Sir Robert McALPINE

Social value delivery plan

Local needs, priorities and the commitments we will deliver

Sustainable Engineering Excellence

Making choices that matter

Cambridge Civic Quarter

Client: Cambridge City Council

CB2 3QJ

Cambridge, England

Prepared 9 November 2026

About this report

Project	Cambridge Civic Quarter
Client	Cambridge City Council
Project stage	Pre-construction
Location	CB2 3QJ
Local authority	Cambridge City Council
Nation and region	England, East of England
Ward(s)	Market
Parliamentary constituency	Cambridge
Prepared	9 November 2026

What this report covers

1 Executive summary

2 The place and its people

3 What matters most here

4 Our priorities and response

5 Social value targets

Appendix A. Evidence in detail

Appendix B. Sources

Appendix C. How this analysis was prepared

This report sets out what the community around the project needs most, the priorities we are responding to, and the commitments the project team will deliver and report against.

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1. Executive summary

Sir Robert McAlpine is preparing to deliver Cambridge Civic Quarter for Cambridge City Council. This report sets out what the community around the site needs most, the priorities we are responding to, and the commitments our project team will deliver and report against as we move into construction.

Cambridge Civic Quarter is in Market ward in the city centre. On most measures the area has low deprivation (decile 8 of 10 on the Indices of Deprivation 2025), with low worklessness and youth unemployment. Two needs stand out: crime and homelessness. A main contractor has limited influence over either, so we will focus on what we can deliver and measure: a safe, well-run site, routes into work for people facing homelessness, and construction jobs and training for young people from the parts of Cambridge where need is higher.

Priority areas at a glance

#	Priority area	Need	Theme and SEE pillar	Working with
1	**Safe, well-managed site and public realm in the city centre** Crime is the one domain where the site's neighbourhood is in the most deprived 20% in England. We will make sure the site does not add to theft and antisocial behaviour, and we will support the partners who lead on community safety.	**High need**	Community	Cambridge Community Safety Partnership; Cambridgeshire Constabulary; Cambridge City Council
2	**Support for people facing homelessness through jobs and training** Homelessness duties are above the England and East rates. The project cannot build housing here, but it can offer routes into work and in-kind support for people at risk.	**High need**	Community	Jimmy's Cambridge and Cambridge Cyrenians; Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (Cambridge CVS); Cambridge Community Foundation
3	**Construction routes into work for 18–24 year olds from higher-need wards** Market ward and Cambridge overall show no marked youth gap, but need is concentrated in northern and eastern wards. The project can reach those young people through construction placements and apprenticeships. This is where we have the most direct influence, and it supports the council's priority of tackling poverty and inequality.	**Moderate need**	Jobs and skills	Cambridge Regional College (Kings Hedges Road); Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Careers Hub; CITB

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2. The place and its people

The site is in the Market ward of Cambridge City Council, in the East of England. Cambridge has 149,872 residents (ONS mid-2025 estimate). The site's own neighbourhood sits in decile 8 of 10 on the English Indices of Deprivation 2025, where 1 is the most deprived, so need is likely to sit further from the site than at its doorstep. Across Cambridge, 0% of residents live in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England. In the figures, daily life here looks largely resilient, though that picture is not the same for everyone.

Where the project sits

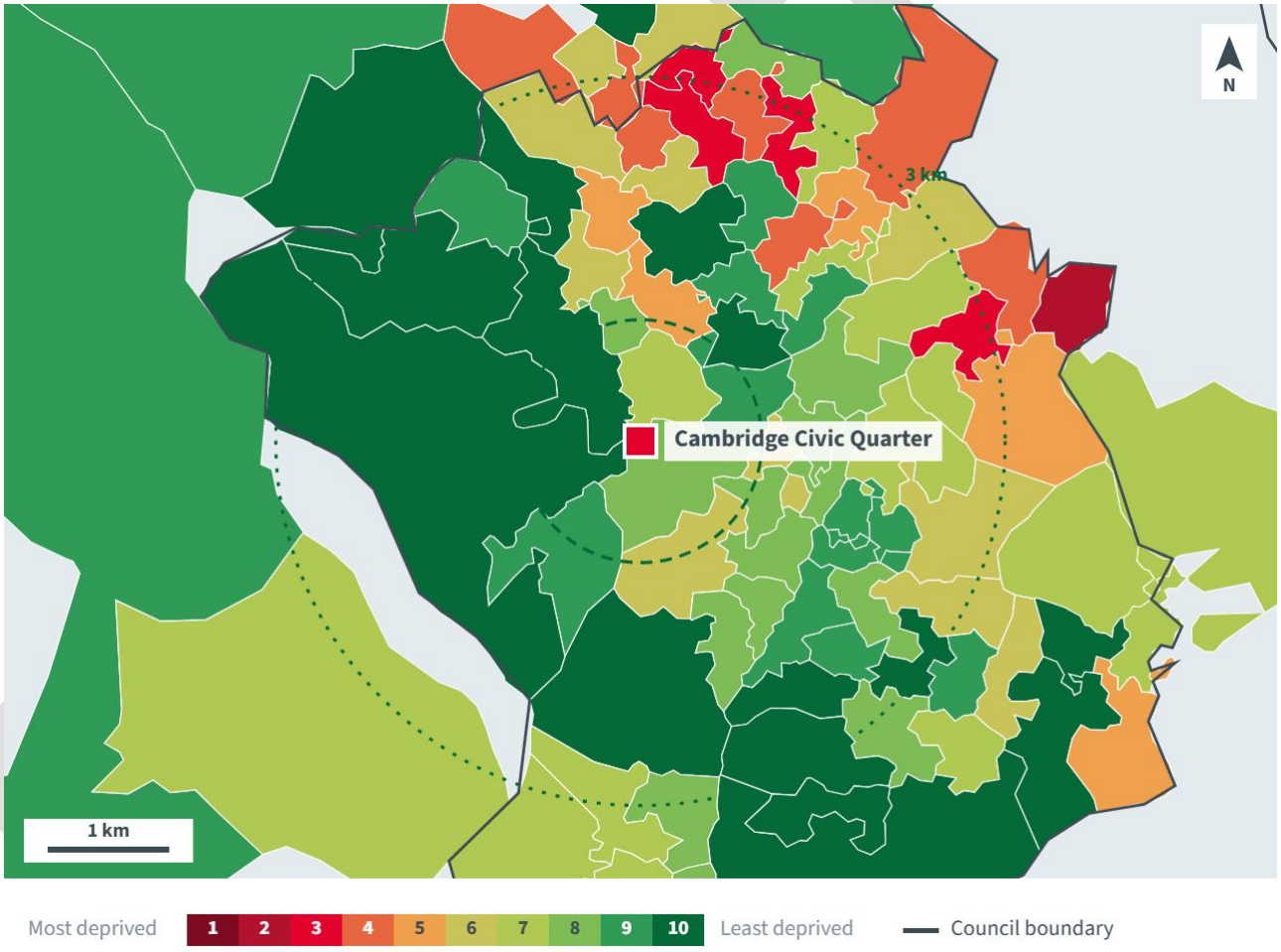

Figure 1. The site (CB2 3QJ) and the neighbourhoods around it, shaded by deprivation decile, with 1 km and 3 km rings. Shapes are approximate, drawn from postcode locations.

Aerial view of the site: Google Maps satellite · Bing aerial, with pin (pin 52.20480, 0.11930)

Within 3 km of the site there are 53 neighbourhoods. 0 of them (0%) are in the most deprived 20% in England, against 20% nationally, so deprivation sits further away. Within 1 km the figure is 0 of 4. The site's own neighbourhood is in decile 8. The site itself is in a less deprived area, so local recruitment and community investment will need to look beyond the immediate neighbourhood to reach people in need.

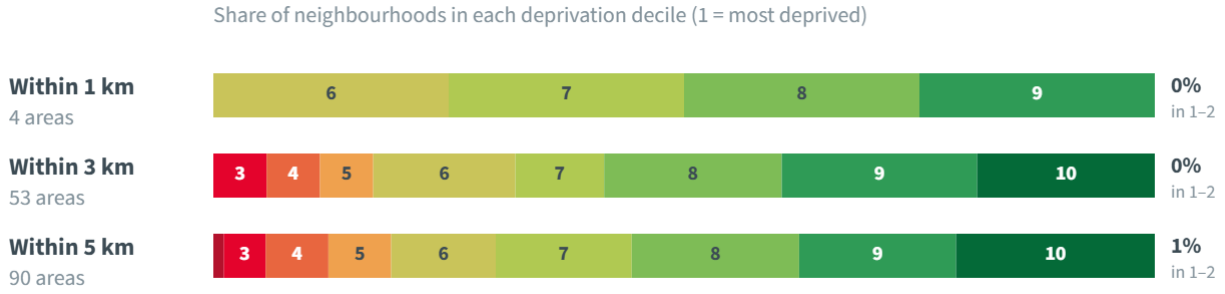

Figure 2. Deprivation profile of the neighbourhoods within 1, 3 and 5 km of the site.

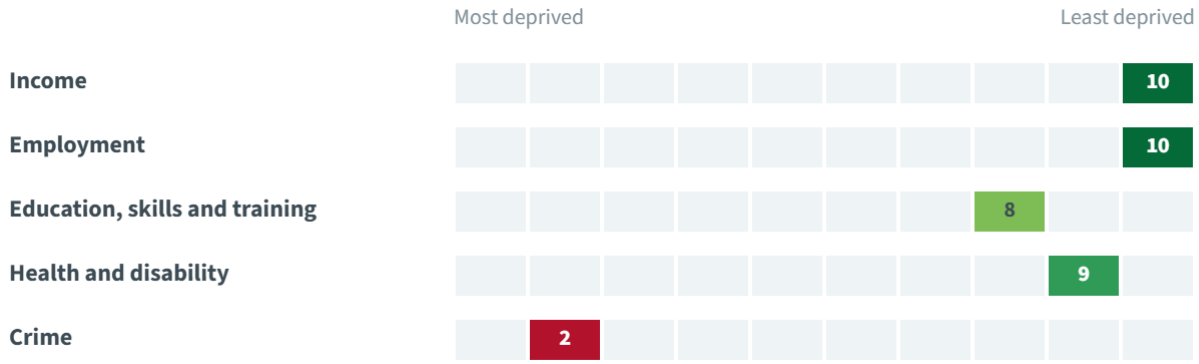

Figure 3. The site's neighbourhood by domain of deprivation (English Indices of Deprivation 2025).

Deprivation

Decile 8 of 10	25,969	0%	1.1%
At the site Cambridge 007J	**Rank** of 33,755 neighbourhoods	**Of residents in Cambridge** in the most deprived 10% in England	**In the most deprived 20%** of neighbourhoods in England

By domain at the site (1 = most deprived): income 10, employment 10, education, skills and training 8, health and disability 9, crime 2. 1 is the most deprived decile. English Indices of Deprivation 2025 (MHCLG). Open Government Licence v3.0.

The area at a glance

Population and year ONS mid-2025 estimate	• 149,872 residents (ONS mid-2025 estimate): 75,305 male (50.2%), 74,567 female (49.8%). • Age profile: 13.6% aged 0–15, 74.5% aged 16–64, 11.8% aged 65+. • East for comparison: 18.4% aged 0–15, 61.3% aged 16–64, 20.3% aged 65+. • Working-age residents (16–64): 111,692; young adults aged 18–24: 29,480.
Ranking in national deprivation IMD (see source line)	• The site (CB2 3QJ, Cambridge 007J) is in decile 8 of 10 on the English Indices of Deprivation 2025, where 1 is the most deprived. • It ranks 25,969 of 33,755 neighbourhoods. • By domain: income decile 10, employment decile 10, education, skills and training decile 8, health and disability decile 9, crime decile 2. • Deprivation is sharpest on crime (decile 2). • Across Cambridge, 0% of its residents are in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England and 1.1% in the most deprived 20%; 72.2% are in the least deprived 40%. • The authority covers 78 neighbourhoods.

Local unemployment (out-of-work benefits) Claimant count, September 2026	• 2,310 people claiming out-of-work benefits in September 2026: 2.1% of residents aged 16–64 — East 3.3%, England 4.1%. • That is 1.2 percentage points below East. • Twelve months earlier (September 2025) the rate was 2.1%, so it is unchanged. • Unemployment rate (ONS model-based, Jul 2025–Jun 2026): 4.0% (±1.4) of the economically active — in line with East 3.9%, England 4.6%.
Unemployment by age group Claimant count, September 2026	• Claimants by age, September 2026 (claimants as a share of residents of the same age; 50+ against residents aged 50–64): • Aged 18–24: 410 claimants, 1.4% — East 5.8%, England 6.1%. • Aged 25–49: 1,335 claimants, 2.3% — East 3.4%, England 4.3%. • Aged 50+: 560 claimants, 2.7% — East 2.5%, England 3.1%. • Young people aged 18–24 make up 17.7% of all claimants. • Rates calculated from the Nomis claimant count (September 2026) and ONS mid-2025 population estimates.
Employment, economic inactivity and pay APS Jul 2025–Jun 2026; ASHE 2025	• Employment rate (16–64), Jul 2025–Jun 2026: 77.7% (±6.3) — in line with East 78.0%, England 75.8%. • Economically inactive (16–64): 20.1% (±6.1) — in line with East 18.7%, England 20.5%. • Median gross weekly pay, full-time workers living here (2025): £866.90 — East £804.90, England £769.50. • Figures in brackets are the 95% confidence interval; “in line with” means the gap is inside it.
Educational attainment and skills levels APS Jan 2025–Dec 2025	• Highest qualification of residents aged 16–64, Jan 2025–Dec 2025: • Degree level or above (RQF4+): 55.2% (±8.1) — above East 44.2%, England 48.0%. • A level or above (RQF3+): 75.9% (±7.0) — above East 66.1%, England 68.7%.
Health and wellbeing Fingertips, 2025 and others (see each line)	• Life expectancy at birth, men (2025): 82.2 years — better than England (East 80.7 years, England 80.0 years). • Life expectancy at birth, women (2025): 85.5 years — better than England (East 84.4 years, England 83.8 years). • Healthy life expectancy, men (2022–24): 62.3 years — similar to England (East 62.3 years, England 60.9 years) — county-level figure. • Healthy life expectancy, women (2022–24): 61.5 years — similar to England (East 62.0 years, England 61.3 years) — county-level figure. • Deaths under 75 from preventable causes (2024): 135 per 100,000 — similar to England (East 126 per 100,000, England 146 per 100,000). • Adults overweight or obese (2024/25): 46.7% — better than England (East 65.2%, England 64.6%). • Children overweight or obese at Year 6 (2024/25): 25.8% — better than England (East 33.9%, England 36.2%). • Adults who smoke (2025): 10.5% — similar to England (East 8.9%, England 9.5%). • Physically inactive adults (2024/25): 17.6% — better than England (East 21.0%, England 21.8%). • Recorded depression, adults (GP registers) (2024/25): 12.5% — lower than England (East 13.0%, England 14.3%) — county-level figure.
Child poverty, fuel poverty and homelessness Fingertips, 2024/25 / 2024	• Children under 16 in relative low-income families (2024/25): 11.6% — better than England (East 16.1%, England 19.8%). • Households in fuel poverty (2024): 10.5% (East 9.3%, England 9.9%). • Households owed a homelessness duty (2024/25): 17.6 per 1,000 households — worse than England (East 12.1 per 1,000 households, England 13.6 per 1,000 households).

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3. What matters most here

Across health, worklessness, youth unemployment, skills and low income, Cambridge shows no marked gap against the comparator, so these should not drive our commitments. Two issues stand out. Crime is significantly worse: the site's neighbourhood is in decile 2 of 10 for crime (Indices of Deprivation 2025). Homelessness is also significantly worse, at 17.6 duties per 1,000 households against 13.6 in England (2024/25). We are plain about our limits here: a construction project has little direct influence over either. We will avoid adding to the problem, and support the partners who lead on it. Averages can also hide need in particular wards, so we will target our effort carefully.

The needs scorecard

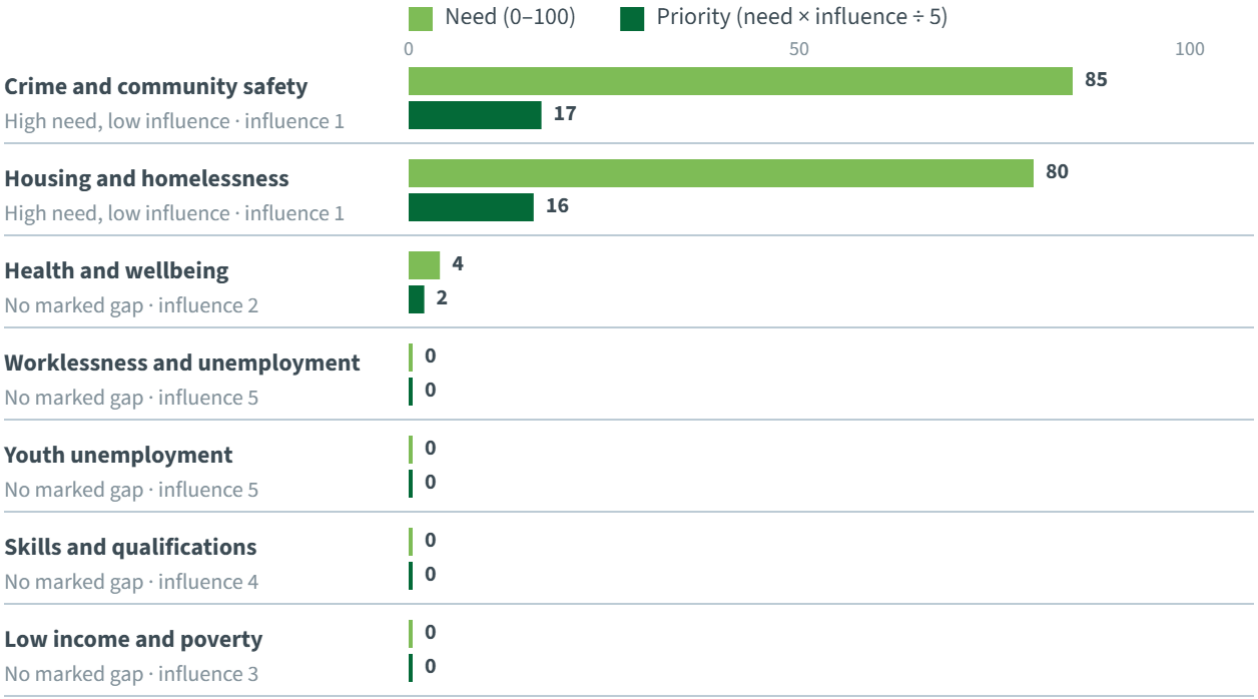

Figure 4. How far each area lags East, from 29 official indicators, and where that need meets something a construction project can change.

A difference is only called out where it is larger than the margin of error in the figures. Areas where need is high but a construction project has little direct reach are not left out: we say so plainly and support the local organisations that lead on them.

Crime and community safety **Supported through partners**

The figures. The one measured indicator for crime is significantly worse than the comparator. The site's own neighbourhood is in decile 2 of 10 for crime (English Indices of Deprivation 2025), which puts it in the most deprived 20% of the country. The need is real, but a construction project has little direct influence over it. We will support the local organisations that lead on it, rather than claim outcomes a construction project cannot deliver.

What it means. The site's neighbourhood is in decile 2 of 10 for crime (English Indices of Deprivation 2025), so people living and working nearby experience a real community safety problem. A construction project has limited direct influence on this, but it can avoid adding to it through secure, well-managed hoardings, lighting and good conduct on site. Beyond that, the response should support local partners rather than lead on the issue.

Indicator	Here	Comparator	Verdict	Period
Site neighbourhood: crime deprivation	**2**	1 = most deprived	**Worse**	English Indices of Deprivation 2025

Housing and homelessness Supported through partners

The figures. The one measured indicator for homelessness is significantly worse than the comparator. Homelessness duties per 1,000 households is 17.6 against 13.6 in England (2024/25), nearly 30% higher. The need is real, but a construction project has little direct influence over it. We will support the local organisations that lead on it, rather than claim outcomes a construction project cannot deliver.

What it means. Homelessness duties stand at 17.6 per 1,000 households against 13.6 in England (2024/25), nearly 30% higher, which points to real housing pressure for local residents. The project cannot build housing here, so it should not promise to change the underlying cause. The sensible response is to offer routes into work and training and in-kind support, working through partners already helping people at risk.

Indicator	Here	Comparator	Verdict	Period
Homelessness duties per 1,000 households	**17.6**	13.6 England	**Worse**	2024/25

Health and wellbeing No marked gap

The figures. None of the 12 measured indicators for health is significantly worse than the comparator. The area is broadly in line with its comparators here, so this is not where our effort is focused.

What it means. None of the 12 health indicators is significantly worse than the comparator, so the evidence does not mark health out as a local priority. Residents near the site are not facing a measured health gap that the project needs to lead on. Health and wellbeing activity can be kept to good practice on site rather than treated as a headline commitment.

Indicator	Here	Comparator	Verdict	Period
Adults who smoke	**10.5%**	9.5% England	**Similar**	2025
Healthy life expectancy, women (county figure)	**61.5 yrs**	61.3 yrs England	**Similar**	2022–24
Healthy life expectancy, men (county figure)	**62.3 yrs**	60.9 yrs England	**Similar**	2022–24
Preventable deaths under 75	**135 per 100k**	145.8 per 100k England	**Similar**	2024
Life expectancy, women	**85.5 yrs**	83.8 yrs England	**Better**	2025

Worklessness and unemployment No marked gap

The figures. None of the 5 measured indicators for worklessness is significantly worse than the comparator. That is roughly 22,450 inactive residents aged 16–64. The area is broadly in line with its comparators here, so this is not where our effort is focused.

What it means. None of the 5 worklessness indicators is significantly worse than the comparator, even though there are roughly 22,450 inactive residents aged 16–64. That is a large group in absolute terms, but the rate is not out of line with elsewhere, so this is not a priority on the evidence. Local employment opportunities remain useful, but they should be framed as general good practice rather than a response to a marked gap.

Indicator	Here	Comparator	Verdict	Period
Economically inactive (16–64)	**20.1% ±6.1**	18.7% East	**Similar**	Jul 2025–Jun 2026

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Indicator	Here	Comparator	Verdict	Period
Unemployment rate (model-based)	**4.0% ±1.4**	3.9% East	**Similar**	Jul 2025–Jun 2026
Employment rate (16–64)	**77.7% ±6.3**	78.0% East	**Similar**	Jul 2025–Jun 2026
Site neighbourhood: employment deprivation	**10**	1 = most deprived	**Better**	English Indices of Deprivation 2025
Claimant rate (16–64)	**2.1%**	3.3% East	**Better**	September 2026

Youth unemployment No marked gap

The figures. None of the 2 measured indicators for youth unemployment is significantly worse than the comparator. That is roughly 410 claimants aged 18–24. The area is broadly in line with its comparators here, so this is not where our effort is focused.

What it means. None of the 2 youth unemployment indicators is significantly worse than the comparator, with roughly 410 claimants aged 18–24. Cambridge overall and Market ward show no marked youth gap, although need appears to be concentrated in northern and eastern wards. Placements and apprenticeships are therefore best aimed at young people from those higher-need wards rather than offered city-wide.

Indicator	Here	Comparator	Verdict	Period
Share of claimants aged 18–24	**17.7%**	20.2% East	**Better**	September 2026
Claimant rate, 18–24	**1.4%**	5.8% East	**Better**	September 2026

Skills and qualifications No marked gap

The figures. None of the 3 measured indicators for skills is significantly worse than the comparator. The area is broadly in line with its comparators here, so this is not where our effort is focused.

What it means. None of the 3 skills indicators is significantly worse than the comparator, so there is no evidence of a marked local skills gap. Training offered by the project does not need to be justified as closing a general shortfall. It is most valuable when linked to the specific routes into work for people facing homelessness and young people from higher-need wards.

Indicator	Here	Comparator	Verdict	Period
A level or above (16–64)	**75.9% ±7.0**	66.1% East	**Better**	Jan 2025–Dec 2025
Degree level or above (16–64)	**55.2% ±8.1**	44.2% East	**Better**	Jan 2025–Dec 2025
Site neighbourhood: education, skills and training deprivation	**8**	1 = most deprived	**Better**	English Indices of Deprivation 2025

Low income and poverty No marked gap

The figures. None of the 5 measured indicators for low income is significantly worse than the comparator. That is roughly 2,372 children under 16 in low-income families (approx.). The area is broadly in line with its comparators here, so this is not where our effort is focused.

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What it means. None of the 5 low income indicators is significantly worse than the comparator, although roughly 2,372 children under 16 live in low-income families (approx.). The rate is not marked on the evidence, but those families are real and may overlap with the housing pressure shown elsewhere. Income is not a priority to lead on, though secure local jobs and fair pay through the supply chain may help indirectly.

Indicator	Here	Comparator	Verdict	Period
Households in fuel poverty	**10.5%**	9.9% England	**Similar**	2024
Median full-time weekly pay (residents)	**£867**	£805 East	**Better**	2025
Site neighbourhood: income deprivation	**10**	1 = most deprived	**Better**	English Indices of Deprivation 2025
Children in low-income families	**11.6%**	19.8% England	**Better**	2024/25
Authority residents in the most deprived 10%	**0.0%**	10.0% national share	**Better**	English Indices of Deprivation 2025

What this means for our response

Our social value response concentrates on the two measured gaps of crime and homelessness while recognising the project's limited direct influence over both. The strongest offer is a safe, well-managed site and public realm, plus jobs and training routes for people facing homelessness and for young people from higher-need wards. Other domains show no marked gap, so they do not drive our commitments. Where others lead, we will support them rather than claim the outcome.

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4. Our priorities and response

Our response rests on three priorities. First, a safe, well-managed site and public realm in the city centre, with secure boundaries, lighting and cycle storage, working alongside Cambridge Community Safety Partnership, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridge City Council. Second, support for people facing homelessness through work placements, shared vacancies and in-kind help, with Jimmy's Cambridge and Cambridge Cyrenians, Cambridge CVS and Cambridge Community Foundation. Third, construction routes into work for 18–24 year olds from higher-need wards, with Cambridge Regional College, the Careers Hub and CITB. Our commitments include 10 local FTE jobs, 10 apprenticeships, 20 weeks of NEET work experience, and £10,000 in charitable donations, each reported against a target.

1. Safe, well-managed site and public realm in the city centre

High need
SEE: Social Impact

Crime is the one domain where the site's neighbourhood is in the most deprived 20% in England. We will make sure the site does not add to theft and antisocial behaviour, and we will support the partners who lead on community safety.

Evidence	How the project can respond
• Site neighbourhood crime deprivation is decile 2 of 10 (1 = most deprived), Indices of Deprivation 2025. *Ranking in national deprivation*	• Registration with the Considerate Constructors Scheme • Secure site boundaries, lighting and tool and cycle storage to avoid adding to local theft and antisocial behaviour. • Provide secure cycle parking for the workforce and share site safety contacts with neighbours. • Brief the workforce on responsible behaviour in the night-time economy area.

Partners we will work with: Cambridge Community Safety Partnership; Cambridgeshire Constabulary; Cambridge City Council

2. Support for people facing homelessness through jobs and training

High need
SEE: Social Impact

Homelessness duties are above the England and East rates. The project cannot build housing here, but it can offer routes into work and in-kind support for people at risk.

Evidence	How the project can respond
• Homelessness duties are 17.6 per 1,000 households in 2024/25, against 13.6 for England and 12.1 for the East. *Child poverty, fuel poverty and homelessness*	• Offer work experience and short placements to people supported by homelessness charities. • Donate surplus materials, welfare items or volunteer time to local homelessness services. • Share vacancies with homelessness support providers before general advertising.

Cambridge City Council: The council's Corporate Plan 2022–27 includes good-quality housing and tackling poverty and inequality.

Partners we will work with: Jimmy's Cambridge and Cambridge Cyrenians; Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (Cambridge CVS); Cambridge Community Foundation

3. Construction routes into work for 18–24 year olds from higher-need wards

Moderate need SEE: Social Impact	Market ward and Cambridge overall show no marked youth gap, but need is concentrated in northern and eastern wards. The project can reach those young people through construction placements and apprenticeships. This is where we have the most direct influence, and it supports the council's priority of tackling poverty and inequality.

Evidence	How the project can respond
• The 18–24 claimant rate is 1.4% in Cambridge against 5.8% in the East (September 2026). *Unemployment by age group* • Cambridge claimant rate (16–64) is 2.1% against 3.3% in the East (September 2026). *Local unemployment (out-of-work benefits)*	• Create apprenticeship and trainee places and recruit through colleges and the Careers Hub. • Offer site visits, employer encounters and work placements for students. • Target outreach at Arbury, King's Hedges, Abbey, East Chesterton and Cherry Hinton.

Cambridgeshire County Council: Cambridgeshire County Council has a statutory duty to support 16–18 year olds into education, employment or training.

Partners we will work with: Cambridge Regional College (Kings Hedges Road); Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Careers Hub; CITB

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5. Social value targets

Based on the local needs analysis and the priority areas identified (Safe, well-managed site and public realm in the city centre; Support for people facing homelessness through jobs and training; Construction routes into work for 18–24 year olds from higher-need wards), these are the social value deliverables we will target. We have used the analysis as the starting point and applied our own view of what this project can deliver, rather than tying each deliverable to a single priority.

Our social value deliverables

Ref	Commitment	Target
SV01	**Local Jobs Created (FTE)** Number of local full-time equivalent (FTE) employment opportunities created	**10**
SV02	**Apprentice Opportunities created** Number of apprenticeship opportunities (Level 2, 3, and 4+) created	**10**
SV03	**Work Experience Placement for NEETs** Number of work experience (WEX) placement weeks completed	**20 weeks**
SV04	**Educational Engagement hours** Number of hours spent on Educational Engagement activities	**50 hours**
SV05	**Volunteering hours with local organisations** Number of hours of volunteering spent supporting community-led initiatives	**50 hours**
SV06	**Charitable donations to local charities** Donations - Cash & Products	**£10,000**
SV07	**Health, Safety & Wellbeing Training received** Number of informal health, safety, and wellbeing training hours received by beneficiaries	**250 hours**
SV08	**Employability support** Number of hours of mock interviews, CV writing support, and career advice received by students or pre-employment beneficiaries	**40 hours**
SV09	**Apprentice weeks completed** Number of new & existing apprenticeship weeks completed	**150 weeks**
SV10	**Real Living Wage** Paying the Real Living Wage to all project staff	**All staff**

The forecast Social Value of the above commitments is **£486,449.40**

This social value is in addition to the economic value that both local labour and supply chain contract awards will deliver as part of this project.

A full socio-economic report will be issued at completion, highlighting the total impact that the project has had on the local community.

We will report progress against each target to the council every quarter, from the start on site to completion. The targets are based on the scope and programme at contract award.

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Appendix A. Evidence in detail

The official statistics behind this report, by theme. Sources are listed in Appendix B.

Area and local authority

Topic	What the analysis found
Population and year	149,872 residents (ONS mid-2025 estimate): 75,305 male (50.2%), 74,567 female (49.8%). Age profile: 13.6% aged 0–15, 74.5% aged 16–64, 11.8% aged 65+. East for comparison: 18.4% aged 0–15, 61.3% aged 16–64, 20.3% aged 65+. Working-age residents (16–64): 111,692; young adults aged 18–24: 29,480. Source: ONS mid-year population estimates (mid-2025), via Nomis. *As of ONS mid-2025 estimate*
Ranking in national deprivation	The site (CB2 3QJ, Cambridge 007J) is in decile 8 of 10 on the English Indices of Deprivation 2025, where 1 is the most deprived. It ranks 25,969 of 33,755 neighbourhoods. By domain: income decile 10, employment decile 10, education, skills and training decile 8, health and disability decile 9, crime decile 2. Deprivation is sharpest on crime (decile 2). Across Cambridge, 0% of its residents are in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England and 1.1% in the most deprived 20%; 72.2% are in the least deprived 40%. The authority covers 78 neighbourhoods. Source: English Indices of Deprivation 2025 (MHCLG). Open Government Licence v3.0. *As of IMD (see source line)*

Employment and skills

Topic	What the analysis found
Local unemployment (out-of-work benefits)	2,310 people claiming out-of-work benefits in September 2026: 2.1% of residents aged 16–64 — East 3.3%, England 4.1%. That is 1.2 percentage points below East. Twelve months earlier (September 2025) the rate was 2.1%, so it is unchanged. Unemployment rate (ONS model-based, Jul 2025–Jun 2026): 4.0% (±1.4) of the economically active — in line with East 3.9%, England 4.6%. Source: DWP/ONS claimant count and ONS model-based unemployment estimates, via Nomis. *As of Claimant count, September 2026*
Unemployment by age group	Claimants by age, September 2026 (claimants as a share of residents of the same age; 50+ against residents aged 50–64): Aged 18–24: 410 claimants, 1.4% — East 5.8%, England 6.1%. Aged 25–49: 1,335 claimants, 2.3% — East 3.4%, England 4.3%. Aged 50+: 560 claimants, 2.7% — East 2.5%, England 3.1%. Young people aged 18–24 make up 17.7% of all claimants. Rates calculated from the Nomis claimant count (September 2026) and ONS mid-2025 population estimates. *As of Claimant count, September 2026*

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Topic	What the analysis found
Claimant count by ward	The site sits in Market, where 100 residents claim out-of-work benefits — 1.1% of those aged 16–64 (September 2026). That is the 11th highest claimant rate of the 14 wards in Cambridge, against 2.1% across the authority. Across England it is in decile 10 of 10 for claimant rate, where 1 is the highest — low need. 35 of those claimants are aged 18–24. Highest claimant rates in the authority: Arbury (Cambridge) 4.3%, King's Hedges 4.1%, Abbey (Cambridge) 3.1%, East Chesterton 2.9%, Cherry Hinton 2.7%. Lowest is Newnham (Cambridge) at 0.3%, so the gap across the authority is 4.0 percentage points. Source: Claimant count by sex and age, ONS and DWP via Nomis, Open Government Licence v3.0. Published for English wards only. Rates are claimants as a share of residents aged 16-64. *As of Claimant count, September 2026*
Employment, economic inactivity and pay	Employment rate (16–64), Jul 2025–Jun 2026: 77.7% (±6.3) — in line with East 78.0%, England 75.8%. Economically inactive (16–64): 20.1% (±6.1) — in line with East 18.7%, England 20.5%. Median gross weekly pay, full-time workers living here (2025): £866.90 — East £804.90, England £769.50. Figures in brackets are the 95% confidence interval; “in line with” means the gap is inside it. Source: ONS Annual Population Survey and Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (resident analysis), via Nomis. *As of APS Jul 2025–Jun 2026; ASHE 2025*

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Extended themes

Topic	What the analysis found
Health and wellbeing	Life expectancy at birth, men (2025): 82.2 years — better than England (East 80.7 years, England 80.0 years). Life expectancy at birth, women (2025): 85.5 years — better than England (East 84.4 years, England 83.8 years). Healthy life expectancy, men (2022–24): 62.3 years — similar to England (East 62.3 years, England 60.9 years) — county-level figure. Healthy life expectancy, women (2022–24): 61.5 years — similar to England (East 62.0 years, England 61.3 years) — county-level figure. Deaths under 75 from preventable causes (2024): 135 per 100,000 — similar to England (East 126 per 100,000, England 146 per 100,000). Adults overweight or obese (2024/25): 46.7% — better than England (East 65.2%, England 64.6%). Children overweight or obese at Year 6 (2024/25): 25.8% — better than England (East 33.9%, England 36.2%). Adults who smoke (2025): 10.5% — similar to England (East 8.9%, England 9.5%). Physically inactive adults (2024/25): 17.6% — better than England (East 21.0%, England 21.8%). Recorded depression, adults (GP registers) (2024/25): 12.5% — lower than England (East 13.0%, England 14.3%) — county-level figure. Verdicts are Fingertips' own statistical comparison with England. Source: OHID Fingertips public health data (fingertips.phe.org.uk), Open Government Licence v3.0. *As of Fingertips, 2025 and others (see each line)*
Child poverty, fuel poverty and homelessness	Children under 16 in relative low-income families (2024/25): 11.6% — better than England (East 16.1%, England 19.8%). Households in fuel poverty (2024): 10.5% (East 9.3%, England 9.9%). Households owed a homelessness duty (2024/25): 17.6 per 1,000 households — worse than England (East 12.1 per 1,000 households, England 13.6 per 1,000 households). Source: OHID Fingertips public health data (fingertips.phe.org.uk), Open Government Licence v3.0 (DWP children in low income families; DESNZ fuel poverty; MHCLG homelessness statistics). *As of Fingertips, 2024/25 / 2024*
Educational attainment and skills levels	Highest qualification of residents aged 16–64, Jan 2025–Dec 2025: Degree level or above (RQF4+): 55.2% (±8.1) — above East 44.2%, England 48.0%. A level or above (RQF3+): 75.9% (±7.0) — above East 66.1%, England 68.7%. No qualifications: sample too small to publish. Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, via Nomis. Figures in brackets are the 95% confidence interval. *As of APS Jan 2025–Dec 2025*

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Appendix B. Sources

Where the findings came from, and where to go for the latest figures. Links were current when this report was prepared.

Deprivation figures in this report are measured, not estimated. English Indices of Deprivation 2025 (MHCLG). Open Government Licence v3.0. The site figure is for the small area containing the project postcode.

Postcodes: ONS National Statistics Postcode Lookup, August 2026 (Open Government Licence; contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026, Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and database right 2026). Neighbourhood shapes approximated from postcode locations.

Population, claimant count, employment, pay and qualification figures for Cambridge are official statistics: ONS and DWP via Nomis (nomisweb.co.uk), Open Government Licence v3.0. Health, poverty and homelessness figures: OHID Fingertips public health data (fingertips.phe.org.uk), Open Government Licence v3.0. Periods are given against each figure; survey estimates show their 95% confidence interval.

Topic	Sources
Population and year	Nomis: population (exact query) nomisweb.co.uk Nomis local authority profiles nomisweb.co.uk ONS Census 2021 ons.gov.uk
Ranking in national deprivation	Composite UK IMD (mySociety) pages.mysociety.org English Indices of Deprivation gov.uk
Local unemployment (out-of-work benefits)	Nomis: claimant count (exact query) nomisweb.co.uk Nomis local authority profiles nomisweb.co.uk Search: claimant count google.com
Unemployment by age group	Nomis: claimant count by age (exact query) nomisweb.co.uk Nomis: population by age (exact query) nomisweb.co.uk Nomis local authority profiles nomisweb.co.uk
Claimant count by ward	Nomis: claimant count by ward (exact query) nomisweb.co.uk Nomis local authority profiles nomisweb.co.uk
Employment, economic inactivity and pay	Nomis: Annual Population Survey (exact query) nomisweb.co.uk Nomis: earnings by residence (exact query) nomisweb.co.uk Nomis local authority profiles nomisweb.co.uk
Health and wellbeing	Fingertips: local authority health profile fingertips.phe.org.uk Fingertips data (exact query) fingertips.phe.org.uk Fingertips public health profiles fingertips.phe.org.uk
Child poverty, fuel poverty and homelessness	Fingertips: wider determinants of health fingertips.phe.org.uk Fingertips data (exact query) fingertips.phe.org.uk Fingertips wider determinants fingertips.phe.org.uk
Educational attainment and skills levels	Nomis: qualifications (exact query) nomisweb.co.uk Nomis local authority profiles nomisweb.co.uk

Appendix C. How this analysis was prepared

A local needs analysis looks at the social, economic and environmental needs of the community around a project, so that our social value commitments answer what the area actually needs rather than a standard list.

Where the client has published commitments on social value, sustainability or community investment, the analysis takes them into account, so our response supports their priorities as well as local need.

Figures come from official, published sources: the Office for National Statistics and the Department for Work and Pensions via Nomis, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, and the national indices of deprivation. Each figure carries the period it relates to. Survey estimates show their margin of error, and a difference is only called out where it is larger than that margin.

Deprivation is reported for the small area containing the site and for the local authority as a whole, so the report shows both the immediate neighbourhood and the wider area the workforce and supply chain will be drawn from.

This work sits under Social Impact, one of the three pillars of Sir Robert McAlpine's Sustainable Engineering Excellence approach, alongside Carbon and Circularity.

Each commitment responds to one or more of the priorities and the local evidence behind them, and is measured from records the project already keeps, so progress can be reported openly throughout delivery.

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