

Webinar 3 on 'Sites and Spatial Strategy'

Responses to questions submitted during the live session.

Question 1

Ref Caroline's points here, how is CamCity Deal being fully utilised to support sustainable transport commuting in from outside Greater Cambridge?

The City Deal funds the work of the [Greater Cambridge Partnership](#) (GCP), which the Councils form a part of. GCP are delivering a range of public transport and active travel schemes which support the delivery of the strategy and sites set out in the adopted 2018 Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. In preparing the First Proposals strategy we have sought to place new development in locations which support active travel and use of public transport, which includes making best use of the benefits provided by these GCP schemes. This approach has been validated by the transport evidence supporting the First Proposals, which notes that the proposed GCP transport schemes can address a significant proportion of the transport mitigation for the existing and new sites included in the First Proposals strategy.

Question 2

'Great Place to live' Vision- has the impact on existing communities been considered in relation to swell of population of particular note North and East Cambridge which is likely also to absorb AW relocation?

The ambition for North East Cambridge and Cambridge East, as reflected in the First Proposals policy directions, would be for these areas to be integrated with their surrounding communities. While this is a high level ambition currently for Cambridge East given the early stage nature of the First Proposals, for North East Cambridge via the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan this aim has been followed through, including taking actions such as: engaging extensively with local members and neighbouring communities, exploring infrastructure needs for the site and in relation to existing provision in the area, exploring the transport impacts of proposed

development on the surrounding transport network, designing development to connect with the neighbouring communities.

Question 3

Is the central nature fund for ELMS funded by development and offsetting?

The Environmental Land Management Scheme is a central government pot of money. As such we don't know where the money for this derives, but we can confirm that this pot does not directly come from local developer contributions or biodiversity offsetting. On a related point, delivery of strategic biodiversity and green infrastructure enhancements will be reliant upon funding from a range of sources, which will include but not be limited to developer contributions and biodiversity offsetting.

Question 4

Is there a risk that station-based development to south of Cambridge provides housing for London commuters? Solves London's housing problems but not ours?

Clearly the Councils are not able to control who lives in market housing and where they work, albeit they could seek to include specific housing policies in the Local Plan supporting for example, key worker housing attached to specific employers. In terms of strategy, we have sought to limit longer distance commuting, including by exploring commuting patterns, providing a balance of homes to support forecast jobs, and by placing new development in locations which support active travel and use of public transport.

Question 5

On Transport - there is a holding objection from Highways England for no capacity on the M11 north (zone 8). How does this impact site allocations along the M11 and what mitigation is the Council proposing?

We have regular meetings with National Highways, and to date they have not raised a holding objection for no capacity on the M11 north in relation to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. We will continue to engage regularly with National Highways as we progress to draft plan.

Question 6

Re Longstanton. What is happening about the Longstanton ponds?

The issue is still being investigated.

Question 7

This is the irony! Large developments get the infrastructure i.e., transport link, leisure etc. Most villages get no development and are expected to live with dire public transport infrastructure now and in the future? Buses running hourly vs minutes in Cambridge. How will this reduce car travel?

A distributed development strategy, with development spread across a wide range of villages, proved to be the least sustainable option when we tested the alternatives available to meet future development needs. However, the relevant authorities continue to explore the transport opportunities available across Greater Cambridge. This includes the [Making Connections](#) consultation being undertaken by the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

Question 8

Caroline, do we not have City Deal monies to assist development of sustainable transport to enable a broader brush approach to sites?

See response to question 1 above.

Question 9

Has your strategy managed to prioritise sites at lowest flood risk taking climate change into account? You will need to demonstrate flood risk sequential test for the plan.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been prepared to support the plan. Consideration of flood risk has been part of the site testing process (through the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment, and Sustainability Appraisal).

Question 10

Mayor Johnson has said that nature tourism will fund a system of water management. Paul Leinster Chair of WRE has said what to do with the wastewater is one of the biggest problems for the OxCam Arc. WRE have said their Future Fens project with Anglian Water is aligned with the govt plans for the OxCam Arc. Million houses? how does that a river full of sewage tie in with plans for nature tourism? Who is paying for this? Are there plans for green bonds to fund infrastructure?

Infrastructure is an important issue for the plan, and this includes ensuring there is adequate water and waste water infrastructure to support planned development and maintain water quality.

Funding of infrastructure is secured from a range of sources, and varies by the type of infrastructure. Developer funding plays an important role, where developers provide funding to meet the needs generated by the development. Other sources of funding include government funding. These issues are explored in the Infrastructure Delivery Strategy which will support the plan.

Question 11

Many people are working from home now, has that been taken into account when considering the access to employment/commute issue?

Our evidence informing the First Proposals was based upon pre-COVID-19 data. We know that COVID-19 is continuing to have a very significant impact on many aspects of our lives, including on where and how we live and work, and that this is likely to have implications for long term planning. However, at this time it is very difficult to estimate the long-term effects. We have completed a high-level review summarising the available information on the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the economy of Greater Cambridge, to inform the First Proposals consultation (see [Strategy topic paper Appendix 1A: COVID-19 Review](#)).

We will complete detailed quantitative evidence considering the potential longer-term impacts of COVID-19 prior to the draft plan stage to ensure that we understand any implications for the plan.

Question 12

Thank You for the forum today- helpful - look forward to responses to City Deal Transport and how transport opportunities have been factored in

See question 1 above.

Answered questions

Question 1

Can you advise if Q&A will also be up on website?

Questions which we did not get round to answering, which are not already answered by our FAQs or in previous webinars, will be added to the website. It does take a little more time to pull these together, but they will go up shortly.

There are lots of FAQs already online here -

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/frequently-asked-questions/>

Question 2

thank you, Hana, - I had a number of Q's answered yesterday answers included links to web- unable to capture detail of answers - during session- a record of these would be helpful for ref. post session

Sure, we will ensure these are posted. please keep an eye on the webpage, any questions email localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Question 3

Does the evidence mentioned earlier reflect the massive change to remote working in the last 2 years, which will continue in many cases?

Not yet. We have been clear that our evidence was prepared pre Covid and that we will be reviewing it as we move forward to preparing the draft Local Plan, once there is better information about how working patterns may change in the longer term.

Question 4

Can you explain how the CamCity Deal which I understand is to support sustainable transport for Cam and beyond i.e., supporting sustainable commuting within and into Cambridge is reflected in preferred strategy

The proposals being brought forward by Greater Cambridge Partnership to deliver the City Deal with government are very much taken into account in considering the proposed strategy and suitable sites. They are included in our transport modelling to make sure we understand how they will affect the way we travel.

Question 5

Hi - I understand the 173 sites, where cut down to c30 then down to the proposed 19 site allocations. Is there somewhere where you have provided the list of these sites and where they stand against the different rounds?

Strategy Topic Paper Part 2 sets out our approach to identifying sites, after explaining how we identified the preferred strategy. Perhaps helpful to read Part 2 Introduction (p97) and Appendix 2C: Review of sites to inform identification of new allocations (p435)

https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/sites/gcp/files/2021-11/TPStrategyAug21v3Nov21_0.pdf

Question 6

The Southern Cluster option isn't on Menti?

We have tried to keep it simple and not split down the villages by different zones

Question 7

No mention of water in constraints?

Stuart has explained that this is crucial to the First Proposals being deliverable and we are very clear about that.

Question 8

Transport - There is a distinct lack of viable public transport in plans for villages in SOUTH CAMBS - buses will not work running hourly

We understand the issues with public transport in the rural areas of Greater Cambridge and that has informed the strategy and sites we are proposing in the consultation. The Combined Authority is the transport authority and is currently consulting on its new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan which you can see here:

<https://yourltcp.co.uk/>.

Question 9

Do comments take into account that views will depend on where attendees live. Village or city. What is the breakdown?

Hi! these quick interactive exercises are not formal comments to the consultation but just a spur to discussion and to gain some insight into the sentiment in this session. So, we haven't asked today's attendees where they live. Regarding comments into the consultation itself, it is the relevance of points raised in comments that count, and quantitative analysis is only used as some insight as to sentiment, and not as a way to make decisions - consultation is not a referendum. We don't ask people to give any personal data that they are not comfortable with, as people can make useful comments regardless of where they live.

Question 10

water supply. Sewage infrastructure is a national concern. My understanding is that new sewage infrastructure is an issue for city development? Is that correct?

This question has been answered live

Question 11

What control over the types of houses being built in plans? There is a shortage of affordable houses for local people. Developers building for investors and BTL Cambridge not local needs very often

Great question! The Homes section of our proposals sets out the types of homes that we seek through policy, which includes 40% affordable housing on all sites that provide over 10 new homes. Have a look here -

<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/homes>

Question 12

Please cover sewage! And who is going to pay

This question has been answered live

Question 13

Are employment sites focussed in the north like the homes?

This question has been answered live

Question 14

Does that mean you are confident about a swift delivery of new water and sewage infrastructure? Is it correct that there will be no public consultation on the regional water plan that Anglian Water are lead on? They are on the board of Water Resources East

We are being extremely clear about the potential issues with water. If we don't have confidence that water supply can be achieved without environmental harm, this will mean we need to look at caps on development. We are trying to send this message out at every level to ensure that the water industry and government work with us to find the right solutions in the timeframes required. We can't speak to Anglian Water or Water Resources East as you will understand, as we do not have their representatives here to speak in this session.

Question 15

Why isn't expansion of CBC and Babraham Research Campus shown on previous map?

That map shows housing allocations with specific numbers. CBC may have homes, but we have no numbers yet as there's a lot of work to do. The employment sites are shown on the next set of maps coming up shortly!

Question 16

**Do you assess what all these development sites will have on local transport?
How many will use trains and expensive buses during leisure time rather than
the car?**

A full Transport Evidence Study has been completed to support the First Proposals. Our strategy approach seeks to maximise opportunities for walking and cycling as well as public transport

<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/sites/gcp/files/2021-10/Transport%20Evidence%20Report%20October%202021.pdf>

Question 17

The number of houses identified in North East Cambridge is dependent on moving water treatment plant to Honey Hill. There are no green credentials in destruction of Green Belt by releasing millions of tons of carbon by unnecessarily moving plant. Millions of tons of concrete, hundreds of thousands of truck movements. An environmental disaster.

Do come to our North East Cambridge webinar which will explore this more.

Question 18

Honey Hill should be shown on your map!

Hi, we have covered why we can't do this, in our first webinar - please do listen back at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qm0yJvUO3XQ>

Question 19

Would it possible for you to provide a straightforward list of all the sites? Sites that you are taking forward as well as all the sites submitted. Since developers like Bidwell's are calling for a higher allocation. Plus, a list of all the green sites submitted so people can have an understanding of what is being proposed? And also, proposal for offsetting. Especially since ELMs is funded by development and offsetting. Apologies if there are already lists like this on the website. It's just that it is very hard trawling through! Assume you must have provided the Cambs Independent with a list previously?

We do have a list of all the sites, have a look at

<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/greater-cambridge-2041/how-much-development-and-where>

Question 20

Are there any housing numbers in view at this stage for Cam Bio Med campus?

No numbers are included at this stage, but the consultation suggests that there could be potential for residential uses where it would provide affordable and key worker homes for campus employees and this will be considered further as the draft plan is prepared and we have the results of the consultation.

Question 21

Shame you aren't worried about the landscape between Horningsea, Fen Ditton and Quy

Hi - do come to our North East Cambridge webinar to discuss this in more detail.

Question 22

Should the plan clarify that there is also an important existing employment cluster in North East Cambridge - not reliant on the AAP?

This question has been answered live

Question 23

Struggling with this talk of a southern cluster on the South Cambs chalk aquifer? Are you really so confident that water and sewage will be addressed!

We are being extremely clear about the potential issues with water. If we don't have confidence that water supply can be achieved without environmental harm, this will mean we need to look at caps on development. We are trying to send this message out at every level to ensure that the water industry and government work with us to find the right solutions in the timeframes required.

Question 24

Cambourne - looks like a massive housing estate now. Apart from potential transport links with EWR just can't see leisure facilities meeting needs in future as Cambridge is the place to go for this.

Who is going to want to live there apart from cheaper housing costs compared to Cambridge?

This question has been answered live

Question 25

Is SEA assessment of the cumulative impact of proposed developments in the First Proposals documentation?

The sustainability appraisal assesses the overall impacts of all the development included in the plan.

Question 26

It's just that strategy is focused around river corridors?

Not sure what you mean by this question - could you clarify?