debated, and we will have to prioritise carefully. There are requirements from [national planning policy](#) and regulations that we must meet, as well as local issues that we need to respond to. Alongside this, we know that you, our communities, have diverse views about how our area develops, and we want to make sure that we properly understand these when creating the next plan.

We want you all to be central to creating the next Local Plan. This consultation sets out the issues we think the Plan needs to consider and some of the big questions we need the Plan to answer. We want your views on whether these are the right issues and potential options to help us solve them. We hope you will all get involved.



**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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# 1 Summary



# 1. 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 Plan itself. It is intended to start the conversation about the kind of place we want [Greater Cambridge](#) to be in the future.

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.

It then explores the ‘big themes’ that will influence how homes, jobs and infrastructure are planned. These themes draw on the feedback we have received from Councillors, communities and businesses while preparing this document.

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## The big themes are:

- + **Climate change** – how the plan should contribute to achieving [net zero carbon](#), and the mitigation and adaptation measures that should be required through developments.
- + **Biodiversity and green spaces** – how the plan can contribute to our ‘doubling nature’ vision, the improvement of existing green spaces and the creation of more.
- + **Wellbeing and social inclusion** – how the plan can help spread the benefits of growth, helping to create healthy and inclusive communities.
- + **Great places** – how the plan can protect what is already great about the area, and design new developments to create special places and spaces.

---

## 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.

One big question affecting all these themes will be the number of jobs and homes to plan for. Central government has set us the target of planning for a minimum of around 41,000 homes between 2017 and 2040. We are doing more work to understand future jobs growth and housing growth to support it. However, to give an indication, if the recent high level of jobs growth was to continue, there may be a case for making provision beyond the local housing need to include flexibility in the plan and provide for around 66,700 homes during this period. We already have about 36,400 homes in the pipeline for this period, but it will be for the new Plan to find sites for the rest.

**Figure 1**  
Diagram illustrating  
the proposed big  
themes of the Plan



## So, after the themes, we have set out some options for where this growth might go. These include:

- + **Densification of existing urban areas** – Providing more homes and jobs on underused land within Cambridge and also potentially in existing new settlements. This could be by building taller buildings, or redeveloping underused sites at higher densities.
- + **Edge of Cambridge: outside Green Belt** – Creating new homes and jobs in extensions on the edge of Cambridge, using land not in the green belt. The only large site on the edge of Cambridge not in the Green Belt is Cambridge Airport.
- + **Edge of Cambridge: within Green Belt** – Creating new homes and jobs in extensions on the edge of Cambridge, involving release of land from the Green Belt.
- + **Dispersal: new settlements** – Creating one or more whole new towns or villages, providing homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure in a new location, and supported by strategic transport infrastructure connecting to Cambridge.
- + **Dispersal: villages** – Spreading new homes and jobs out to the villages, through allocating sites on the edges of villages or increasing the number of homes that can be developed on sites within the villages.
- + **Public transport corridors** – Creating new homes and jobs along key public transport corridors extending out from Cambridge, where they can access high quality public transport. This could be by expanding or intensifying existing settlements, or with new settlements.

While the [Local Plan](#) could involve some growth in all these areas, we want to know where you think we should focus and how the big themes should play into this. You can also compare your preferred approach with the approach to development in the adopted and previous Local Plans.

We are committed to an 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 reasoned 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.

There are questions throughout this document that we would like you to answer. You can answer as many or few as you like: all your views will be helpful. However, you may also want to provide some general comments if you don't think we have asked all the right questions. In the final section you can tell us about anything else you think we should be considering which is not covered elsewhere.





Clockwise from top left: Marmalade Lane co-housing, photograph courtesy Mole Architects; biodiverse landscape at Cambridge Research Park, Landbeach; conservation area, Cambridge, both © Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.



The background of the slide is composed of two distinct sections. The upper section is a solid green color, overlaid with several large, light green, curved brushstrokes that sweep across the top and middle of the frame. The lower section is a solid yellow color, featuring numerous smaller, irregular, light yellow brushstrokes scattered across the bottom half. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic, using a limited color palette of greens and yellows.

**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 open 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 the First Conversation material fully accessible online in a digital-first format, as well as in a printed version, but also taking the conversation to you in a number of different ways:

- + Taking a 'roadshow' to places around the area including shopping centres, schools, community centres and other places where we can reach out to as many people as possible, making it easy for you to spend a few minutes finding out more and sharing your views.
- + Using social media and video to encourage young people in particular to get involved.
- + Spreading the word via local TV, radio, Council magazines, and news media
- + Working with leaders from our diverse communities to encourage greater participation.
- + Working with other parts of the Councils to encourage everyone to get involved.

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, 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<sup>1</sup>.

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### Question

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

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<sup>1</sup>: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/statement-of-community-involvement/>



## 2.2 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 can also be obtained at the above locations and can be downloaded from the Councils' websites.

A series of events are planned during the consultation. The times and locations of the 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 discuss the issues and options with officers.

For more information, including the accompanying documents, please visit [www.greatercambridgeplanning.org](http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org)

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### 2.2.1 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 - [www.greatercambridgeplanning.org](http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org)
- + if you want to make a longer and more detailed comment, you can do so in the following ways:
  - + Through the Councils' [consultation portal](#)<sup>2</sup>
  - + By filling in the response form (available on the website) and sending it back to us either by email to: [localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org)
  - + 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: 01954 713183

#### **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 24 February 2020 at 5pm.***

Responses through our consultation portal, 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 District Council's](#)<sup>3</sup> privacy statement and [Cambridge City Council's](#)<sup>4</sup> privacy statement.

<sup>2</sup> <https://cambridge.oc2.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/the-council/access-to-information/planning-policy-privacy-notice/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/planning-policy-consultations-and-notifications-privacy-notice>

## 2.2.2 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 you have already provided to the Councils as part of the Call for Sites 2019.

### Question

**2. Please submit any sites for employment and housing you wish to suggest for allocation in the Local Plan. *Please use the site submission form that can be found on our website, and provide as much information and supporting evidence as possible.***

## 2.2.3 Tell us about green space and wildlife habitats opportunities

We will also be commissioning evidence identifying opportunities for large scale new green space in [Greater Cambridge](#) given the importance this has as part of our overall strategy for the plan. To support this work, you can submit sites for open space, wildlife habitats or other green space 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

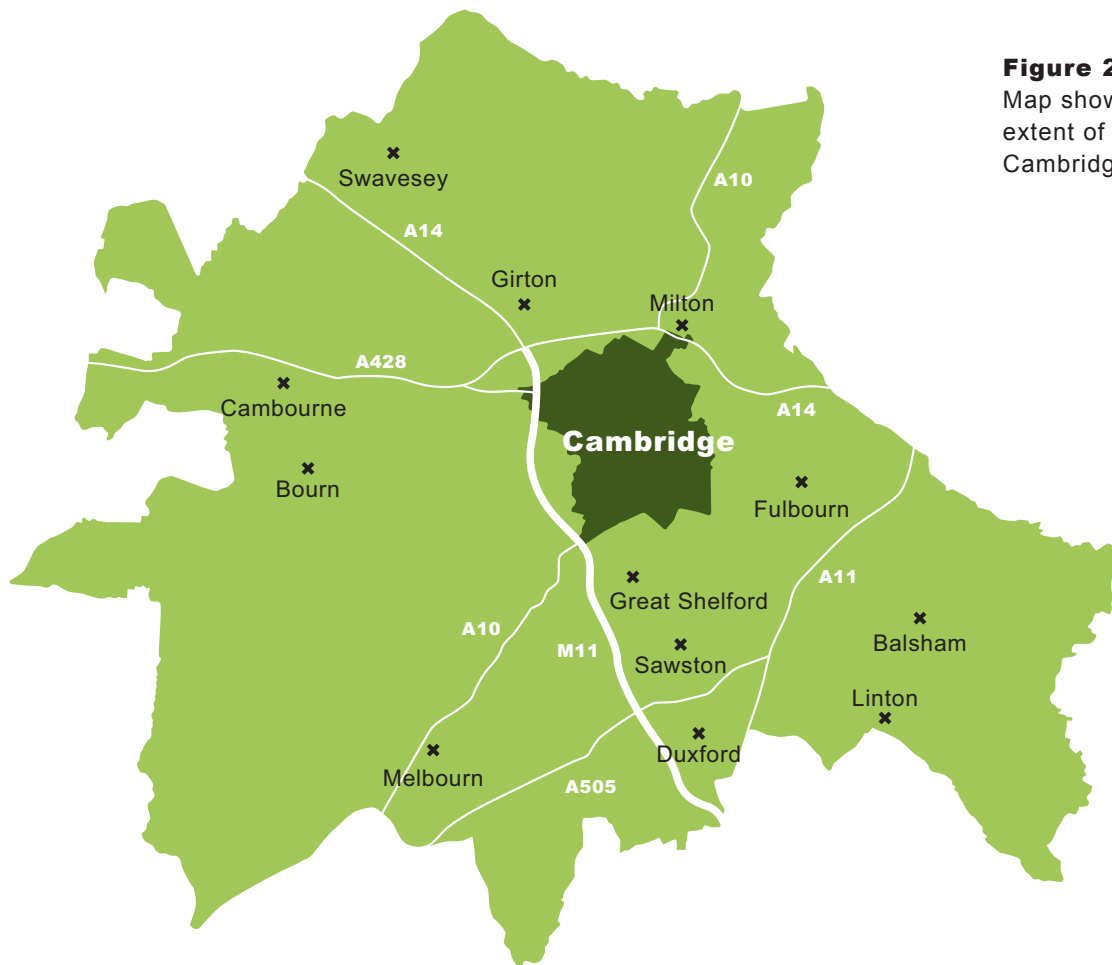
**3. Please submit any sites for green space and wildlife habitats you wish to suggest for consideration through the Local Plan. *Please use the site submission form that can be found on our website, and provide as much information and supporting evidence as possible.***

The background of the slide is a vibrant green with abstract, light green brushstrokes. A large, faint, light green number '2' is visible on the right side. The bottom of the slide features a series of horizontal yellow and green brushstrokes.

**3**

# About the plan

## 3.1 What is the Greater Cambridge Local Plan?



**Figure 2**  
Map showing the  
extent 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, where appropriate, across both areas.

A Local Plan is a legal document that the Councils are required to prepare, which 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 to check it is ‘sound’ – this means that it is realistic, deliverable and based on good evidence – before it can be formally adopted.

Local Plans are key in making decisions on future planning applications in the area, alongside [national planning policy](#) and other supplementary guidance.

In legal terms, the material in this consultation 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.

## 3.2 Why do we need a new Local Plan?

The Local Plan will guide how Greater Cambridge will change over the next two decades and beyond.

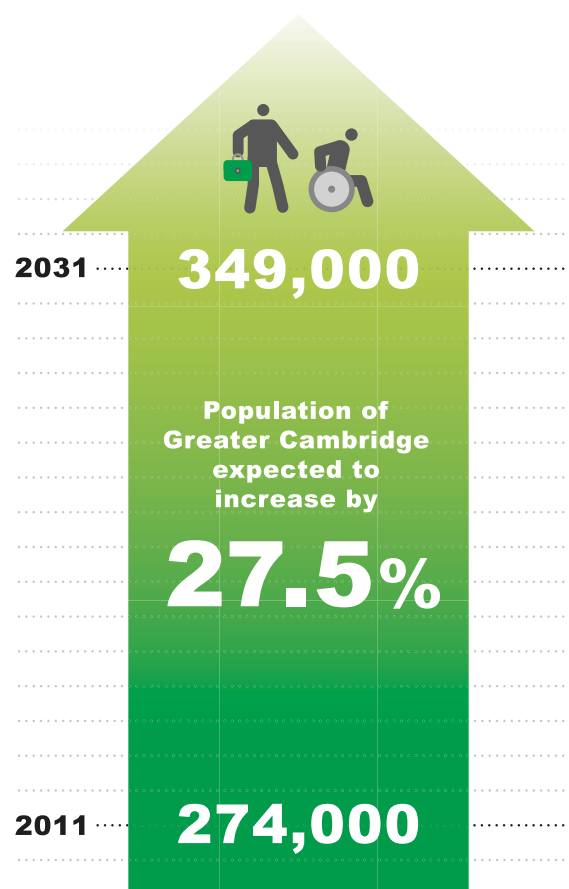
In the past the Councils have produced separate Local Plans, but with a shared development strategy, including a number of development sites straddling the administrative boundary. This time we intend to prepare a single Local Plan for both council areas. We committed to do this when we signed up to the City Deal<sup>5</sup> 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 Plans include a commitment to an early review, in particular to update the assessment of housing needs, to review the progress of delivering planned developments including new settlements, and to 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. Our Local Plan review 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 2018 Local Plans remain in force until they are replaced.

**Figure 3**  
Population  
of Greater  
Cambridge



<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/greater-cambridge-city-deal-signed>

### 3.3 How long are we planning for?

Our [adopted 2018 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 next Local Plan, because we must be able to monitor our progress in meeting the targets we set. We hope to adopt the next [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 an appropriate plan end date of 2040. 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 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough [Combined Authority](#)'s Non Statutory Spatial Framework). A longer outlook could provide opportunities to plan strategically for how the area will develop in the long term. However, a balance needs to be achieved between planning far enough ahead to make informed decisions about growth and the reliability of long-term future predictions for housing and jobs. 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.

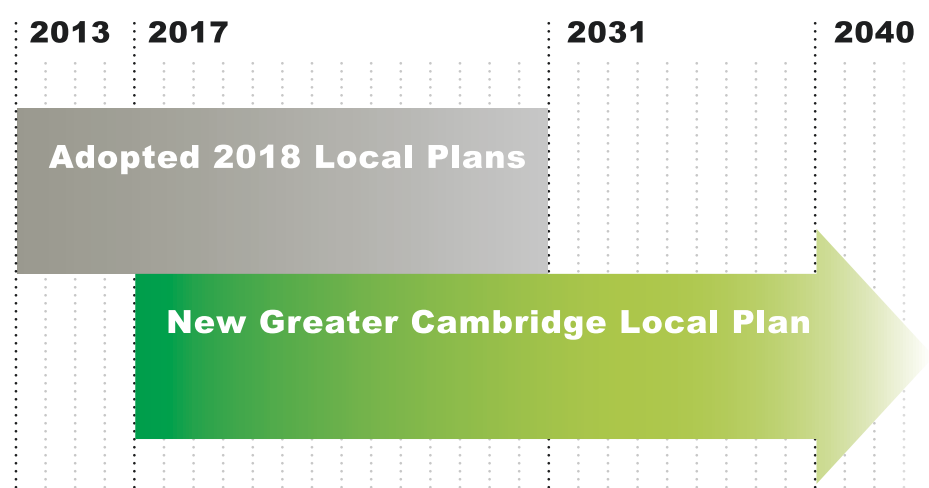
#### Question

4. Do you agree that planning to 2040 is an appropriate date in the future to plan for? *Please choose from the following options:*

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree /  
Disagree / Strongly disagree

If you disagree, what would be a more appropriate date and why?

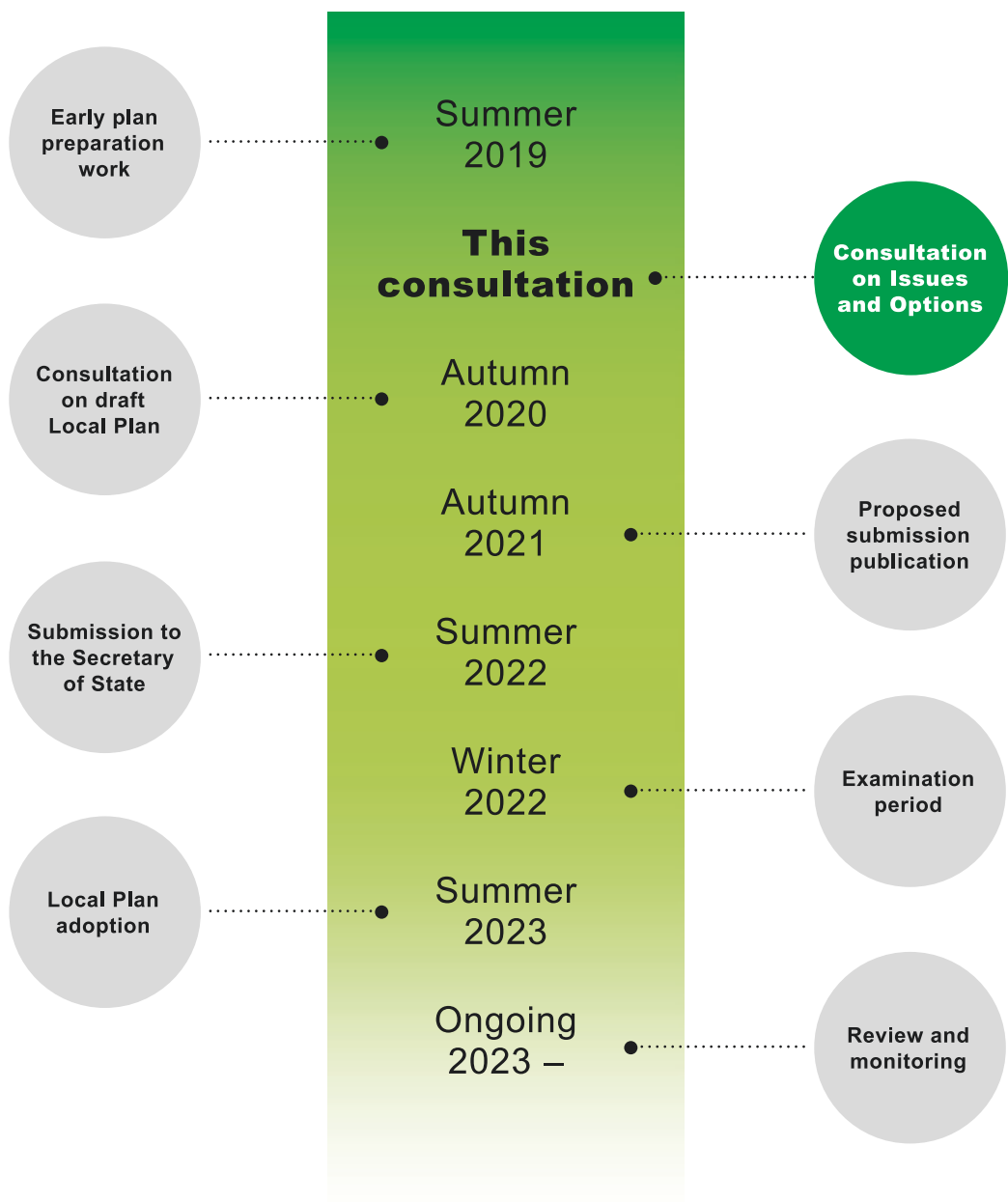
**Figure 4**  
Comparison of  
adopted and  
new Local Plan  
time periods





# 3.4 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 (as updated 2019)<sup>6</sup>. The Local Development Scheme is a document we are required to produce which sets out our plan making timetable. 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 5**  
Timetable for the preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan in current Local Development Scheme

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/local-development-scheme/>

## 3.4.1 Gathering the evidence

We are gathering the appropriate level of evidence to inform the preparation of the plan, as required by national policy. This will include further research on:

- + Housing and Economic Land Availability.
- + Housing types and specialist needs.
- + Employment Land Needs.
- + Retail and Leisure Needs.
- + 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.

---

## 3.4.2 Sustainability Appraisal

A key role of the planning system is to contribute to [sustainable development](#). 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.

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## 3.4.3 What happens next

The views expressed by individuals, communities, businesses, academic institutions and [stakeholders](#) during this consultation will help us develop and refine the options for further testing and then identify the preferred approach to the themes and areas for growth, and the draft 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 also be published on our websites.

## 3.5 About Greater Cambridge

The Councils 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 working together on our development strategy. The area includes the city of Cambridge and over 100 nearby villages, as well as several 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 provided by 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. It has fostered a dynamic and successful knowledge-based economy, while aiming to retain the high quality of life in the city and surrounding villages that underpins that economic success. Cambridge is also an important centre for a wide range of services.

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<sup>7</sup>**

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<sup>8</sup>**

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

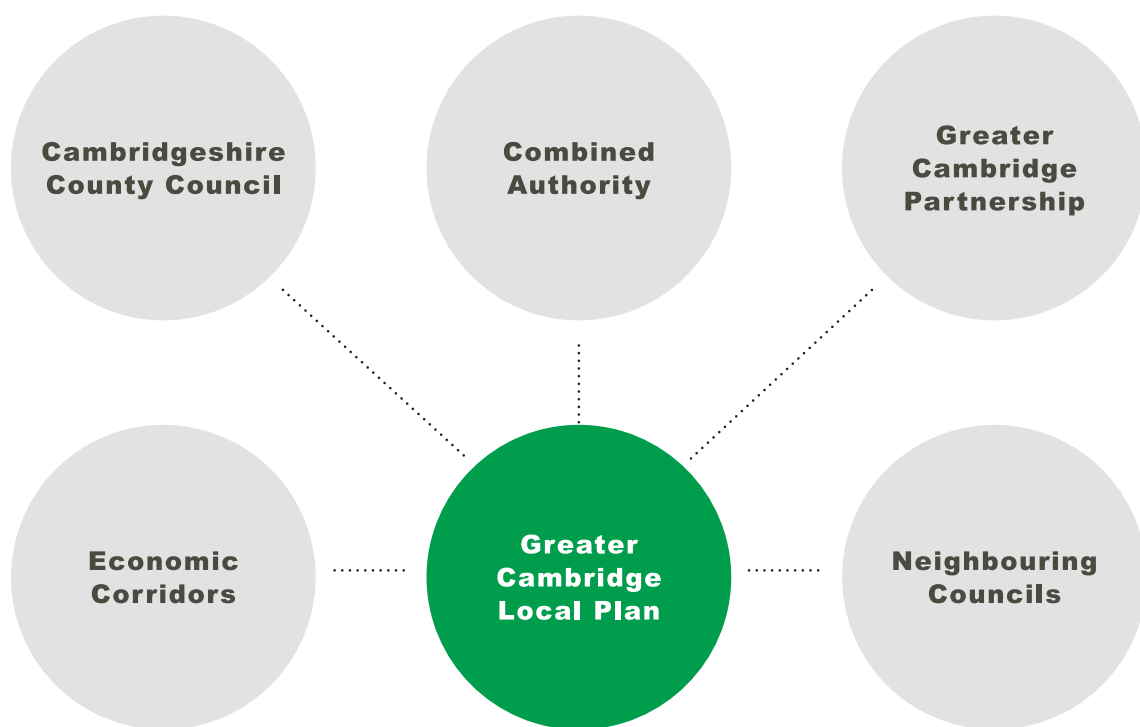
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/our-vision>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/the-council/performance-and-plans/council-plans-and-reports/our-business-plan/>

## 3.6 The wider region

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:

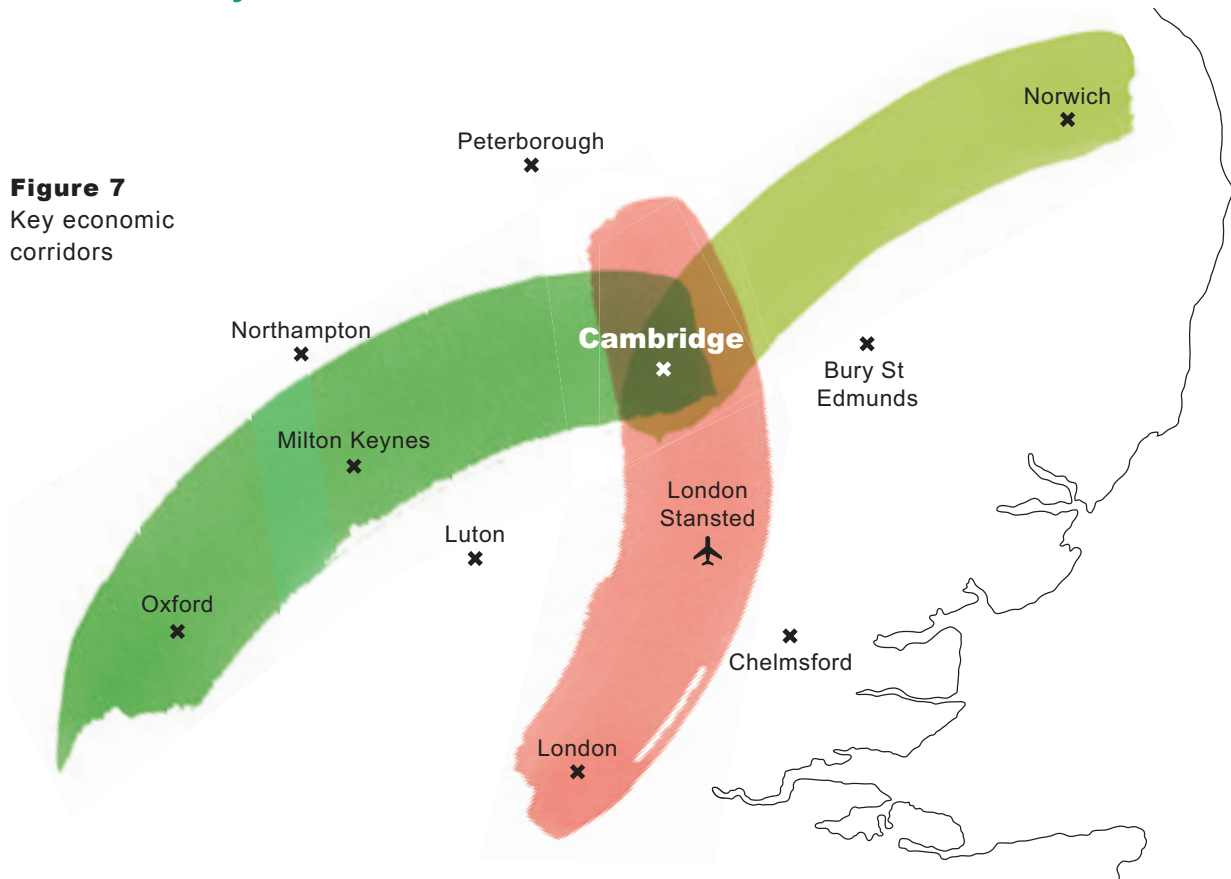
- + The key economic corridors – the **Oxford-Cambridge Arc**, the London-Stansted-Cambridge corridor and the Cambridge-Norwich tech corridor;
- + The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough **Combined Authority** and its strategies – the Local Transport Plan, the Non-Statutory Spatial Framework, Local Industrial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



**Figure 6**  
Regional  
Strategies  
influencing the  
Local Plan

## 3.6.1 Key economic corridors

**Figure 7**  
Key economic corridors



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

The Government designated the [Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#) a key economic priority and asked the [National Infrastructure Commission](#)<sup>9</sup> to analyse the actions required to meet the area's full economic potential. The Government has endorsed the Commission's report, Partnering for Prosperity: a new deal for the [Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc](#)<sup>10</sup> which includes an ambition for up to one million high-quality new homes by 2050. It has also committed to completing the [East West Rail link](#) and an [Oxford to Cambridge Expressway](#), and to achieving sustainable growth in the Arc while improving the environment for future generations.

### + London-Stansted-Cambridge

The [UK Innovation Corridor](#)<sup>11</sup>, 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](#)<sup>12</sup> is an initiative to forge closer links between the two cities, and opportunities to support clusters of innovative businesses.

<sup>9</sup>. <https://www.nic.org.uk/>

<sup>10</sup>. <https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/partnering-prosperity-new-deal-cambridge-milton-keynes-oxford-arc/>

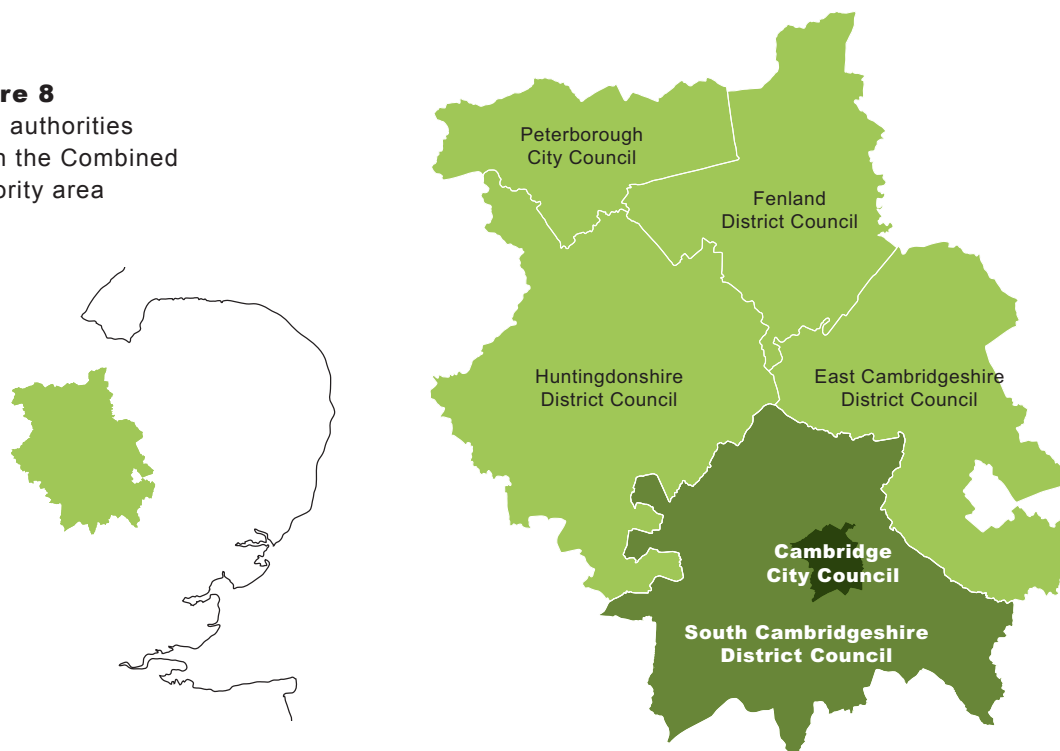
<sup>11</sup>. <https://innovationcorridor.uk/>

<sup>12</sup>. <https://www.techcorridor.co.uk/>

## 3.6.2 Working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

**Figure 8**

Local authorities within the Combined Authority area



The [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority](https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/)<sup>13</sup>, founded in March 2017, is made up of representatives from the seven councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and a Business Board. The Combined Authority is led by an elected Mayor; the Leaders of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, together with those of the five other authorities sit on the Combined Authority Board.

As the Local Transport Authority, the Combined Authority is producing the [Local Transport Plan](#)<sup>14</sup> for the area. The Combined Authority also commissioned the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review ([CPIER](https://www.cpier.org.uk/))<sup>15</sup>, 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](https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/programmes/local-industrial-strategy/)<sup>16</sup>, 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](https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Combined-Authority/NSSF-Phase-1-final.pdf)<sup>17</sup> of this, reflecting the growth in our adopted 2018 Local Plans and how the Combined Authority will help achieve this, was published in 2018. Phase 2, providing a long-term strategy towards 2050 is being prepared, and will be subject to separate consultation. Although the Framework will be non-binding, whereas the [Local Plan](#) is a legal 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.

<sup>13</sup>. <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/>

<sup>14</sup>. <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/programmes/transport/ltp/>

<sup>15</sup>. <https://www.cpier.org.uk/>

<sup>16</sup>. <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/programmes/local-industrial-strategy/>

<sup>17</sup>. <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Combined-Authority/NSSF-Phase-1-final.pdf>



### 3.6.3 Working with the Greater Cambridge Partnership

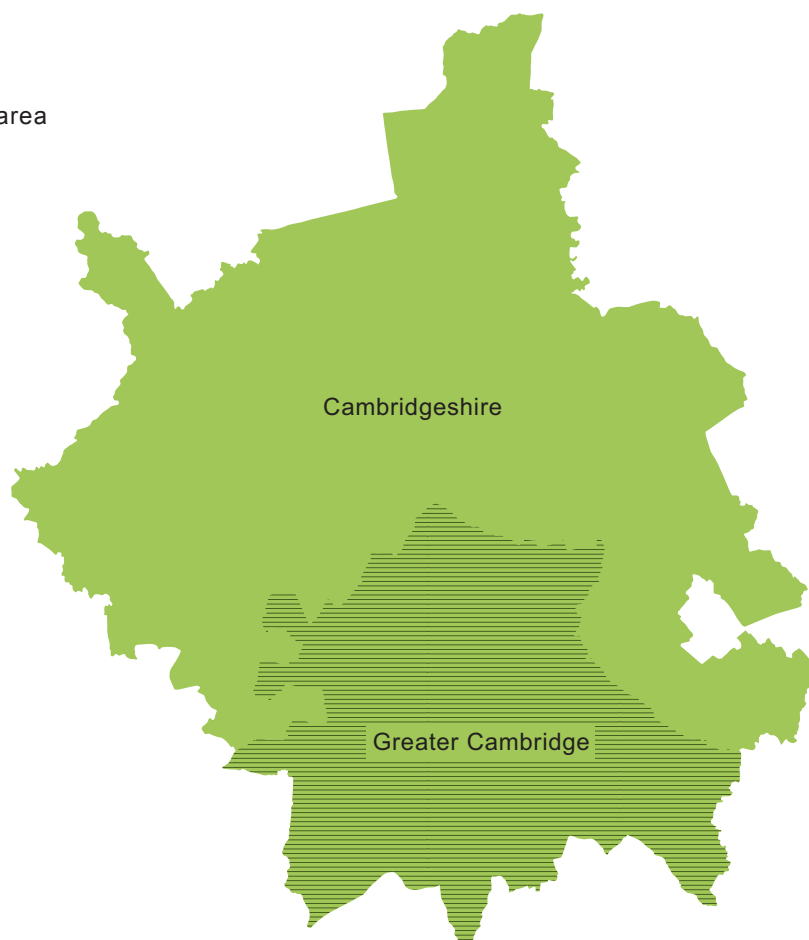
The [Greater Cambridge Partnership](#)<sup>18</sup> is the local delivery body for the 2014 [City Deal](#)<sup>19</sup>. The partners are Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the University of Cambridge and the Business Board of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. 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 2018 Local Plans, and improving the transport network for Greater Cambridge to make it easier to access and move around Cambridge by public transport, by bike and on foot.

---

### 3.6.4 Working with Cambridgeshire County Council

We also need to work closely with [Cambridgeshire County Council](#)<sup>20</sup> on issues relating to its roles. For example, the County Council is responsible for managing the local highway network, is the lead local flood management authority and the Local Education Authority responsible for schools planning.

**Figure 9**  
Cambridgeshire  
County Council area



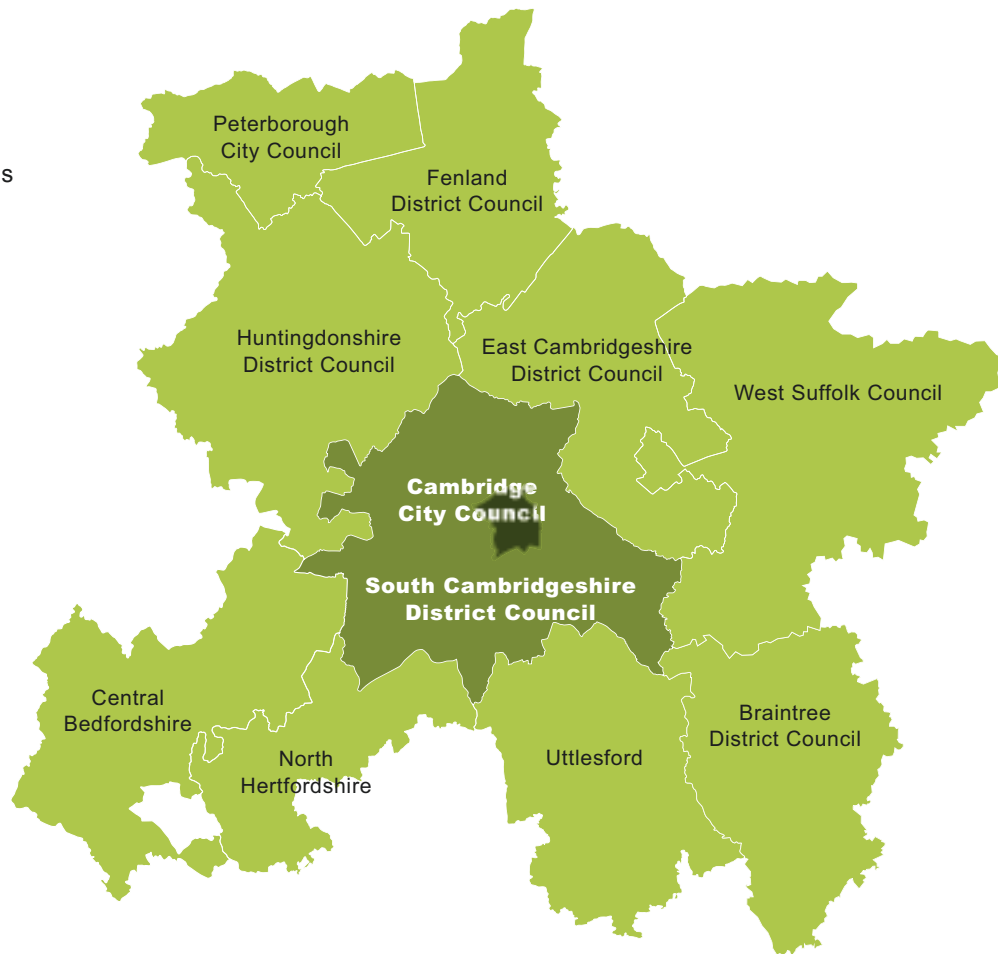
<sup>18</sup>. <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/>

<sup>19</sup>. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/greater-cambridge-city-deal-signed>

<sup>20</sup>. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

## 3.6.5 Working with our Neighbouring Local Authorities

**Figure 10**  
Neighbouring  
Local Authorities



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 these 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

**5. Do you think we have identified the right cross-boundary issues and initiatives that affect ourselves and neighbouring areas?**

***Please choose from the following options:***

**Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree /  
Disagree / Strongly disagree**

**Are there any other issues we should be considering?**

## 3.7 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 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](#) 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 South Newnham. You can find more information on the [Cambridge Neighbourhood Plans](#)<sup>21</sup> 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](#)<sup>22</sup> web pages. The Council has also been working with some villages to help prepare [village design guides](#)<sup>23</sup>.



Design Enabling Panel and planning team members visiting Swavesey with Neighbourhood Plan group representatives. Photograph © Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

<sup>21</sup>. <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>

<sup>22</sup>. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-plans/>

<sup>23</sup>. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/village-design-guides/>

# 4

## The big themes

## 4. 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. Sustainable development has three strands - social, economic and environmental. It means meeting the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

To properly reflect the three strands of sustainable development, we must plan for homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure (transport, utilities, services and facilities) in the right places, alongside protecting and enhancing the environment.

In order to achieve this, we will need to balance many competing priorities and issues. We have grouped these into four 'big themes' that will influence how homes, jobs and infrastructure are planned, and draw on the feedback we have received from Councillors, communities and businesses while preparing this document. They are:

- + Climate change** – how the plan should contribute to achieving net zero carbon, and the mitigation and adaptation measures that should be required through developments.
- + Biodiversity and green spaces** – how the plan can contribute to our 'doubling nature' vision, the improvement of existing and creation of new green spaces.
- + Wellbeing and social inclusion** – how the plan can help spread the benefits of growth, helping to create healthy and inclusive communities.
- + Great places** – how the plan can protect what is already great about the area, and design new developments to create special places and spaces.

These themes are our initial suggestions and we want to hear your views on whether this is the right way to approach meeting our needs for homes, jobs and infrastructure in the new Plan.

---

### Question

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

*Please choose from the following options:*

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree /  
Disagree / Strongly disagree

Are there other themes or issues we should be considering that could inform our new vision for Greater Cambridge?

---

### Question

**7. How do you think we should prioritise these big themes?**

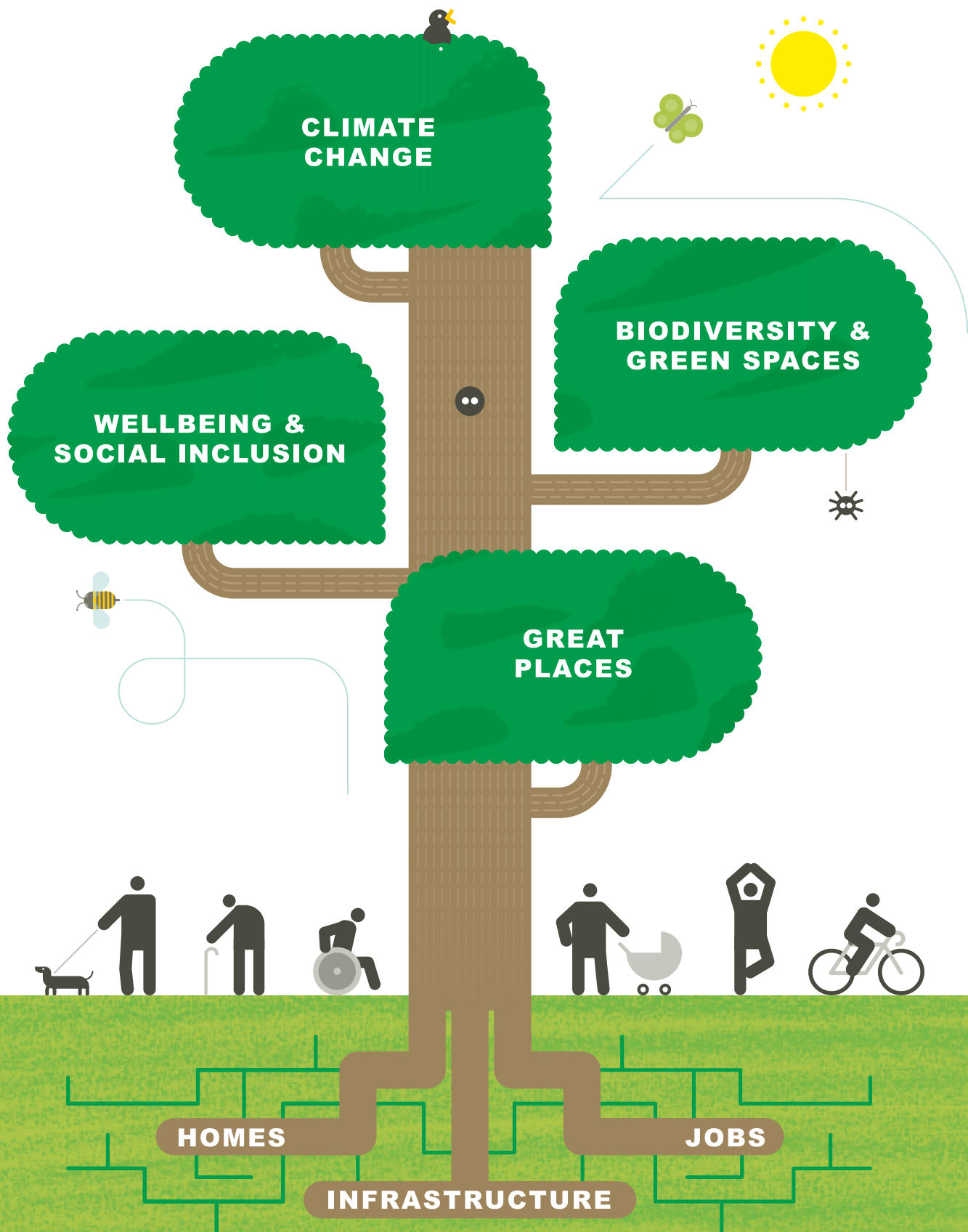
*Rank the options below 1-4 (1 – Most Preferred 4 – Least Preferred):*

Climate Change / Biodiversity and Green Spaces /  
Wellbeing and Social Inclusion / Great Places

---



**Figure 11**  
Diagram illustrating  
the proposed big  
themes of the Plan



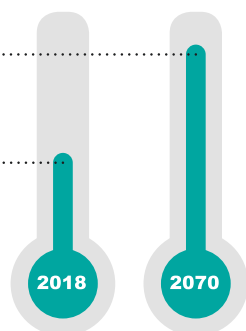


## 4.1 Climate change

### Winter

**+4.2°C**

Temperature  
increase  
by 2070



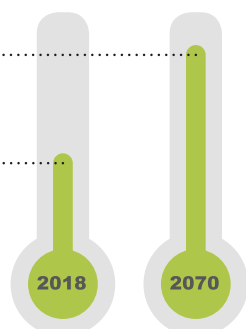
Rainfall  
increase  
by 2070

**+35%**

### Summer

**+5.4°C**

Temperature  
increase  
by 2070



Rainfall  
decrease  
by 2070

**-47%**

**Figure 12**

Climate change in  
Greater Cambridge

Climate change is a defining issue of today and will have serious impacts for future generations. In response to the climate crisis, the two Councils and the County Council have **committed**<sup>24</sup> to achieve **net zero carbon** by 2050.

Net zero carbon means, on balance, not creating more CO<sub>2</sub> than is stored up or offset. Any carbon emissions we create through burning fossil fuels must be balanced out by schemes to absorb it back out of the atmosphere – such as planting trees or using technology such as carbon capture and storage. In reality we can only absorb and offset a small amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. This means the vast majority of our energy needs must be met by renewable forms of energy, and this will only be possible by reducing our energy use drastically.

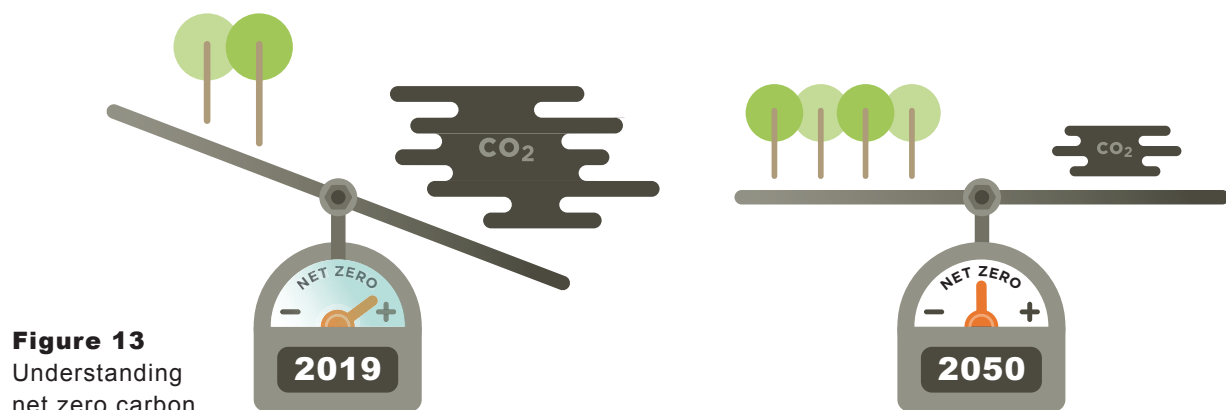
The **Local Plan** will play a key part in helping us achieve this challenge, but this will affect how we address other priorities that are important to the area. It will influence where we plan for development, and how it is designed – and this may not be welcomed by everyone, as we will have to plan for low-carbon lifestyles and encourage low carbon activities and alternatives to private car use. 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 should the Local Plan help us achieve net zero carbon by 2050?**

<sup>24</sup>. <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/>

## 4.1.1 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 carbon by 2050.

## 4.1.2 What are we already doing?

Our adopted 2018 Local Plans include policies which respond to climate change. We require large scale developments 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<sup>25</sup> will support these 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.

Cambridgeshire County Council have commissioned new research that will inform the next Local Plan, which will include understanding the level of carbon emissions within the Greater Cambridge area today, known as carbon footprinting<sup>26</sup>. This has been carried out in collaboration with the University of Cambridge’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 2019<sup>27</sup> will also help inform future policy. We are also commissioning further work to test options for higher standards of carbon reduction, which will help us understand potential to achieve net zero carbon new development.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/sustainable-design-and-construction-consultation-spd/>

<sup>26</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council and CUSPE (October 2019). Net Zero Cambridgeshire. What actions must Cambridgeshire County Council take to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

<sup>27</sup> <https://carbonneutralcambridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Zero-Carbon-Futures.pdf>

## 4.1.3 What are the key issues?

### Mitigation

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.

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

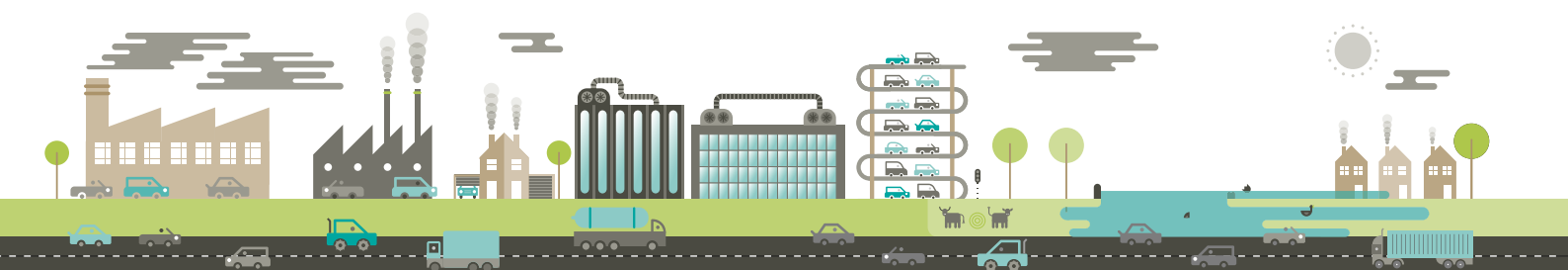
- + Designing new communities, infrastructure and buildings to be energy and resource efficient, both in the way they are built and the way they are used over their lifespan.
- + Using renewable and low carbon energy generation.
- + Promoting patterns of development that enable travel by low-carbon modes 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.
- + Considering the role of the plan regarding materials used in the construction process.
- + Investigating how carbon offsetting can be supported through tree planting and other measures.
- + Supporting local and community opportunities for growing food.

### Question

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

**Figure 14**

Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies (see larger version on next page)



## 4.1.3 What are the key issues?

### Adaptation

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.

**Climate change adaptation means ensuring that our communities can evolve as our climate changes – to more extreme weather, a hotter climate, and a changing ecology. 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.
- + Ensuring that trees and plants are selected to be resilient to a warmer and drier climate.

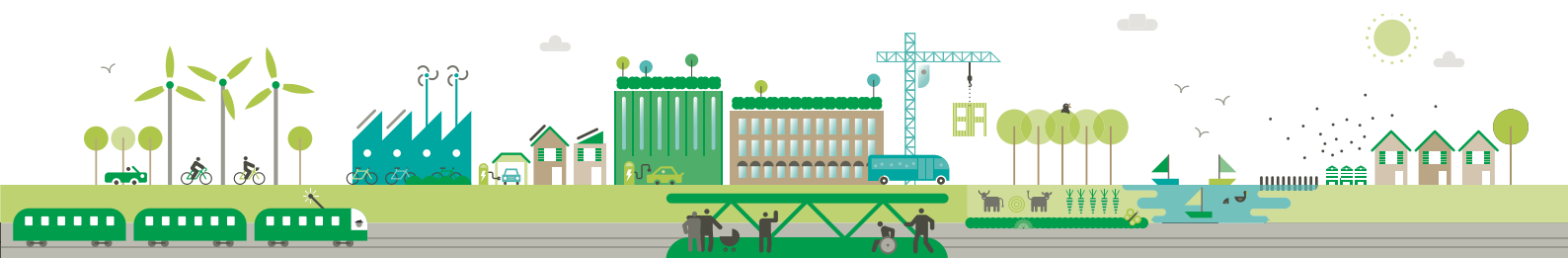
#### Question

10. Do you think we should require extra climate adaptation and resilience features to new developments?  
*Please choose from the following options:*

Yes, strongly agree / Yes, somewhat agree /  
Neither agree nor disagree / No, somewhat disagree /  
No, strongly disagree

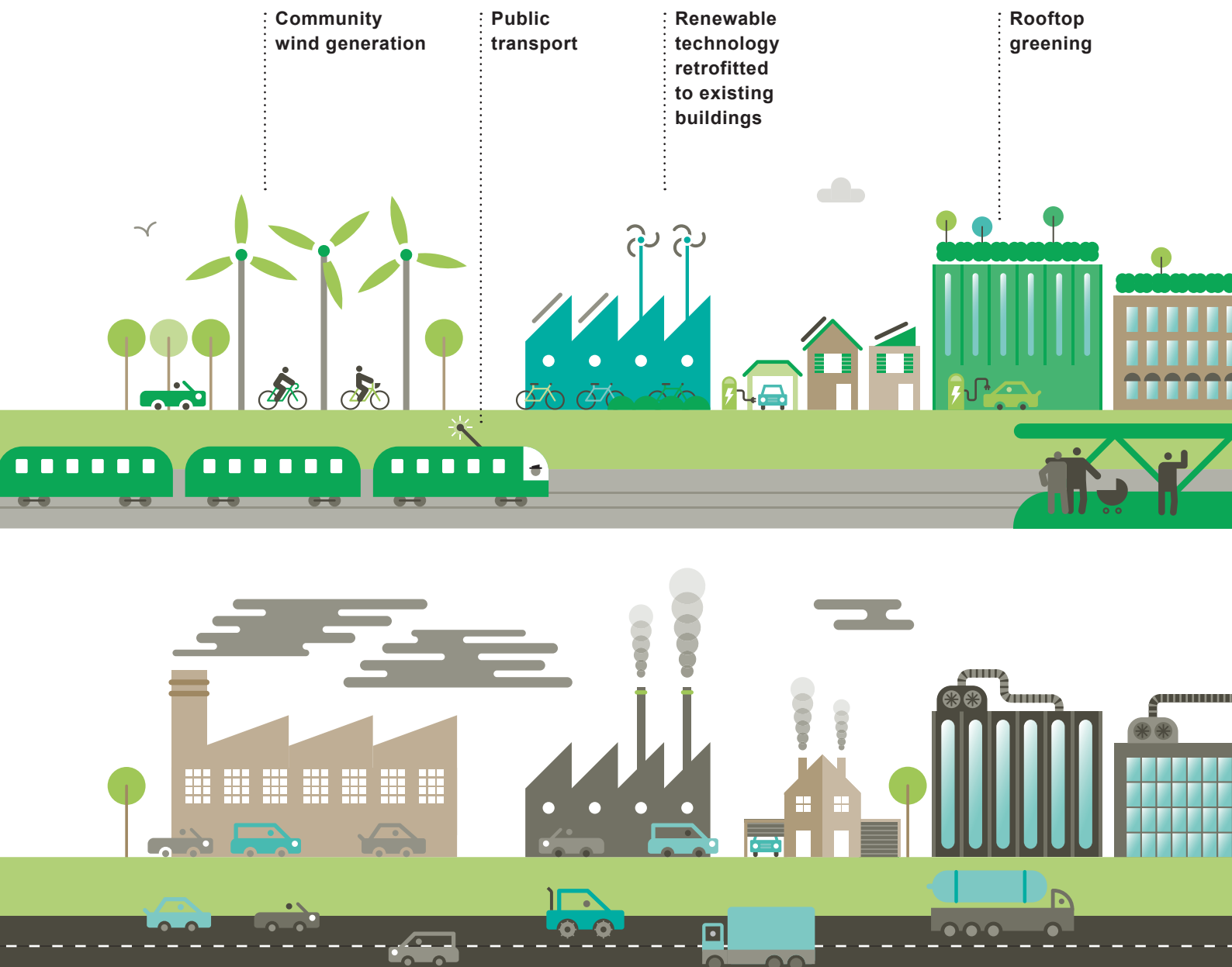
#### Question

11. Are there any other things we should be doing to adapt to climate change?



## 4.1.3 What are the key issues?

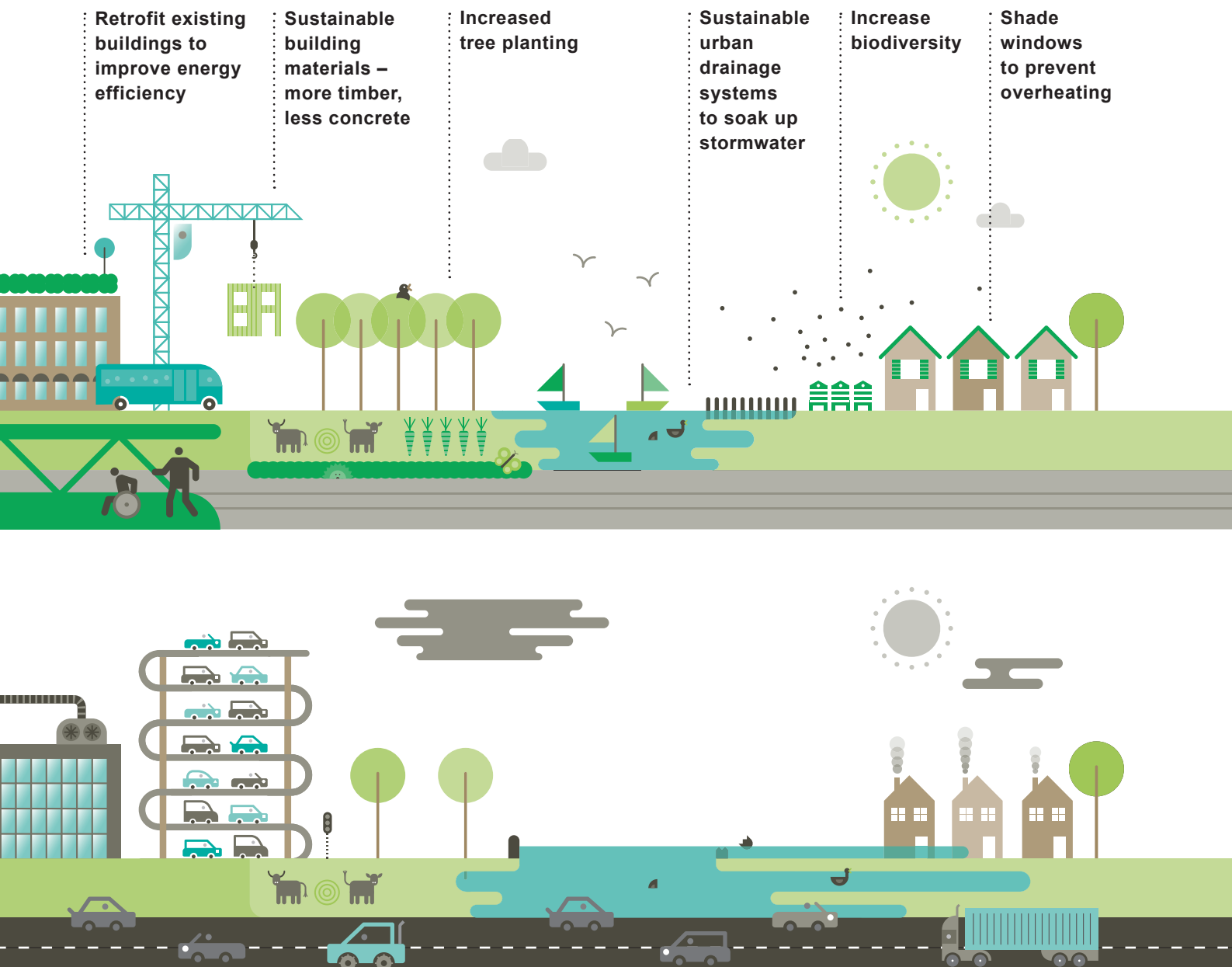
### Mitigation



**Figure 14**  
Climate change  
mitigation and  
adaptation strategies

## 4.1.3 What are the key issues?

### Adaptation



## 4.2 Biodiversity and green spaces

**Figure 15**  
Biodiversity and  
green space  
in Greater  
Cambridge today



**Biodiversity** means 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 spaces across the area. This network includes parks and recreation grounds as well as more wild spaces like woodland, scrubland and grassland areas, 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, Sheep's Green, and Coe Fen Local Nature Reserves. 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, in recent decades biodiversity in the area has been decreasing. The rural area is dominated by agricultural land, which is often not biodiverse, and in urban areas the loss of gardens and increase in urban uses reduces biodiversity. 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, 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 and will be an important part of the wider response to climate change.

### Question

**12. How should the Local Plan help us improve the natural environment?**



## 4.2.1 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 in before 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.



Common frog  
photographed in  
Greater Cambrige.  
Photograph ©  
Finn Holding.

## 4.2.2 What are we already doing?

Our [adopted 2018 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 emergencies<sup>28</sup>. As members of the [Natural Cambridgeshire Local Nature Partnership](#)<sup>29</sup>, the Councils support the Partnership's vision to [double the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural greenspace within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#)<sup>30</sup>.

The Partnership has prepared a [Developing with Nature Toolkit](#)<sup>31</sup> 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 the natural environment.

We are commissioning an evidence base study to inform how the new [Local Plan](#) can help achieve an enhanced and expanded [Green Infrastructure](#) network. This will consider how and where development is planned, and how it can help deliver new or improved wildlife areas and green spaces.



Sustainable drainage scheme providing biodiversity benefits at Nine Wells. Photograph © Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

<sup>28</sup>. Cambridge: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/biodiversity-emergency>  
South Cambridgeshire: <https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=78136>

<sup>29</sup>. <https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/>

<sup>30</sup>. <https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Doubling-Nature-LR.pdf>

<sup>31</sup>. <https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/nc-developing-with-nature-toolkit.pdf>

## 4.2.3 What are the key issues?

### Improving the green space network

We need to consider how attractive, accessible and well-designed open space is created and protected. Key issues include:

- + How we can improve, add to and connect up our green spaces.
- + How our green spaces can create wellbeing through places to relax and socialise, and healthy lifestyles through places for play and sport.
- + Balancing 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 spaces multi-functional – absorbing and storing stormwater, improving biodiversity, and absorbing carbon emissions.
- + How rural biodiversity is balanced with other demands on the countryside, such as agriculture.
- + How new development can directly deliver or contribute to the enhancement of green and natural spaces.

#### Question

13. How do you think we should improve the green space network?

We would also like your views on sites that could be suitable for new **green infrastructure**. If you have ideas, please respond to [Question 3](#).



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:

- ## Question

[illegible]

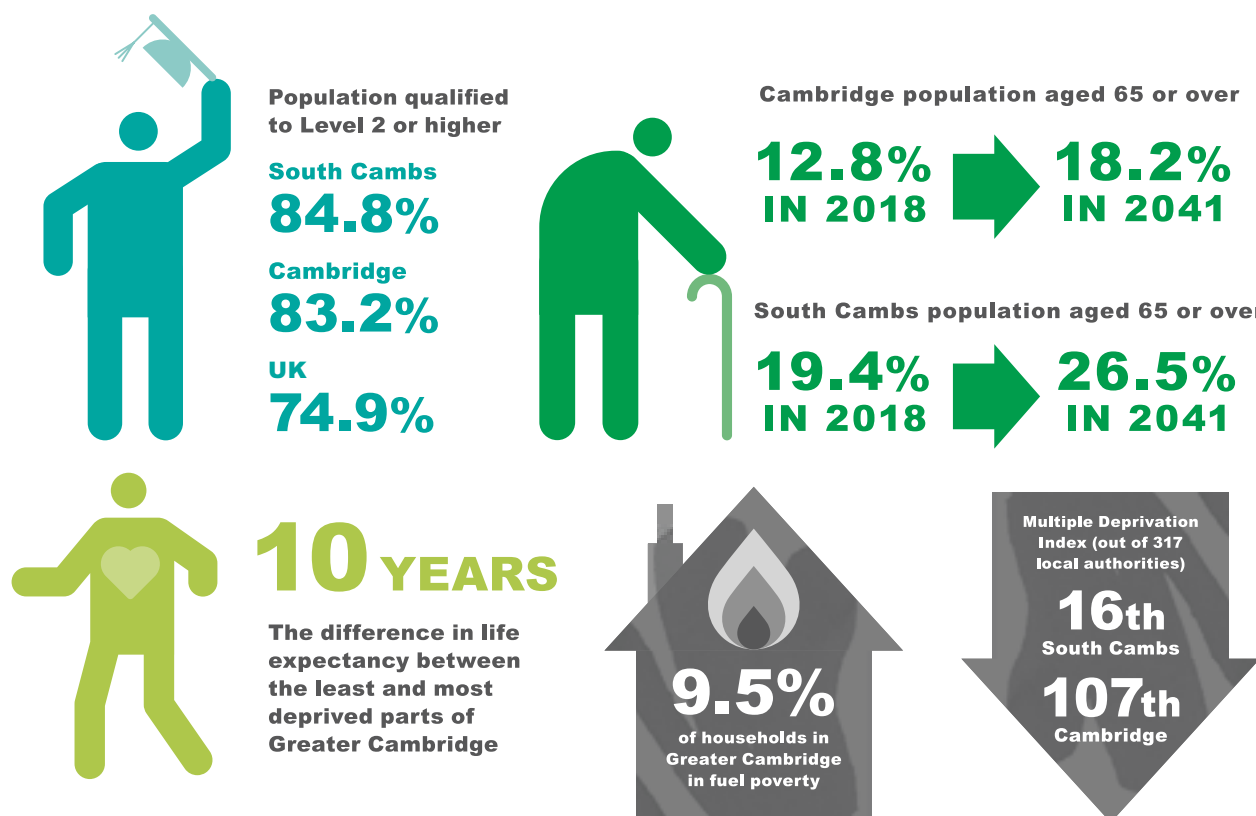
Tree planting makes places more attractive and helps to mitigate the rate of climate change through absorbing CO2 and decreasing the urban **heat island** effect. Cambridgeshire has a very low proportion of woodland, compared to the rest of England. The new **Local Plan** will need to consider how we can increase tree cover as part of new developments, and support the implementation of the **Cambridge Tree Strategy**<sup>32</sup>.

## Question

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

38

## 4.3 Wellbeing and social inclusion



**Figure 16**  
Wellbeing and social inclusion  
in Greater Cambridge

**Greater Cambridge** overall is a prosperous area, but it includes communities and individuals that do not experience the benefits of this wealth. Cambridge was identified as the most unequal city in the UK by the **Centre for Cities**<sup>33</sup> and includes areas that are among the most deprived in the UK<sup>34</sup>. 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 social inclusion. It can help direct what kind of jobs are created, and where; the availability of suitable and **affordable housing**; access to services; cultural facilities; green spaces; learning opportunities and employment; as well as positively influencing individuals' health and lifestyle.

Promoting wellbeing and social inclusion will be affected by our response to all the other themes in this consultation, but in this theme we want to specifically explore how we ensure that growth in the area brings benefits to all.

### Question

**16. How should the Local Plan help us achieve 'good growth' that promotes wellbeing and social inclusion?**

<sup>33</sup>. Source: Centre for Cities – Cities Outlook 2018 <https://www.centreforcities.org/publication/cities-outlook-2018/>

<sup>34</sup>. As defined by the Index of Multiple Deprivation, a measure of income, employment, education, health, crime, housing and environment.



## 4.3.1 What do we have to do?

**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 the fear of crime does not undermine quality of life.
- ✚ Supporting healthy lifestyles by provision of greenspaces and sports facilities, and opportunities to walk and cycle.
- ✚ Meeting the variety of needs in our community.

Responding to national policy requirements for climate change, green spaces, great places, housing, jobs and infrastructure, as set out in the other themes, will promote wellbeing and social inclusion.

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.



Local family in green space. Photograph © Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

## 4.3.2 What are we already doing?

Our [adopted 2018 Local Plans](#) include policies which seek to create strong, sustainable, cohesive and inclusive mixed-use communities.

Cambridge City Council has an [Anti-Poverty Strategy](#)<sup>35</sup> 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. For example, two wards in Cambridge include areas amongst the 20% most deprived in UK<sup>36</sup>. There are also lower levels of social mobility for young people from poorer backgrounds.

South Cambridgeshire District Council undertakes a range of activities which tackle rural issues. This includes an extensive grants program to support statutory services within the district, by funding organisations to provide 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 apprenticeships, 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](#)<sup>37</sup>. 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 social inclusion.

Cambridge City Council [Air Quality Action Plan 2018 – 2023](#)<sup>38</sup> 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](#)<sup>39</sup>.

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3814/170920\\_revised\\_anti-poverty\\_strategy\\_2017-2020\\_-\\_final\\_v2.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3814/170920_revised_anti-poverty_strategy_2017-2020_-_final_v2.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - English indices of deprivation 2019 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/innovation/healthy-new-towns/demonstrator-sites/northstowe/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3451/air-quality-action-plan-2018.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/pollution/air-pollution/local-air-quality-management/>

## 4.3.3 What are the key issues?

### **Involving communities in planning for their future**

Making places inclusive is much easier if we involve our diverse communities in planning them in the first place. This makes developments more functional, accessible and safe, and ensures that communities feel a sense of ownership and pride in their local area.

Involving community members and [stakeholders](#) should happen from the early stages right through to how completed developments are managed. This allows 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.

### **Question**

**17. How do you think our plan could help enable communities to shape new development proposals?**



Marmalade Lane co-housing, Orchard Park. Photograph by David Butler, courtesy Mole Architects.

## 4.3.3 What are the key issues?

### Creating safe and inclusive communities

Promoting social inclusion is not just a matter for the [Local Plan](#), but planning is a powerful tool which can help in a number of ways. The Local Plan needs to help to create the homes and jobs people need, 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:

- + Help provide new homes for all parts of the community – including a range of [affordable housing](#) choices and different types of housing to suit specialist housing needs.
- + Ensure that new homes are cost efficient to maintain – for example, through energy efficiency measures.
- + Encourage the development of a wide range of jobs, which provide different options for work to suit the varied needs of our residents, so that all benefit from access to jobs. This is covered further in our 'Jobs' theme.
- + Support delivery and access to new and affordable low-carbon transport infrastructure.
- + Seek funding from developers of larger new developments to carry out community development work.
- + Ensure that mixed communities are developed and meet the needs of diverse groups when siting, design and layout of new development is carried out, 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.
- + Ensure that services and infrastructure are developed alongside 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.

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.

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#### Question

**18. How do you think we can make sure that we achieve safe and inclusive communities when planning new development?**

---



## 4.3.3 What are the key issues?

### Encouraging healthy lifestyles

There is a lot of evidence that the design and planning of places has a big influence on our health, through making it easier to live healthy lifestyles. We need to reduce pressure on our health services by preventing health issues from occurring or worsening, whilst ensuring that support, services and facilities are available at the right time for the community. We need to consider:

- + How to enable people to live healthy and long lives in their own homes, and to access the right kind of housing for their needs.
- + How planning and development can encourage walking, cycling and exercise as part of daily life.
- + Tackling loneliness and mental health issues 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.

#### Question

19. How do you think new developments should support healthy lifestyles?



New homes and playspace at Great Kneighton. Photograph © Tim Crocker, courtesy of Proctor & Matthews Architects.



## 4.3.3 What are the key issues?

### Air quality

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

20. How do you think we should achieve improvements in air quality?



Trumpington  
Street, Cambridge.  
Photograph ©  
Greater Cambridge  
Shared Planning  
Service

## 4.4 Great places

**11** RIBA Award-winning buildings in 2019  
(12% of the UK total)



**89** conservation areas



**3519** listed buildings



**Figure 17**

Greater Cambridge's heritage and design successes

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. Greater Cambridge 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, and we have a track record as a place where contemporary design and the historic environment co-exist in harmony. The aim has always been to achieve high quality developments, and there have been many award-winning projects.

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. 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.

### Question

**21. How should the Local Plan protect our heritage and ensure new development is well-designed?**

## 4.4.1 What do we have to do?

National planning policy states that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creating better places in which to live and work, and more support for development among communities. Plans should set out a clear design vision and expectations of developers, including place-specific design guidance and design codes where appropriate. The plan will also need to respond to the new National Design Guide<sup>40</sup>.

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

---

## 4.4.2 What are we already doing?

The adopted 2018 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<sup>41</sup>, 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<sup>42</sup> 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 Guides<sup>43</sup>.

<sup>40</sup>. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/835212/National\\_Design\\_Guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835212/National_Design_Guide.pdf)

<sup>41</sup>. [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2950/cambridgeshire\\_quality\\_charter\\_2010.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2950/cambridgeshire_quality_charter_2010.pdf)

<sup>42</sup>. <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/consultations/making-space-for-people-vision-aims-and-objectives-and-strategies-consultation>

<sup>43</sup>. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/village-design-guides/>

## 4.4.3 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 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.
- + How we can help historic buildings adapt to climate change whilst maintaining their heritage value.
- + Ensuring local distinctiveness is maintained and enhanced.

---

#### Question

**22. How do you think we should protect, enhance and adapt our historic buildings and landscapes?**

---



Fulbourn  
conservation area.  
Photograph ©  
David Cottee.



## 4.4.3 What are the key issues?

### 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 Cambridge and Peterborough Independent Economic Review ([CPIER](#))<sup>44</sup>. Some of the key issues we need to consider include:

- + How successful our existing design policies have been in ‘place-making’ and ensuring quality.
- + How to design and enhance public space.
- + Continuing to benefit from the clear approach to design principles provided by the Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth.
- + 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 [climate change adaptation](#) can be an opportunity to create distinctive and characterful developments.

### Question

23. How do you think we could ensure that new development is as well-designed as possible?

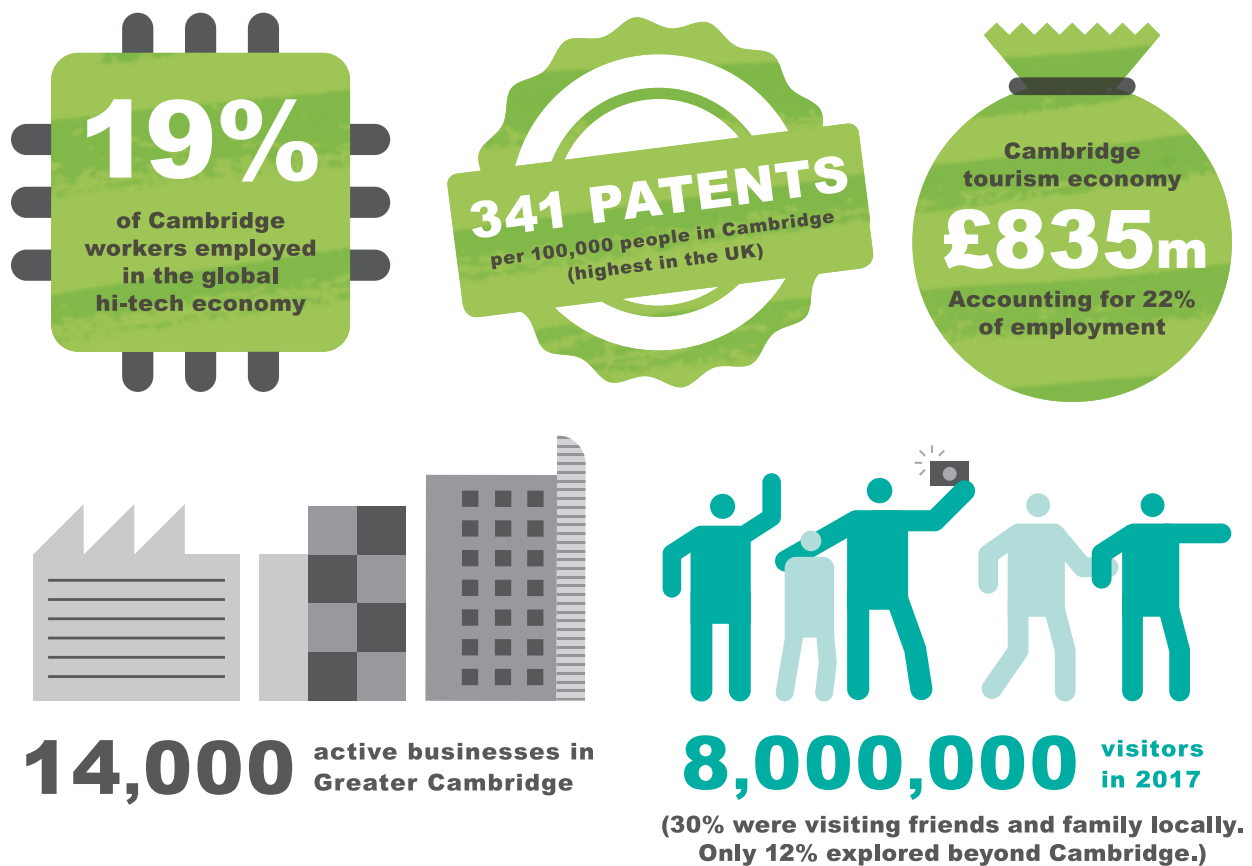
Cambridge Central Mosque. Photograph © Morley von Sternberg.



<sup>44</sup>. <https://www.cpier.org.uk/>



## 4.5 Jobs



**Figure 18**  
Greater Cambridge's economy

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 the University of Cambridge and new companies starting up and expanding.

However, our local economy is not just about technology. Other types of industry and agriculture also play an important role and ensure a variety of jobs for local people. Greater Cambridge is also a thriving education, retail, leisure and tourist destination, which all provide jobs. 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 being developed at Northstowe, and soon at the new town north of Waterbeach.

If we do not plan for enough jobs of the right types, this could lead to a range of consequences, including local firms not finding suitable affordable buildings for their needs, companies moving elsewhere (including outside the UK), and increased commuting out of the area. It could also mean not enough services and shopping in our area, forcing people to travel outside of Greater Cambridge.

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 measures the value of goods and services produced in the area). This vision formed part of the devolution deal with government which created the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough **Combined Authority**. It has implications for future jobs and homes growth in our area.

The 2018 **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review**<sup>45</sup> (CPIER) showed that our recent employment growth has been faster than previously forecast. It considered future scenarios regarding continuation of that growth, including those that achieve the goal to double **GVA** over 25 years.

The next **Local Plan** needs to identify the number and type of jobs that should be planned for, so that we can find appropriate sites for business growth. It will also be important to consider how the plan provides flexibility so that if this ambitious economic growth is achieved, it is accompanied by the homes and infrastructure to support it. The new research that we have commissioned will help us with this. For more detail on what this may mean for housing growth, see the **Homes section**.

### Question

**24. How important do you think continuing economic growth is for the next Local Plan?**

*Please choose from the following options:*

**Very important / Somewhat important /  
Neither important nor unimportant / Somewhat unimportant /  
Not at all important**

Construction equipment innovations at the Manufacturing Technology Centre. Photograph courtesy of the Manufacturing Technology Centre.



<sup>45</sup> <https://www.cpier.org.uk/>

## 4.5.1 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.



Bradfield Centre  
tech co-working  
space. Photograph ©  
Greater Cambridge  
Shared Planning  
Service



## 4.5.2 What are we already doing?

The 2018 [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review](#)<sup>46</sup> (CPIER) provided an important baseline of evidence about our local economy.

The Councils have commissioned their own research into jobs growth to inform the new 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.

Building on the CPIER, the Government and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough [Combined Authority](#) recently published the [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Industrial Strategy](#)<sup>47</sup>. 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.

The Councils, 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 2018 Local Plans](#) seek 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 employment space.

Through the [North East Cambridge Area Action Plan](#), we are exploring the potential for further development at Cambridge Science Park and 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 2020.

Beyond the identified growth sites, our [adopted 2018 Local Plans](#) support continued employment growth in appropriate locations. They also seek to protect important existing employment spaces from competing uses, including industrial land in Cambridge, and employment sites in villages.

<sup>46</sup>. <https://www.cpier.org.uk/>

<sup>47</sup>. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/818886/Cambridge\\_SINGLE\\_PAGE.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818886/Cambridge_SINGLE_PAGE.pdf)

## 4.5.3 What are the key issues?

### 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](#) employers 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 these varied needs. 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.
- + Providing for a wide range of employment opportunities.
- + How new business space can adapt to fast-changing working practices which will continue to evolve over time.
- + Demand for specialist space, such as laboratories.

### Question

25. What kind of business and industrial space do you think is most needed in the area?



Cambridge Science Park. Photograph © Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service



## 4.5.3 What are the key issues?

### Protecting existing employment land

Local residents are concerned about protecting existing business sites. 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.

---

#### Question

**26. Do you think we should be protecting existing business and industrial space?**

---

### 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<sup>48</sup>. Supporting different kinds of business, which create a varied range of 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.

---

#### Question

**27. How should we balance supporting our knowledge-intensive sectors, with creating a wide range of different jobs?  
What kind of jobs would you like to see created in the area?**

---

<sup>48</sup>. Economically Active % Unemployment - Kings Hedges 4.8% (near Cambridge Science Park), Newnham, Castle 0.9%. Cambridge 2.7% in 2011 (source: Census 2011 - Cambridge Insight)

## 4.5.3 What are the key issues?

### 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 employers 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 that we have a highly mobile workforce who tend to move jobs much more frequently than they move house.
- + How we ensure that our new settlements are attractive to major employers.
- + 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

28. In providing for a range of employment space, are there particular locations we should be focusing on? Are there specific locations important for different types of business or industry?



Eddington Market Square. Photograph courtesy of Eddington- University of Cambridge. Photograph: Paul Hughes

## 4.5.3 What are the key issues?

### How our city, town and village centres evolve and adapt

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

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 they are 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 local services and facilities available to meet the day-to-day needs of residents and visitors.

#### Question

29. How flexible should we be about the uses we allow in our city, town, district, local and village centres?

Very flexible / Somewhat flexible / Neither flexible nor inflexible  
Somewhat inflexible / Very inflexible

Outdoor cinema and market. Photograph courtesy of Cambridge BID.





## 4.5.3 What are the key issues?

### Managing the visitor economy

Cambridge is a major tourism location, which brings opportunities and challenges. In recent years, several new hotels have been built in the area with more proposed in the centre of Cambridge. These developments will support the continued vitality of the city centre, encouraging place-making investment and local job creation. However, it is important that Greater Cambridge is able to capture 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 the approach in residential areas.
- + The impact of different forms of accommodation including short term lettings such as Airbnb.
- + How we support business diversification while also recognising potential impacts on residents and other businesses as well as the historic environment.

### Question

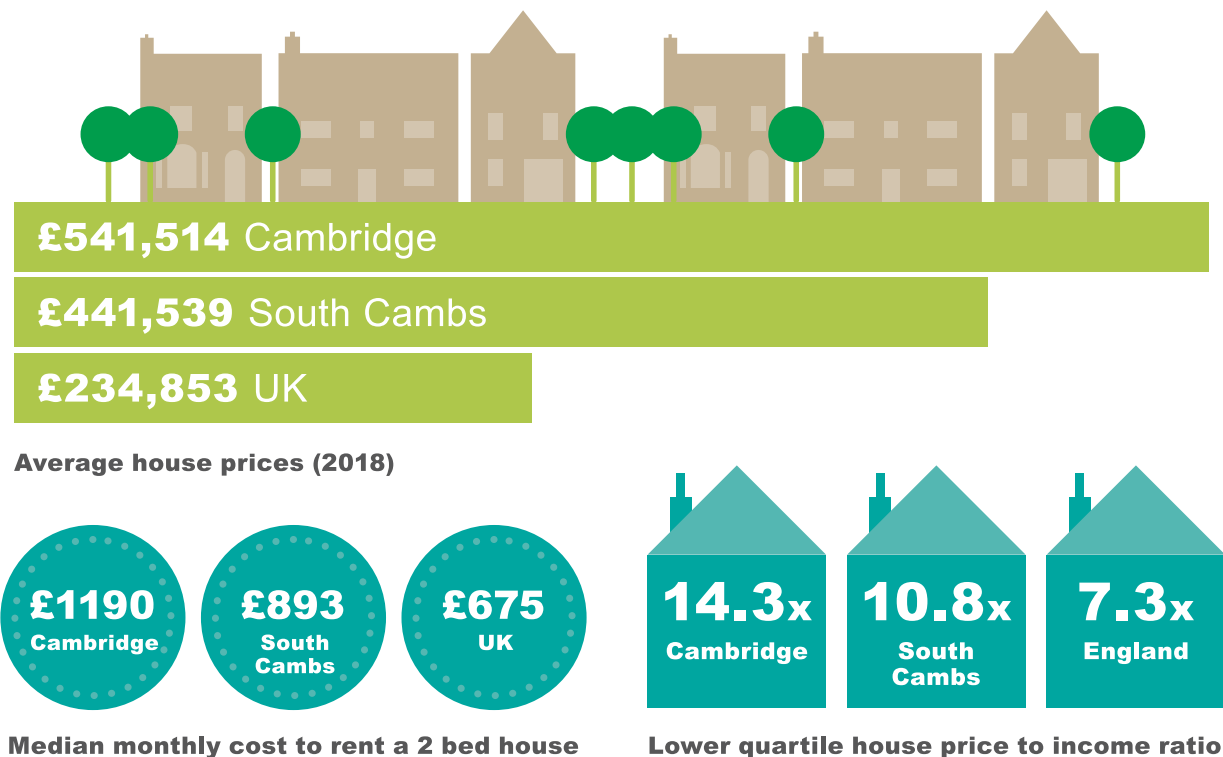
30. What approach should the next plan take to supporting or managing tourism in Cambridge and the rural area?



Punting on the Cam. Photograph © Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

## 4.6 Homes

### 120,790 homes in Greater Cambridge today



**Figure 19**  
Homes and affordability  
in Greater Cambridge

Housing is one of the most important issues in planning. The next [Local Plan](#) will define the number of new homes we should be planning for to meet the needs of our communities and the growing economy, including what types of housing we need and where they should be built.

The costs of buying or renting a home, and the shortage of homes available for those on low to middle incomes, are a real issue for many of those living and wanting to live in [Greater Cambridge](#). If we do not plan for enough homes, this could worsen affordability, limit our local economy, damage social inclusion, and have implications for climate change as people travel further to access jobs. As we live longer, having suitable properties for us to downsize into without leaving our communities is an important issue, which would also free up family housing.

The Local Plan has an important role to play in ensuring we get the right homes in the right places so that everyone has the chance to live settled, healthy lives. We must also consider how we can encourage the development industry to build houses more quickly to meet our needs.

#### Question

31. How should the Local Plan help to meet our needs for the amount and types of new homes?



## 4.6.1 What do we have to do?

The next **Local Plan** will define the number of new homes we should be planning for, and where they should be built. It will also need to establish 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 2018 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. National guidance acknowledges that the standard method 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 housebuilding, national planning policy requires the Local Plan to plan for 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 number should reflect the overall strategy for the pattern and scale of development in the next Local Plan.

---

## 4.6.2 What are we doing already?

Our **adopted 2018 Local Plans** allocate land to meet a target of 33,500 homes between 2011 and 2031 (1,675 per year). Many of these are 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.

During the next **Local Plan** period (proposed to be 2017-2040), these, and other sites that already have planning permission, are likely to provide around 36,400 homes. 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.

We have therefore already planned for a number of sites which will contribute to meeting our future housing need for the next Local Plan.

The Councils have also adopted a joint Housing Strategy (**Homes for our future Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019 – 2023**<sup>49</sup>). This sets the context as to how both Councils aim to meet the housing challenges facing the area, setting out key priorities for action.

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/13250/greater-cambridge-housing-strategy-2019-2023.pdf>

## 4.6.3 What are the key issues?

### How many new homes per year?



### Comparison to existing developments



**Figure 20**

Planned and potential housing growth in Greater Cambridge

### The need for new homes

The next [Local Plan](#) will need to establish the number of homes required in the area. Updates to national planning policy have introduced a new way of calculating the number of homes needed to meet the needs in an area, referred to as the 'standard method'. This method takes account of population growth and affordability issues. We need to plan for at least this minimum figure in the Local Plan.

Our current calculations using the Government's '[standard method](#)' indicate a need for 1,800 homes per year, or 40,900 homes for the suggested plan period of 2017-2040 – but these numbers will be updated as further data becomes available. If not enough homes are built to meet the 'standard method' target, planning applications for housing may have to be approved on sites that are in conflict with policies in the Local Plan.

The 'standard method' does not attempt to predict changing economic circumstances or other factors, and says that there will be circumstances where it is appropriate to consider making provision for more homes than the standard method minimum.

When the Councils signed up to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution deal when the Combined Authority was created, this included the vision of doubling the total economic output of the area over 25 years. As set out in the [Jobs theme](#), the [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review](#)<sup>50</sup> (CPIER) showed that our recent jobs

<sup>50</sup>. <https://www.cpier.org.uk/>

growth has been faster than expected, and that growth is likely to continue. As a result, demand for new housing in this area has been exceptionally high and housebuilding has not kept up.

While there is much more work to do on this, a rough indicative calculation based on CPIER suggests that if the jobs growth is achieved, around 2,900 homes a year would need to be built in [Greater Cambridge](#) – an indicative total of 66,700 homes over 2017-2040. This compares with the [adopted 2018 Local Plans](#)’ target of 1,675 homes per year, and 1,800 homes per year to meet local needs using the Government’s standard method.

With 36,400 homes already in the pipeline to be built between 2017 and 2040, if the indicative calculation above is correct, there may be a case for making additional provision beyond the local housing need derived from the standard method, described above. Making the additional provision that would provide flexibility to support our potential economic growth suggests identifying sites for around an additional 30,000 homes in the next Local Plan. This is subject to the further research we are commissioning and a decision on the jobs growth to be planned for. To give a sense of the scale of this potential additional provision, Orchard Park in the north of Cambridge is around 1,000 homes, whilst the total number of homes on the Cambridge Southern Fringe developments is around 4,000, most of which have been built. The new town at Northstowe when complete will be around 10,000 homes. Our current pipeline forecasts do not include North East Cambridge, for which the [North East Area Action Plan](#) is being prepared, or Cambridge Airport, which is safeguarded land for development in the [adopted 2018 Local Plans](#), and both of these may provide a significant number of new homes.

---

### Question

**32. Do you think we should plan for a higher number of homes than the minimum required by government, to provide flexibility to support the growing economy? *Please choose from the following options:***

**Yes, strongly agree / Yes, somewhat agree**

**Neither agree nor disagree / No, somewhat disagree**

---

## 4.6.3 What are the key issues?

### **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 currently come from private developments. The Local Plan must:

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



Mixed tenure new homes at Great Kneighton. Photograph courtesy of Countryside Properties.

## 4.6.3 What are the key issues?

### **Diverse housing for diverse communities**

We need to provide market and affordable homes that meet the varied needs of our communities, from students to older people, 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.
- + We must consider whether Cambridge will need more 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 more affordable shared accommodation. However, using homes in this way can reduce the number of family homes available, can have a negative impact on the character of an area and can 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 specifically designed shared accommodation 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, and increase the diversity of housing supply and facilitate innovative housing design. We will need to consider the demand for self-build and custom build housing from the Councils' registers and how the local plan can help deliver sites for self-build. We will also consider other models such as community led development including cooperative housing.
- + 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 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 District Council 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.

---

### **Question**

**33. What kind of housing do you think we should provide?**

---



## 4.6.3 What are the key issues?

### **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. We will be reviewing our evidence to inform the next local plan.

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 2018 Local Plans identify a site to the north of the City that has been allocated for off-river residential moorings.

---

#### **Question**

**34. How should we meet the need for additional Gypsy, Traveller and caravan sites?**

---

## 4.6.3 What are the key issues?

### Housing quality

We want to create high quality homes which are safe, secure and long-lasting. In the [adopted 2018 Local Plans](#), the Councils applied the [National Space Standards](#)<sup>51</sup>, 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 [wellbeing and social inclusion theme](#).
- + How housing design responds to the increasing trend for working from home, and other changing lifestyle demands.
- + How new homes should be constructed to reduce water and energy use and adapt to our changing climate. This is covered in more detail in the [climate change theme](#).

#### Question

35. How should we ensure a high standard of housing is built in our area?

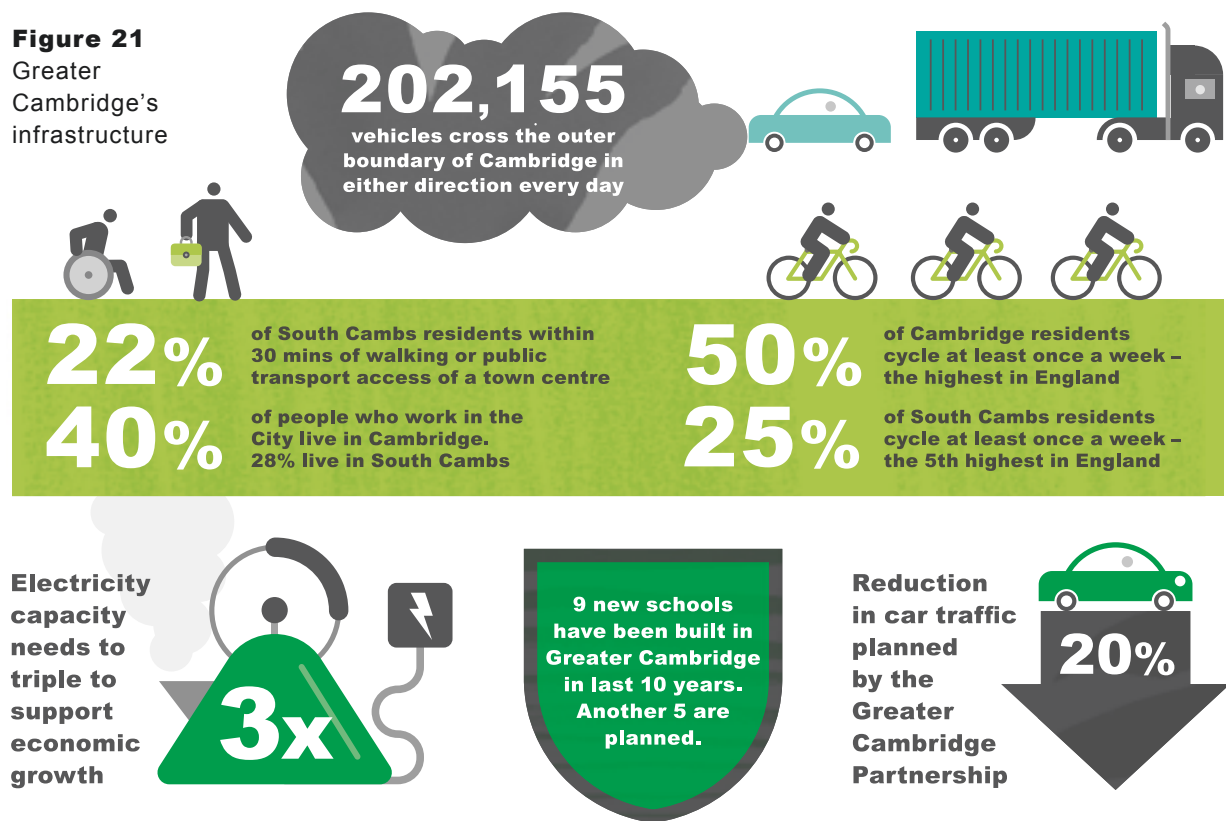


New homes and public space at Eddington. Photograph courtesy of Stanton Williams.

<sup>51</sup>. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-housing-standards-nationally-described-space-standard>

## 4.7 Infrastructure

**Figure 21**  
Greater  
Cambridge's  
infrastructure



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.

Growth creates 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.

Infrastructure to support new jobs and homes includes schools, health facilities, utilities networks like water and power, and telecommunications such as broadband. While the Councils are not directly responsible for these, for development to be sustainable we need to help to ensure they are available to meet the needs that result. Not providing enough infrastructure could result in increased congestion, add pressure to schools and health facilities, or even prevent new jobs and homes being created.

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.

### Question

**36. How should the Local Plan ensure the right infrastructure is provided in line with development?**

## 4.7.1 What do we have to do?

**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, healthcare 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.



Gamlingay  
community wind  
turbine. Photograph  
© Greater Cambridge  
Shared Planning  
Service

## 4.7.2 What are we already doing?

Transport was a big influence on the [adopted 2018 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 achieved.

The [Greater Cambridge Partnership](#) is developing a number of transport schemes designed to improve sustainable travel in the area, though supporting walking, cycling and public transport. This includes links between Cambridge and the new settlements at Cambourne, Bourn Airfield and north of Waterbeach. Funding of up to £500m has been secured through the 2014 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](#) has just finished consulting on a [draft Local Transport Plan](#)<sup>52</sup>. 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 Cambridge](#)<sup>53</sup> include a station at either Bassingbourn or Cambourne. The choice of route, expected soon, could significantly influence future growth patterns in [Greater Cambridge](#), while the rail line itself will have major environmental implications for South Cambridgeshire’s communities. In particular, the Councils are 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.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority are investing in a [‘Smart Cambridge’](#)<sup>54</sup> 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.

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.

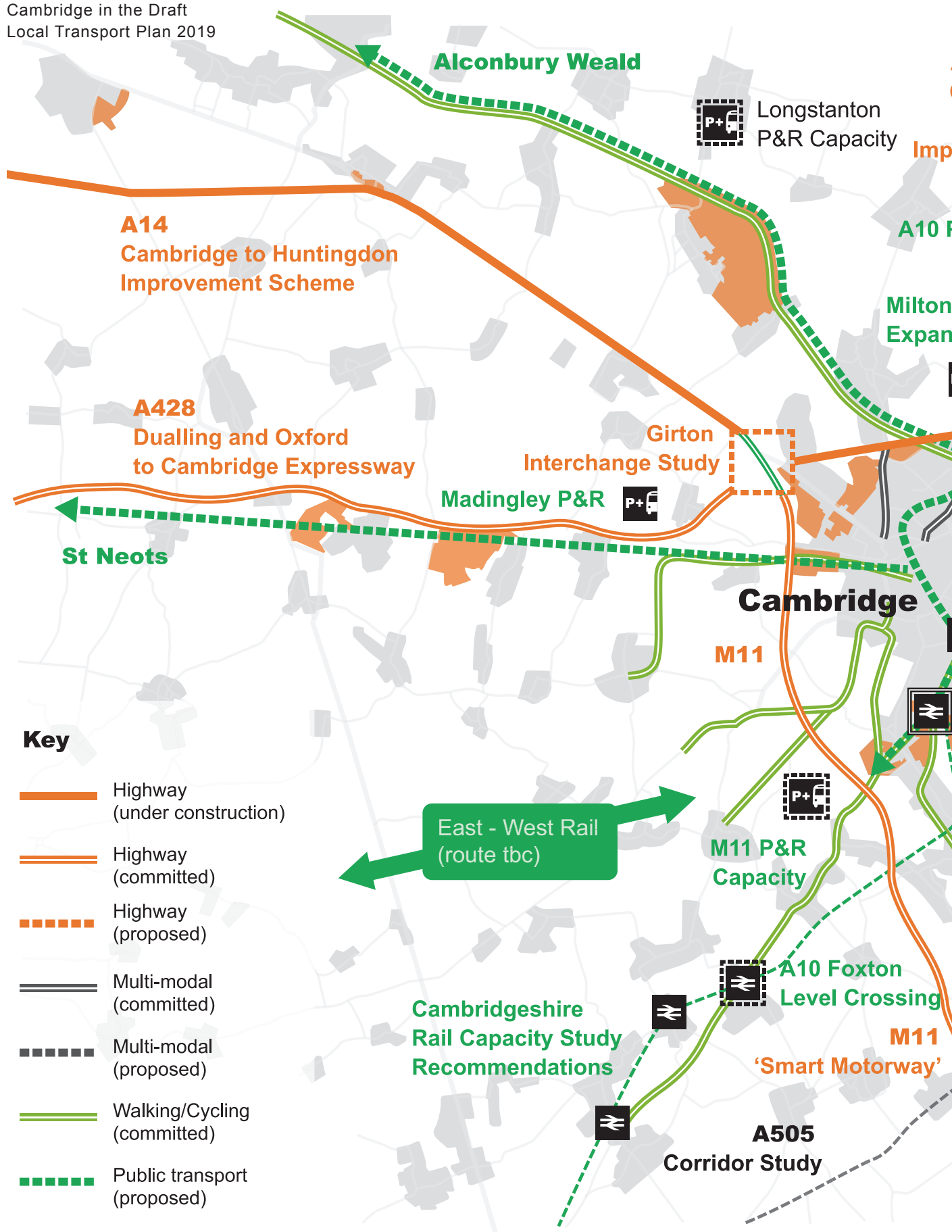
<sup>52</sup>. <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/programmes/transport/ltp/>

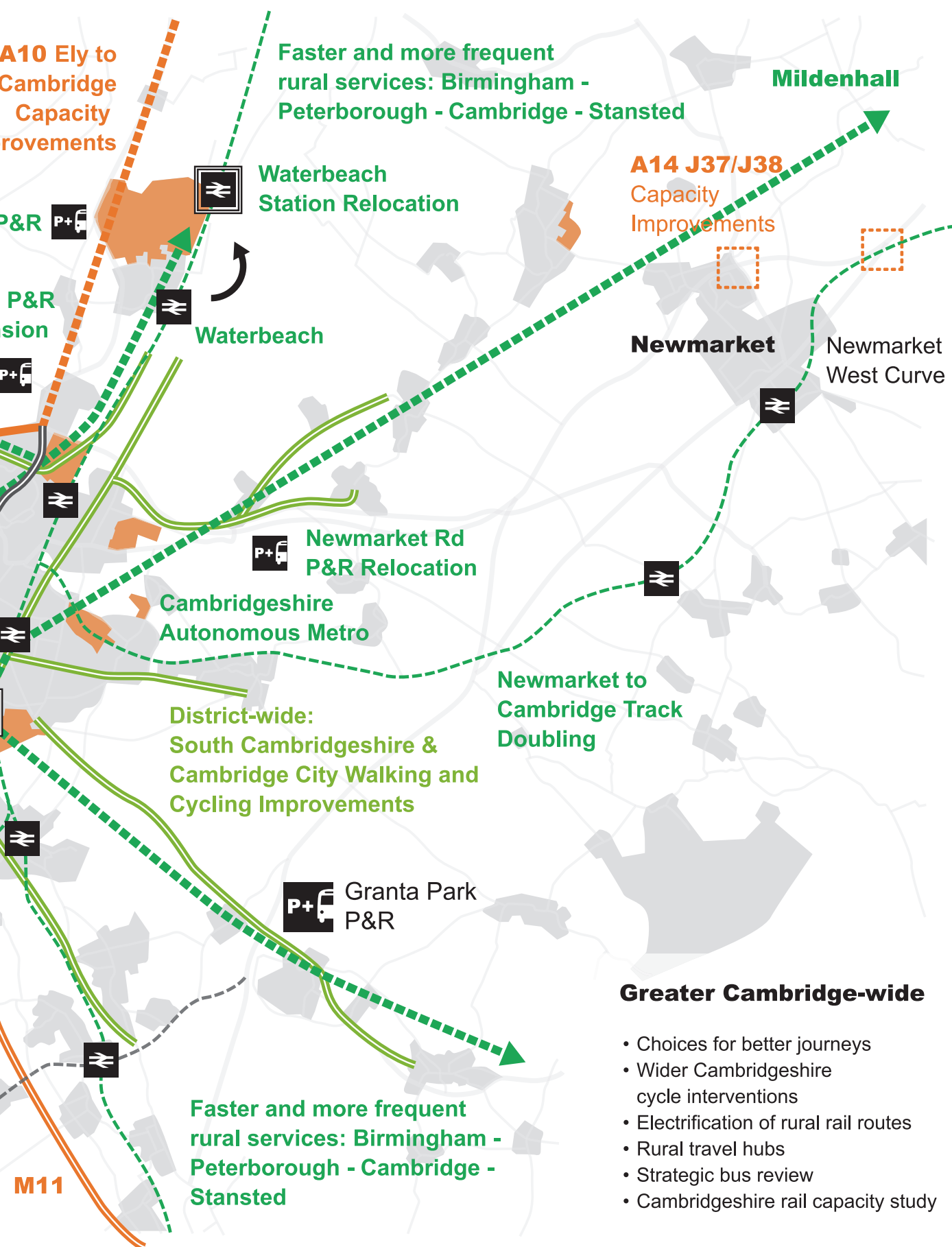
<sup>53</sup>. <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/the-project>

<sup>54</sup>. <https://smartcambridge.org/>



**Figure 22**  
Planned Major Transport  
Projects in Greater  
Cambridge in the Draft  
Local Transport Plan 2019





## 4.7.3 What are the key issues?

### **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 change significantly 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 development 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.
- + Encouraging the delivery of packages and goods to become more sustainable, such as by supporting the development of local delivery hubs.
- + Making the most of the opportunities provided by new technology.

#### **Question**

**37. How should we encourage a shift away from car use and towards more sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, cycling and walking?**



Guided busway and cycle parking.  
Photograph © Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

## 4.7.3 What are the key issues?

### Securing new infrastructure to accompany new homes and jobs

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 triple 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 wastewater infrastructure is developed to meet the needs of new development, and to increase efficiency so 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.

Identifying land for minerals and waste, including recycling centres, is identified in a separate [Minerals & Waste Plan](#)<sup>55</sup> produced by Cambridgeshire County Council. Linked to this, the Councils are partners to the [RECAP Waste Management Design Guide](#)<sup>56</sup> which sets out how new development should be designed to support effective waste management.

#### Question

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

Eddington School.  
Eddington –  
University of  
Cambridge, Marks  
Barfield Architects.  
Photograph: Morley  
von Sternberg



<sup>55</sup>. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/planning-policy/adopted-minerals-and-waste-plan/>

<sup>56</sup>. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/planning-policy/recap-waste-management-design-guide/>





**5**

# Where to build?



# 5. Where to build?

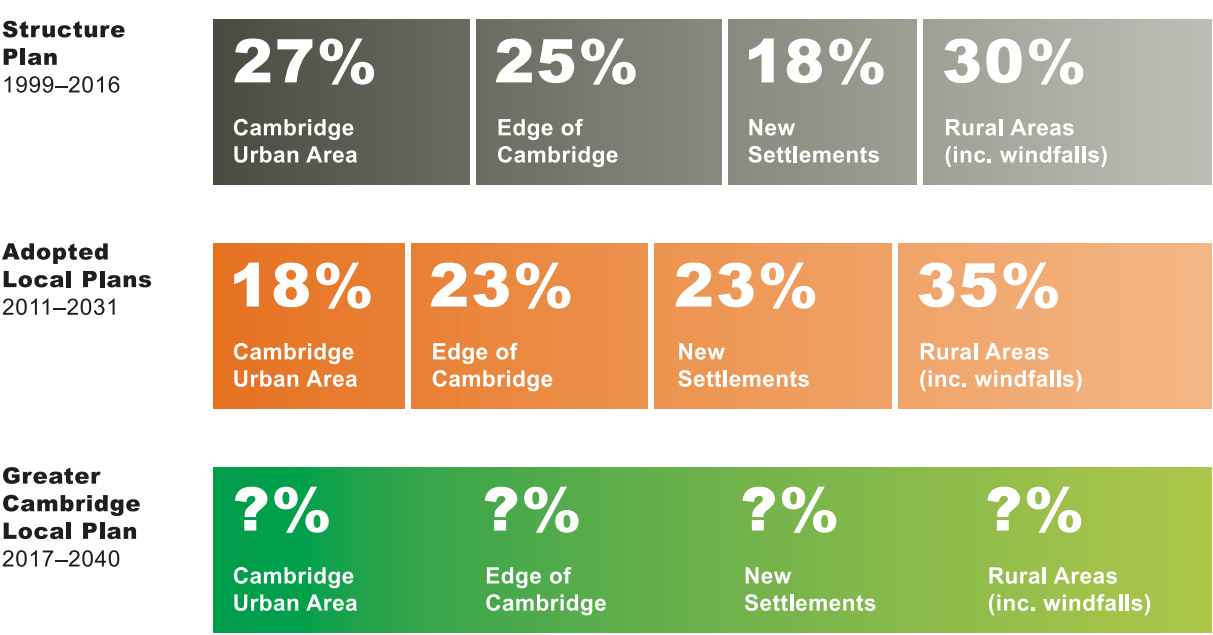
As well as planning for the right amount of growth, it is important to make sure the [Local Plan](#) provides the right strategy for where this growth should happen that will bring environmental, economic and social benefits.

## 5.1 Our current approach to locating development

Previous plans for the [Greater Cambridge](#) area prioritised development firstly within Cambridge, then on the edge of Cambridge (subject to consideration of impact on the Green Belt), at new settlements close to Cambridge (well connected by public transport), and at better served villages. Sites in the [adopted 2018 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.

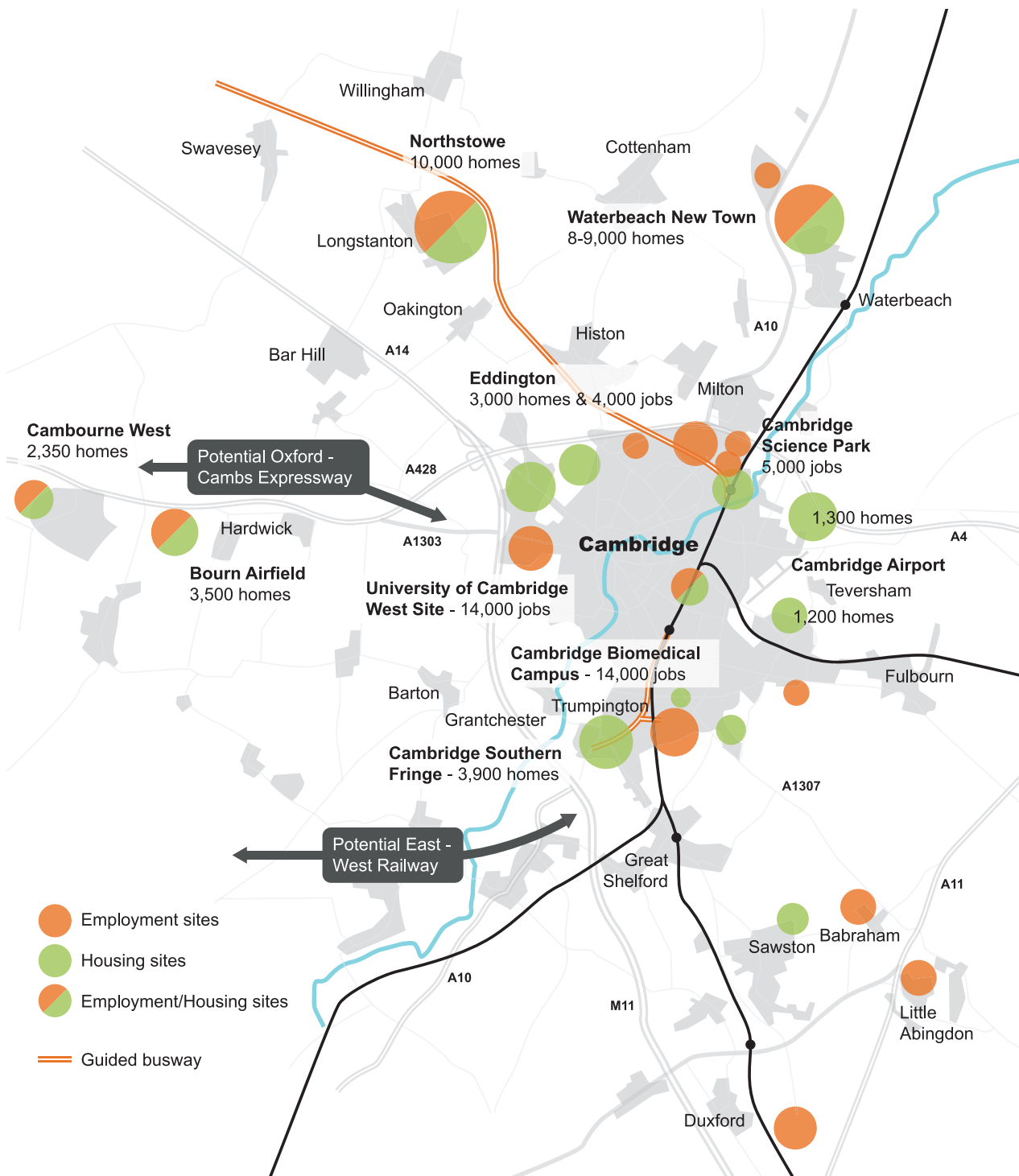
The diagram below shows the proportions of housing growth in different types of location that were chosen in previous strategies.

It is likely that the most suitable 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 23**  
Distribution of growth in  
previous and current plans

## 5.1 Our current approach to locating development



**Figure 24**  
Existing planned  
growth in the adopted  
2018 Local Plans

## 5.2 Key influences on locating new development

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

---

### 5.2.1 Key sites already identified

A key site that will feed into the new development strategy is North East Cambridge. This brownfield site in the built-up area of Cambridge includes the area around Cambridge North Station, and the Anglian Water site where funding has been secured through the Housing Infrastructure Fund to support redevelopment. A [North East Cambridge Area Action Plan](#) is in preparation and will show how significant levels of jobs and homes can be created here. While this site is allocated in the [adopted 2018 Local Plans](#), neither plan relied on development here to make up its growth targets. This means that all development here will count towards the additional targets 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 of 10-12,000 new homes and a strategic scale of jobs. When we were preparing the adopted 2018 Local Plans, Marshall advised that it had not secured an alternative site and the land would not be available until at least 2031. The adopted 2018 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 is no longer in the Green Belt. Development on safeguarded land can only occur once the site becomes available and following a review of the adopted plans. 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 (Imperial War Museum) site at Duxford. Confirmation whether the safeguarded land at Cambridge Airport can be developed within the next 20 years will be important as part of considering whether to allocate it in the next Local Plan.

## 5.2.2 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 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 while we are preparing the Plan.

The [East West Rail project](#) between Oxford and Cambridge also has implications for significant growth, particularly in terms of the possible location of a new station in South Cambridgeshire. As with the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (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.

---

## 5.2.3 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.

## 5.2.4 Green Belt

Decisions about the Green Belt impact on all location choices. The Green Belt covers around 25% of South Cambridgeshire. It adjoins much of 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. The purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt have long been defined as to:

- + preserve the unique character of Cambridge as a compact, dynamic city with a thriving historic centre.
- + maintain and enhance the quality of its setting.
- + prevent communities in the environs of Cambridge from merging into one another and with the city.

However, the Green Belt also restricts growth on the edge of Cambridge, a location that has sustainability advantages in terms of access to jobs and services and reducing trips by the private car that could help mitigate our climate impacts. In that context, national planning policy requires that local plans consider the impact on **sustainable development** of channelling growth outside the Green Belt. At the same time, recent changes also mean that alternatives have to be fully explored before land can be removed from the Green Belt. This will be an important issue for the plan.

### Question

**39. 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 reduce our climate impacts?**

**Yes / No**

**Figure 25**  
Extent of the  
Cambridge  
Green Belt





## 5.2.5 Supporting villages

Our villages are wonderful places to live, but many villages have an ageing population and 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 2018 South Cambridgeshire Local Plan](#) sets a [development framework \(boundary\)](#) for each village, outside which development is heavily restricted – this is intended to protect the countryside from gradual encroachment, and guard against incremental growth in less sustainable locations away from services, facilities and public transport. The plan does allow affordable homes to be built outside village frameworks, where there is evidence of local need for [affordable housing](#), as an exception to normal policy (so-called ‘rural exception sites’).

The adopted 2018 Local Plan also categorises villages into four different types according to how ‘sustainable’ they are in terms of shops, public transport and local services. This is intended to restrict growth in the smallest villages, where transport alternatives to the car are often limited, and where there is a need to travel for basic services like schools. The category limits how many homes can be built on a single development within the village boundary, for example on a brownfield site that becomes available.

In ‘Rural Centres’ like Sawston there is no limit on how many homes can be built on a single site within the village framework, whereas in an ‘Infill Only’ village like Knapwell, the adopted 2018 Local Plan allows only two new houses per site, if it has an existing frontage (or slightly more for a brownfield site). The full list can be found in the adopted 2018 South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (in [Policies S/8 to S/11](#)<sup>57</sup>).

The next [Local Plan](#) could re-examine the approach to village growth and there are various approaches that could be taken. This could include looking again at the village categories, 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 retain a more restrictive approach to the more remote villages, in order to focus growth in the most accessible locations. Local communities may have a particular view on the needs of their village.

---

### Question

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

*Please choose from the following options:*

**Highly flexible / Somewhat flexible / Keep the current approach / Restrict further**

**Is there are particular approach you would like the plan to take for your village?**

---

### Question

**41. 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?**

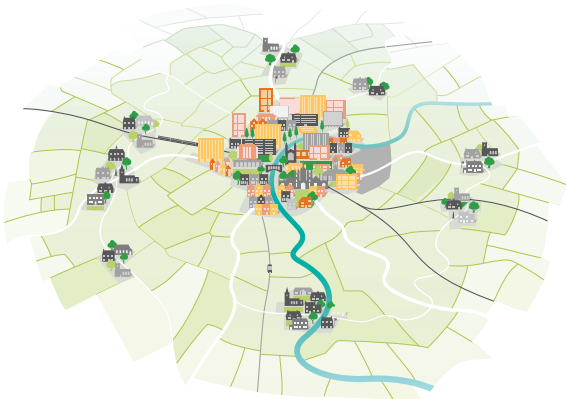
*Please choose from the following options:*

**Highly flexible / Somewhat flexible / Keep the current approach / Restrict further**

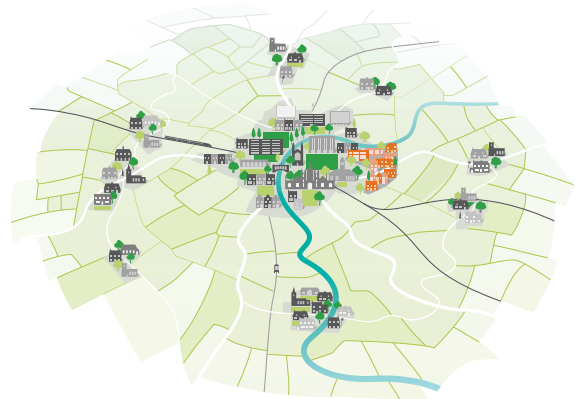
<sup>57</sup>. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12527/3-chapter-2-spatial-strategy.pdf>

## 5.3 What are the choices?

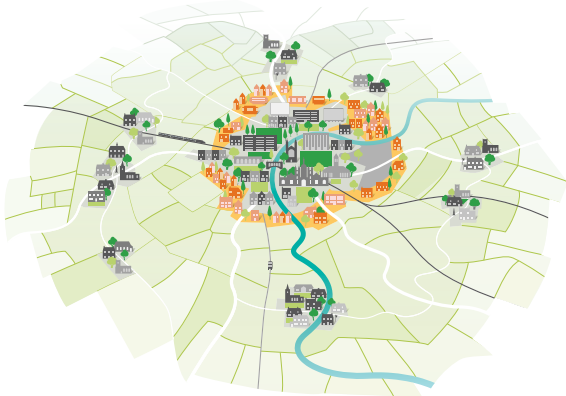
There are many different locations that we could choose to focus growth:



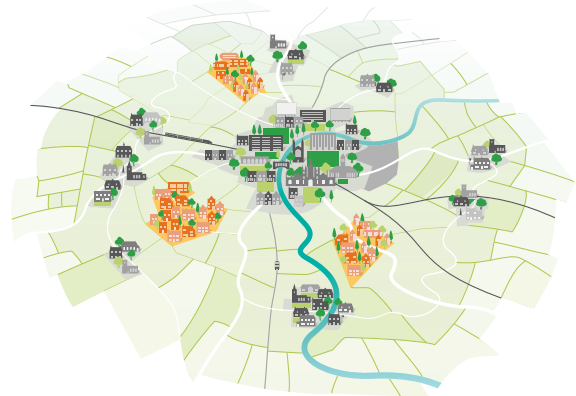
**Densification of existing urban areas**



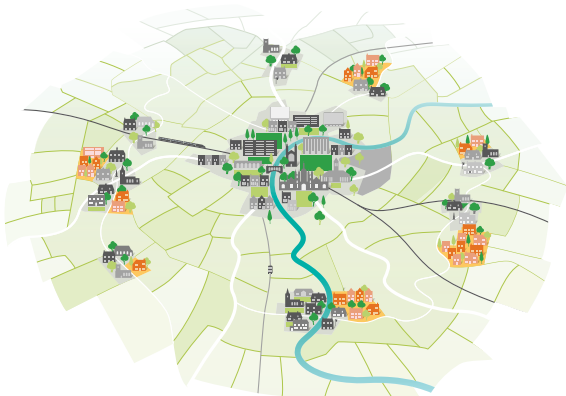
**Edge of Cambridge: outside Green Belt**



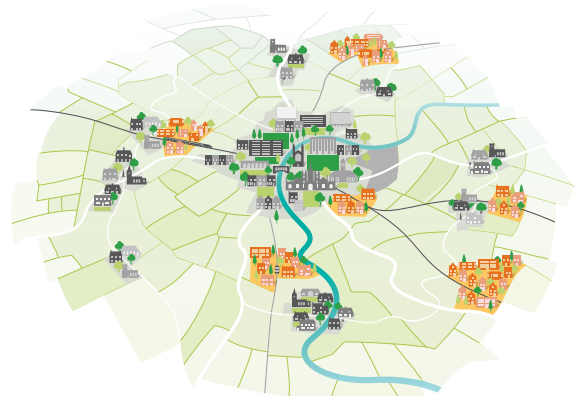
**Edge of Cambridge: Green Belt**



**Dispersal: New settlements**



**Dispersal: Villages**



**Public transport corridors**

**Figure 26**  
Illustration of different  
potential locations for growth

There is more detail in this section about these different locations, and their advantages and disadvantages. They cover a broad range of location choices, and the chosen strategy for the [Local Plan](#) could involve growth in all or most of them, to some extent.

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

- + 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.
- + Biodiversity and green spaces** – this could be through large scale new development that could come with accompanying large-scale green space, or contributions from smaller sites that can be pooled towards providing green space elsewhere.
- + Wellbeing and social inclusion** – locating new development where it can bring wider benefits to existing communities in terms of access to services, facilities and green space. Development could also enable access to a range of job opportunities for both existing and new communities.
- + Great places** – siting development where it provides opportunities to protect, enhance and improve places and deliver high quality design.
- + Jobs** – The success of the high technology 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. We will need to consider whether different locations affect viability for delivering affordable homes.
- + 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 Sustainability Appraisal considers each of these options in further detail.

---

## Question

### 42. Where should we site new development?

*Rank the options below 1 6 (1 – Most Preferred 6 – Least Preferred)*

Densification of existing urban areas /  
Edge of Cambridge: Outside Green Belt /  
Edge of Cambridge: Green Belt /  
Dispersal: New Settlements / Dispersal: Villages /  
Public Transport Corridors

---

## 5.3.1 Densification of existing urban areas

This approach would focus new homes and jobs within Cambridge, because it is the main urban area and centre for services and facilities. 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. It could also look to increase the density in planned new settlements.

### Advantages:

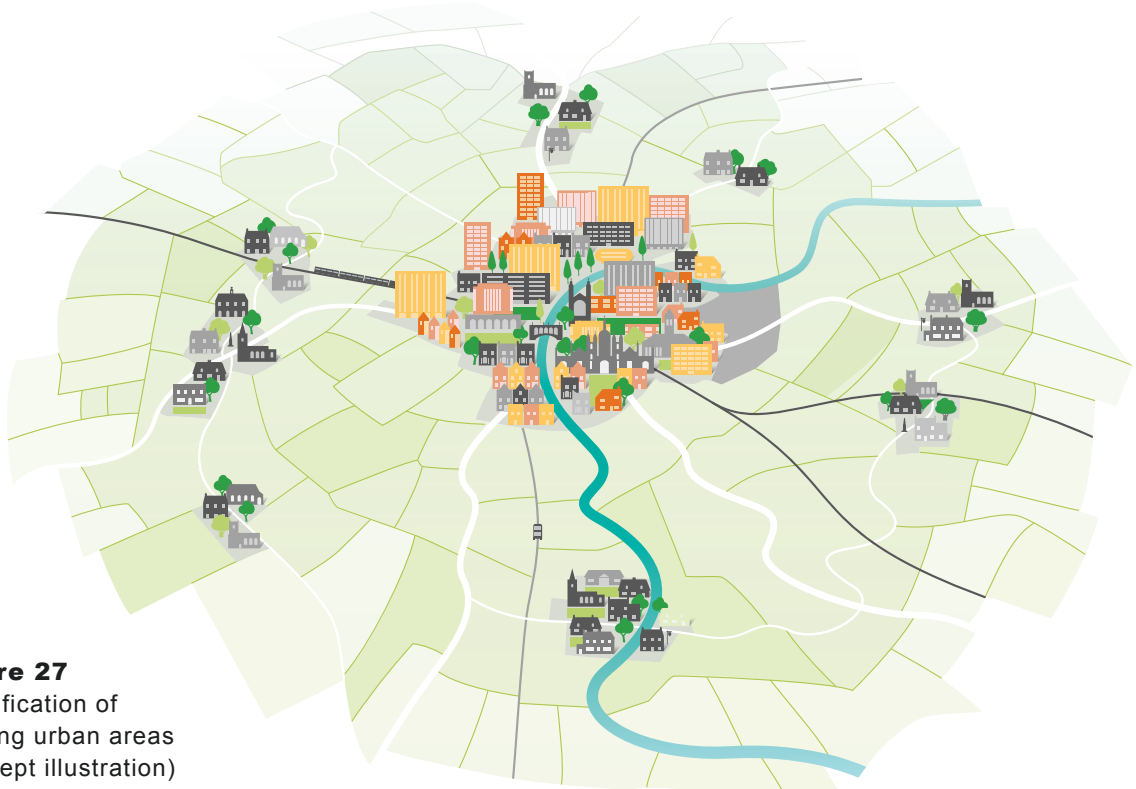
- + Reduces the need to use greenfield land to accommodate growth.
- + Living in central, well-connected and vibrant areas is important for many people.
- + Reduces the need to travel by car and so makes a positive contribution to addressing climate change.
- + Sites growth near to existing centres, 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.

### Question

43. What do you think about densification?



**Figure 27**  
Densification of  
existing urban areas  
(concept illustration)

## 5.3.2 Edge of Cambridge – outside the Green Belt

This approach would create new homes and jobs in extensions on the edge of Cambridge, using land not in the green belt. The only large site on the edge of Cambridge not in the Green Belt is Cambridge Airport.

### Advantages:

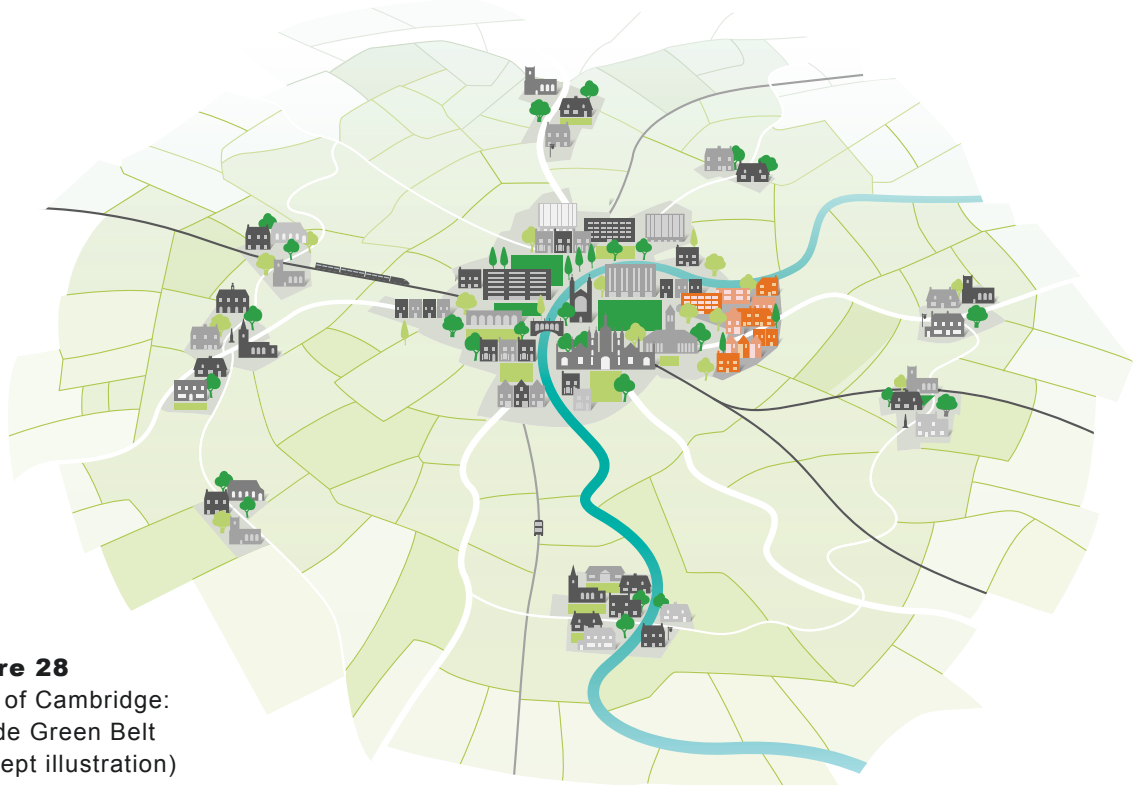
- + Benefits from the services and infrastructure at the existing centre, maximising the potential for sustainable transport.
- + Large scale urban extensions present the opportunity for new on-site infrastructure, such as schools, local centres and green spaces that can bring benefits to the existing and new community.
- + Cambridge Airport has previously been identified as suitable location for a new urban quarter to Cambridge and was removed from the Green Belt in earlier plans. It is identified as safeguarded land for longer term development in the 2018 Local Plans if it becomes available.
- + Makes use of brownfield land.

### Challenges:

- + Confirmation whether safeguarded land at Cambridge Airport can be developed within the next 20 years will be important as part of considering whether to allocate it in the new Local Plan.

### Question

44. What do you think about developing around the edge of Cambridge on land outside the Green Belt?



**Figure 28**  
Edge of Cambridge:  
outside Green Belt  
(concept illustration)



## 5.3.3 Edge of Cambridge – Green Belt

This approach would create new homes and jobs in extensions on the edge of Cambridge, involving release of land from the Green Belt.

### Advantages:

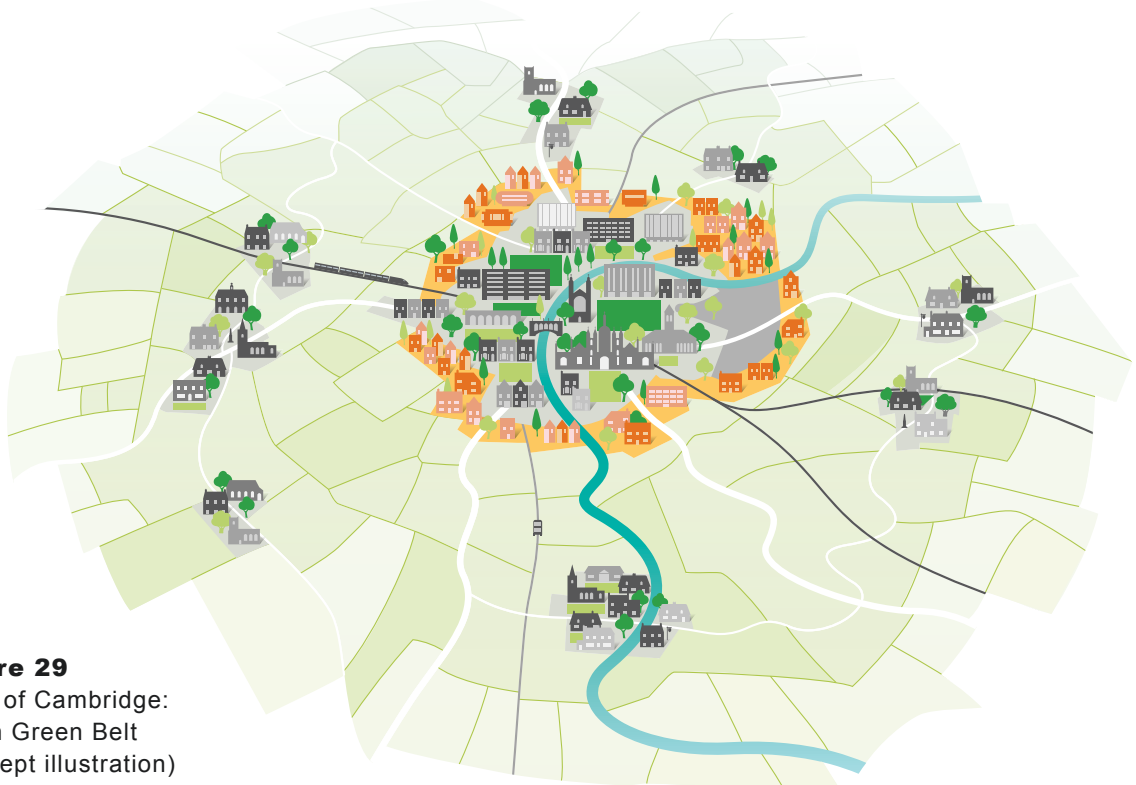
- + Benefits from the services and infrastructure at the existing centre, maximising the potential for sustainable transport.
- + Large scale urban extensions present the opportunity for new on-site infrastructure, such as schools, local centres and green spaces that can bring benefits to the existing 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. [National planning policy](#) is clear that Green Belt boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified, through the preparation or updating of plans. This includes a requirement that all other reasonable options, including working with neighbouring districts, have been fully explored. It also says that when reviewing Green Belt boundaries, the need to promote sustainable patterns of development should be taken into account.

### Question

45. What do you think about developing around the edge of Cambridge in the Green Belt?



**Figure 29**  
Edge of Cambridge:  
within Green Belt  
(concept illustration)

## 5.3.4 Dispersal: new settlements

New settlements would establish a whole new town or village, providing homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure in a new location, and would need to be supported by strategic transport infrastructure connecting to Cambridge.

### Advantages:

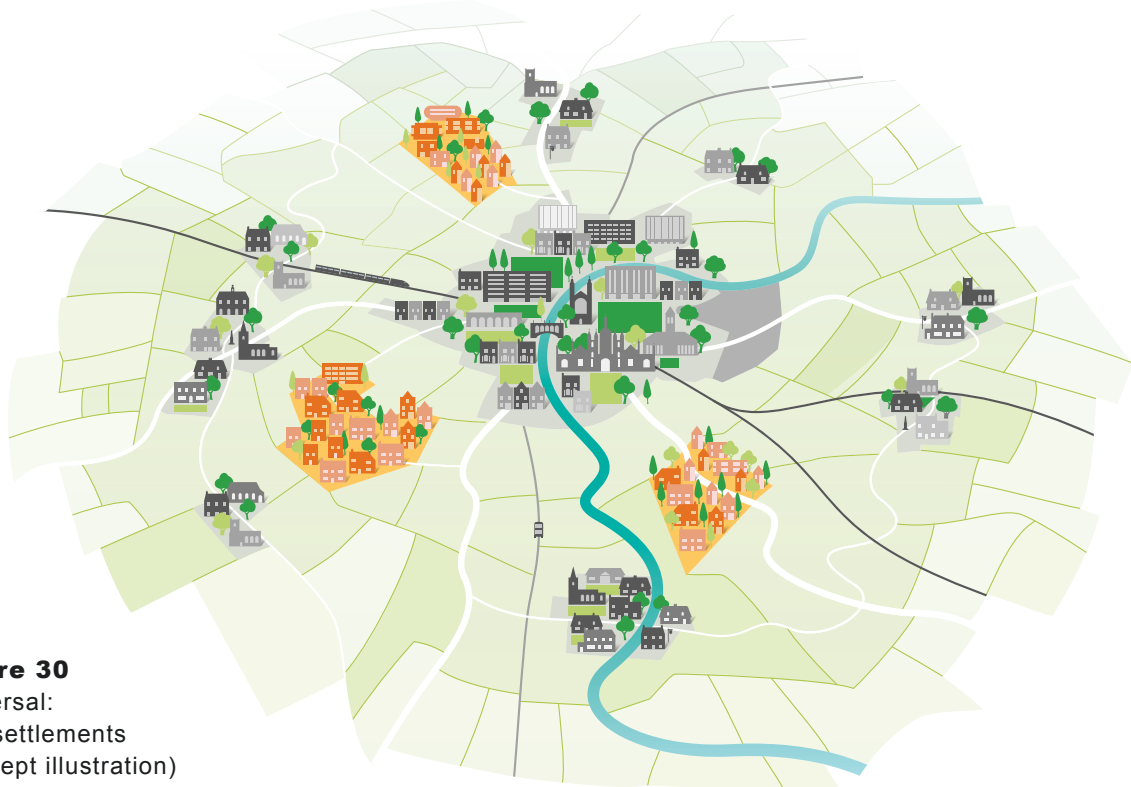
- + Provides an opportunity for significant new infrastructure to be delivered.
- + Provides an opportunity for substantial growth in a new location connected to the transport network.
- + May avoid removing land from the Green Belt

### Challenges:

- + Potential major impact on the landscape and loss of agricultural land.
- + Can take longer to become reality, due to starting from scratch.
- + Where it relies on proposed new transport infrastructure, even where it is included in the plans of the transport authorities, the level of certainty over delivery and timing of that infrastructure is crucial.

### Question

46. What do you think about creating planned new settlements?



**Figure 30**  
Dispersal:  
new settlements  
(concept illustration)

## 5.3.5 Dispersal: Villages

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

### Advantages:

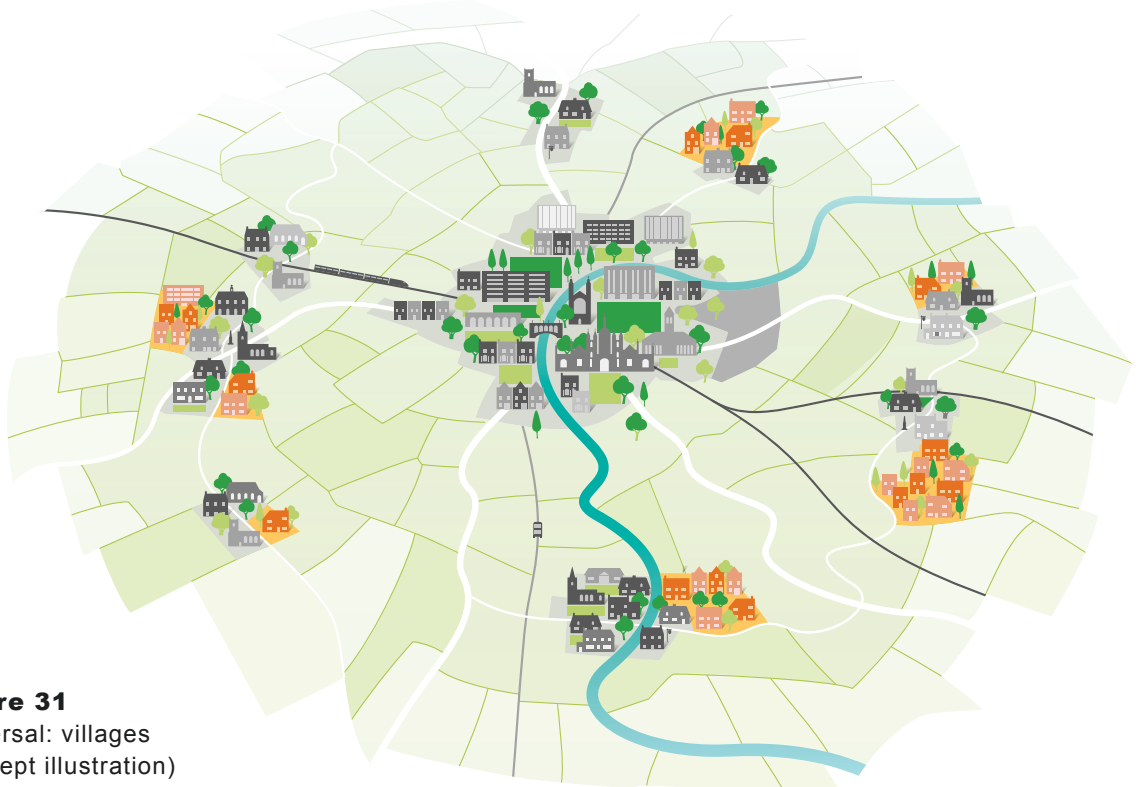
- + Can help to sustain existing facilities and infrastructure in the village.
- + Can help provide for a diversity of population in the village.

### Challenges:

- + Can result in increased commuting by car, and travel to access to services and facilities, particularly if the village is away from main transport corridors.
- + Small sites are unlikely to significantly contribute to improvements to infrastructure so services capacity within or accessible to a particular village is important.
- + Potential impact on village character needs to be considered.
- + Some of the larger better served villages are surrounded by the Green Belt.

### Question

47. What do you think about growing our villages?



**Figure 31**  
Dispersal: villages  
(concept illustration)

## 5.3.6 Public Transport Corridors

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:

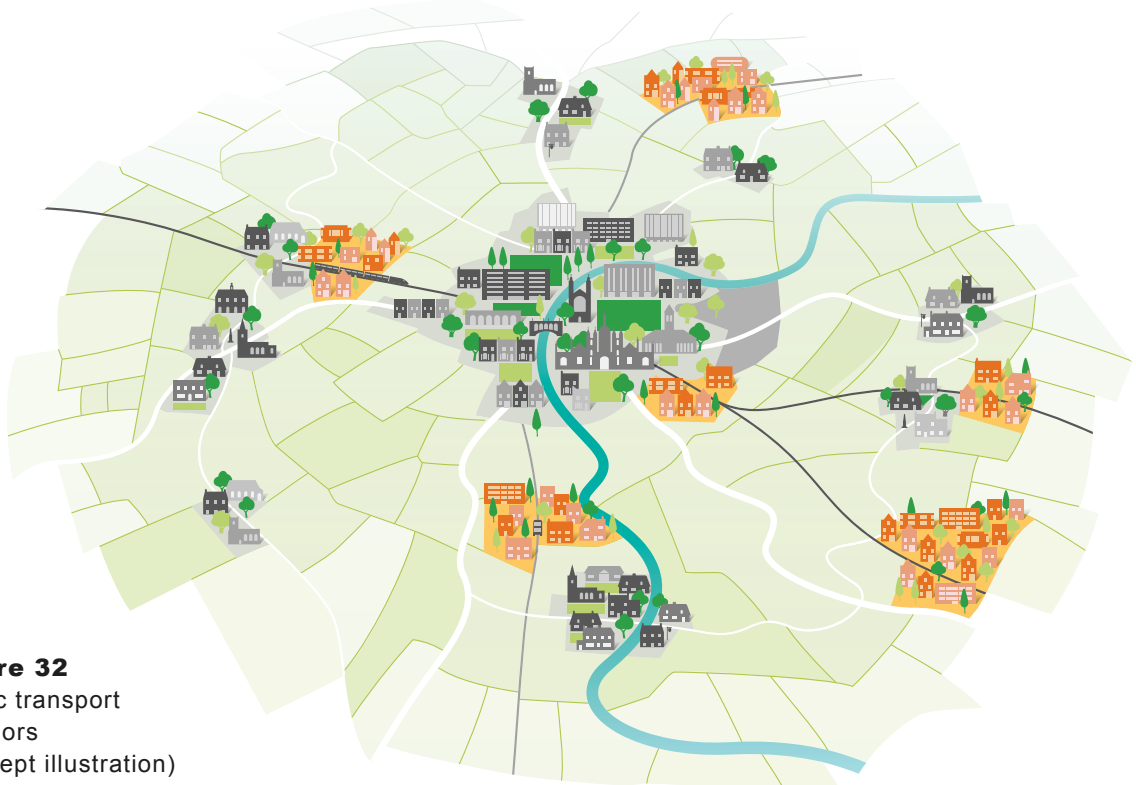
- + Concentrates development on transport corridors where there are opportunities for high quality public transport.
- + Supports expansion of economic benefits outwards from Cambridge.

### Challenges:

- + Requires the use of land along transport corridors, which may include locations within the Green Belt. This approach has implications for fundamentally changing the nature of the Cambridge Green Belt.
- + Weight to be given to proposed new strategic transport infrastructure, even where it is included in the plans of the transport authorities, will depend on the level of certainty over delivery and timing of that infrastructure.

### Question

48. What do you think about siting development along transport corridors?



**Figure 32**  
Public transport  
corridors  
(concept illustration)

The background of the slide is composed of abstract, hand-painted brushstrokes. The top half features broad, wavy strokes in various shades of green, ranging from a deep forest green to a lighter, lime green. The bottom half is dominated by vertical, textured strokes in a bright yellow-green color. The overall effect is organic and artistic.

**6**

Any other issues?



## 6.1 How will we develop the 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 and a draft [Local Plan](#). This will include:

1. Confirming how many homes and jobs we need to plan for.
2. Assessing the sites available to deliver the development: 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 growth location options that reflect different approaches to balancing growth across the different areas described above.
4. Testing the transport and other impacts of those growth location options.

We will continue to involve you at key stages as the new Local Plan is developed.

---

## 6.2 Learning from the adopted 2018 Local Plans

The two [adopted 2018 Local Plans](#) contain a lot 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 does contain 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

**49. Do you have any views on any specific policies in the two adopted 2018 Local Plans? If so, what are they?**

---

## 6.3 Any other issues

In this consultation we have tried to identify the big themes and issues that we think are important to consider as we prepare the new plan. However, you may have other ideas of this we need to consider, or ideas for the new [Local Plan](#).

This is the opportunity to tell us about anything you think we should be considering, which is not covered in this consultation.

---

### Question

**50. What do you think should be in the next Local Plan? Are there issues, ideas or themes that you don't feel we have yet explored?**

# Appendix 1 Full list of consultation questions

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

---

**2.** Please submit any sites for employment and housing you wish to suggest for allocation in the Local Plan. Provide as much information and supporting evidence as possible.

---

**3.** Please submit any sites for green space and wildlife habitats you wish to suggest for consideration through the Local Plan. Provide as much information and supporting evidence as possible.

---

**4.** 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 and why?

---

**5.** Do you think we have identified the right cross-boundary issues and initiatives that affect ourselves and neighbouring areas?

---

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

---

**7.** How do you think we should prioritise these big themes?

---

**8.** How should the Local Plan help us achieve net zero carbon by 2050?

---

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

---

**10.** Do you think we should require extra climate adaptation and resilience features to new developments?

---

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

---

**12.** How should the Local Plan help us improve the natural environment?

---

**13.** How do you think we should improve the green space network?

---

**14.** How do we achieve biodiversity net gain through new developments?

---

**15.** Do you agree that we should aim to increase tree cover across the area?

---

**16.** How should the Local Plan help us achieve 'good growth' that promotes wellbeing and social inclusion?

---

**17.** How do you think our plan could help enable communities to shape new development proposals?

---

**18.** How do you think we can make sure that we achieve safe and inclusive communities when planning new development?

---

**19.** How do you think new developments should support healthy lifestyles?

---

**20.** How do you think we should achieve improvements in air quality?

---

**21.** How should the Local Plan protect our heritage and ensure new development is well-designed?

---

**22.** How do you think we should protect, enhance and adapt our historic buildings and landscapes?

---

**23.** How do you think we could ensure that new development is as well-designed as possible?

---

**24.** How important do you think continuing economic growth is for the next Local Plan?

---

**25.** What kind of business and industrial space do you think is most needed in the area?

---

**26.** Do you think we should be protecting existing business and industrial space?

---

**27.** How should we balance supporting our knowledge-intensive sectors, with creating a wide range of different jobs? What kind of jobs would you like to see created in the area?

---

**28.** In providing for a range of employment space, are there particular locations we should be focusing on? Are there specific locations important for different types of business or industry?

---

**29.** How flexible should we be about the uses we allow in our city, town, district, local and village centres?

---

**30.** What approach should the next plan take to supporting or managing tourism in Cambridge and the rural area?

---

**31.** How should the Local Plan help to meet our needs for the amount and types of new homes?

---

**32.** Do you think we should plan for a higher number of homes than the minimum required by government, to provide flexibility to support the growing economy?

---

**33.** What kind of housing do you think we should provide?

---

**34.** How should we meet the need for additional Gypsy, Traveller and caravan sites?**35.** How should we ensure a high standard of housing is built in our area?

---

**36.** How should the Local Plan ensure the right infrastructure is provided in line with development?

---

**37.** How should we encourage a shift away from car use and towards more sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, cycling and walking?

---

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

---

**39.** 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 reduce our climate impacts?

---

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

---

**41.** 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?

---

**42.** Where should we site new development?

---

**43.** What do you think about densification?

---

**44.** What do you think about developing around the edge of Cambridge on land outside the Green Belt?

---

**45.** What do you think about developing around the edge of Cambridge in the Green Belt?

---

**46.** What do you think about creating planned new settlements?

---

**47.** What do you think about growing our villages?

---

**48.** What do you think about siting development along transport corridors?

---

**49.** Do you have any views on any specific policies in the two adopted 2018 Local Plans? If so, what are they?

---

**50.** What do you think should be in the next Local Plan? Are there issues, ideas or themes that you don't feel we have yet explored?

---

# Appendix 2 List of supporting Evidence Documents and Plan Making Documents

## Evidence Documents

### Document (Author) Year

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*Cambridge City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023 (Cambridge City Council) 2018*  
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3451/air-quality-action-plan-2018.pdf>

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*Cambridge City Council Anti-Poverty Strategy 2017-20 (Cambridge City Council) 2017*  
[https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3814/170920\\_revised\\_anti-poverty\\_strategy\\_2017-2020\\_-\\_final\\_v2.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3814/170920_revised_anti-poverty_strategy_2017-2020_-_final_v2.pdf)

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*Cambridge City Council Vision*  
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/our-vision>

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*Cambridge City Council Tree Strategy (Cambridge City Council) 2016*  
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/tree-strategy>

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*Cities Outlook 2018 (Centre for Cities) 2018*  
<https://www.centreforcities.org/publication/cities-outlook-2018/>

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*Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Commission) 2018*  
<https://www.cpier.org.uk/final-report/>

---

*Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Industrial Strategy 2019 (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and HM Government) 2019*  
<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/programmes/local-industrial-strategy/>

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*Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals & Waste Plan (Cambridgeshire County Council) various.*  
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/planning-policy/adopted-minerals-and-waste-plan/>

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*Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth*  
[https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2950/cambridgeshire\\_quality\\_charter\\_2010.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2950/cambridgeshire_quality_charter_2010.pdf)

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*Draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority) 2019*  
<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/programmes/transport/ltpl>

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*Doubling Nature: A Vision for the Natural Future of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough in 2050 (Natural Cambridgeshire) 2019*

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

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*English indices of deprivation (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2019*  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

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*Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Draft Supplementary Planning Document (Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2019*  
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/sustainable-design-and-construction-consultation-spd/>

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*Homes for our future Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019 – 2023 (Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2019*  
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/13250/greater-cambridge-housing-strategy-2019-2023.pdf>

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*Making Space for People: Vision, Aims and Objectives and Strategies Consultation (Cambridge City Council) 2019*  
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/consultations/making-space-for-people-vision-aims-and-objectives-and-strategies-consultation>

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*National Design Guide (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) 2019*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/835212/National\\_Design\\_Guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835212/National_Design_Guide.pdf)

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*Natural Cambridgeshire Developing with Nature Toolkit (Natural Cambridgeshire) 2018*  
<https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/nc-developing-with-nature-toolkit.pdf>

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*Non-Statutory Spatial Framework for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Phase 1 (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority) 2018*  
<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Combined-Authority/NSSF-Phase-1-final.pdf>

*Partnering for Prosperity: a new deal for the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc (National Infrastructure Commission) 2017*

<https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/partnering-prosperity-new-deal-cambridge-milton-keynes-oxford-arc/>

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*RECAP Waste Management Design Guide (Cambridgeshire County Council) 2012*

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

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*South Cambridgeshire District Council Air Quality Annual Status Reports*

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/pollution/air-pollution/local-air-quality-management/>

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*South Cambridgeshire District Council Vision*

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/the-council/performance-and-plans/council-plans-and-reports/our-business-plan/>

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/pollution/air-pollution/local-air-quality-management/>

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*South Cambridgeshire Village Design Guides*

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/village-design-guides/>

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*Zero Carbon Futures Symposium – Event Report (Anne Miller for Carbon Neutral Cambridge) 2019*

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

## **Plan Making Documents**

**Document (Author) Year**

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

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan/>

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

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan/>

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*Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report (LUC for Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2019*

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan/>

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

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan/>

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*Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement (Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2019*

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/statement-of-community-involvement/>

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*Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme (Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2018, updated November 2019*

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/local-development-scheme/>

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*Cambridge Local Plan 2018 (Cambridge City Council) 2018*

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/local-plan-2018>

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*South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 (South Cambridgeshire District Council) 2018*

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/south-cambridgeshire-local-plan-2018/>



## Appendix 3 Glossary

### **Adopted 2018 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, and can be viewed on the Councils' websites: Cambridge Local Plan 2018: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/local-plan-2018> South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/south-cambridgeshire-local-plan-2018/>

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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: National Planning Policy Framework 2019)

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### **Climate change mitigation**

Action to reduce the impact on human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions. (Source: National Planning Policy Framework 2019)

---

### **Combined Authority**

A legal body made up of two or more councils that work together to decide and carry out region-wide decisions. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, founded in March 2017, is made up of representatives from the seven councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and a Business Board. The Combined Authority is led by an elected Mayor; the Leaders of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, together with those of the five other authorities sit on the Combined Authority Board. Further information can be found on their webpage: <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/>

---

### **Conservation Area**

Areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. You can find more information on the Councils' websites: Cambridge: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/conservation-areas> South Cambridgeshire: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/natural-historic-and-built-environment/historic-environment/conservation-areas/>

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### **Densification**

Making more efficient use of land, through 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.

---

### **Development framework (boundary)**

Define where policies for the built-up areas of settlements give way to the more restrictive policies for the countryside. Policy S/7 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018, and shown on the adopted Policies Map, available to view on the following website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/south-cambridgeshire-local-plan-2018/>

---

### **East West Rail link**

The East West Rail scheme will re-establish a rail link between Cambridge and Oxford to improve connections between East Anglia and central, southern and western England. The central section will link Bedford to Cambridge. Further information is available on the East West Rail company website: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/>

---

### **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 Council, the University of Cambridge and the Business Board of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to support continued growth of the Greater Cambridge area. Further information can be found in their webpage: <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/>

---

### **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.

---

### **Heat Island**

Urban areas are often warmer than the surrounding countryside, especially at night, as materials like tarmac and stone, absorb and store heat.

---

### **Incubator**

Provides start-up and scale-up space for companies, including support and services.

---

### **Listed Buildings**

Structure considered by the Secretary of State (for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) to be 'of special architectural or historic interest' and included in a list of such buildings. The list is maintained by Historic England and is available on-line through the National Heritage List for England.

---

### **Local Development Scheme**

A document which sets out the timetable for the local development documents that the Council will be producing. The current version is the Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme 2018 (as updated 2019).

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### **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.

---

### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

Sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Available to view online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

---

### **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.

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### **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.

---

### **North East Cambridge Area Action Plan**

A joint plan being developed by the Councils for development of the area west of the new Cambridge North train station, together with Cambridge Science Park. Further information can be found on the Councils website: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/north-east-cambridge-area-action-plan>

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### **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.

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### **Oxford to Cambridge Expressway**

The Department for Transport has asked Highways England to explore the case for a fast, high-quality road link to better connect Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. Further Information can be found on Highways England website: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-about/>

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### **Productivity**

Being able to produce or provide goods and services.

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### **Stakeholder**

A person, group or organisation that has interest in planning for the area.

---

### **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. Details of the standard method can be found on the government's 'planning guidance - Housing and economic needs assessment' website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments>

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### **Start-up**

The early stage of a new business.

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### **Sustainable development**

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

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# Appendix 5 Details and sources of figures used in infographics

## Figure 3: Population of Greater Cambridge

- Population of Greater Cambridge: 290,000 people (Source: Cambridgeshire Insight: Cambridgeshire County Council 2015 Based Population Estimates <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/>)
- Population of Greater Cambridge is expected to increase by around 267% between 2011 and 2031 (274,000 to 349,000) based on current plans (Source: Cambridgeshire Insight: Cambridgeshire County Council 2015 Based Population Estimates <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/>)

## Figure 12: Climate change in Greater Cambridge

- 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
- <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/index>

## Figure 15: Biodiversity and green space in Greater Cambridge today

- 42 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (source: Natural England)
- 43 ancient woodland sites (source: Natural England)
- 320 priority species (source: (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre - Species Data 2018)
- 129 County Wildlife sites and 51 City Wildlife sites (source: adopted Local Plans Policies Maps 2018)
- 3 Country parks
- Tree cover in Greater Cambridge = 11.11% (Source: Forest Research Canopy Calculator, i-TREE <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/i-tree-eco/urbancanopycover/>)

## Figure 16: Wellbeing and social inclusion in Greater Cambridge

- 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 – Official Labour Market Statistics <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>).
- Average life expectancy within Cambridge is slightly above the national average, being 80.6 for males and 84.1 for females. Life expectancy is 10.1 years lower for men and 9.9 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Cambridge than in the

least deprived areas. Average life expectancy within South Cambridgeshire is slightly above the national average, 82.3 for males and 85.2 for females. Life expectancy is 4.2 years lower for men and 0.5 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of South Cambridgeshire than in the least deprived areas. (source: Public Health England (2018) Profiles for East of England [online] Available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/> )

- Index of multiple deprivation: South Cambs 16th least deprived, Cambridge 107th out of 317 English Local Authorities (source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - English indices of deprivation 2019 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019> )
- Aging population - proportion of those aged over 65 significantly increasing, especially within South Cambridgeshire. ( % Population 65 and over Cambridge 2018 13% 2041 18%, South Cambs 2018 19% 2041 26%) (source: ONS Population Estimates 2018 – published on Cambridgeshire Insight <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/> )
- 9.5% of households experience fuel poverty in Greater Cambridge (10.9% in England) (source: Fuel Poverty Statistics 2017 Office for National Statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics> )

## Figure 17: Greater Cambridge's heritage and design successes

- Listed Buildings = 3519 (source: Historic England, <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/data-downloads/>, October 2019)
- Conservation Areas = 89 (source: Adopted Local Plan Policies Maps 2018)
- 11 RIBA Award-winning projects in 2019 (source: RIBA <https://www.architecture.com/awards-and-competitions-landing-page/awards>)
- Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service Design Review Panels have carried out 241 design reviews since April 2014 (source: Greater Cambridge Planning Service 2019).

## Figure 18: Greater Cambridge's economy

- A globally significant hi-tech economy that provides around 19% of employment in Cambridge. Around 57,000 people are employed by the more than 1,500 technology-based firms in the area, which have combined annual revenue of over £13 billion (source: Greater Cambridge Partnership webpage <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/>, Cambridgeshire Economic Assessment <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/> )



- Number of patents per 100,000 people in Cambridge, 341, the highest in the UK (source: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review 2018 [www.cpier.org.uk](http://www.cpier.org.uk) )
- 14,000 active businesses in Greater Cambridge (source: Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics 2019 <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>)
- Low unemployment 2.9% in Cambridge, 2.2 % in South Cambs (compared to 4.1% nationally) (source: Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics 2019 <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>)
- Income and employment: disparities between wards in the north and east of the city and rest of Greater Cambridge (Kings Hedges 4.8% unemployed, Newnham, Castle 0.9%, Cambridge 2.7% in 2011) (source: Economically Active Unemployment % Census 2011 Cambridge Insight <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/>)
- 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. (source: Gateway to the East report by Visit Cambridge, November 2018)

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#### **Figure 19: Homes and affordability in Greater Cambridge**

- Number of Homes in Greater Cambridge: 120,790 (source: Dwelling Stock Estimate 2018 - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants> )
- Average house prices (£541,514 Cambridge, £441,539 South Cambs). (Source: Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019-2023) Average UK house price £234,853 (source: Land registry House Price Index August 2019 <http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/ukhpi> )
- Lower quartile price to income ratio 14.3 (for Cambridge City) 10.8 (for South Cambridgeshire) (Source: Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019-2023) 7.3 for England as a whole (source ONS March 2019 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/>)

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#### **Figure 21: Greater Cambridge's infrastructure**

- Around 202,155 vehicles cross the outer boundary of Cambridge in either direction every day (This is the number of motor vehicles crossing the radial cordon into and out of Cambridge City. This is monitored annually, usually on the first Wednesday of October between 7am and 7pm and counts motor vehicles, cycles and pedestrians at the points on the map on page 8 of the traffic monitoring report Source: Traffic Monitoring Report

2018 Cambridgeshire County Council <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/road-traffic-data/> )

- 32% of Journeys to work in Cambridge made by Bike (Source: Nomis Method of Travel to Work Statistics, Census 2011 <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary>. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?reset=yes&mode=construct&dataset=568&version=0&anal=1&initset=1>)
- Around 50% of Cambridge residents cycle at least once a week – this is the highest level in England. Around 25% of South Cambridgeshire residents cycle at least once a week – the fifth highest in England. (source: Greater Cambridge Partnership, the Big Conversation [https://citydeal-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.greatercambridge.org.uk/other/Tackling\\_Peak\\_time\\_Congestion\\_LEAFLET.pdf](https://citydeal-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.greatercambridge.org.uk/other/Tackling_Around%2050%20of%20Cambridge%20residents%20cycle%20at%20least%20once%20a%20week%20-%20this%20is%20the%20highest%20level%20in%20England.Around%2025%20of%20South%20Cambridgeshire%20residents%20cycle%20at%20least%20once%20a%20week%20-%20the%20fifth%20highest%20in%20England.(source:Greater%20Cambridge%20Partnership,the%20Big%20Conversationhttps://citydeal-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.greatercambridge.org.uk/other/Tackling_Peak_time_Congestion_LEAFLET.pdf) )
- Of people who work in Cambridge, 40% live in Cambridge, 28% live in South Cambs (source: Travel to work data, 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics - Draft Local Transport Plan evidence Base Report paragraph 2.75, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/programmes/transport/ltp/> )
- In South Cambridgeshire only 22% of residents are within 30 minutes of walking or public transport access of a town centre (source: Draft Local Transport Plan paragraph 1.72, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Transport/Draft-LTP.pdf>)
- Greater Cambridge Partnership has committed to achieving a reduction in car traffic of more than 20% by 2031 in Cambridge (The reduction in motor vehicles of 10-15% is against the 2011 baseline with subsequent growth this equates to a reduction of more than 20% based on 2018 flows)
- 9 new schools have been delivered in Greater Cambridge in last 10 years, and 5 new schools currently planned, with a possible additional 5 dependent on need (source: Cambridgeshire Research Group 2019)
- Need for electricity grid capacity projected to triple to support economic growth (source: Greater Cambridge Partnership - Local Network Analysis. Final Report -February 2019)

**[www.greatercambridgeplanning.org](http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org)**

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