Public Document Pack

Cambridge City Council

Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 23 September 2026

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ [access the building via Peashill entrance]

Contact: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk, tel:01223 457000

Agenda

This meeting is open to any member of the Council who wishes to ask questions of the Executive on items included on this agenda. Could members please notify the Committee Manager if they wish to attend and speak.

1	Apologies	
2	Declarations of Interest	
3	Minutes	
3a	7 July Cabinet Minutes	(Pages 5 - 30)
3b	21 July Cabinet Minutes	(Pages 31 - 46)
4	Public Questions	
Key Items		
5	Review of a Public Space Protection Order for Dog Control across the City	(Pages 47 - 122)
6	River Cam, Chalk Streams and Tributaries – Strategic Review and Environmental Projects	(Pages 123 - 162)
Non Key		
7	Review of the Public Space Protection Order for Punt Touts	(Pages 163 - 196)
8	Future Provision and Operation of Public Toilets at Parker’s Piece and Quayside	(Pages 197 - 212)
9	Budget Outturn 2025-26	(Pages 213 - 240)
10	Development Loan to Cambridge Investment Partnership	(Pages 241 - 248)

Cabinet Members: Thornburrow (Chair), Moore (Vice-Chair), Smart (Cabinet Member), Todd-Jones (Cabinet Member), Bird (Cabinet Member), Gawthrope Wood (Cabinet Member) and Nestor (Cabinet Member)

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm sounding all persons should vacate the building by way of the nearest escape route and proceed directly to the assembly point in front St Mary's Church. The duty Officer will assume overall control during any evacuation, however in the unlikely event the duty Officer is unavailable, this responsibility will be assumed by the Committee Chair.

Information for the public

The public may record (e.g. film, audio, tweet, blog) meetings which are open to the public.

For full information about committee meetings, committee reports, councillors and the democratic process:

- Website: http://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk
- Email: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk
- Phone: 01223 457000

This Meeting will be live streamed to the Council's YouTube page. You can watch proceedings on the livestream or attend the meeting in person.

On some occasions livestreaming may not be possible. Whilst this is frustrating it is important to note that there is no legal requirement to record or livestream meetings. The meeting may proceed in person only should there be an ICT failure on the day.

Those wishing to address the meeting will be able to do so virtually via Microsoft Teams, or by attending to speak in person. You must contact Democratic Services democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk by 12 noon two working days before the meeting.

The full text of any public question must be submitted in writing by noon two working days before the date of the meeting or it will not be accepted. All questions submitted by the deadline will be published on the meeting webpage before the meeting is held.

Further information on public speaking will be supplied once registration and the written question / statement has been received.

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET

7 July 2026
5.10 - 8.55 pm

Present: Councillors Moore (Vice Chair as Chair), Smart, Todd-Jones, Bird, Gawthrope Wood and Nestor

Other Councillors present:
Councillors Bick, Bennett, Baigent, Fisher, Tong and Young

Also present (virtually) Councillors Flaubert and Porrer

Officers Present:
Chief Executive: Robert Pollock
Chief Finance Officer: Jody Etherington
Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development: Stephen Kelly
Assistant Director Housing & Health: Samantha Shimmon
Communities Director: Sam Scharf
Assistant Director Public Realm & Environment: Alistair Wilson
Strategic Environmental Health and Public Safety Lead: Yvonne O'Donnell
Deputy Democratic Services Manager: Claire Tunnicliffe
Democratic Services Officer: Matt Hussey

Officers Present Virtually:
Assistant Director Homes & Commercial: Sean Cleary
Assistant Director People & Change: Hannah Ralph
Peter Birch: Fleet Manager, Fleet and Garage

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

26/32/Cab Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Thornburrow.

26/33/Cab Declarations of Interest

No declarations were declared.

26/34/Cab Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair.

26/35/Cab Public Questions

Friends of St Thomas Park submitted the following statement:

The Friends of St Thomas Park represent around 70 residents in Coleridge ward who came together in 2023 to raise their concerns about the way the Council was proceeding at that time with its plans to develop housing on a semi-derelict garage site and a significant part of St Thomas's Park.
The July 2026 Cabinet paper on the small sites development programme refers to the plans to develop the site at St Thomas's in Coleridge ward as having been 'paused' but are now being reactivated. No plan is included with the St Thomas site item but the report refers in a number of places to the proposed development being likely to have an impact upon the park area.

St Thomas Park
St Thomas Park is just over an acre in size, located behind and overlooked by two storey housing. It is largely open with a central fenced area with children's play equipment in it. It is well used for active recreation, play, football, ball throwing, dog walking etc. The seventy people, children and dogs who turned out for the photograph and who signed the E-petition in 2023 value it.

The park is a protected open space in Coleridge ward (through the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 and in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan). Coleridge is a ward that is deficient in open space when measured against the council's own standards for open space provision across the city.

Since 2023 a Friends group has been formed and a celebration event was held in summer 2024 to mark 75 years since the park was created.

A master plan for the park has been prepared by the Friends Group and surveys of birds, bats and biodiversity have been undertaken by local residents. New biodiversity features supporting growth in pollinators have been constructed. In early 2026 new trees were provided by the Council's Tree team and a tree planting event was held with local councillors and residents. This work has all been undertaken with the support of the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and local members.

What is Cabinet being asked?
The semi-derelict garage site adjacent to St Thomas Park is a brownfield site and its redevelopment to provide a small-scale housing scheme makes sense.

That said, St Thomas Park is a protected open space, in a ward that has a deficit of open space areas. The park is valued for its recreation and play contribution, it supports local biodiversity and the community has come together and continues to demonstrate its value and importance to them.

Cabinet is asked to confirm the continued importance of St Thomas Park and support the work being undertaken there by ward members, council officers and local residents. Ongoing support for this important piece of local green space (consistent with the Council’s own policies) can best be achieved if it is moved to the Nature, Open spaces and City Services portfolio and any future development of the garage site be undertaken on the brownfield area only.

The Cabinet Member for Housing responded:

i. Have heard from residents and Ward Councillors regarding the importance of the park and was aware of the community work that Friends of St Thomas Park had undertaken, including tree planning, installation of bird boxes and community events.
ii. The Cabinet report made it clear that Officers would review what would be possible to utilise the brownfield space only and minimise any impact on the park.
iii. Officers would work with residents to ensure that all changes were agreed before designs were progressed.
iv. Residents and Friends of St Thomas Park would be updated as the project progressed.
v. Officers would work to see how the space could be adopted as a park as part of the Council’s nature, open spaces, city services portfolio.
vi. Acknowledged it was important to protect the space to allow residents, including those council tenants who have moved into their new council homes to enjoy.

Supplementary

Recognised the redevelopment of the garage site was an important brownfield site project and were not opposed to redevelopment of the area. Acknowledged that every site mattered in the city. However, green spaces mattered too. This principle run through the Council's corporate policies, the emerging Local Plan, and the long-standing approach to protecting open spaces. Across successive Local Plans, the protection of these spaces and their contribution to health, wellbeing and the enjoyment of the city had been a consistent theme.

What had been surprising was the strength of feeling that this proposal has generated among local people.

Had looked carefully at the wording in the report but remained concerned by phrases such as “mitigate the impact” and “work with residents to agree”. The Cabinet needed to take a clearer position.

Why could the Council not give a definitive commitment that development would be restricted to the brownfield area only, and that the protected public open space, as identified in the Local Plan and other Council strategy documents, would remain protected from development, including any temporary use during construction works?

In short, why can the Council not give a clear and unequivocal assurance that this open space will be protected, rather than relying on wording that leaves the position open to interpretation?

The Cabinet Member for Housing responded:

i. The development was at the early stages of the process and as yet there were no final design or detailed scheme in place.
ii. It was vital that residents and interested external parties such as Friends of St Thomas Park were involved as options were explored to determine what could be delivered on the site.
iii. The development could provide three or four family homes, although that may reduce to three depending on what was required through the design process. A lower number of homes would, of course, provide greater flexibility in terms of the available space.
iv. Could not give a definitive answer at this stage because the proposals have not yet been developed in sufficient detail.
v. Remembered previous discussions held many years ago and was very aware of the strength of feeling locally. Knew the area well, having lived in St Thomas Square and understood the concerns that have been expressed.
vi. Declared that Friends of St Tomas Park would be involved throughout the process. As proposals were developed and consultations took place, residents would have the opportunity to review the plans and provide feedback. Engagement would help shape the scheme progressed.

26/36/Cab Budget Setting Context 2027-28

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Operations introduced the report.

The report provided an update on emerging financial risks and asked the Cabinet to agree the early strategic direction for setting the Council's 2026/27 budgets.

In response to questions from the Leaders of the Liberal Democrat and Green Party, the Cabinet Members for Finance and Corporate Operations and Housing and the Chief Finance Officer said the following:

i. Noted that the comment that the use of the Members' Finance Working Group was welcomed.
ii. Officers appreciated engagement with the Members' Finance Working Group on the design of the consultation before it was made public.
iii. The significant year-end overspend on the Housing Revenue Account had arisen from a combination of factors. The previous year was the first which the full impact of Awaab's Law was experienced, and demand pressures had been underestimated during budget forecasting. Forecasts were based on the Quarter 2 position, and the seasonal nature of demand, particularly over the winter period, had not been fully anticipated. Lessons had been identified to improve forecasting in future years.
iv. Approximately £3 million of the overspend related to clearly identifiable one-off pressures, such as the waking watch and incidents at a number of housing blocks. As a result, around half of the total overspend could be attributable to exceptional, non-recurring expenditure.
v. Work was ongoing with the service to bring expenditure back into line with the approved budget. The additional investment approved by the Council had not been limited to increasing repairs budgets but had also funded improvements to staffing processes and contract management arrangements.
vi. It was recognised that the benefits of these measures would take time to be realised. An updated position on performance against budget would be provided in the Quarter 1 Monitoring Report to Cabinet in September.
vii. Noted that comment that it was important for all forty-two councillors to feel empowered and able to scrutinise the Council's finances.
viii. Noted comments that concerns regarding the under-reporting of housing repairs had been raised by the Green Group's housing spokesperson, supported by evidence from tenant representatives, void property data and customer audits.
ix. Improvements had been made to financial reporting, noting that the quarterly performance reports were designed to be accessible and understandable to all. The revised format provided greater transparency and made it easier for all Members and residents to understand the Council's financial position and performance.

x. The involvement of Members in budget discussions at an earlier stage could only be seen as a positive development.
xi. Encouraged all Members to engage with the quarterly performance reports and associated performance indicators, highlighting their value in improving understanding of the Council's financial and operational performance.
xii. In relation to housing repairs, residents should be encouraged to report issues. The housing condition survey and tenancy audit provided important sources of information and helped Officers to identify issues that may not otherwise be reported through standard channels.
xiii. Progress had been made in relation to housing repairs, particularly in addressing damp, mould and condensation issues. Efforts were continuing to support residents in getting necessary works completed as quickly as possible.
xiv. Officers were working to bring responsibility for damp, mould and condensation work back in-house. This would give greater control over service delivery and enable repairs to be carried out more promptly.
xv. Highlighted the importance of fulfilling regulatory requirements, including undertaking stock condition surveys. These surveys identified additional maintenance requirements and provided information to support effective asset management and ensure that properties continue to meet required standards.
xvi. Highlighted an error on paragraph 6.9 and 6.10, p35 of the agenda pack, the meeting dates quoted in 2026 should be 2027.

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved** to:

i. Note the economic update and emerging pressures set out in sections 4 and 5. 2 of the Officer’s report.
ii. Agree the high-level approach to budget setting for 2027/28 set out in section 6. 3 of the Officer’s report.
iii. Agree the high-level approach to public consultation set out in section 8 of the Officer’s report.

26/37/Cab Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 – 2028

The Cabinet Member for Communities introduced the report.

The report detailed the background to the introduction of an extended Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2021 -2028) and Local Action Plan to cover the period June 2026 – March 2028.

In response to questions from Cabinet Members and those Councillors present, the Cabinet Member for Communities, the Chief Executive and the Assistant Director, Housing and Health said the following:

i. Had attended a homelessness conference which included contributions from individuals with lived experience of homelessness which highlighted the value of drawing on their insights and perspectives when considering homelessness services and policy.
ii. Emphasised the importance of ensuring these voices were heard across all Homelessness Charter support pillars, including the Council-led pillar, to help shape future work.
iii. It was critical that people with lived experience helped to shape the Council's work.
iv. Noted that while such perspectives were often gathered informally through partner organisations, embedding them more systematically in the Council strategies and decision-making would be beneficial.
v. Had arranged a visit with Cyrenius to view modular housing sites and to learn more about their plans to deliver additional modular homes across the city.
vi. It was important through the Council's partnership working to increase the provision of modular homes.
vii. An example of the Council leading multi- agency working were as follows:
    - Co-Chair on the Homelessness Charter Group.
    - Sat on the Charter Board with the Assistant Director Housing & Health.
    - The Strategic Housing Advice Lead Officer, lead the Housing pillar Working Group.
    - A Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Board was in the process of being established, chaired by the Assistant Director Housing & Health at Officer level.

viii. The Council recognised the need to balance close partnership working with the many organisations delivering homelessness services in the city while also providing clear leadership and direction.
ix. Confirmed that, while partnership working would remain central, key elements of the homelessness agenda would be led by the Council.
x. Noted the comment of thanks to the Strategic Housing Advice Lead Officer and their team for the swift outreach response during the recent heatwave, and the request for feedback in on successes, challenges and lessons learned.
xi. Agreed that homelessness was a complex area, covering statutory duties and a range of support services. Confirmed training would be

available to all Councillors to help better understand the services available and the Council's responsibilities.

xii. In relation to the slide in the Officer's report Pathway 3 – routes to accommodation (priority singles), p157 of the agenda pack, acknowledged that over half of those supported required assistance due to a physical disability and emphasised the importance of ensuring that appropriate accommodation, services and support were accessible to meet their needs.

xiii. Residents with physical disabilities who experienced homelessness often required both suitable accommodation and additional support and work was often linked with the Development Team.

xiv. The Council had expanded its Tenancy Sustainment Team to provide early, proactive support, including home visits for those moving through homelessness pathways, this would allow a more proactive approach with new tenants. Officers could also utilise the Council's Disabled Adaptations Budget within the Housing Revenue Account when adaptions were required.

xv. Agreed that health, mental health and addiction issues were also key factors in homelessness and tenancy sustainment and stressed the importance of the NHS Integrated Care Board's involvement in addressing these challenges.

xvi. Highlighted the critical role of the Access Surgery on Newmarket Road in supporting people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping, and the need to increase capacity for such services.

xvii. Expressed support for strengthening healthcare provision within the homelessness strategy and hoped that practical capacity and support could be developed further through the Action Plan over the coming years.

xviii. Officers had been working with Jimmy's Cambridge on potential future sites beyond the current lease and emphasised that a clear understanding of demand, funding and partner contributions, including from the County Council's Streets to Homes partnership, would be required before any proposals could be progressed.

xix. The Homelessness Strategy focused on supporting individuals to move away from rough sleeping through outreach and support services, rather than providing facilities that may enable rough sleeping to continue, such as portable toilets in known rough sleeping locations. Individuals were signposted to appropriate facilities and services.

xx. Sharps bins could be found in all Council owned public toilets, although acknowledged the facilities were not opened twenty-four hours a day and that more could be done. Most pharmacies also had these bins which could be accessed by rough sleepers.

xxi. The Homelessness Strategy had been developed by the views and priorities of those people who had experienced homelessness.

xxii. Highlighted the support available through initiatives such as Street Aid, which members of the public could contribute to. This would help provide practical help to people who lived or had lived on the streets. Street Aid: Help for people on the streets - Cambridge City Council

xxiii. Agreed that an increased awareness of the range of services to support street life people that the Council offered would be beneficial.

xxiv. Agreed to review the proposed two-year extension of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.

xxv. The Housing Needs Register was open to anyone seeking housing assistance, including those already housed and people presenting as homeless. The Council recognised the need for good-quality accommodation across the city and remained committed to providing as much social rented housing as possible, within existing constraints, to meet housing needs.

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved** to:

i. Approve the introduction and implementation of the draft extended Cambridge City Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2021 – 2028) and accompanying Local Action Plan as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Officer's report.

Post Committee Note:
In response to the following question from Councillor Flaubert a full response was provided by the Homelessness Prevention and Solutions Manager outside of the meeting which can be read below:

What measurable progress has been made in reducing repeat rough sleeping since the adoption of Priority 6 of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy?
As stated in the Cabinet agenda pack, page 77, Rough sleeping tends to last longer than other forms of homelessness and is much more likely to be cyclical. As such, it is difficult to provide evidence over such a short period of time about the adoption of the priority and its effectiveness on services. Rough Sleeping Services use quarterly statistics, which are provided to MHCLG, and generally yearly statistics for measurement. Rough sleeping is split into 2 different types– short term rough sleeping and long-term rough sleeping.

There are measurements in place for people with a history of repeat rough sleeping. The Target Priority Group (TPG) identifies individuals who experience long-term or cyclical rough sleeping and are furthest from services.

It consists of entrenched, named individuals furthest from the system who are least likely to ask for, accept, or receive standard support. Each year, using the TPG definition set by MHCLG, the Council measures the amount of people that meet this definition, collectively with our partners at the Street Outreach Team, HEaRT team (Drugs & Alcohol Support) and Housing First.

Over the last few years, Cambridge City Council has been successful in reducing the number of individuals within the TPG, however due to the high number of people that fall within this group, there is still a lot of work to be done. The Council's Team around a Person (TAP) model, introduced in 2023, has brought together a multi-agency approach to resolving rough sleeping within the TPG. People within the TPG have specialist TAP's coordinated by the City Council, to bring together the services to work together to get people into accommodation. The steps are individualistic, with professionals deciding between them the best route to get people to engage, and then into housing. It is important to note that work in this area needs to be small incremental steps, designed for that person, otherwise lack of engagement and distrust of services, will continue to lead to cyclical rough sleeping. This is why the time period to measure a reduction in rough sleeping is important. For example, getting a person to attend a group, a GP or scripting services can take several months.

Below are the statistics provided to MHCLG since TAP was introduced (full financial year).

Year	Number of TPG in April	Breakdown of Sex	Number of people carried over to the following year	% reduction from previous year
24/25	44	F – 12 M - 32	19	57%
25/26	44	F – 13 M - 31	18	59%
26/27	34	F – 10 M - 23	17	23%

Of the 34 individuals in the TPG in 26/27, so far, 5 have permanent accommodation and 7 have precarious accommodation (e.g. Jimmy's East Road, staying with family or s188 temporary accommodation but not owed a s193 duty at time of writing). 20 have multiple complex needs (3 or more of domestic abuse (perp or survivor), criminal justice, mental health, physical health or Drugs/ alcohol). Only 10 have a local connection to Cambridge and 9 have No Recourse to Public Funds (of which a large percentage are the individuals carried over each year as they have limited options that the Council and our partners can provide).

Question - Which actions within Priority 6 have been fully implemented, and which remain outstanding?
Please see each priority below with the response below it.

Work with providers to help speed up move on from hostels, whilst at the same time reviewing how evictions and abandonments can be reduced.
The Council introduced the Team Around a Person Prevention Panel (TAPPP) in 2025. Building on the success of TAP, the Panel meets each week to discuss people in adult services that are likely to face eviction or abandon their accommodation. The TAPPP has also been integrated into the Street's to Home weekly meetings. TAPPP brings together Cambridge City Council (Single Homeless Coordinator and Homeless Prevention Support Officers), HEaRT, Dual Diagnosis Street Team (Drugs and Alcohol), accommodation providers and the Street Outreach Team to provide support to individuals and accommodation providers. This support is individual to the needs of the person or accommodation service and decisions vary from paying off arrears, having drug/ alcohol support plans amended through to managing behaviour to help keep accommodation. This will be extended to the Young Futures Partnership in 2026 to bring the same successes to young people.

Regarding move on, the Council has an officer dedicated to move on from supported accommodation and holds monthly Hostel Allocation & Resettlement Panels (allocating band A to hostel licensees that are ready to move on). In addition to this, RSAP accommodation has been amended to take on people with support needs, that provide long term accommodation for people. Whilst a lot of work is being completed in this area, it does not increase the amount of accommodation that the Council can move people into, which causes delays in move on.

Work with providers to review the scope and effectiveness of hostel-based support, particularly in relation to move-on advice.
This work has not started. Supported Accommodation is commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council, so would require their buy in. However, there is going to be a more general overview assessments of supported accommodation via the Supported Accommodation (Regulatory Oversight) Act and the System Maturity Audit as part of the Long-Term Rough Sleeping Partnership Plan. Although similar, they cover the assessment from different angles – one is an assessment of the accommodation and the other is an assessment as part of the ecosystem for rough sleepers.

Explore whether being excluded from moving on due to previous breaches of tenancy can be prevented.
There is no exclusion for being moved on due to previous breaches, however, particularly via the private rented sector, this itself can be a barrier. The Council has no control over whether a private landlord takes a person, other than those defined within the Renter’s Rights Act. It would technically be a breach of licence to have rent arrears and this falls within the Housing Related Debt Policy.

Work with sub-regional authorities to help improve City access to existing hostel beds.
Work on this has not started

Work with the County Council to assess what balance between hostel and other accommodation might be appropriate going forwards.
Work on this has not started and should not start until the Supported Accommodation (Regulatory Oversight) Act and the System Maturity Audit have been completed. Mapping the current needs of both statutory homelessness and rough sleeping is key to good decision making.

Promote and make private rented housing a more attractive option, to help make it available to a wider range of applicants.
Work has started on this, with the officers in the Homeless Prevention & Solutions Team going out to each hostel to explain the Renter’s Rights Act and promote services that the Council has, to help people move on. Focus has been on the Young Futures Partnership first, learning from this, before going into adult services via Street’s to Home.

Review the effectiveness of the Housing First model of provision and explore whether it should be extended to include private rented sector homes.
Independent Review completed on the effectiveness in 2025, which was positive on the Housing First project and their way of working. Not extended to private rented accommodation currently, namely because of cost and competing demands with statutory homelessness and Townhall Lettings.

Explore with social housing providers whether there are opportunities for short life or low demand social housing available, including to single sharers.
Not started

Expand the provision of modular homes and explore other innovative ways of providing accommodation to prevent and relieve single homelessness.
Not started. Whether modular homes can be used to prevent or relieve statutory homelessness is not straight forward and could be subject to legal challenge. Modular homes remain a good option for people with low/ medium needs but lessons learned with our partners at Jimmy's suggest that they are an excellent model as part of a journey from rough sleeping to independent accommodation but have a poor success for people immediately rough sleeping prior to moving in. Continuing the person's journey to independence and using the modular homes as stepping stone accommodation has produced much better outcomes.

Continue to seek and make best use of funding opportunities to purchase new homes to accommodate rough sleepers.
No funding has been made available from Homes England or MHCLG, for rough sleepers, since adopting the priority. Regular contact between Cambridge City Council and the Rough Sleeping Advisor at MHCLG will continue and put Cambridge in the best place to put in a bid for funding if it becomes available. MHCLG has no current plans to expand RSAP, NSAP or SHAP.

Work with the County Council in considering the need for commissioning longer term supported provision for those for whom mainstream housing with support may not be suitable.
Not started.

Work collaboratively on shifting emphasis from a mainly streets-based towards more of a home-based service model.
Ongoing. The Council's grant conditions under the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant, puts a focus on early intervention and maximising prevention activities, to avoid people rough sleeping. This is one aspect of this work. This will be measured via MHCLG's Local Outcome Framework.

26/38/Cab New Sites Development and Homes England update

Before the item was considered the Chair highlighted the following typo in the report:

- Section 4.1.3 (p225 of the agenda pack) stated a purchase price of £1,125,000 for Haviland Way in King's Hedges. The correct figure was

£1,375,000. The overall budget was not affected for that site and the overall ask not affected.

The Cabinet Member for Housing then introduced the report.

The report provided an update on the Council’s Small Sites Programme; an initiative focused on bringing forward underutilised and infill sites across Cambridge to deliver new council housing. The programme had been designed to provide opportunities for the Small to Medium (SME) sector in the region.

In response to questions from Cabinet Members and those Councillors present, the Cabinet Member for Housing said the following:

i. The provision of a community facility had previously been explored as part of proposals for the St. Thomas Road development. While the current scheme could not accommodate such a facility, future provision on the opposite garage site could be considered but was not guaranteed.
ii. The Council had adopted the Cam Standard rather than Passivhaus certification. The additional benefits associated with achieving the final stage of full Passivhaus certification were relatively limited in comparison with the additional cost. The last 10% was very marginal in terms of gains for the tenant as outlined in the report. Further, information would be provided outside the meeting.
iii. Regarding the Horizons site, the Council would work closely with the County Council to ensure a smooth transition and ensure service users and operators were appropriately supported throughout the process. Ongoing engagement with board members would continue.
iv. The proposed homes on the Hawthorn and Horizon sites would be 100% Council homes, with 5% designed as wheelchair-accessible properties. A builder was yet to be appointed and Officers were currently considering the available delivery options as outlined in the report. Was keen to utilise local builders, contractors and architects where possible in order to support local businesses.

Cabinet **unanimously resolved** to:

i. Approve the three sites above for inclusion within the Housing Capital Programme, with an indicative capital budget of £37,401,454 to fund all site assembly, construction costs, professional fees, and further associated fees, to deliver a 100% affordable – council - housing scheme which meets the identified need in Cambridge. This budget will be funded from resources previously approved by Council for investment in new homes and not yet allocated.

ii. Authorise the Assistant Director, Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to approve variations to the scheme including the number of units and mix of property types, sizes, and tenure.
iii. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Development to make a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in respect of any leasehold interests at Horizons and Hawkins development sites, identified for possible redevelopment that cannot be acquired by private treaty within a reasonable timescale and at a reasonable cost subject to the Director of Economy and Place being satisfied that there is a compelling case in the public interest for the use of compulsory purchase powers, and that all legal and policy requirements for the making and confirmation of a CPO have been met
iv. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Development to serve initial Demolition Notices under the Housing Act 1985.
v. Delegate Authority to the Assistant Director of Housing and Homelessness to approve a local lettings plan for the proposed developments.

26/39/Cab Reopening of Parker’s Piece and Quayside public

Members were reminded that the report for this item also covered agenda items 9 and 10 and that the recommendations for all three items would be taken en bloc.

The Cabinet Member for Nature, Open Spaces and City Services introduced the report.

The report referred to the implementation of the Liberal Democrat proposals on reopening Parker’s Piece and Quayside toilets.

In response to questions from Cabinet Members and those Councillors present, the Cabinet Member for Nature, Open Spaces and City Services said:

i. Noted the comments to thank staff for their work in delivering these services that covered agenda items 8, 9 and 10. Particularly during a challenging period of hot weather and increased seasonal demand.
ii. Services had been operating with reduced staffing levels for several years, and support was expressed for increased investment and to welcome the prospect of improvements to street cleaning, public realm enforcement, and the reopening of closed public toilets.
iii. The intention had been to secure approval for the proposals as quickly as possible in order to facilitate their implementation.

iv. A report on the future provision of public toilets would be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee on 23 September; the matter could be reviewed by the relevant Scrutiny Committee if considered necessary.

v. The report was not seeking Cabinet approval to introduce charges to the public toilets but to recommend this area was where investment was made. Future toilets should be designed in a way that did not prevent charging from being considered.

vi. Should a future Cabinet wish to introduce charges at any location, this would require a separate report, supported by a business case, an Equality Impact Assessment, and a formal Member decision.

vii. On payment methods, the report recognised that traditional coin-operated systems were becoming increasingly difficult to operate.

viii. Declining cash use meant many people no longer carried coins, while coin mechanisms require cash collection. These were costly to maintain, and were vulnerable to vandalism, theft, and mechanical failure. Cash collection could also present safety risks for staff.

ix. Contactless systems could address many of the issues raised and offered greater convenience for most users. However, there were concerns about accessibility for those without bank cards or compatible payment methods, which included some young people and overseas visitors. This would need to be fully considered as part of any future charging proposal.

x. The report did not commit the Council to installing contactless payment equipment. Any future proposal would need to demonstrate that the costs of installation, maintenance, and transaction fees, alongside expected income and operational savings, represented value for money through a detailed business case.

xi. The Transformation Fund allocation had not been diverted from budgets for maintaining the existing public toilet estate. It was intended to support the reopening of facilities and associated improvements.

xii. Day-to-day maintenance budgets remained in place and Officers continued to respond to issues as they arose.

xiii. Acknowledged the wider challenges facing the public toilet network, including those at Jesus Green. The report acknowledged that further investment would be required over time. In the short term, Officers were progressing improvements at Jesus Green while developing longer-term proposals linked to the new leisure management contract and future redevelopment of facilities at the Lido.

xiv. In relation to Abbey Ward, the report focused on reopening facilities and delivering targeted operational improvements. It was not a review of the overall distribution of public toilets across the city.

xv. Aware of the issues on Mill Road cemetery and its relationship to the former public toilets, including reports of rough sleeping and other challenges within the cemetery. These were ongoing matters that required attention and extend beyond the provision of public toilets alone. Would be happy to discuss these issues outside of the meeting with Councillors and Mill Road Traders.

xvi. Could not pre-empt any future reconsideration of previous decisions regarding its operation or investment, such as Mill Road toilets.

xvii. The report before Cabinet was one step within a wider programme of work to reopen facilities, improve service resilience, and ensure flexibility in future investment decisions.

xviii. Wider questions concerning individual sites, such as Gwydir Street, would continue to be considered as part of the Council's ongoing review of the public toilet estate and future investment priorities.

xix. The Council remained open to collaborative approaches that could help improve the long-term sustainability and usefulness of these public facilities.

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved**:

i. To approve the immediate reopening of as many individual toilets at Parkers Piece as feasible following condition and compliance checks.

ii. To request officers, bring a paper to 23rd September Cabinet setting out options for the future of Parker’s Piece and Quayside toilets, including reopening and operating cost, payment options, and capital investment needed to meet any new accessibility requirements.

iii. That four temporary staff are recruited as soon as possible to provide additional street cleansing capacity at priority hotspots, including the city centre, and strengthening programmed cleansing activity across the city, to be organised into a new daily 12-7pm shift.

iv. To agree that officers implement route optimisation and operational redesign informed by performance and REEN smart bin technology data to deliver efficiencies that can release existing cleaning capacity for priority hotspots.

v. To agree that officers will bring a more detailed paper on longer-term staffing requirements once the additional temporary resource is in place and its impact can be assessed to feed into the budget setting process in late Autumn.

vi. To agree to the recruitment of two additional temporary Public Realm Enforcement Officers (a permanent appointment would be made in September, which would replace one of the temporary posts) so that a team of 5 enforcement officers will be funded from July to the end of the financial year.

vii. To agree that officers bring an evidence-based report to Cabinet in November/December setting out the impact of the additional capacity and other reforms to improve prevention and enforcement activity with advice on whether there is sufficient capacity or whether further resources are required.

viii. That the in-year revenue costs of these proposals are funded using the Transformation and Reinvestment Fund, anticipated to be up to £200k, and that the CFO has delegated authority to approve this.

ix. That proposals are brought forward as part of the 2027/2028 Budget setting process so that future funding for the costs of toilet reopening, additional street cleaning and enforcement activity can be secured.

26/40/Cab Improvements to Street Cleaning

The Committee noted that the report relevant to this item had partly been considered under Item 8, introduced by the Cabinet Member for Nature, Open Spaces and City Services, and also related to Item 10. The recommendations for all three items would therefore be considered and determined collectively.

The report referred to the necessary steps to hire additional staff on a temporary basis to increase street cleansing and public realm enforcement in the city centre during the busy summer months

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved**:

i. To approve the immediate reopening of as many individual toilets at Parkers Piece as feasible following condition and compliance checks.

ii. To request officers, bring a paper to 23rd September Cabinet setting out options for the future of Parker’s Piece and Quayside toilets, including reopening and operating cost, payment options, and capital investment needed to meet any new accessibility requirements.

iii. That four temporary staff are recruited as soon as possible to provide additional street cleansing capacity at priority hotspots, including the city centre, and strengthening programmed cleansing activity across the city, to be organised into a new daily 12-7pm shift.

iv. To agree that officers implement route optimisation and operational redesign informed by performance and REEN smart bin technology data to deliver efficiencies that can release existing cleaning capacity for priority hotspots.

v. To agree that officers will bring a more detailed paper on longer-term staffing requirements once the additional temporary resource is in place and its impact can be assessed to feed into the budget setting process in late Autumn.

vi. To agree to the recruitment of two additional temporary Public Realm Enforcement Officers (a permanent appointment would be made in September, which would replace one of the temporary posts) so that a team of 5 enforcement officers will be funded from July to the end of the financial year.

vii. To agree that officers bring an evidence-based report to Cabinet in November/December setting out the impact of the additional capacity and other reforms to improve prevention and enforcement activity with advice on whether there is sufficient capacity or whether further resources are required.

viii. That the in-year revenue costs of these proposals are funded using the Transformation and Reinvestment Fund, anticipated to be up to £200k, and that the CFO has delegated authority to approve this.

ix. That proposals are brought forward as part of the 2027/2028 Budget setting process so that future funding for the costs of toilet reopening, additional street cleaning and enforcement activity can be secured

26/41/Cab Improving Public Safety and Environmental Enforcement

It was noted that the report relevant to this item had partly been considered under agenda items 8 and 9. The recommendations for all three agenda items would therefore be considered and determined en bloc.

The report highlighted the need to hire additional staff on a temporary basis to increase street cleansing and public realm enforcement in the city centre during the busy summer months.

In response to questions from Cabinet Members and those Councillors present, the Cabinet Members for Nature, Open Space and City Services and for Climate Action and Environment said the following:

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

i. The issue was first raised in Council approximately two years ago, with significant work undertaken by Planning and Enforcement Officers, with Councillors recently briefed on the on the evidence and findings on 24 June 2026.

ii. The findings and proposed next steps for the emerging, Local Plan were due to be considered by the Performance, Assets and Strategy Overview and Scrutiny (PAS) Committee on 15 July.

iii. The PAS published papers included an evidence study on the role and impact of HMOs in Cambridge and any recommendations from Scrutiny would be considered by a meeting of the two Cabinets (Cambridge City

Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) on 21 July. If approved, the proposals would be subject to public consultation.

iv. The evidence identified areas of higher HMO density and would assist Members in considering the introduction of an Article 4 Direction, which would require planning permission for the conversion of family homes into HMOs.

v. Officers would review the recommendations and provide a report and their recommendations scheduled for Cabinet on 20 October

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Antisocial Driving

i. Officers were investigating the use and effectiveness of PSPOs for antisocial driving in other areas.

vi. For a PSPO to be introduced, the Council had to gather sufficient evidence demonstrating that the behaviour and robust evidence base was therefore required:

- Has a detrimental effect on quality of life;
- Is persistent in nature;
- Justifies the proposed restrictions.

vii. Based on Officers' investigations, the process from evidence gathering to implementation of an enforceable order typically took between six and twelve months, although this would depend on local circumstances. A report was expected to be brought to Cabinet on 20 October.

Equalities Act Guidance

i. Officers had begun assessing the guidance in May when it was laid before Parliament, which had a statutory 40-day period in which to review the guidance.

ii. Should Parliament reject or amend the guidance, the Council would review its position accordingly.

iii. A national petition seeking to reject the guidance had exceeded 10,000 signatures, requiring a Government response.

iv. Officers would bring a report to the Council once Parliament has reached a decision, after which the Council would consider its next steps.

v. Some members have expressed a wish for the matter to be considered by the Services, Climate and Communities Committee, potentially at its meeting on 24 September, subject to agreement by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

vi. The matter was then expected to be considered by Cabinet on 20 October.

vii. Councillor Davidson's comments were acknowledged and would be considered as part of the Council's response.

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved**:

x. To approve the immediate reopening of as many individual toilets at Parkers Piece as feasible following condition and compliance checks.

xi. To request officers, bring a paper to 23rd September Cabinet setting out options for the future of Parker’s Piece and Quayside toilets, including reopening and operating cost, payment options, and capital investment needed to meet any new accessibility requirements.

xii. That four temporary staff are recruited as soon as possible to provide additional street cleansing capacity at priority hotspots, including the city centre, and strengthening programmed cleansing activity across the city, to be organised into a new daily 12-7pm shift.

xiii. To agree that officers implement route optimisation and operational redesign informed by performance and REEN smart bin technology data to deliver efficiencies that can release existing cleaning capacity for priority hotspots.

xiv. To agree that officers will bring a more detailed paper on longer-term staffing requirements once the additional temporary resource is in place and its impact can be assessed to feed into the budget setting process in late Autumn.

xv. To agree to the recruitment of two additional temporary Public Realm Enforcement Officers (a permanent appointment would be made in September, which would replace one of the temporary posts) so that a team of 5 enforcement officers will be funded from July to the end of the financial year.

xvi. To agree that officers bring an evidence-based report to Cabinet in November/December setting out the impact of the additional capacity and other reforms to improve prevention and enforcement activity with advice on whether there is sufficient capacity or whether further resources are required.

xvii. That the in-year revenue costs of these proposals are funded using the Transformation and Reinvestment Fund, anticipated to be up to £200k, and that the CFO has delegated authority to approve this.

xviii. That proposals are brought forward as part of the 2027/2028 Budget setting process so that future funding for the costs of toilet reopening, additional street cleaning and enforcement activity can be secured.

26/42/Cab Community Infrastructure Levy

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment.

The report referred to the results of a six-week public consultation from 16 February 2026 to 29 March 2026 on the Council's draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule. This had been conducted alongside a similar consultation by South Cambridgeshire District Council, with stakeholders invited to submit representations on both proposals.

The proposed Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire CIL aimed to generate additional funding from new development to help address the shortfall in funding for strategic transport infrastructure.

In response to questions from Cabinet Members and those Councillors present, the Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development said the following:

i. CIL charges were index-linked and updated annually to reflect inflation.
ii. A key issue raised through th consultation responses was whether the proposed rates represented the maximum contribution that could reasonably be secured from developers.
iii. Some of the charges, compared to other areas were higher, noting this was specifically linked to the strategic transport infrastructure. In contrast, in other parts of Cambridgeshire some areas applied higher overall charges, but these supported all infrastructure, including education, open space, etc.
iv. The proposed rates were also comparable with the levels of contribution already secured through agreements relating to strategic development sites, examples of which had been set out in the report.
v. Representations from the development industry generally supported lower charges, although some respondents recognised the benefits of a clear and consistent approach to securing infrastructure contributions. Conversely, some community responses argued that the charges should be higher.
vi. Officers confirmed that all consultation responses had been considered and that the viability evidence had been reviewed with the Council's specialist viability consultant in light of submissions from developers.
vii. The Council's view was that the proposed rates strike an appropriate balance between ensuring development remained viable and secured sufficient contributions towards strategic transport infrastructure.
viii. Whether this balance has been achieved would be considered through the independent examination process. The examiner's recommendations would be reported back to the Council in due course.
ix. There were many areas, particularly in metropolitan authorities, where there were no parish councils. A range of arrangements had been used

by borough and city councils to distribute the local contribution was which community fixed as a proportion of the CIL receipts to local areas.

x. There was no immediate solution for the distribution of neighbourhood CIL because of the uncertainty associated with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the governance arrangements that may emerge from that process. It was important that decisions about how local communities participate in spending decisions were addressed as part of the wider governance discussions linked to LGR.

xi. Emphasised that local community groups would not be disadvantaged by this approach. If the proposed CIL charging schedule was approved, expected to come into effect in the early part of the following year. The levy would only apply to planning permissions granted after the charging schedule took effect, and there would typically be a further period before development commenced and any CIL liability became payable. It was anticipated that any funds collected before the new governance arrangements were agreed would be relatively limited.

xii. Considered it to be appropriate to address the issue through a comprehensive governance review as part of the LGR process, rather than introducing interim arrangements. Any CIL funds collected would not be allocated or spent for any other purposes until appropriate governance arrangements had been established.

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved** to:

i. Authorise the submission of the draft charging schedule, an amended draft instalment policy, and associated evidence for independent examination

26/43/Cab Fleet Decarbonisation and Replacement Project.

Before the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment introduced the report advised that the fleet decarbonisation and replacement project would be moving to the Cabinet Member for Nature, Open Spaces and City Services portfolio.

The report set out the proposed approach to future fleet replacement and decarbonisation and sought approval for the adoption of an electric vehicle first replacement strategy together with the associated governance arrangements for future fleet investment decisions.

In response from questions and comments from the Leaders of the Liberal Democratic and Green Party the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment said the following:

I. EV charging infrastructure were in place at the Operational Hub with more chargers to be easily and readily installed in various locations.
II. Careful consideration had been given whether vehicles should be leased or purchased.
III. Would consider how the Teletrac report could be shared with Members.
IV. The Council did not routinely sell its vehicles but retained them until they reached the end of their operational life, there was no expectation that this approach would change.
V. As part of the phased replacement programme, consideration had also been given to the potential implications of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), recognising that any future authority may have its own vehicle fleet.
VI. Although purchasing vehicles would require a higher initial capital outlay, this option would deliver savings in the longer term. Leasing vehicles would involve entering into maintenance contracts, resulting in higher overall costs than purchasing. The purchased vehicles would be managed in-house.
VII. The decision had not been made just to provide additional work to the garage. Demand for the garage services remained high and a review would be required to determine whether sufficient capacity existed to continue. The decision had been made to secure best value for the Council while ensuring that staff had access to the most appropriate vehicles to carry out their work effectively.
VIII. The proportion of electric vehicles within the fleet would increase from 12% to approximately 75%, as suitable electric alternatives were not currently available for all vehicle types. However, this could increase as those vehicle types became available as electric.

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved** to:

i. Approves the adoption of an electric vehicle first approach for future fleet replacement, where operationally suitable and economically viable.
ii. Notes the approved capital allocation of £2 million in 2026/27 and the indicative future capital requirements of £3 million in 2027/28 and £3 million in 2028/29 to support the Fleet Replacement and Decarbonisation Programme, with future years' funding subject to approval through the Council's annual budget-setting process.
iii. Delegates authority to the Director of City Services, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment and the Chief Finance Officer, to approve individual vehicle replacement decisions and associated procurement activities within the approved capital budget and in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

26/44/Cab Quarterly Performance Report January to March 2026

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Operations introduced the report.

The report provided an overview of the Council's performance over the period 1 January to 31 March 2026 (Q4). As the report was for the final quarter of the year it provided additional information collected on an annual basis and included the Annual Customer Feedback report.

The Assistant Director, People and Change and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Operations responded to questions and comments from Cabinet Members and other present with the following:

i. Noted the request to include trend data in a future report, illustrating the number of complaints received across all years that the data was available.
ii. Would ensure that the figures were correct on page 4 of the Annual Customer Feedback Report.
iii. Noted the thanks to the staff carrying out housing repairs, welcomed the reduction in void properties and the decrease in the housing register waiting list.
iv. Welcomed the comment that the single-report format was an improvement.
v. Noted the suggestion that future reports should clearly distinguish between one-off cost-related items and underlying financial performance, which would enhance the clarity of the information.
vi. The newly established Finance Working Group would consider budgetary matters including the Housing Revenue Account, providing an early opportunity for all political parties to contribute.
vii. The balance between ambition and deliverability were ultimately matters for the administration and political groups.
viii. The Council remained ambitious in its objectives, as reflected by the significant progress reported across a number of areas within the quarterly report. Unforeseen issues had arisen during the year, meaning that some projects had been delayed or unable to be completed as originally planned, for a variety of reasons.
ix. Responsive repairs were largely demand-led. Public awareness had increased, particularly in relation to damp, mould and condensation. In some cases, repair requests were not reported as early as they could be, resulting in more extensive and costly works than would have been required had the issues been reported at an earlier stage

x. Members of the public have become more aware of both the Council's complaints procedure and the services it provided, particularly within Environmental Health. The scope of this service had expanded to include Public Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour. Complaints relating to these areas were previously reported within a different service area, as were those relating to Housing, which had contributed to an increase in the number of complaints recorded. It was important to note the 82% customer satisfaction rate.

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved** to:

i. Note the contents of the attached Quarterly Performance Report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

CHAIR

CABINET 21 July 2026
5.30 - 7.19 pm

Present: Councillors Thornburrow (Chair), Moore (Vice-Chair), Smart, Todd-Jones, Bird, Gawthrope Wood and Nestor

Other Councillors present: Bennett, Bick, Porrer, Tong, Whitmore, Young

In attendance online: Councillors Haithcock and Illingworth

Officers: Assistant Director and Head of Legal Practice: Tom Lewis
Head of Governance and Democracy & Deputy Monitoring Officer: Dan Kalley**.**

Shared Planning Services Officers:
Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development: Stephen Kelly
Deputy Director Planning: Heather Jones
Planning Policy Manager: Jonathan Dixon
Team Leader, Strategy & Economy: Terry De Sousa
Team Leader, Strategy & Economy: Max Laverack
Team Leader, Strategy & Economy: Stuart Morris
Team Leader, Strategy & Economy: Lauren Wilkinson
Team Leader, Strategy & Economy: Lizzie Wood

South Cambridgeshire District Council:

Bridget Smith	Leader of the Council
Brian Milnes	Deputy Leader of the Council
Henry Batchelor	Lead Cabinet Member for Planning
John Batchelor	Lead Cabinet Member for Housing
Laurence Damary-Homan	Lead Cabinet Member for Environment
Ed Sanders	Lead Cabinet Member Corporate Resources
Peter McDonald	Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Dr Lisa Redrup	Lead Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities
Natalie Warren-Green	Lead Cabinet Member for Resources

Councillor Dr Richard Williams was in attendance by invitation.

Councillors Heather Williams and Anna Bradnam were in attendance.

Councillors Dr Adam Bostanci, Farhan Hussain and Michael Booth were in attendance online.

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Chief Executive: Liz Watts
Monitoring Officer: Nurainatta Katevu
Political Assistant – Liberal Democrats: James Green
Democratic Services Officer: Habbiba Peacey

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

26/45/Cab Apologies

The sitting of the two Cabinets from Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils was introduced by Councillor Thornburrow, Leader of Cambridge City Council and Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport.

Following introductions, Councillor Bridget Smith formally opened the South Cambridgeshire District Council Cabinet meeting.

No apologies were received from Cambridge City Council Cabinet Members.

There were no apologies for absence from South Cambridgeshire District Council Cabinet Members.

26/46/Cab Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received from Cambridge City Council Cabinet Members.

No declarations were received from South Cambridgeshire District Council Cabinet Members.

26/47/Cab Public Questions

At 5.39pm, Cambridge City Council's Cabinet reconvened, following consideration by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee report from 14 July 2026, to consider and respond to two public questions, including supplementary questions. The same questions had also been submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet.

Question 1:
Camcycle welcomes improvements to the cycle parking policies in the Local Plan which will enable many more people of all ages and abilities in our region to ride and to safely store their cycles at home, at work and at other destinations. Just this month, we have been speaking to people living in developments built within the last few years and finding examples of families that have bought a car for school journeys because the storage provided with their home was not large enough to fit the cargo bike they wanted to buy. We have to avoid this outcome in future by planning for the city and journeys we want to see and ensuring that all those who would like to cycle have the choice to do so, enabled by the buildings, places and routes they use.

However, Camcycle members who have had previous experience with the planning service (either interacting with it or working for it) have raised concern that too much of the cycle parking text is supporting information rather than policy and thus will not be enforceable. Sentences that include ‘must’ or ‘should’ that set standards need to be part of the policy. This applies to points 10.24, 10.25 and 10.26 which are worded in a different way to the rest of the supporting information and should be part of policy with statements like:

- Cycle parking ***must*** be at least as convenient to access as car parking, accessible for all users, located as close as possible to the main entrance or exit points of buildings, especially where meeting the needs of visitors, and have good lighting and natural surveillance.
- It ***must*** not be sited where it obstructs pedestrian, wheeling, cycling or vehicle movement.
- Routes to cycle parking ***must*** be well-maintained and lit, clearly signed, and provide unobstructed, step-free access, avoiding inconvenient detours, steep slopes, narrow paths, or tight turns.
- Cycle parking ***must*** be secure, with high-quality equipment and materials that provide strong support and enable both the frame and wheels to be locked.
- Spaces ***should*** be internal, where practicable and appropriate.
- Facilities ***must*** be inclusive for all users and all types of cycles, avoiding any need to lift, drag, or perform difficult movements to park a cycle.
- Use of two-tier cycle racks ***should*** be avoided except in areas of high density cycle parking provision such as at mobility hubs and where provided, at least 20% of the overall provision must be in single tier Sheffield stands without racks above.
- Long stay cycle parking ***should*** be covered.

- The design of cycle parking ***should*** complement their surroundings, integrate sympathetically into the streetscape, and be clearly identifiable to users with visual impairments.
- In residential developments, cycle parking ***should*** generally be located in a purpose-built lockable area within or with good access to the front of the house, or within a garage. It may only be located in a rear garden if placing it at the front would conflict with the established character of the surrounding area and if there is no garage available.
- Applicants ***should*** consider where additional cycle parking may be needed to accommodate visitors, and the most appropriate location for such provision.
- Shared cycle parking ***must*** have a funded maintenance programme and include provision for monitoring and removing abandoned cycles.

We also note that the statement on residential garages contradicts the policy and guidance given above as an additional 1m at the end of a garage or 650-750mm at the side of a garage will not meet Policy I/CV 1h – the need for cycle parking to accommodate all types of cycles – or Policy I/CV 2b – be easy to access and use.

Please could the shared planning service and existing/future councils with planning responsibility amend Policy I/CV: Cycle and vehicle parking so that the cycle parking statements containing 'must' and 'should' are enforceable policy which will deliver the safe, accessible and convenient cycle parking needed by our region's residents.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport responded:
Would like to thank the public speaker for their contribution and for the helpful feedback Camcycle has provided on the Local Plan so far, which had helped Officers to make a number of improvements to the Plan.

As a strong advocate of active travel, would agree with that we should do everything possible to encourage cycling and have somewhere, secure, accessible, and convenient for bike parking which was often an aspect ignored aspect of it.

During the recent consultation the issue of cycle parking was raised many times. People indicated that the minimum cycle parking requirement should be increased and requested changes to the proposed design criteria, to ensure cycle parking was well located, secure, safe and accessible for all users.

In response to this feedback, several changes were made to the Cycle and Vehicle Parking Policy to ensure the policy was clear, unambiguous and enforceable, drawing all the views put forward. The policy principles are clearly stated accompanied by detailed supporting text to help applicants and Officers understand how well located, secure, accessible cycle parking could be achieved in practice. The Policy doesn't stand alone and should be read alongside other policies in the plan. For example, the People in Place Responsive Design Policy which includes general requirement for inclusive and healthy design and designing out crime. Together they create a strong presumption that good cycling parking would be provided.

Officers have carefully considered all the suggestions put forward by CamCycle and believe the policy in the Proposed Submission plan sets the right principles for cycle parking design, whilst retaining some flexibility on how these are delivered on the ground. This policy needs to work for all applications, no matter how small, large or complex.

Welcomed the suggestion made around management and maintenance plans. The importance of securing the right management and maintenance arrangements have been recognised throughout the Plan, but a specific reference in relation to cycle parking would be a helpful addition to this policy. Subject to the agreement of cabinet would ask officers to address this in the final version.

Supplementary Question
Requested clarification regarding the wording in the supporting information. Could the supporting information be used as part of the planning assessment when considering developments and whether the applicants adhere to it. Would the Planning Committees be able to consider the supporting information alongside the policies when assessing applications.

Secondly, how much scope remained within the Local Plan process for amendments to the wording could be made before the Plan was submitted to Government for examination at the end of the year.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport said the following:
Had sat on planning committee for eight years and was very much aware that the current Local Plan’s supporting information which was often referred to. Would encourage all committee members to become familiar of the supporting information as it underpinned the policies within the Local Plan.

This was an area that would benefit from further discussion. The points that have been raised were clear, and there may be an opportunity to explore them in greater depth.

Would also support bringing the management policy forward for further consideration.

Question 2) Cambridgeshire Sustainable Travel Alliance
The Greater Cambridge Local Plan's vision is that new development must minimise reliance on the private car. The Travel Alliance strongly supports this ambition, which can only be achieved if public transport becomes a realistic option. For many, especially in South Cambs, it isn't currently.
The Local Plan will create new communities at Grange Farm and Cambourne North, where 5100 homes will be built - nearly 40% of the total. The number one alternative to the car for residents in those developments is forecast to be the bus (with train coming a close second in Cambourne North).

Busways are planned for these developments, which will take buses swiftly to the outskirts of Cambridge. For the bus to be a genuine alternative, however, three other ingredients are needed:

- neighbourhood designs that facilitate direct and efficient bus operation (the principles are outlined in Bus Services & New Residential Developments, Second Edition)
- measures to stop buses getting stuck in queuing motor traffic in Cambridge
- frequent services - every 15 mins at peak times on key corridors, with 7 day a week operation and operating hours).

A report presented to the Combined Authority in June forecasts that rather than increasing, more than a third of bus services across Cambs and Peterborough could need to be cut by 2035 (before Cambourne North is built) unless bus operating costs are reduced or more public funding for buses found.

Crucial sections on buses have been added to the policies in this version of the Local Plan - that's an excellent step forward. However, detail is lacking in both the Local Plan and the Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy's delivery programmes on services and bus priority, for example:

- What is the ambition for service frequencies from Cambourne and Grange Farm to Cambridge at peak times?

- What are the bus priority measures envisaged as 'essential infrastructure' (downgraded from strategic infrastructure in the previous version of the local plan)?
- What happens to services to Grange Farm and Cambourne North when S106 funding runs out?

Solutions have also not yet been found to increase public funding for bus services for the long-term

Would the Council Leaders commit to both strengthening the key sections about bus transport in the Local Plan and working with the Combined Authority to strengthen the Delivery Programme in the Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy so that bus transport can be a genuine choice for the residents of new developments set out in the local plan, in particular residents of Cambourne North and Grange Farm?

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport responded with the following:
As the question submitted referred to the new sites in Grange Farm and North Cambridge, the South Cambridgeshire Cabinet Member would provide more detail on the question. Acknowledged that bus provision was of concern to residents in both rural and urban areas but there were additional issues that would be faced by Grange Farm and Cambourne North because of the context of the rural setting to the city.

Reassured the public speaker that securing the highest quality bus services in the city remained a key priority and would continue to work closely with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) as the Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy develops to ensure the strongest possible proposals for future bus provision were developed and submitted later in the year.

Supplementary Question:
Understand that some further modelling was ongoing regarding the transport strategy. Do you have any information about the timing of when that modelling would be available?

The Cabinet Member replied with the following:
Was aware that further modelling was being undertaken but could not provide specific details on the precise time line as this was a programme being led by the CPCA and will be considered at a future CPCA Transport Committee meeting.

[Browse meetings - Transport Committee]

Cambridge City Council adjourned its Cabinet meeting at 5:49pm.

South Cambridgeshire District Council reconvened its Cabinet meeting at 5:49pm to consider and respond to three public questions, including any supplementary questions under their public speaking scheme

26/48/Cab Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) publication

Cambridge City Council reconvened its Cabinet meeting at 6:05pm and Councillor Thornburrow, as Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, introduced the report.

The Leader stated the following:

i. Felt as though they were beginning to reach the end of a very long process, which had started soon after the adoption of the current Local Plan in 2018.
ii. Believed that reaching this stage with such an outstanding document was a significant achievement and described the document as truly remarkable.
iii. Noted that local authorities, architects, and planners across the country had been looking to them because of the ambition demonstrated in the emerging Local Plan, which was supported by a strong evidence base.
iv. Not only was the Plan one of the most ambitious in the country, but that the achievement of two local authorities working collectively across boundaries and party lines, in coalition, to deliver it was particularly noteworthy.
v. Expressed the Council's thanks to former South Cambridgeshire District Councillor Tumi Hawkins, for all the time and effort they had devoted over the eight years to help bring the process to its current position.
vi. Reminded members of the meaning of sustainable development, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, which was regularly updated and continued to include this principle. Quoted the objective of sustainable development as being to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
vii. Often returned to this principle as a reminder of why they were undertaking the work and producing the document.
viii. Explained that sustainable development encompassed three key objectives: economic, social, and environmental and that equal weight

had been given to all three objectives throughout the preparation of the document, the development of its policies and the selection of sites.

ix. Highlighted the economic development objective included not only growth but also innovation and improved productivity and believed that focusing on these areas would help support existing businesses, jobs, and workers across the area.
x. Commented on the quality of the planning team, describing them as highly professiondevelopers,dgeable and a pleasure to work with and noted they had listened carefully to all stakeholders, including residents, raising issues such as protected parks and cycling provision, as well as businesses, local organisations, developers and councillors.
xi. Emphasised that the Local Plan had been shaped by all those who had contributed to the process. When reviewing the amendments made through successive consultations, it was clear that feedback from scrutiny committees, ward councillors and other stakeholders had been carefully considered and incorporated where appropriate.
xii. Concluded by expressing gratitude to the shared planning service thanked Officers for their work.

Cambridge City Council adjourned its Cabinet meeting at 6:10pm.

South Cambridgeshire District Council reconvened its Cabinet meeting at 6.10 pm to provide an opportunity for the Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, Councillor Smith, and Councillor Batchelor, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, to introduce the report on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

South Cambridgeshire District Council adjourned its Cabinet meeting at 6:14pm.

Cambridge City Council reconvened its Cabinet meeting at 6:14pm.

The Leader welcomed the Planning Policy Team. The Planning Policy Manager then delivered a presentation, which was received and noted by both Cabinets and covered the following:

i. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan had been shaped through several years of work and extensive public consultation. The next stage would be the Regulation 19 consultation, running from 3 August to 25 September, after which responses would be reported back to Members before the plan was submitted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

ii. Around 8,000 representations had been received on the draft plan and have informed the proposed submission version. While the overall growth strategy remained largely unchanged, policies have been refined in response to feedback. The Plan continued to prioritise brownfield development, urban extensions, and new settlements, while limiting additional Green Belt release.
iii. The plan retained an ambitious approach to climate change, biodiversity, sustainability and active travel, alongside enhanced policies on housing, employment, design, wellbeing, and infrastructure delivery. Further work had strengthened infrastructure planning, particularly in relation to transport and water supply, with ongoing engagement with key partners to support sustainable growth.
iv. Highlighted issues raised by each local authority’s scrutiny committees which included mapping, connectivity, EV charging, parking, transport infrastructure, climate adaptation, and stakeholder engagement. Highlighted that a number of these matters would be addressed through delegated amendments before publication of the Proposed Submission Plan.

In response to question from Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Operations, the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development said the following:

i. Comments made at the Performance, Assets and Scrutiny Committee meeting ahead of the draft plan consultation last year had been considered by Officers and reflected in the latest Local Plan proposals.

The Leader then requested that Officers consider the management and maintenance arrangements for the shared-use cycle parking, as referenced in the response to the first public speaker.

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved** the recommendation.

Cambridge City Council adjourned its Cabinet meeting at 6:28pm.

South Cambridgeshire District Council reconvened its Cabinet meeting at 6.28 pm. Members were invited to ask questions in relation to the officer presentation, but none were asked.

South Cambridgeshire District Council adjourned its Cabinet meeting at 6:29pm.

Cambridge City Council reconvened its Cabinet meeting at 6:29pm to enable constitutional speaking rights of other speakers.

i. Noted the comments made by Councillor Young, Chair of the Performance, Assets, and Scrutiny Committee which were as follows:
    - Supported the internalisation of transport within the Cambridge East development, as far as possible, residents could access schools and facilities within the development itself. However, concern was expressed about the impact this approach, and the associated transport links, might have on existing traffic levels in Cambridge.
    - Supported the flexibility built into the Plan, particularly in relation to North East Cambridge and Hartree. If these proposals were to come forward, having a policy framework within the Plan would be welcomed. The proposal could deliver a significant amount of highly sustainable housing in a location close to public transport and Cambridge city centre.
    - Commended the Plan's overall approach to climate change, including its level of ambition and the measures proposed to mitigate overheating and reduce urban heat island effects.
    - Expressed strong support for the proposed 20% biodiversity net gain requirement, particularly the Urban Greening Factor.
    - Commended the introduction of new measures to support neurodiversity in the design of new developments.
    - Welcomed the emphasis on ensuring that infrastructure delivery kept pace with new development and recognised this was a key concern frequently raised by members of the public.
    - Reiterated concerns regarding the transport assumptions underpinning the Plan, particularly those relating to the delivery of a supporting transport strategy by the CPCA.
    - Noted ongoing concerns regarding water scarcity and the implications this may have for future growth and development.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport responded that the Joint Local Planning Advisory Group had strongly supported retaining the 20% Biodiversity Net Gain requirement and advocated for its continued protection in light of any proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Officers then noted the following comments made by Councillor Bennett, Leader of the Green Group, main opposition party:

41

- Thanked officers for their diligent work in preparing the Plan despite challenging national circumstances.
- Raised a question about the implications of economic growth on the need for data centres/processing and its consequent implications for water consumption in the area.
- Questioned the proposed deletion of the flexible working policy. Although home working had declined since the pandemic as stated by Officers, it remained at a relatively high level and continued to be particularly important for people with protected characteristics, including disabled people and carers.
- Flexible working also supported business resilience during periods of disruption and could remain important in responding to future public health or other unforeseen events. Therefore, the flexible working policy should remain within the Plan.
- Noted that a number of assumptions had underpinned the plans preparation including around the availability of infrastructure not all of which had yet been delivered.
- Stated that the priority was not necessarily to make incremental improvements to the Plan, but to ensure that its policies would withstand scrutiny by the Planning Inspectorate and that key elements of the Plan would be retained through the examination process.
- Noted the Sustainability Appraisal report had stated the hotels were non-viable, yet two hotel planning applications were currently coming forward in Abbey ward and if an adjustment was required.
- Had received lobbying regarding alternative sites along the A14 and asked how robust the site selection was.
- As responsibility for implementing solutions to address water scarcity rested with Anglian Water and DEFRA, over which the Council has no direct control, how secure was the Plan given its dependence on actions by external bodies.

In response questions and comments raised by Councillor Bennett, the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development and Planning Policy Manager said the following:

i. The forecast growth of the Cambridge economy presented a number of complex issues, as data and related technologies are a key part of the region's knowledge intensive based economic strength. As growth continues, non-domestic water consumption and the effectiveness of water-saving technologies (including for data processing) would need to be monitored.

ii. The Council considered a standalone remote working policy unnecessary, as home working and co-working opportunities could already be facilitated through permitted development rights and existing planning policies.
iii. Hotels were identified as relatively less viable than some other uses, but the evidence did not suggest they were undeliverable or unable to meet policy requirements.
iv. Following assessment of multiple options for A14 logistics sites, two sites had been selected on the A14 corridor for which had been considered deliverable, justified by evidence of need, and sound.
v. With regards to water infrastructure: Updated evidence had been prepared with the Government and water industry partners. Development was dependent on the delivery of the necessary water infrastructure.
vi. No specific allocations are proposed for data centres. Any future proposals would need to comply with the Plan's water efficiency requirements and demonstrate appropriate water management.
vii. Officers had engaged extensively with the Planning Inspectorate, including discussions with a senior inspector over a two-day period discussing the challenges and robustness of the Plan. Believed the Plan to be robust and evidence-based, although soundness would be determined through examination.

The following comments from Councillor Bick, Leader of the Liberal Democrats were noted:

- Praised the quality of the evidence base, public engagement, and collaborative work behind the Plan.
- Expressed concern that future planning processes may involve less local control despite national commitments to devolution.
- Focused on transport infrastructure and highlighted the importance as a key dependency for delivering the Plan and welcomed the emerging Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy.
- Questioned whether the Combined Authority could be relied upon to deliver necessary transport improvements, noting that its leadership had publicly opposed schemes such as the Cambourne to Cambridge busway and the Cambridge South East Transport project.
- Enquired whether the Council should place greater weight on the transport strategy itself or be concerned about opposition to infrastructure projects that are important to deliver the plan's objectives.

Comments by Councillor Tong were noted:

- Thanked both Officers and Members for their work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

- Welcomed that more was being done to try and regulate and monitor HMOs in the emerging Plan (policy H/MO).
- The Greater Cambridge Local Plan specifically acknowledged that HMOs were often housing for low-income people. Often people were forced to use HMOs due to the lack of social housing.
- Believed there was an uneven distribution of housing types across Cambridge, with social housing concentrated in areas such as Abbey and Arbury, while wards including Castle and Newnham had very limited provision.
- Stated the Council should promote a more balanced mix of housing across the city rather than concentrating particular tenures or housing types in specific areas. Reference was made to Local Plan paragraph 9.97, with concern that the approach to HMOs could reinforce existing patterns of segregation and limit housing options for lower-income residents.
- Declared that Officers had acknowledged no proven correlation between HMOs and antisocial behaviour, yet HMOs had been much singled out for this behaviour.
- Overall, while monitoring of HMOs was supported, a more equitable distribution of such housing across the city was encouraged.

Councillor Porrer, Chair of Planning Committee and Joint Development and Opposition Spokes for Planning was then invited to speak and the following points noted.

- Emphasised that development should be infrastructure-led, with growth only taking place where adequate water and other infrastructure were available.
- Welcomed strengthened policies on data centres, retrofit, carbon reduction and co-living, and supported a robust 20% Biodiversity Net Gain requirement.
- Highlighted the importance of HMOs as part of Cambridge's housing mix and welcomed stronger controls through the Article 4 Direction to improve standards.
- issues sometimes associated with HMOs were often management rather than tenant-related and called for further assessment of the Article 4 Direction's impacts.
- Noted that HMOs were commonly located in sustainable locations where residents are more likely to rely on public transport and less likely to own cars.

Cambridge City Council adjourned its Cabinet meeting at 7:00pm.

South Cambridgeshire District Council reconvened its Cabinet meeting at 7:00pm to invite non-Cabinet Members to address the meeting.

South Cambridgeshire District Council adjourned its Cabinet meeting at 7:14pm.

Cambridge City Council reconvened its Cabinet meeting at 7:14pm to enable Cabinet Members to consider and vote upon the recommendations within the report.

Councillor Moore, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment moved the recommendations. The recommendations were seconded by Councillor Bird, Cabinet Member for Housing.

The Cabinet **unanimously resolved** to:

a. Agreed the Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan (Regulation 19) (Appendix A), and Proposed Submission Policies Map (Appendix B) for Public Consultation;
b. Noted the Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix C) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appendix D) and agreed them as supporting documents that will also be subject to public consultation;
c. Agreed to the publication of the following supporting documents to the public consultation:
    i. Statement of Consultation (including summaries of representations received and responses to issues raised) (Appendix E);
    ii. Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance (Appendix F);
    iii. Draft Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground (Appendix G);
    iv. Equalities Impact Assessment (Appendix H);
    v. Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (Appendix I)
    vi. Topic papers for each theme (Appendix J);
d. Agreed that any subsequent material amendments to be made to the plan prior to consultation commencing will be approved by the Lead Member for Planning and Transport in Cambridge City Council and Lead Cabinet Member for Planning at South Cambridgeshire District Council;

e. Agreed that any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes that do not materially affect the content be delegated to the Joint Director of Planning in consultation with the Lead Members for Planning; and
f. Agreed the Update to the Local Development Scheme (Local Plan Timetable) (Appendix K).

Cambridge City Council adjourned its Cabinet meeting at 7:17pm.

At 7.17pm, South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet reconvened to consider and vote on the recommendations set out in the report.

South Cambridgeshire District Council’s Cabinet meeting was then formally closed by Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council at 7:19pm.

Cambridge City Council reconvened its Cabinet meeting at 7:19pm to enable Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport to formally close the meeting at 7:19pm.

The meeting ended at 7.19 pm

CHAIR

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) 2026

To:
Cllr Mike Todd-Jones Cabinet Member for Communities

Cabinet 23rd September 2026

Report by:
Sarah Steggles Public Safety Team Manager
Tel:01223 457952 Email: Sarah.Steggles@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:
All Wards

Director Approval: Director Sam Scharf confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	**Recommendations**
1.1	It is recommended for Cabinet to Approve the Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control) 2026 as set out in Appendix A, along with associated maps as set out in Appendix B. This includes the following recommendations: 1. the continuation of the requirement for a person in charge of a dog to remove dog faeces immediately within the areas covered by the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) (Dog Control) 2026. 2. the provision enabling an authorised officer to require a person in charge of a dog to demonstrate that they have a suitable means to collect and dispose of dog faeces, subject to appropriate exemptions contained within the Order. 3. the provision enabling an authorised officer to require that the person in charge of dogs put them on a lead if the dogs are out of control or a threat to other people or animals. 4. the continuation of existing dogs on leads at all times in the following areas

- Cemeteries
    - Newmarket Road Cemetery – the whole of the cemetery
    - Histon Road Cemetery – the whole of the cemetery
- Cherry Hinton Hall – *area by pond / stream*
- Hanover and Princess Court – *the green area outside the residential areas*
- Tenby Close – *the whole of the park*
- Nightingale Rec - *Community Garden*

5. to retains the current seasonal dogs-on-leads control at Mill Road Cemetery
6. the continuation of the existing seasonal dogs-on-leads controls at the following Local Nature Reserves:
    - Nine Wells LNR;
    - Limekiln LNR
    - East Pit LNR;
    - West Pit LNR;
    - Bramblefields LNR
    - Barnwell East LNR;
    - Barnwell West LNR;
    - Paradise LNR;
    - Logan's Meadow LNR.
    - Mill Road Cemetery (whole site)
7. the introduction of seasonal dogs-on-leads controls at Byron's Pool Local Nature Reserve.
8. the introduction of seasonal dogs-on-leads controls at Church End, Local Nature Reserve.

	9. the introduction of seasonal dogs-on-leads controls at Fulbourn Road Local Nature Reserve. 10. the amendment to Schedule 2 that would prohibit dogs and their owners from entering fenced or enclosed recreational areas within Cambridge City Council public open spaces. 11. the existing limit of on the number of dogs that can be walked by a person at Byron's Pool LNR, Coldhams Common sports pitches and Hobson's park. 12. exclude the introduction of a seasonal dogs-on-leads control within Hobson's Park from the Order at this time and authorise officers to undertake further site-specific engagement and evidence review before returning a separate report and recommendation. 13. delegates authority to the relevant Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member and the Council's Legal Services, to finalise and make the Dog Control PSPO and make any minor drafting, mapping or administrative amendments necessary to implement the above decisions.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the public consultation on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) 2026 and to seek approval for the controls recommended by officers following consideration of the quantitative consultation results, written representations and operational and environmental considerations. The Council uses a Dog Control PSPO to address dog-related behaviour in public spaces where that behaviour has, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of people using those spaces.

	The current arrangements include controls relating to dog fouling and dogs on leads, including seasonal restrictions intended to protect ecologically sensitive locations. The proposed 2026 PSPO provides an opportunity to review these controls and determine whether existing provisions should be retained, amended or extended. The recommendations in this report seek to achieve a proportionate balance between: • maintaining clean, safe and accessible public spaces; • promoting responsible dog ownership; • protecting wildlife and sensitive habitats; • protecting public health and amenity; • allowing appropriate opportunities for dog exercise and recreation; and • ensuring restrictions are clear, proportionate and capable of effective enforcement.
3.	**Alternative options considered**
3.1	The principal alternative would be not to introduce a replacement Dog Control PSPO when the existing arrangements expire. This option is not recommended. The consultation demonstrates significant public support for continuing controls on dog fouling and for a number of the existing and proposed dog-control measures. In particular, the requirement to clear up dog faeces received exceptionally high levels of public support. Of the 813 respondents who answered the question, 89.9% strongly agreed with the requirement and a further 5.5% selected 4 on the five-point agreement scale. Not having a PSPO would remove a clear and consistent mechanism for addressing specified dog-control behaviours in the public spaces covered by the Order. It could reduce the Council's ability to respond effectively to dog fouling and other identified behaviours and would not reflect the strong consultation support for retaining appropriate controls.

The evidence following the introduction of the PSPO has demonstrated the value, with reduced complaints, service requests and the active management of the PSPO to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public.

4. Background and key issues

4.1 Prior to the current proposals, the Dog Control PSPO was made by the council in October 2017 and created offences of:

- Failing to remove dog faeces immediately;
- Not keeping a dog on a lead in designated areas;
- Not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer; and
- Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded.

PSPO would normally be valid for a period of 3 years.

The PSPO was renewed in 2020 and the current PSPO was renewed in 2023 and expires on 18th October 2026.

Year	Number of service requests for all dog complaints (not stray dogs)	Number of complaints in the PSPO areas	Number of FPNs served for breach of PSPO
2021-22	61	8	5
2022-23	55	6	0
2023-24	45	4	2
2024-25	32	3	5
2025-26	28	1	11

The table indicates that the number of service requests across any form of dog control and those in the PSPO has reduced year on year which would be an indication that a

	PSPO is having the desired impact. The number of Fixed Penalty Notices served has gradually increase over the last 2 years due to the increase in proactive patrols by the public realm enforcement team on the open spaces. The Council consulted on proposals for the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order 2026. The consultation covered a range of dog-control measures including dog fouling, requirements to carry a suitable means of clearing up dog faeces, dogs-on-leads requirements, seasonal restrictions and dog exclusion areas. The consultation received 818 responses. The results demonstrate broad support for responsible dog-control measures, although the strength of support and the issues raised varied according to the type of restriction and location. A recurring theme throughout the consultation was that restrictions need to be supported by clear communication, appropriate signage and visible and proportionate enforcement. Dog fouling was one of the clearest areas of public consensus within the consultation. Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the requirement that a person in charge of a dog must clear up after the dog immediately. 813 of the 818 respondents answered the question. Of those responding, 89.9% strongly agreed, with a further 5.5% selecting 4 on the five-point agreement scale. There were also 354 written responses specifically addressing the dog-fouling requirement. The dominant view was that clearing up after a dog is a basic responsibility of dog ownership. A particularly frequent concern was that clearing up should include the proper disposal of filled dog-waste bags, rather than leaving bags on the ground, in bushes or verges, hanging them from trees, or disposing of them inappropriately. Enforcement was a major theme. Respondents frequently stated that existing requirements are poorly enforced or perceived to be unenforced and that additional regulation would have limited effect without visible enforcement. Suggestions included more patrols, dog wardens or authorised officers, fixed penalty notices, higher fines and stronger action against repeat offenders.

	Respondents also identified practical measures which could support compliance, including additional dog-waste bins, appropriate positioning of bins at entrances, exits and popular walking routes, more frequent emptying, improved signage and, in some cases, free dog-waste bag dispensers. Public health and amenity were important considerations. Respondents highlighted the impact of dog faeces on pavements, parks, play areas and other public spaces and the particular impact on children and people using pushchairs and mobility aids. A smaller number of respondents suggested that enforcement should allow reasonable discretion in genuine circumstances, for example where a handler cannot locate faeces in long vegetation or where a dog is unwell. These respondents generally continued to support the principle of clearing up but favoured proportionate enforcement. Officers consider that the consultation provides strong evidence for continuing the dog-fouling requirement within the 2026 PSPO.
4.2	**Means to collect and dispose of dog faeces** The consultation also sought views on the proposed provision allowing authorised officers to require the person in charge of a dog to produce a suitable means to collect and dispose of dog faeces. This proposal received majority support. Of the 810 respondents answering the question, 67.6% strongly agreed and 10.3% selected 4 on the five-point agreement scale. However, written responses showed some concern about how this power would operate in practice. Some respondents regarded requiring people to demonstrate that they were carrying dog-waste bags as potentially heavy-handed and preferred enforcement activity to concentrate on actual incidents of fouling. Officers consider that the provision would support preventative enforcement and responsible dog ownership, but its use should be reasonable, proportionate and targeted.
4.3	**Existing Seasonal Dogs-on-Leads Controls at Local Nature Reserves**

	The consultation sought views on the continuation of existing seasonal controls across designated Local Nature Reserves. Overall, respondents demonstrated majority support for seasonal restrictions where they are linked to the protection of breeding birds, sensitive habitats and designated wildlife sites. Support for retention of existing seasonal restrictions reached 67.2% Agree/Strongly Agree, with 19.9% opposed and 10.4% neutral. Officers consider that the existing restrictions have operated successfully throughout the current PSPO period and form an important component of ecological management across the Council's nature reserves. These sites form part of the core network identified through the Council's biodiversity work and the wider Cambridge Nature Network partnership. Officers note that respondents generally recognised the distinction between designated nature reserves and more general public open spaces. While concerns were raised regarding the cumulative reduction in opportunities for off-lead dog exercise across the city, officers consider that the existing restrictions remain proportionate because they: • are seasonal rather than year-round; • are targeted at specific breeding-season sensitivities; • are established and understood by site users; and • support biodiversity objectives within site management arrangements. Officers consider that no substantive additional evidence has emerged from the consultation to justify removing the existing seasonal restrictions.
4.4	**Proposed New Seasonal Dogs-on-Leads Controls – Byron's Pool LNR** The consultation results for Byron's Pool were: • 57.5% support; • 25.7% oppose; and • 11.6% neutral.

Byron's Pool is a sensitive riverine woodland habitat supporting priority wildlife species and forms part of the city's network of designated Local Nature Reserves along the River Cam corridor.

The consultation demonstrates majority support for introducing seasonal controls. Respondents supporting the proposal frequently cited wildlife protection and disturbance to breeding birds. Objections mainly concerned the loss of off-lead opportunities and requests for further ecological evidence.

4.5 **Proposed New Seasonal Dogs-on-Leads Controls – Church End, Cherry Hinton**

The consultation results were:

- 57.4% support;
- 21.7% oppose; and
- 13.9% neutral.

Officers consider Church End represents a logical extension of the seasonal protections operating across the city's nature reserve network. Consultation responses indicate broad public understanding of the need to protect breeding birds and sensitive habitats during breeding periods.

4.6 **Proposed New Seasonal Dogs-on-Leads Controls – Fulbourn Road Open Space, Cherry Hinton**

The consultation results were:

- 54.8% support;
- 23.9% oppose; and
- 12.3% neutral.

Although support was slightly lower than at some designated LNRs, a clear majority supported seasonal restrictions. Officers consider the proposed restriction proportionate given the biodiversity value of the site and the limited seasonal duration of the control.

4.7 **Proposed New Seasonal Dogs-on-Leads Controls – Hobson's Park – City Wildlife Site**

	Support for introducing seasonal restrictions at Hobson's Park was broadly consistent with that recorded at other proposed wildlife sites: • 57.3% support; • 23.1% oppose; and • 13.1% neutral. While officers remain satisfied that there is a publicly supported legitimate biodiversity rationale for additional seasonal controls at Hobson's Park, consultation responses demonstrated substantial concern regarding the evidence base, area options, communication and site-specific justification for the proposed restrictions. Given the unique level of interest generated by Hobson's Park compared with other proposed locations, officers consider it appropriate and proportionate to undertake additional engagement and evidence review before a final decision is taken. This approach allows the wider PSPO programme to proceed while ensuring any future decision regarding Hobson's Park is supported by the strongest possible evidence base and stakeholder engagement.
4.9	**Proposed New Seasonal Dogs-on-Leads Controls – Mill Road Cemetery – City Wildlife Site** The consultation sought views on replacing the current seasonal restriction at Mill Road Cemetery with a permanent year-round dogs-on-leads requirement. The quantitative consultation results showed: • 61.1% support; • 27.3% oppose; and • 8.4% neutral. Mill Road Cemetery generated a particularly high volume of site-specific comments. Although the quantitative results demonstrate majority support for a permanent restriction, the written responses present a more nuanced position. Opposition focused on the loss of a valued local off-lead area, reduced dog-walker footfall and passive surveillance, and concerns regarding antisocial behaviour. Respondents opposing the proposal also highlighted the importance of the cemetery as

4.10	one of relatively few accessible off-lead spaces serving the surrounding densely populated neighbourhood. Supporters generally considered that a cemetery should provide a respectful and contemplative environment and cited consistency with restrictions at other cemeteries, wildlife protection, concerns about loose dogs, dog fouling and dogs running across graves. Officers recognise the multiple functions of Mill Road Cemetery as a place of remembrance, a heritage asset, a City Wildlife Site and a local recreational resource. The existing seasonal dogs-on-leads restriction already provides protection during the most sensitive ecological period. On balance, officers consider that sufficient justification has not been demonstrated at this time to move from the current seasonal approach to a permanent year-round restriction. The Parish Committee which covers the 9 Parishes who own Mill Road Cemetery responded to say that 6 of the parishes were in favour of seasonal dogs on leads and 2 parishes supported dog on leads at all times. Over all there was support for retaining the current arrangement for the PSPO on having seasonal dogs on leads in Mill Road Cemetery Officer Recommendation Retain the current seasonal Dogs-on-Leads Order at Mill Road Cemetery and do not introduce a permanent year-round requirement at this time. The reasons for this recommendation are that: • existing seasonal restrictions continue to provide ecological protection; • the current arrangements are established and understood by site users; • significant concerns were raised regarding potential unintended community impacts; • further ecological monitoring can inform any future reconsideration; and retaining the current arrangement represents a proportionate balance between biodiversity management, public amenity and access.

4.11	**Dog exclusion Areas** The consultation sought feedback on retaining and amending dog exclusion areas within the proposed PSPO. • 74.4% agree or strongly agree • 13.3% oppose and • 12% remain neutral Respondents most commonly supported exclusion of dogs from children play areas paddling pools and certain sports facilities, describing these restrictions as proportionate and necessary to protect public safety, maintain cleanliness and reduce concerns about dog fouling. Enforcement was one of the most frequently raised issues. Many respondents felt that any exclusion areas would only be effective if supported by visible enforcement, clear signage, secure fencing and appropriate penalties for non-compliance. Officer recommendation Amend the provision that dogs shall be excluded from clearly defined enclosed recreational spaces intended for children, young people and organised sport, including but not limited to: • Play areas and playgrounds; • Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs); • Tennis courts and padel courts; • Artificial sports pitches; and • Bowling greens. This restriction shall apply to all existing Council-managed public open spaces containing such facilities and to any future Council-managed public open spaces adopted during the term of the PSPO where equivalent enclosed facilities are provided. **Maximum Number of dogs** The consultation sought feedback on retaining the maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person. Overall, respondents were generally supportive of retaining a limit on the number of dogs that can be walked by one person in the designated locations. Across the three existing locations, approximately 67% to 71% of respondents agreed or

4.12	strongly agreed with the current restrictions, while around 13% to 15% disagreed or strongly disagreed. The consultation indicates broad support for retaining restrictions on the number of dogs that may be walked by a single individual in designated locations. However, many respondents considered the current limit of four dogs to be too high and favoured a lower threshold. Feedback also highlighted a desire for any restrictions to focus on effective control and responsible ownership, alongside concerns about practical enforcement and the impact on professional dog walkers. **Exemptions to the order** Respondents were generally supporting of the proposed exemptions within the PSPO with • 65.7% agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposed exemptions • 15.6% disagreed or strongly disagreed • 18.6 neutral. Many respondents supported exemptions to ensure accessibility for disabled people but felt that assistance dogs should still be under effective control and that dog fouling requirements should continue to apply wherever possible. Concerns were also raised about potential misuse of the term "assistance dog", with requests for clearer definitions and guidance. Additional comments focused primarily on the need for stronger enforcement including visible patrols, authorised officers, fixed penalty notices and consistent enforcement. Comments also focused on the better management of uncontrolled dogs and dog fouling, and clear communication of the restrictions. While many respondents supported tighter controls, others stressed the importance of maintaining sufficient opportunities for responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs, highlighting the need to balance public safety, wildlife protection and dog welfare.
5.	**Consultation, engagement and communication**
5.1	A public consultation was undertaken between 3rd June to the 12th July 2026 on the proposed Dog Control PSPO 2026. A total of 818 responses were received.

	The consultation included quantitative questions on individual controls and locations together with opportunities for respondents to provide written comments. The responses demonstrate particularly strong support for the immediate removal of dog faeces. They also demonstrate majority support for the principle of seasonal restrictions at environmentally sensitive sites, although concerns were raised about cumulative loss of off-lead space, enforcement, clarity of restrictions and the evidence supporting restrictions at individual locations. Across the consultation, enforcement was one of the most frequently raised issues. Respondents repeatedly called for visible enforcement, appropriate penalties and clear signage. There is continued enforcement in the open spaces and the statistics show that the current PSO is working to reduce number of complaints received and proactive monitoring of the open spaces has seen an increase in the number of FPN being served Dog fouling remained a significant concern in the general comments, including dog faeces on pavements, parks and sports grounds and filled bags being abandoned or hung from trees. Respondents also requested additional bins, replacement of removed bins and more frequent emptying. The consultation also generated requests for additional dog-waste bins, replacement of removed bins, more frequent emptying and provision of dog-waste bags, however as dog waste can now be disposed of in any litter bin there is not a requirement for additional bins Subject to approval, communications will be required before the new PSPO takes effect. This should include updated information on the Council's website, appropriate notices and signage at affected locations and clear information explaining where seasonal restrictions apply and the periods during which they operate. Consultation responses and summary can be found as Appendix C A response was also received from the Royal Kennel Club who supported promotion of responsible dog ownership including picking up after their dogs wherever they are.

	They also support dogs on leads where it is proportionate and evidence-based way including cemeteries. However, they do oppose a PSPO which introduces blanket restrictions on open spaces. The Kennel Club support Natural England's policy that restricts on public access should be the least restrictive possible. For example for bird nesting birds between 1 March and 31 July. The Royal Kennel Club response can be found as attached Appendix D
6.	**Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact**
6.1	The proposed PSPO is intended to provide a clear and proportionate framework for responsible dog control across relevant public spaces. The anticipated outcomes include: • reduced incidence of dog fouling and abandoned dog-waste bags; • improved cleanliness and public amenity; • reduced public health and hygiene risks associated with dog faeces; • clearer expectations for dog owners and handlers; • improved ability for authorised officers to address non-compliance; • protection of breeding birds, wildlife and sensitive habitats during ecologically important periods; • clearer and more consistent seasonal controls; • continued access to appropriate opportunities for dog exercise; and • improved public understanding of where and when restrictions apply. The effectiveness of the PSPO can be monitored through complaints and service requests relating to dog fouling and dog control, enforcement activity, fixed penalty notices where applicable, site observations and relevant ecological monitoring.
7.	**Implications**

7.1	**Relevant risks**
	There is a risk that introducing or continuing controls without appropriate communication, signage and enforcement could reduce public confidence in the PSPO and result in inconsistent compliance. There is also a reputational risk if restrictions are perceived as disproportionate or as unnecessarily penalising responsible dog owners. Conversely, failure to maintain effective dog-control measures could result in complaints concerning dog fouling, public safety, amenity and wildlife disturbance. The recommendations seek to mitigate these risks by reflecting the consultation evidence and adopting proportionate restrictions according to the circumstances of individual sites.
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
7.2	No specific Local Government Reorganisation implications have been identified at this stage. Any implications for future responsibility for enforcement or management of the PSPO arising from LGR should be kept under review as arrangements develop.
	Financial Implications
7.3	No significant financial implications have been identified.
	Legal Implications
7.4	A PSPO is a statutory mechanism available to local authorities under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In determining whether to make or renew the Order, the Council must be satisfied that the relevant statutory requirements are met and must have regard to the consultation undertaken, proportionality and any applicable rights and equalities considerations.

	The final wording, geographical extent, exemptions, enforcement provisions and commencement of the proposed Order should be reviewed and approved by Legal Services before the PSPO is made.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
7.5	An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and attached as an Appendix E
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
7.6	The proposed dog-control measures are not expected to have a material impact on operational carbon emissions. There are potential positive environmental benefits associated with reducing dog fouling and inappropriate disposal of dog-waste bags and with seasonal restrictions intended to reduce disturbance to breeding birds and sensitive habitats. The seasonal approach seeks to target controls to periods and locations where ecological protection is required while avoiding unnecessary year-round restrictions.
	Procurement Implications
7.7	No significant procurement implications have been identified.
	Community Safety Implications
7.8	Dog fouling and uncontrolled dogs can adversely affect people's perception and enjoyment of public spaces. The proposed PSPO provides authorised officers with a mechanism to address specified behaviours and should support cleaner and safer public spaces. Consultation responses also highlighted the role of regular users, including dog walkers, in providing passive surveillance of public spaces. This was particularly prominent in responses concerning Mill Road Cemetery and has been taken into

	account in the recommendation to retain the existing seasonal arrangement rather than introduce a permanent year-round dogs-on-leads restriction.
7.9	Seasonal dogs-on-leads controls form part of the management approach for sensitive wildlife sites and are intended to reduce disturbance during ecologically important periods. The recommendations retain existing seasonal controls at designated Local Nature Reserves and extend seasonal controls to additional sites where officers consider this proportionate. The approach seeks to balance biodiversity protection with recreational access and the need to retain reasonable opportunities for off-lead dog exercise.
8.	**Background documents** The following documents have been used in preparing this report in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: • Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order – Public Consultation 2026; • Consultation response and quantitative results; • Consultation written-response analysis; • Existing Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order and associated schedules/maps; • Relevant site management and ecological information for affected Local Nature Reserves, City Wildlife Sites and open spaces.
9.	Appendices Appendix A – Proposed Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order 2026 Appendix B – Plans showing areas subject to existing and proposed dog-control restrictions Appendix C – Dog Control PSPO 2026 Consultation Results and Consultation Summary Appendix D – Royal Kennel Club response to the Consultation

	Appendix E – EQIA To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact, Sarah Steggles Public Safety Team Manager. Email : Sarah.Steggles@cambridge.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014
SECTION 59

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (DOG CONTROL) 2026

Cambridge City Council (“the Council”) in exercise of its powers pursuant to Section 59 and 72 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) hereby makes the following Order:

This Order extends the period for which the Cambridge City Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) 2017 has effect.

This Order comes into force on the 18th October 2026 date for a period of 3 years until 17th October 2029.

General provisions:

1. This Order applies to all land within the Council’s administrative area, which is open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).

2. A person who fails to comply with any obligation imposed by this order is guilty of a criminal offence by virtue of section 67(1) of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and liable to a fine on summary conviction not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale; or to be made subject to a fixed penalty notice.

3. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Sections 59 and 72 of 'the Act' have been met: that activities carried on in a public place within the Council’s area have had or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; and that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by this notice.

4. The Council is satisfied that the prohibitions and requirements imposed by this Order are reasonable to impose in order to prevent the detrimental effect of these activities from continuing, occurring or recurring, or to reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.

Obligations on persons with dogs:

5. **Fouling**

If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this order applies a person who is in charge of the dog at the time must remove the faeces from the land immediately unless:

- They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

6. **Leads by order**

A person in charge of a dog on land to which this order applies must comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer of the Council to put and keep the dog on a lead unless:

- They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

An authorised officer may only give a direction under this order if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person, or to a bird or another animal.

7. **Leads**

A person in charge of a dog on land detailed in Schedule 1 below must keep the dog on a lead at all times unless

- They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

8. **Exclusion**

A person in charge of a dog on land detailed in Schedule 2 below must not take it into or keep it in this land unless

- They have reasonable excuse for doing so; or
- The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

9. **Maximum number of dogs**

A person in charge of dog(s) must not, at any time, take more than four dogs on land detailed in Schedule 3 unless

- They have reasonable excuse for doing so; or
- The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

10. **Seasonal Dogs on Leads**

A person in charge of a dog on land detailed in Schedule 4 below must keep the dog on a lead between 1st March and 31st July unless

- They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

- The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

11. Requirement to provide details to an authorised officer

If an authorised officer proposes to give a person a fixed penalty under this Order, the authorised person may require the person to give him his name and address. A person commits an offence if he fails to give his name and address when required to do so.

12. Exemptions

Nothing in this order shall apply to a person who is in charge of:

a. a dog which has been trained to guide a blind person.
b. a dog which has been trained to assist a deaf person.
c. a dog which has been trained by a prescribed charity to assist a disabled person who has a disability that consists of epilepsy or otherwise affects the person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination, or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects.
d. a dog of a prescribed category which has been trained to assist a disabled person who has a disability (other than one falling within paragraph (c)) of a prescribed kind.

For the purposes of the Order, a “disability” means a condition that qualifies as a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 and an “assistance dog” has the meaning given by the Equality Act 2010..

For the purpose of this order:

- A person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.
- Any land which is covered is deemed to be land which is "open to the air" if it is open to the air on at least one side.
- Placing the faeces in a bin or receptacle on the land, which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land.
- Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces immediately
- “An authorised officer” means an employee, partnership agency or contractor of Cambridge City Council who is authorised in writing by Cambridge City Council for the purposes of the Order.
- Giving a false or inaccurate name or address in response to a requirement to provide details is an offence.

Dated…………………………………..

Appendix A

Schedule 1

Dogs on leads areas:

- Cemeteries
  - Newmarket Road Cemetery – the whole of the cemetery
  - Histon Road Cemetery – the whole of the cemetery
- Cherry Hinton Hall – *area by pond / stream*
- Hanover and Princess Court – *the green area outside the residential areas*
- Tenby Close – *the whole of the park*
- Nightingale Rec – *Community Garden*

Schedule 2

Dogs shall be excluded from clearly defined enclosed recreational spaces intended for children, young people and organised sport, including but not limited to:

- Play areas and playgrounds;
- Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs);
- Tennis courts and padel courts;
- Artificial sports pitches; and
- Bowling greens.

This restriction shall apply to all existing Council-managed public open spaces containing such facilities and to any future Council-managed public open spaces adopted during the term of the PSPO where equivalent enclosed facilities are provided.

Schedule 3

Maximum number of dogs

- Bryon's Pool Local Nature Reserve
- Coldham's Common sports pitches
- Hobson's Park

Schedule 4

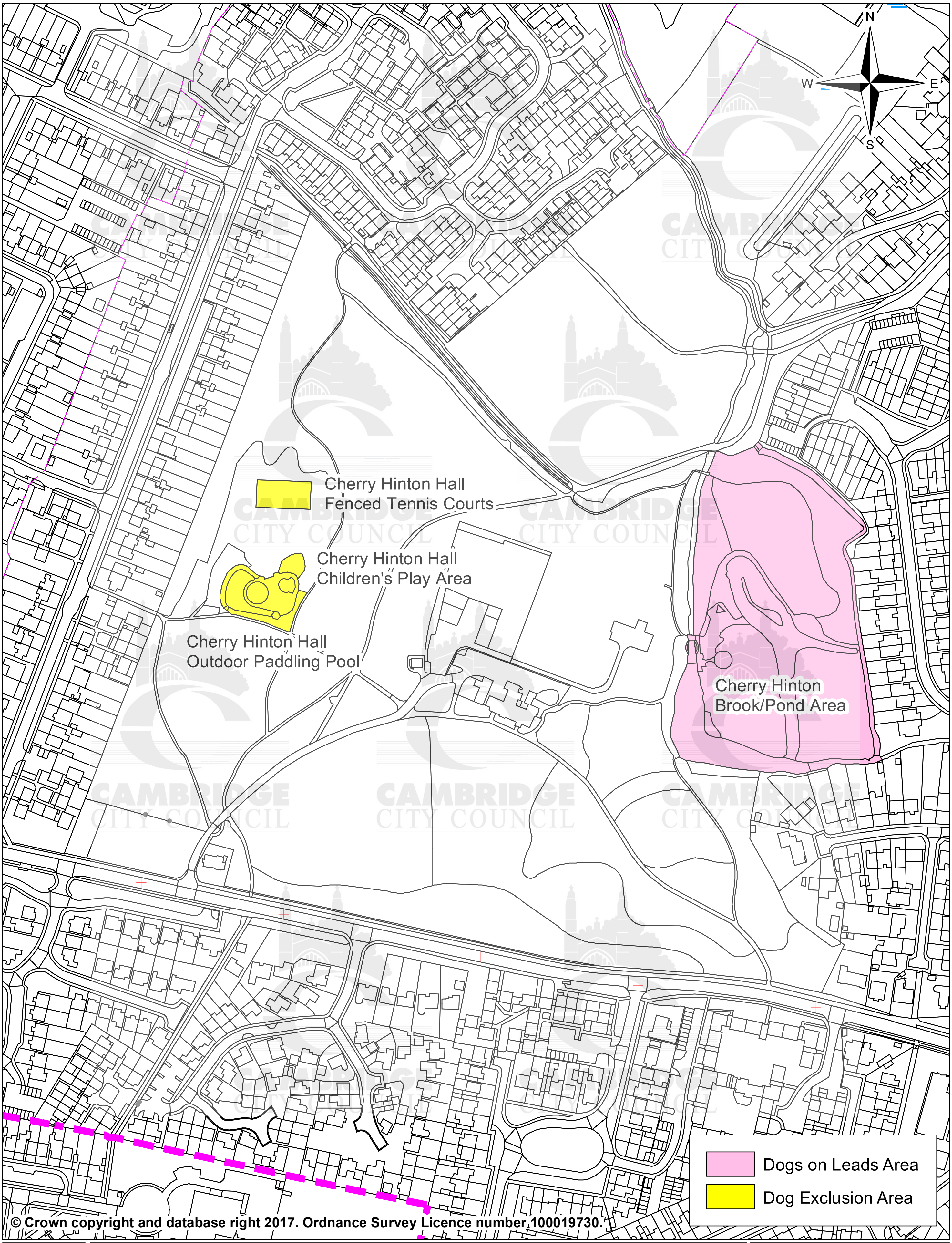
Seasonal dogs on leads from 1st March to 31st July

- Barnwell East Local Nature Reserve (whole site)
- Barnwell West Local Nature Reserve (whole site)
- Bramblefields Local Nature Reserve (whole site)
- Limekiln Local Nature Reserve (whole site)
- Logans Meadow Local Nature Reserve (part of - existing wet woodland and river frontage south of cycle bridge)
- Mill Road Cemetery (whole site)
- Paradise Local Nature Reserve (whole site)
- West Pit Local Nature Reserve (whole site)
- East Pit Local Nature Reserve (whole site)
- Nine Wells Local Nature Reserve (whole site)

Appendix A

- Byron’s Pool Local Nature Reserve (whole site)
- Church End Local Nature Reserve (whole site)
- Fulbourn Road Local Nature Reserve (whole site)

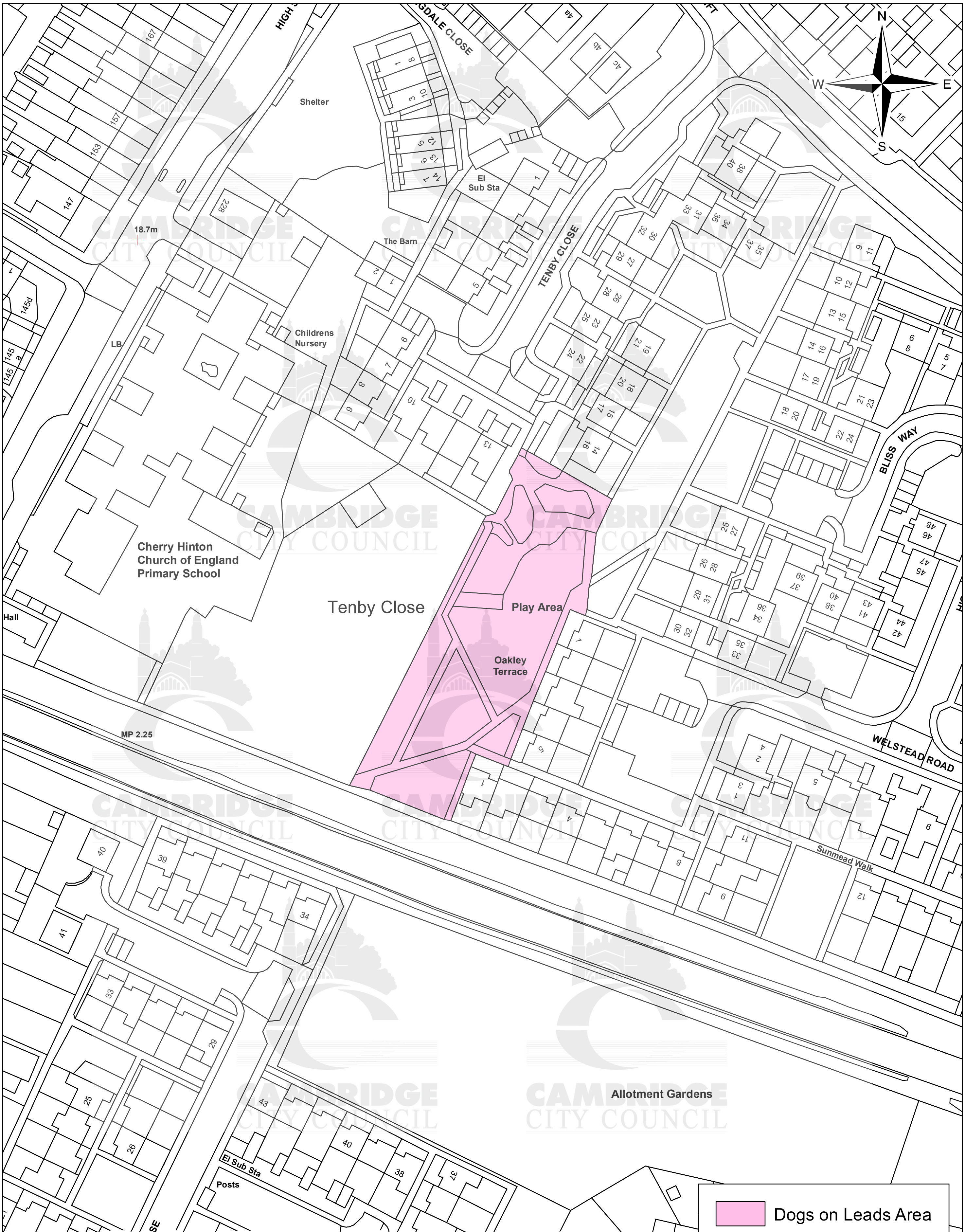
This page is intentionally left blank



Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

Date: 08 June 2017
Produced by: 3C Shared Services
Section/Department: Spatial Team
Scale: 1:3,000 @ A4

J:\WORKING\SteveU\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\pdfs cherry_hinton_hall



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

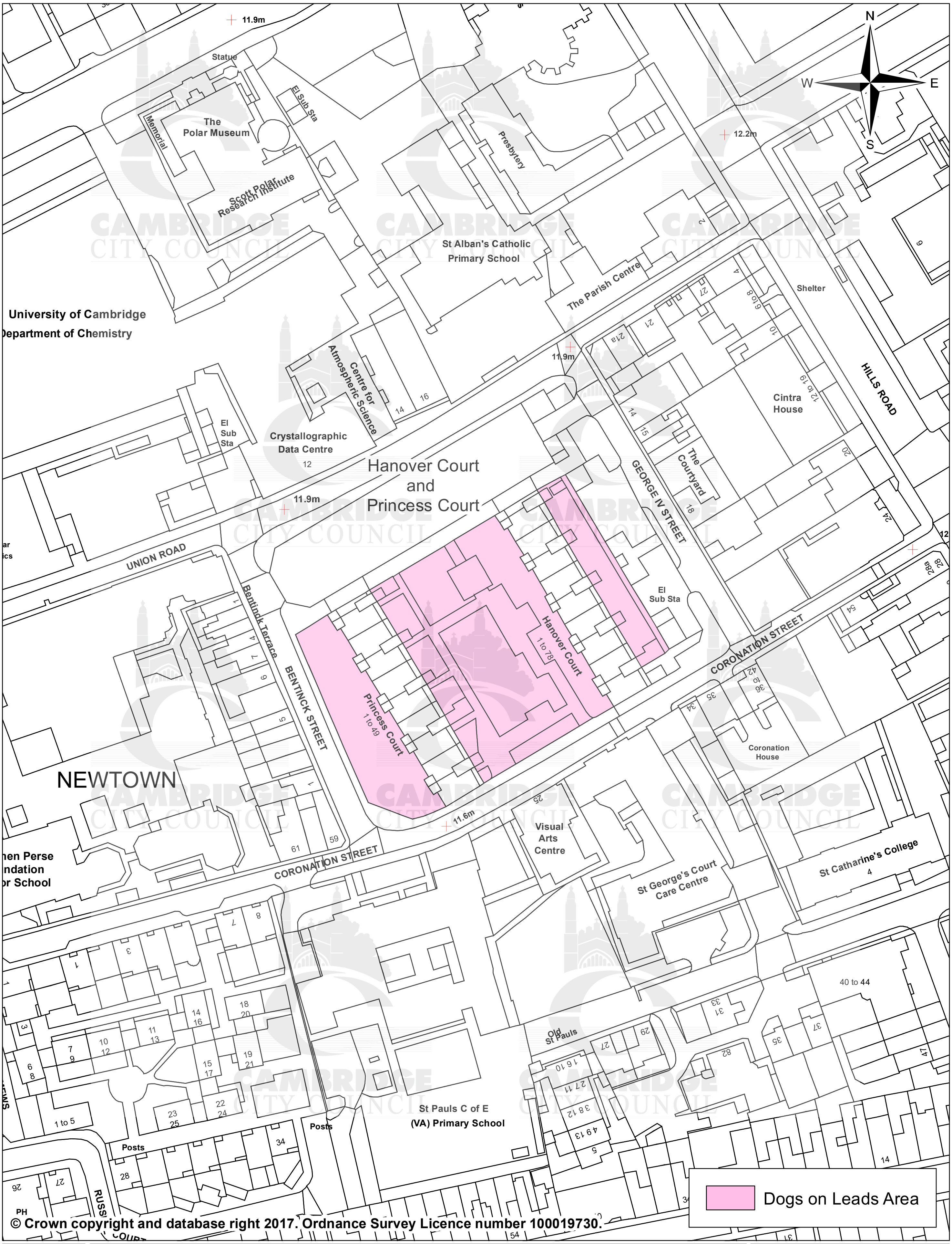
Date: 02 June 2020

Produced by: 3C Shared Services

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:1,250 @ A4

J:\WORKING\SteveU\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\pdfs tenby_close



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

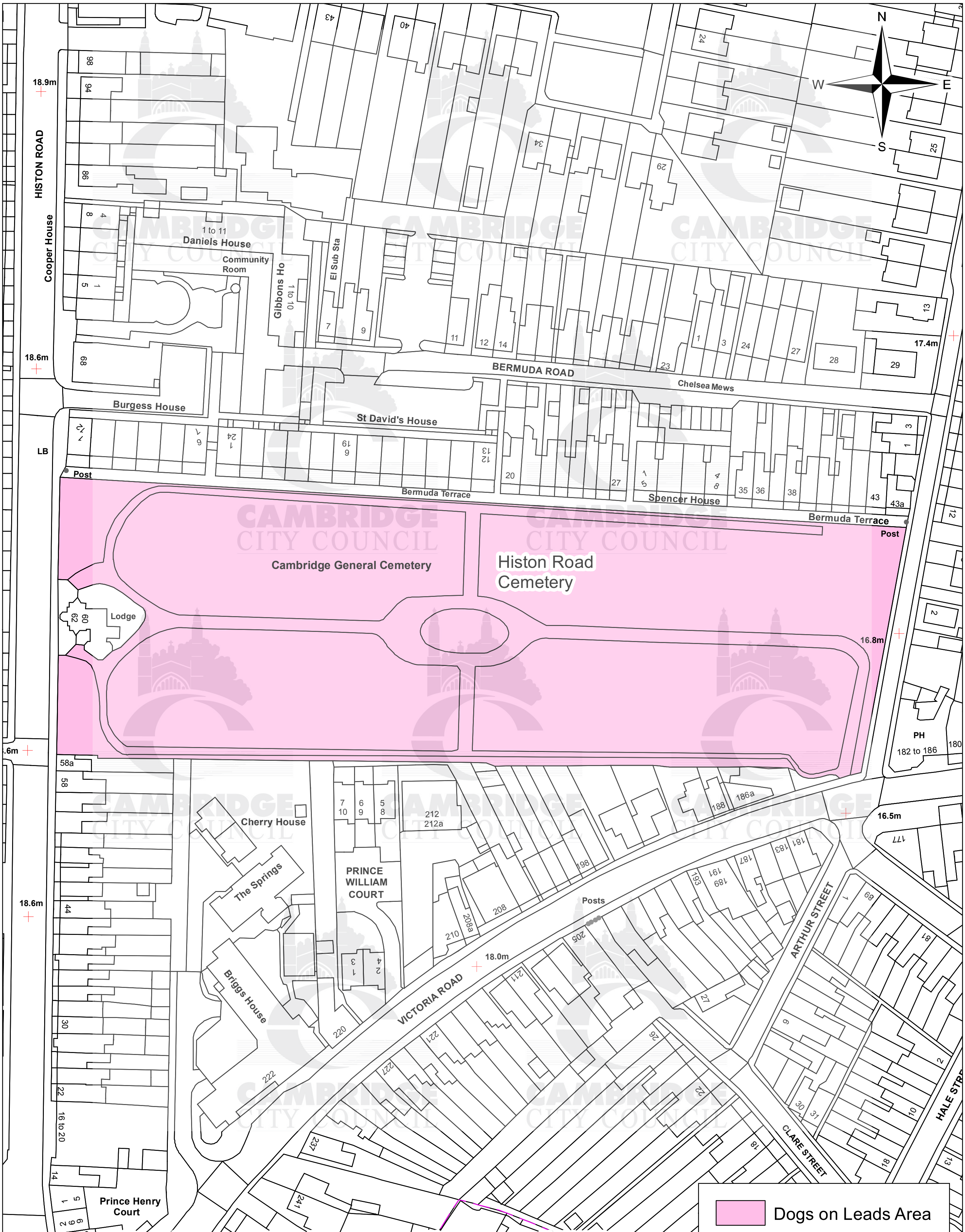
Date: 02 June 2020

Produced by: 3C Shared Services

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:1,250 @ A4

J:\WORKING\SteveU\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\pdfs hanover_and_princess_court



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

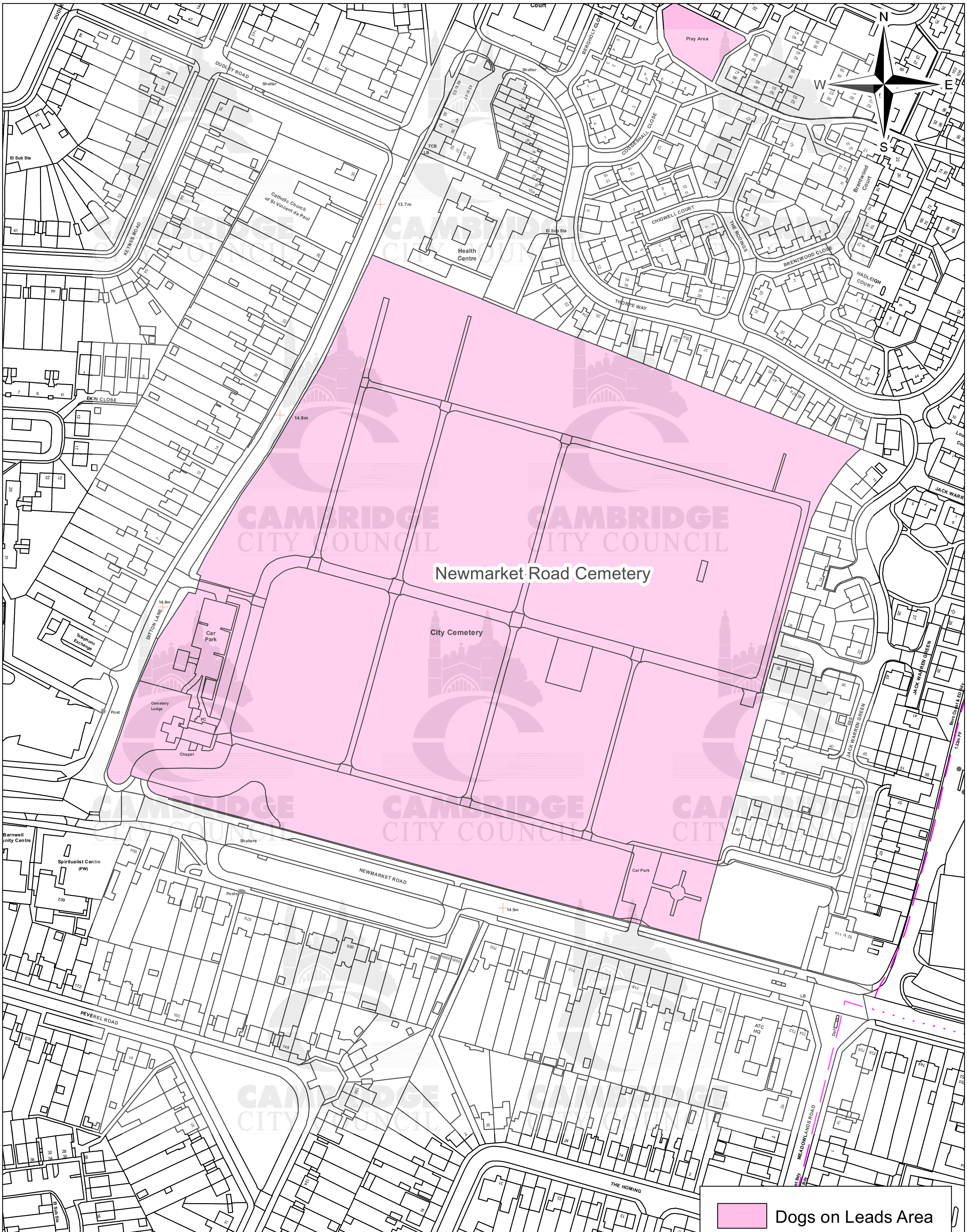
Date: 26 May 2017

Produced by: 3C Shared Services

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:1,250 @ A4

J:\WORKING\SteveU\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\pdfs histon_road_cemetery

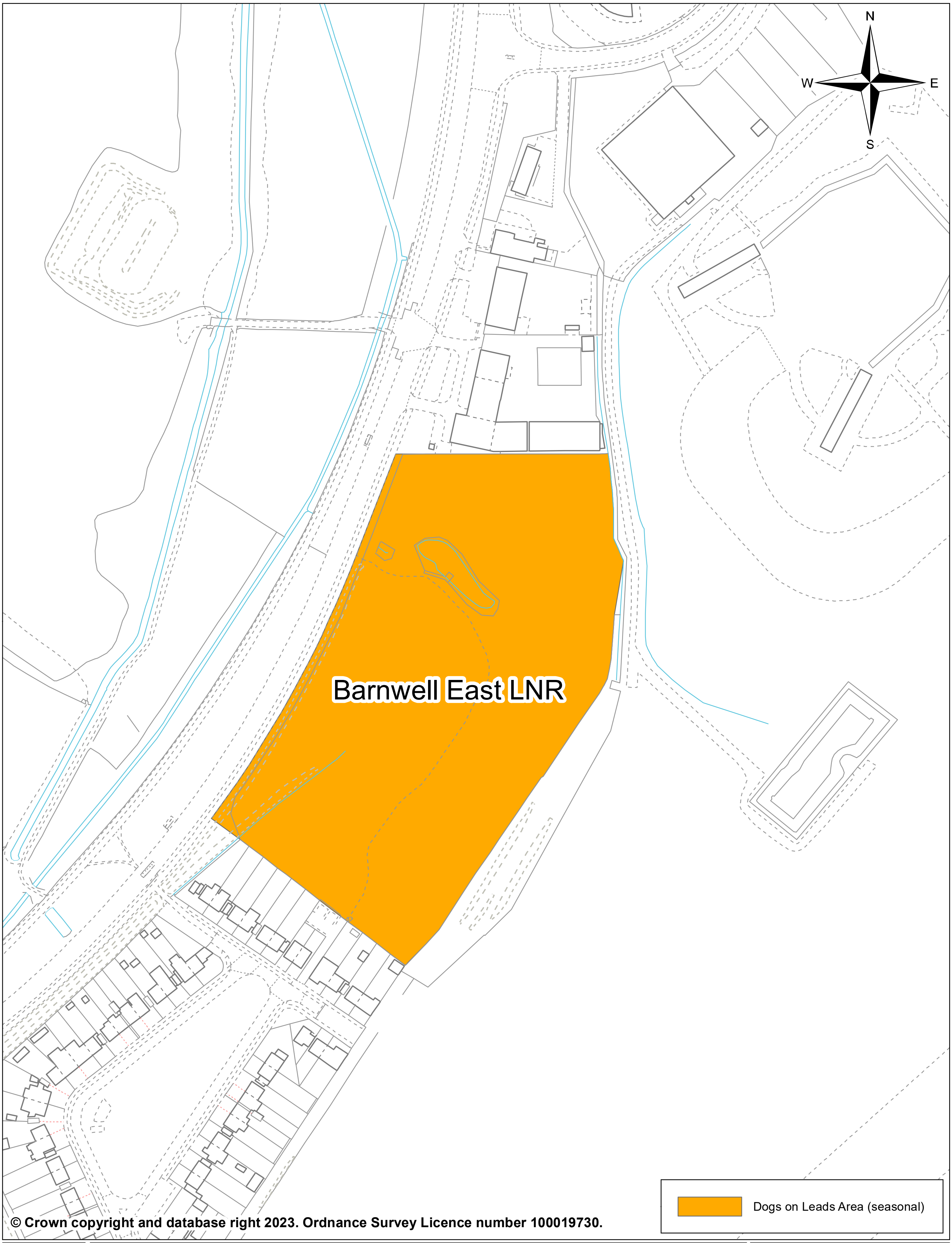


CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

Date:	30 May 2017
Produced by:	3C Shared Services
Section/Department:	Spatial Team
Scale:	1:2,500 @ A4

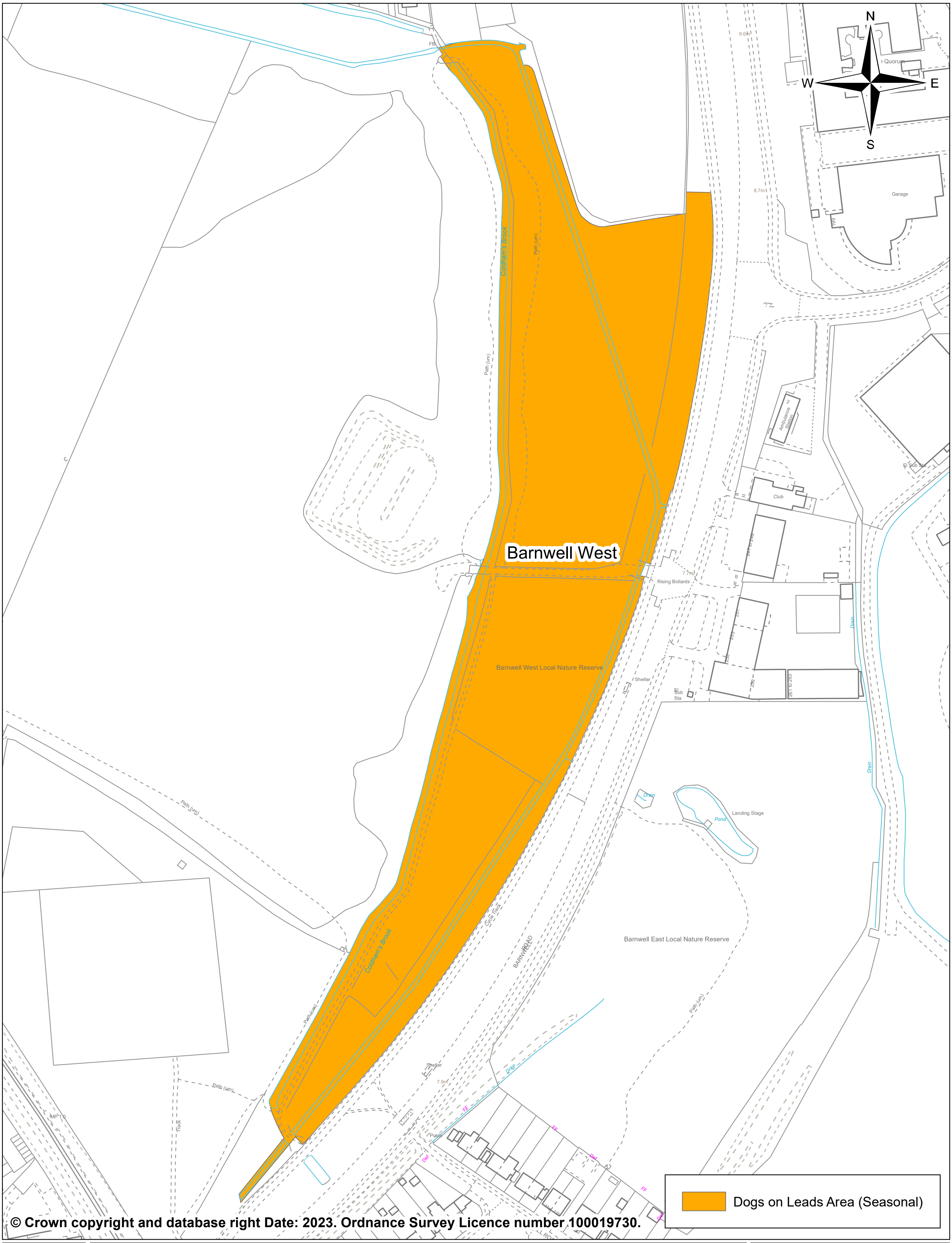
J:\WORKING\SteveU\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\pdfs newmarket_road_cemetery



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

Date:	23 February 2023
Produced by:	3C Shared Services
Section/Department:	Spatial Team
Scale:	1:2,500 @ A4



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

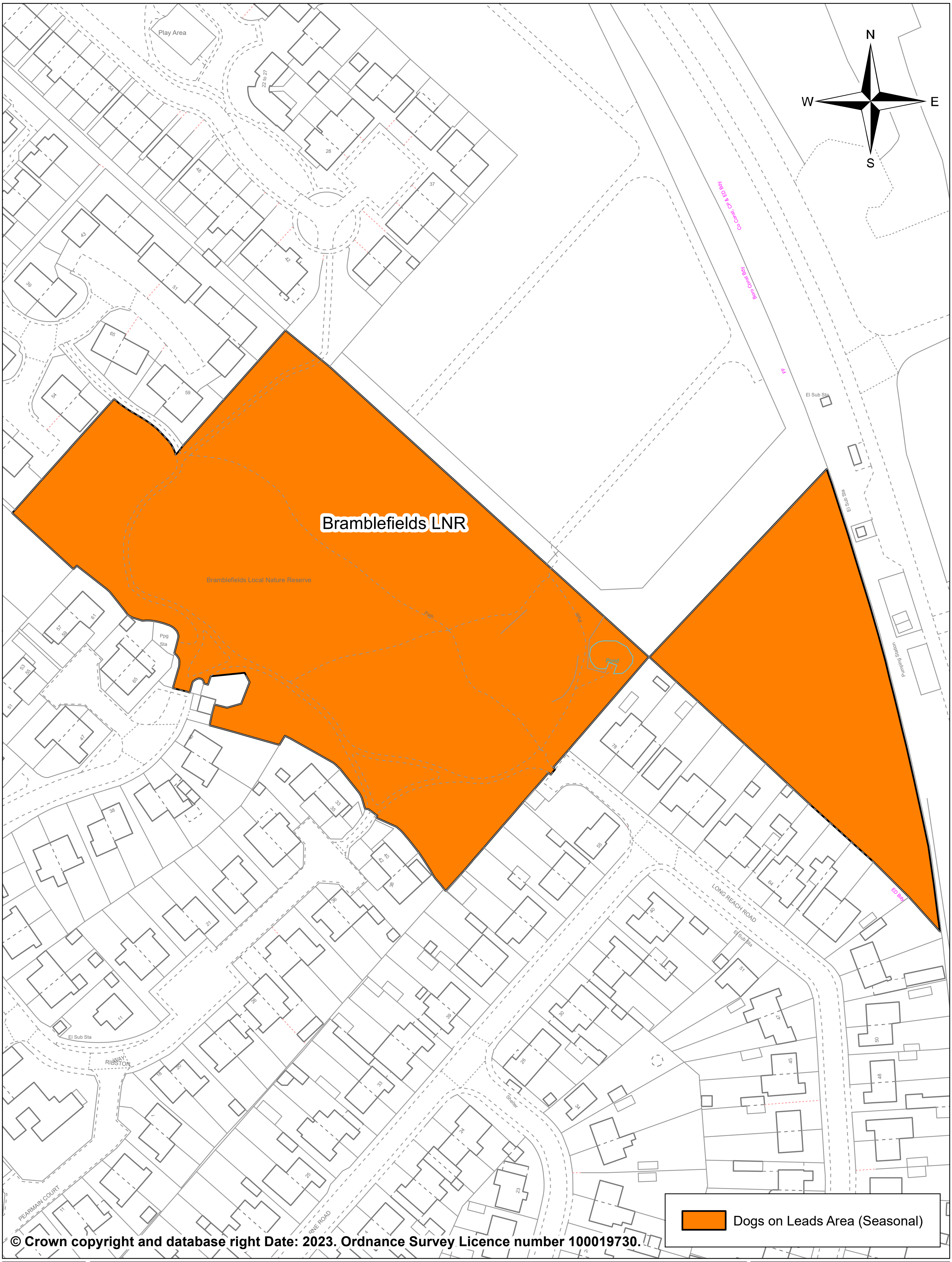
Date: 02 February 2023

Produced by: Huntingdonshire District Council

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:2,500 @ A4

Z:\SpatialTeam\CC\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\projects\repaired\dog_areas_1250_comm_report_dogs_onleads_seasonal_only_v1.mxd



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

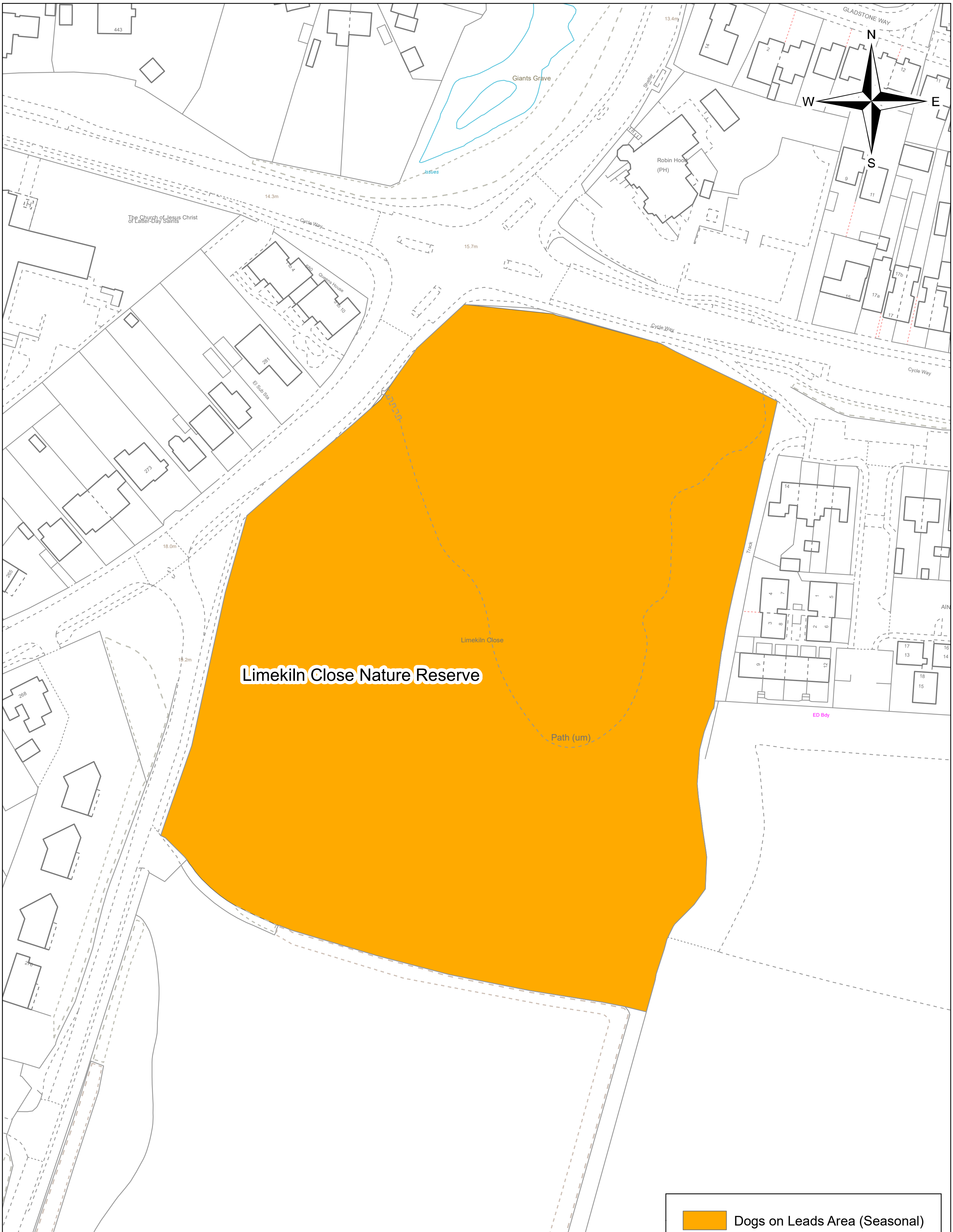
Date: 08 February 2023

Produced by: Huntingdonshire District Council

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:1,500 @ A4

Z:\SpatialTeam\CC\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\projects\repaired\dog_areas_1250_comm_report_dogs_onleads_seasonal_only_v1.mxd



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

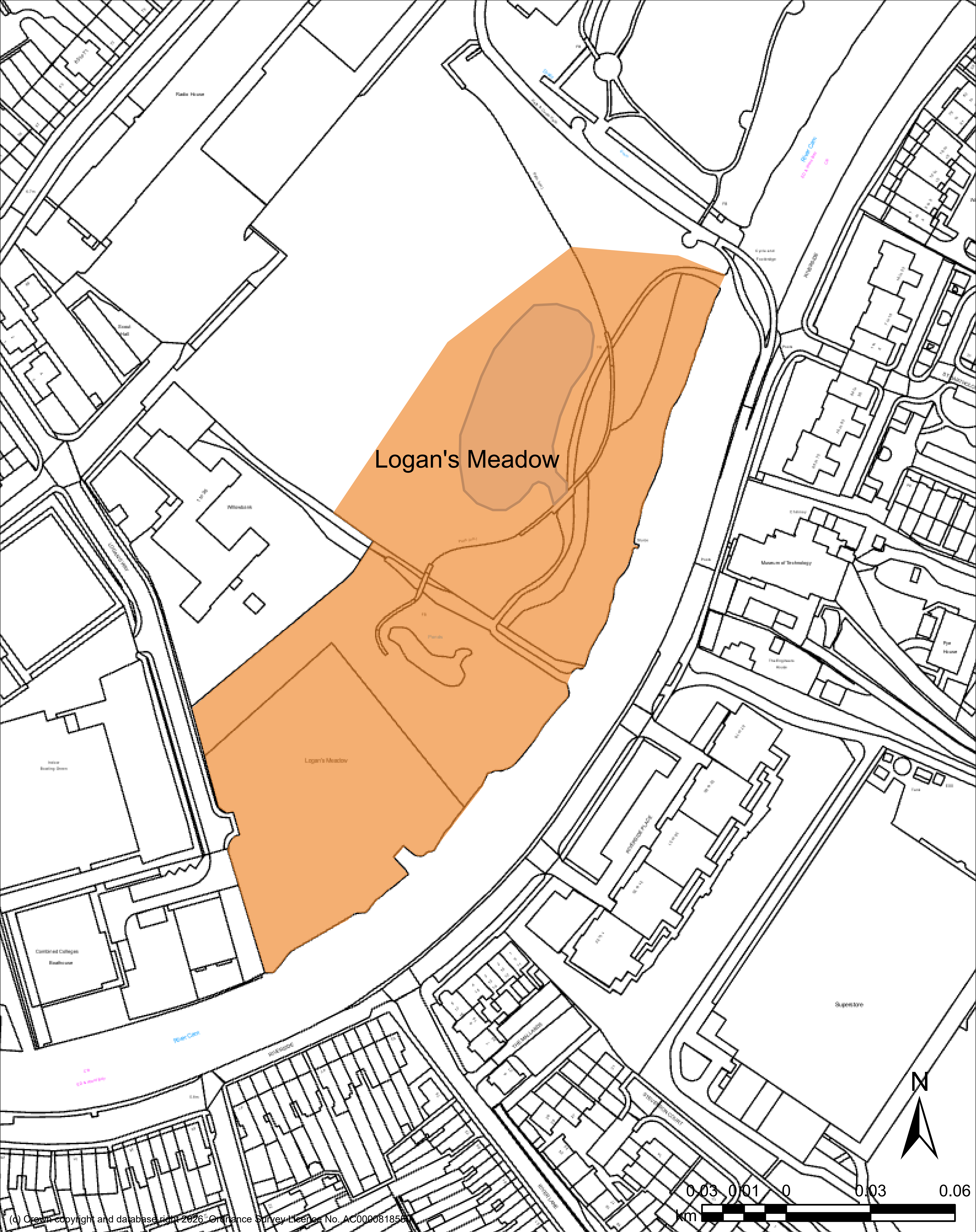
Date: 08 February 2023

Produced by: Huntingdonshire District Council

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:1,500 @ A4

Z:\SpatialTeam\CC\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\projects\repaired\dog_areas_1250_comm_report_dogs_onleads_seasonal_only_v1.mxd



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

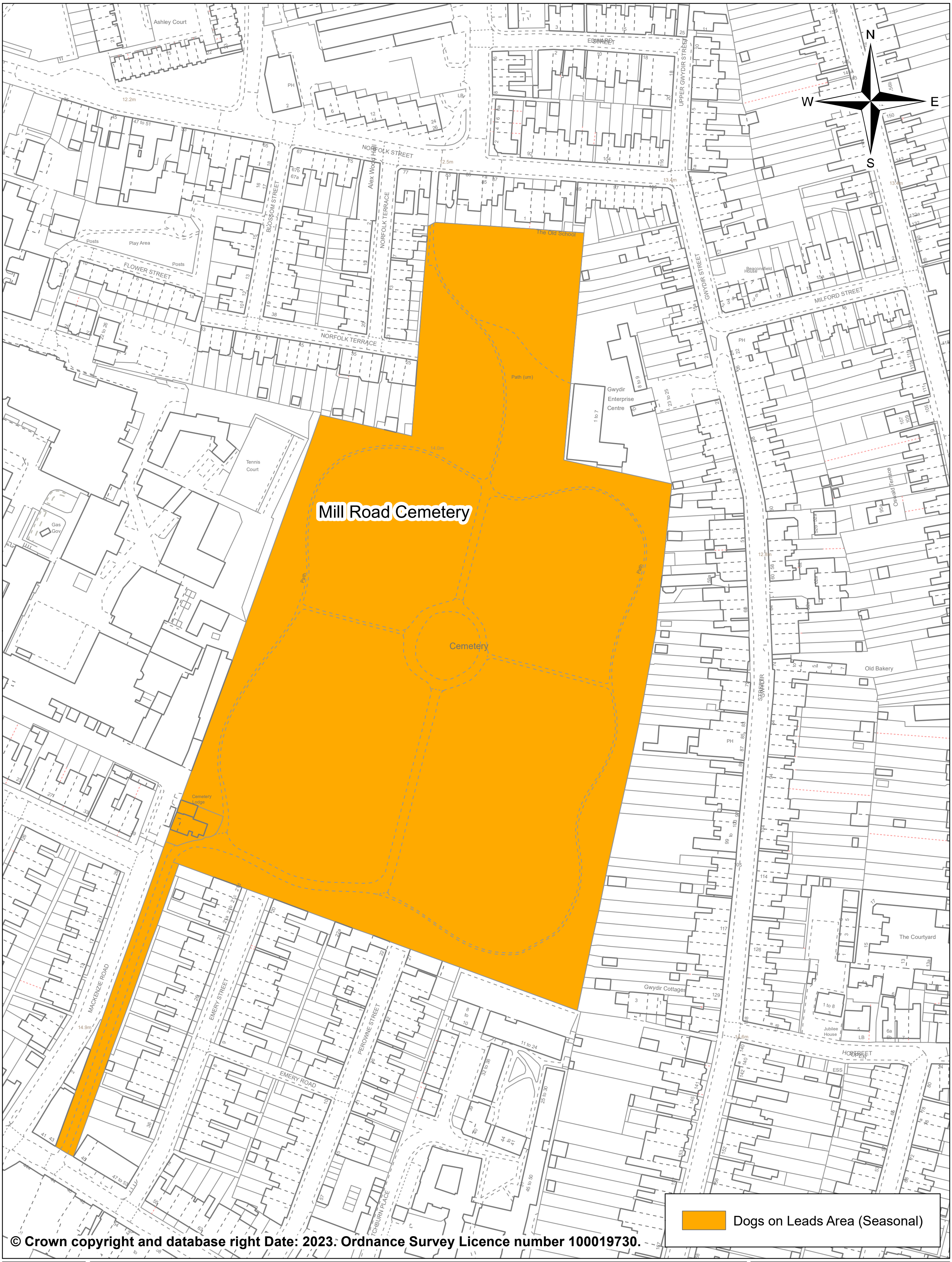
Title:

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control) Dogs on Leads Area (Seasonal)

Date: 09 September 2026

Produced by: Mapping Portal

Scale: 1:1,654 @ A4



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

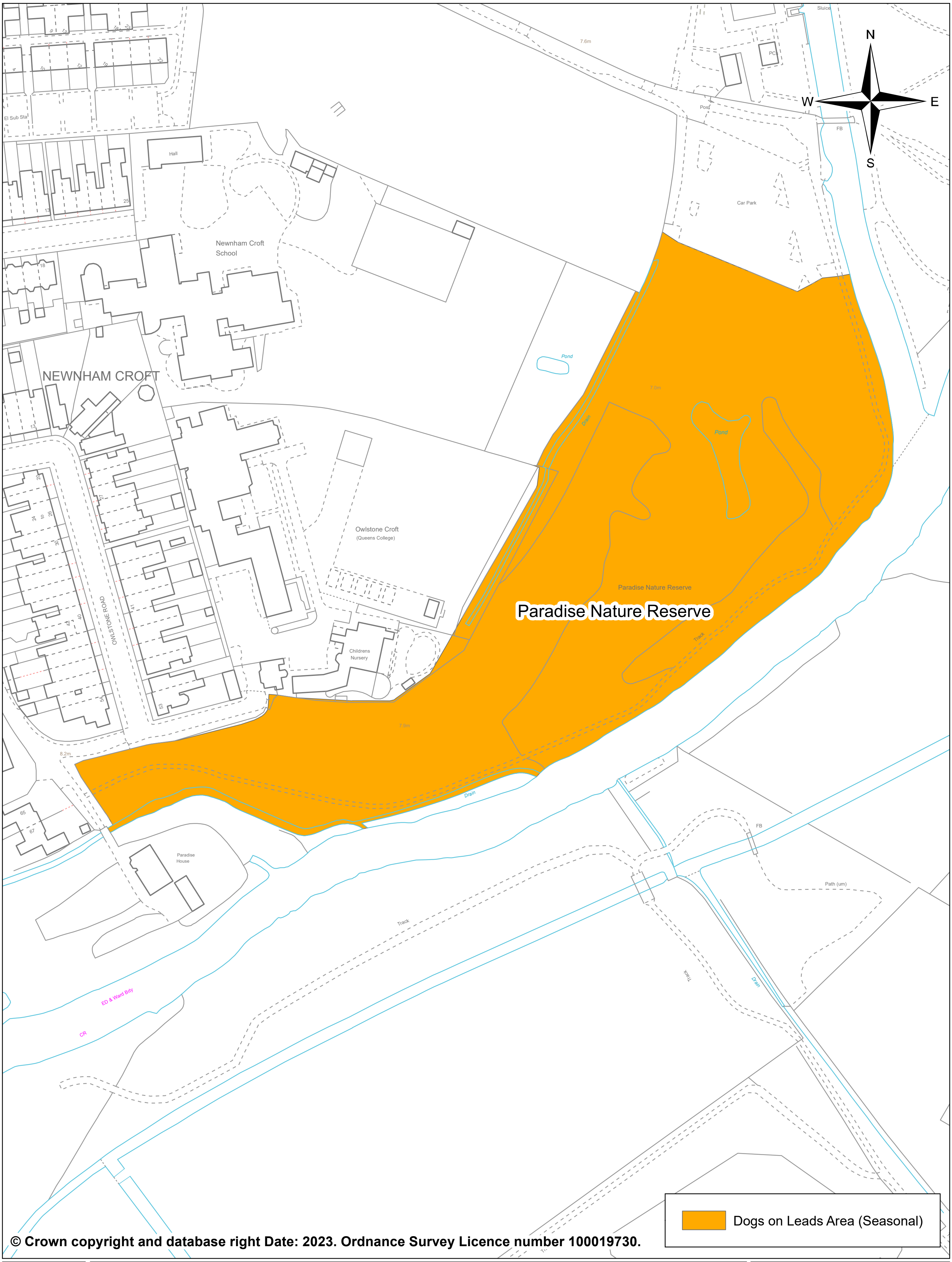
Date: 08 February 2023

Produced by: Huntingdonshire District Council

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:2,000 @ A4

Z:\SpatialTeam\CC\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\projects\repaired\dog_areas_1250_comm_report_dogs_onleads_seasonal_only_v1.mxd



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

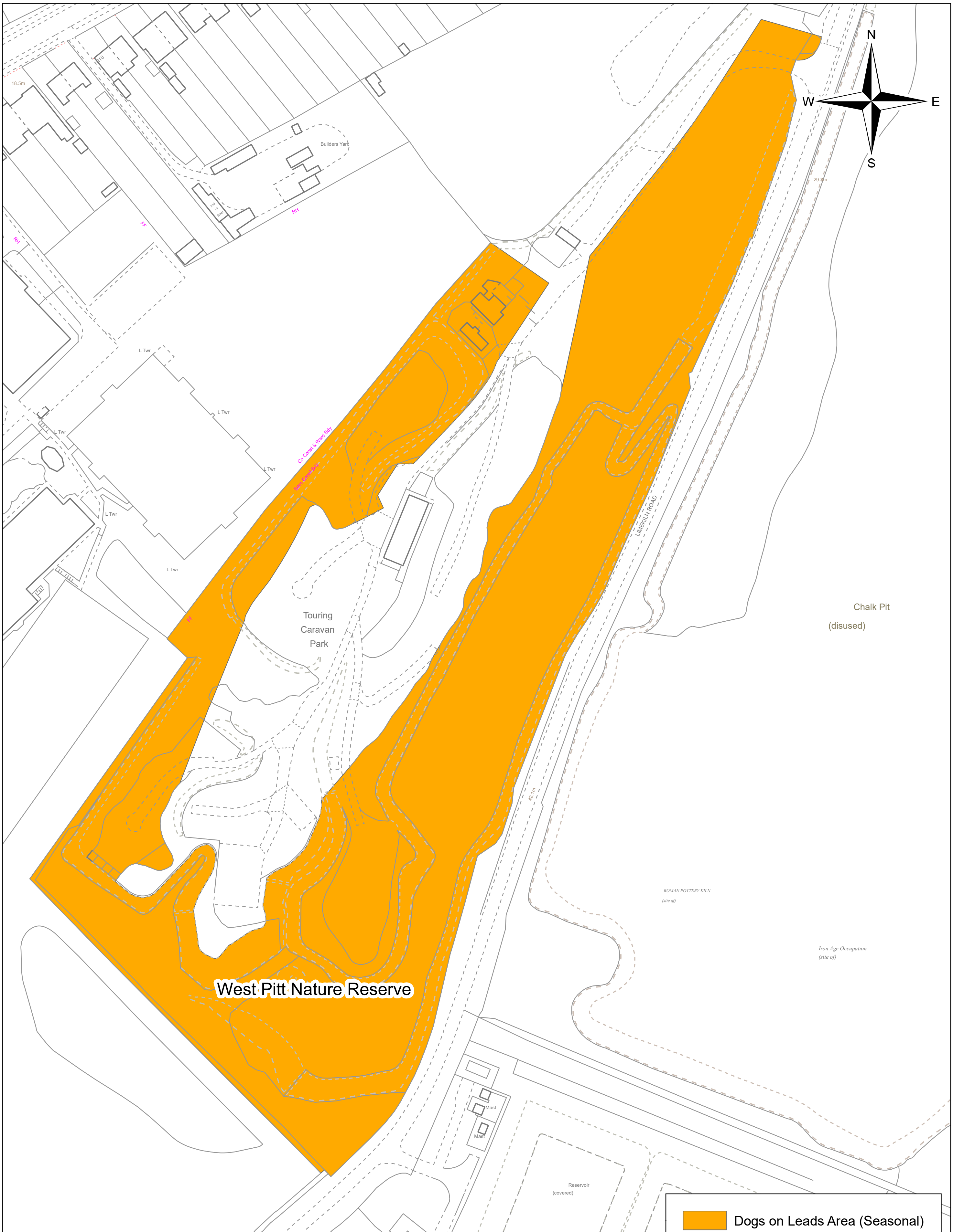
Date: 08 February 2023

Produced by: Huntingdonshire District Council

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:1,750 @ A4

Z:\SpatialTeam\CC\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\projects\repaired\dog_areas_1250_comm_report_dogs_onleads_seasonal_only_v1.mxd



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

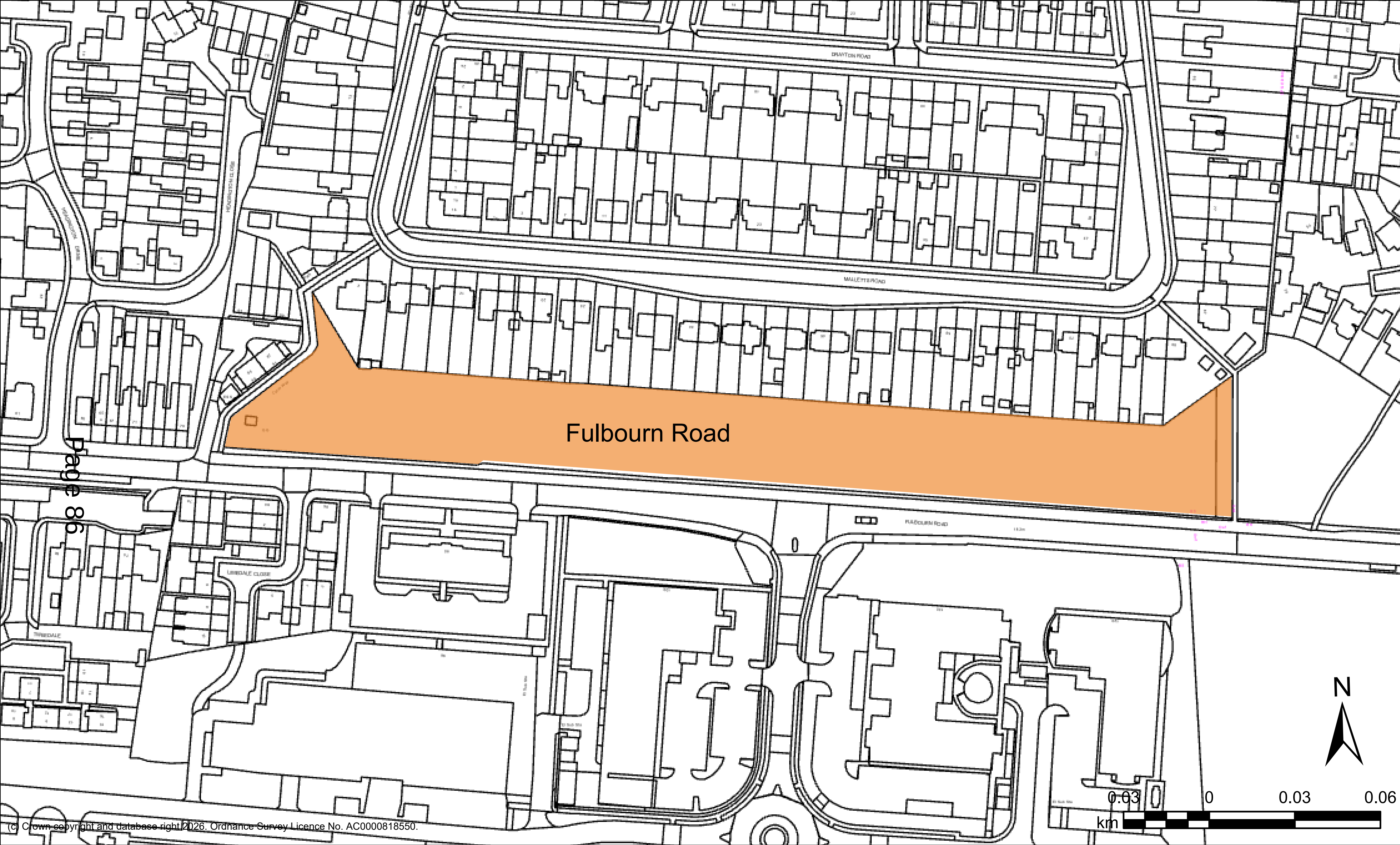
Date: 08 February 2023

Produced by: Huntingdonshire District Council

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:1,750 @ A4

Z:\SpatialTeam\CC\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\projects\repaired\dog_areas_1250_comm_report_dogs_onleads_seasonal_only_v1.mxd



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Title:

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control) Dogs on Leads Area (Seasonal)

Date:
09 September 2026

Produced by:
Mapping Portal

Scale:
1:1,654 @ A4

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

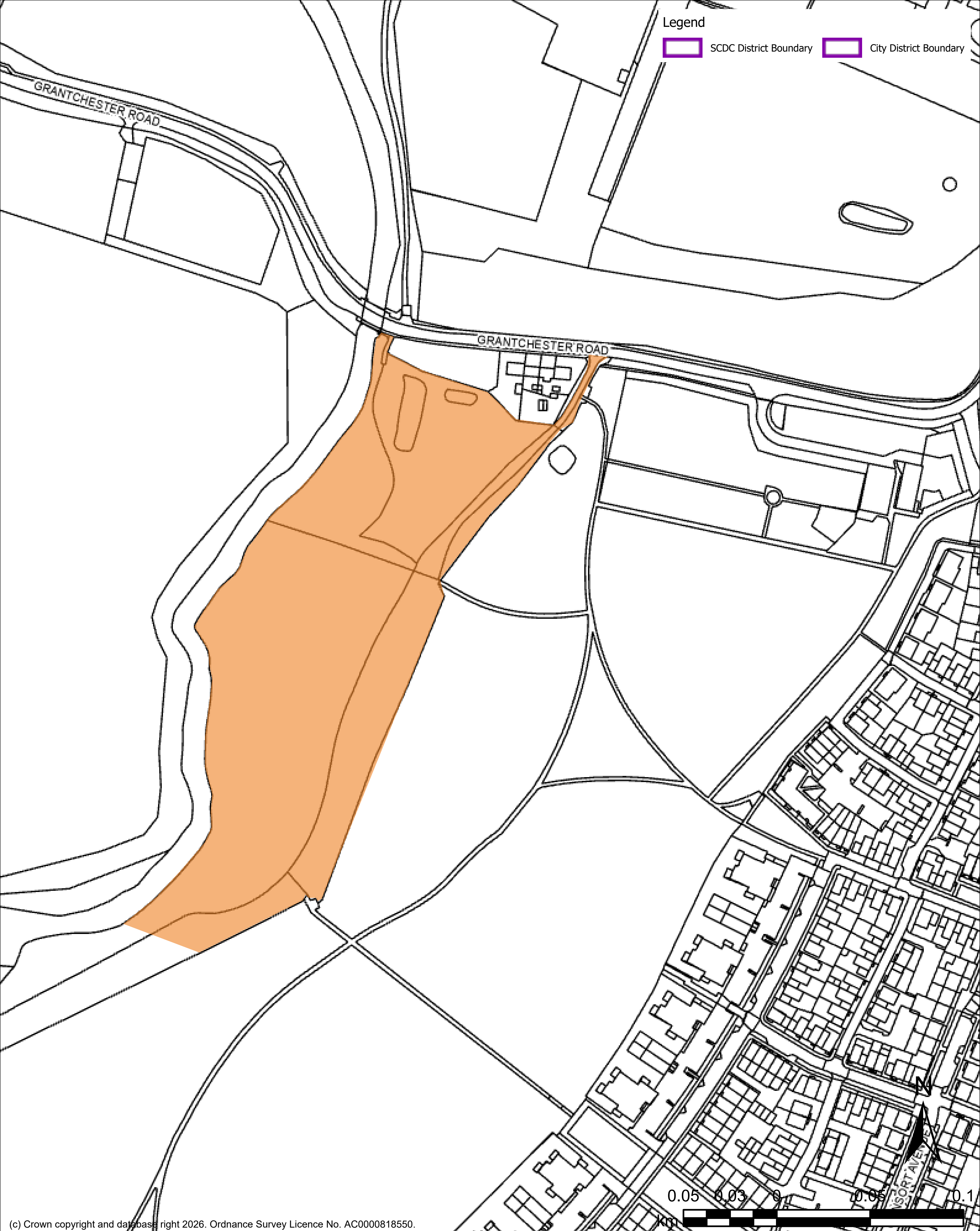
Title:

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control) Dogs on Leads Area (Seasonal)

Date: 09 September 2026

Produced by: Mapping Portal

Scale: 1:1,654 @ A4



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

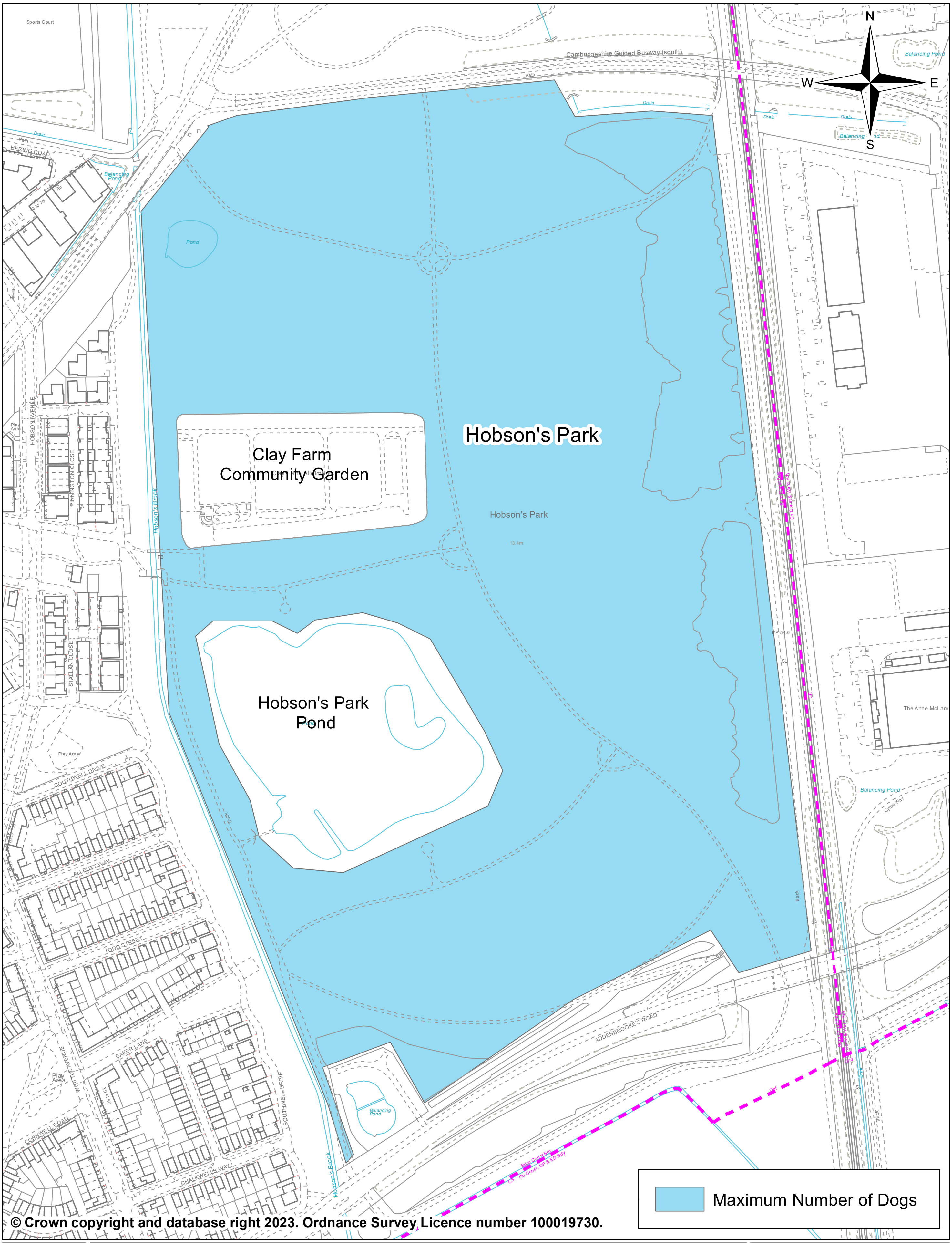
Title:

PSPO (Dog Control) Byron's Pool (Seasonal & Maximum number of Dogs)

Date: 10 September 2026

Produced by: Mapping Portal

Scale: 1:2,500 @ A4

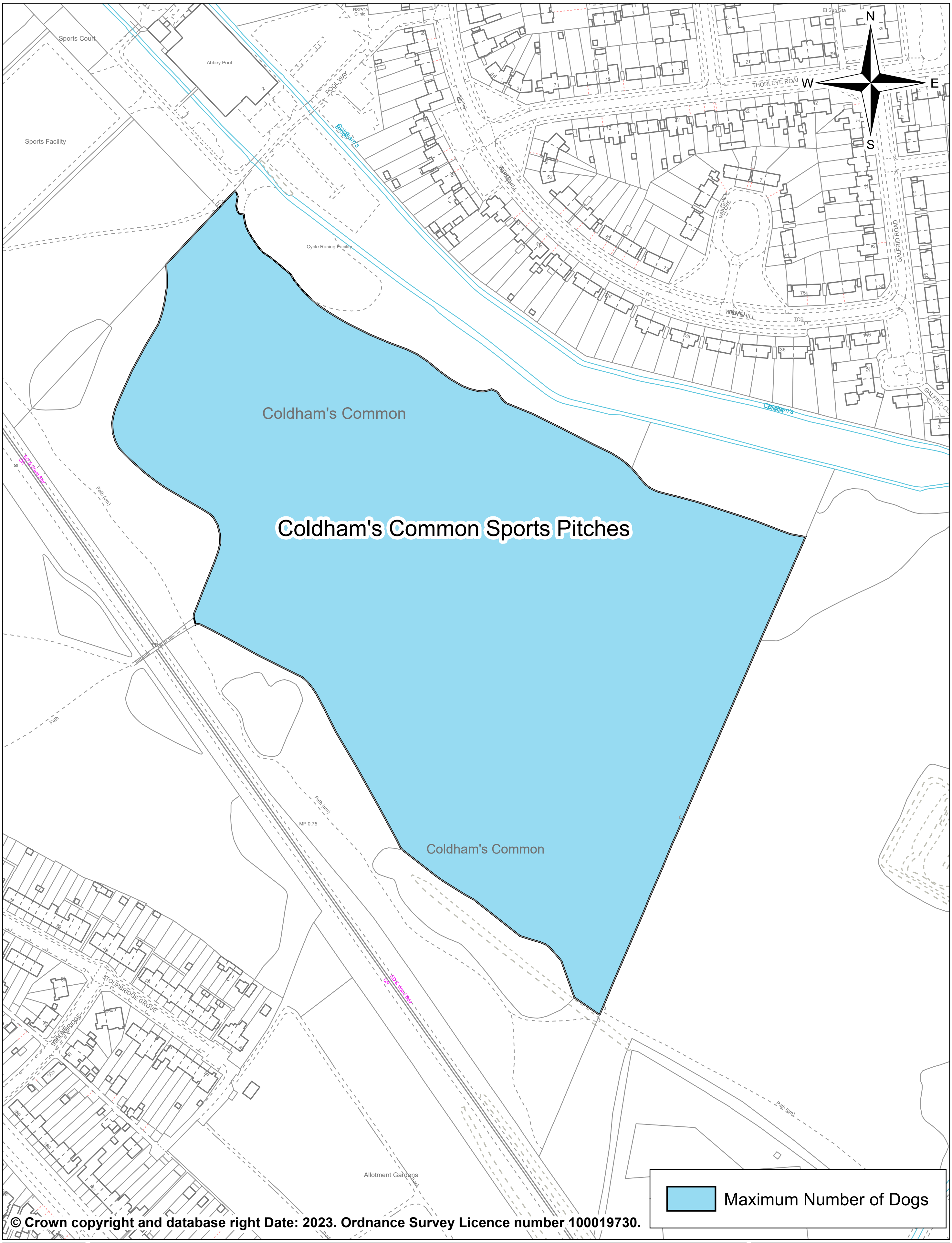


CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

Date:	17 May 2023
Produced by:	3C Shared Services
Section/Department:	Spatial Team
Scale:	1:3,500 @ A4

O:\SpatialTeam\CC\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\projects\repaired\dog_areas_1250_comm_report_dogs_maximum_only_v1.mxd



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

Date: 22 February 2023

Produced by: Huntingdonshire District Council

Section/Department: Spatial Team

Scale: 1:3,000 @ A4

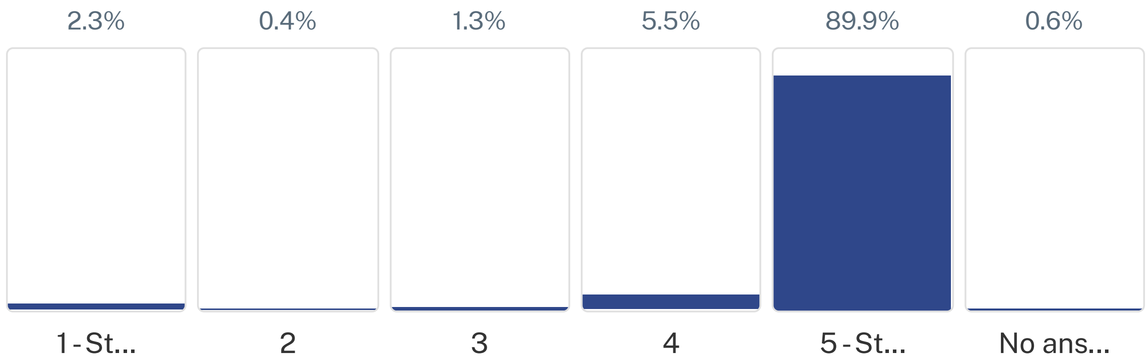
Z:\SpatialTeam\CC\GENERAL_PLANS\dog_control_areas_plans_for_committee_report\projects\repaired\dog_areas_1250_comm_report_dogs_onleads_only_v1.mxd

Dog Control - Public Spaces Protection Order 2026

Dog fouling

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the requirement that a person in charge of a dog must clear up their after dog immediately?

813/818 - Linear scale - optional



1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Do you have any other comments on the requirement for people in charge of a dog to clear up after their dog immediately?

354/818 - Long answer - optional

English

Most respondents supported the requirement strongly and described clearing up after a dog as a basic responsibility of ownership. A frequent theme was that “clearing up” must explicitly include disposing of the bag properly, not hanging it on trees, leaving it in bushes, verges or on the ground, or dumping it in other people’s bins. This was one of the most repeated complaints across responses.

Another major theme was enforcement. Many said the rule is already poorly enforced or effectively unenforced, so new wording or legislation will make little difference without visible patrols, wardens, fixed penalty notices and higher fines. Several called for tougher sanctions, including on-the-spot fines, repeat-offender penalties, or even restrictions on dog ownership/use of parks.

Many respondents also asked for more practical support: more dog waste bins, better placement at entrances/exits and along walking routes, more frequent emptying, clearer signage, and in some cases free poo-bag dispensers. Some argued that reduced bin provision makes compliance harder.

A common concern was public health and hygiene, especially risks to children, people using pavements, parks and play areas, and the unpleasantness of dog mess on shoes, pushchairs and mobility aids. Several said fouling is getting worse in some streets, parks and commons.

There were also repeated comments that dogs off lead, out of sight, or owners distracted by phones are more likely to result in mess being missed. Some linked this to calls for dogs to be kept on leads more often or for owners to keep dogs in sight.

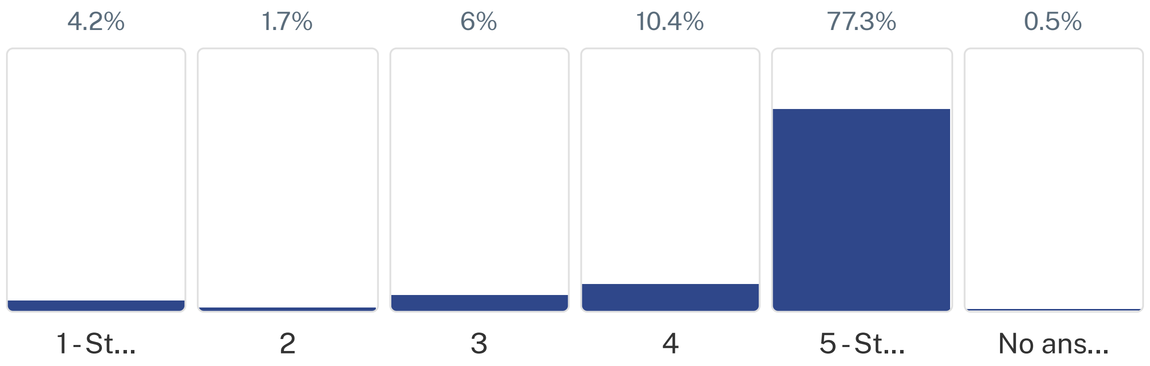
A smaller but noticeable group said the rule should allow discretion in genuine cases: if the owner runs out of bags, cannot find the poo in long grass, leaves or undergrowth, or if the dog has diarrhoea. These respondents still supported the principle but wanted a “best efforts” approach rather than automatic penalties.

Some respondents said most dog owners already do the right thing and that the problem is a smaller irresponsible minority. A few objected that dogs are being unfairly singled out compared with cats, horses, livestock or human waste, or felt the proposal was overreach without realistic enforcement.

Keeping dogs on leads if asked by an authorised officer

To what extent do you agree or disagree that authorised officers can request that the person in charge of dogs put them on a lead if the dogs are out of control, or a threat to other people or animals?

814/818 - Linear scale - optional



1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Do you have any other comments on the requirement for people in charge of dogs put their dog on a lead if requested to do so by an authorised officer?

340/818 - Long answer - optional

Many respondents supported the requirement in principle, often strongly, but the biggest recurring issue was enforcement: people repeatedly said they rarely or never see authorised officers, doubt officers can be present when incidents happen, and want more patrols, dog wardens, fixed penalty notices, or easier reporting and evidence submission.

A very common view was that dogs should be on leads by default in public spaces, especially in parks, streets, city areas, shared paths, around children, and near wildlife, with off-lead use limited to clearly designated enclosed or marked areas. Many described off-lead dogs running up to adults, children, nervous dogs, cyclists and wheelchair users, with owners saying "don't worry, he's friendly", which respondents said is not acceptable.

Safety concerns were a major theme. Respondents often mentioned fear, previous bites or injuries, dogs knocking people over, and risks to children, older people and disabled people. Shared-use and cycle paths were mentioned frequently, including hazards from dogs crossing paths or long/extendable leads.

Wildlife protection also came up often, particularly around ponds, rivers, nature reserves, nesting birds and cattle on commons. Cherry Hinton Hall, Mill Road Cemetery, Stourbridge Common and Midsummer Common were named repeatedly as places where dogs disturb ducks, swans, birds or cows and signage is ignored. Some, however, felt wildlife wording was too broad or inconsistently applied, especially where cats or foxes also affect wildlife.

A sizeable minority supported the rule only if applied narrowly and proportionately. They worried terms like "out of control", "threat" and "feel threatened" are too subjective, could be abused, and might penalise responsible owners and well-trained dogs. These respondents often asked for clear definitions, officer training in dog behaviour, documentation of reasons, and restrictions on officer discretion.

There were repeated questions about who authorised officers are, how they identify themselves, and how the public would contact them. Many said officers should carry ID, wear uniform, and be clearly empowered and accountable.

Some respondents wanted stronger consequences for non-compliance: on-the-spot fines, warnings, recording owner details, repeat-offender tracking, and in a few cases confiscation, muzzling or bans on ownership. Others preferred education, clearer rules, training or licensing over criminalisation.

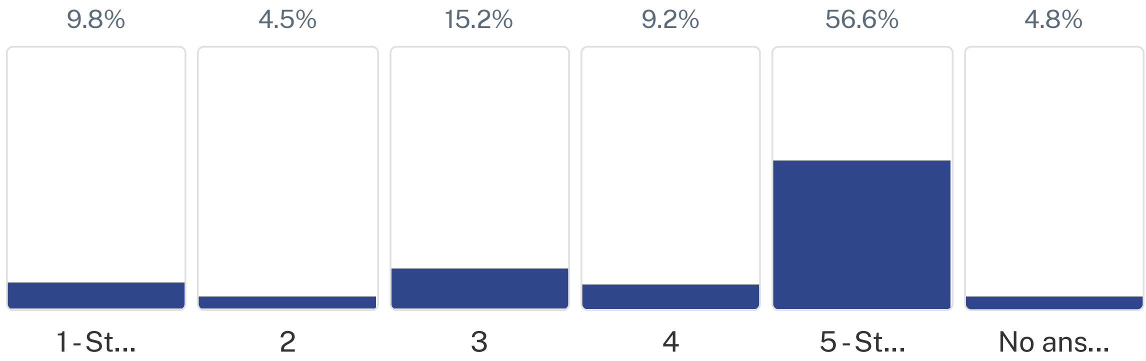
A smaller but notable group argued that dogs need off-lead exercise and socialisation, and that well-controlled dogs should still be allowed freedom in suitable areas. Several said the problem is irresponsible owners, not dogs in general, and that blanket restrictions would unfairly punish responsible owners.

Overall, the dominant trends were support for stronger dog control, widespread concern about uncontrolled dogs affecting public safety and enjoyment of spaces, and scepticism that the rule will work without visible enforcement, clear definitions, and better communication.

Dog on lead areas (Existing restrictions)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the requirement that dogs must be on leads at all times in the above areas?

779/818 - Linear scale - optional



1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Do you have any other comments on the requirement for dogs to be on leads at all times in the above areas?

286/818 - Long answer - optional

Many respondents supported keeping or strengthening on-lead requirements, often saying they should apply in more places, sometimes all public spaces, parks, cemeteries, city-centre areas, playgrounds and near roads or waterways. Cemeteries were one of the most commonly backed examples, with people describing them as places of respect and saying dogs off lead can upset mourners, children and other visitors. Others wanted more dog exclusion areas as well as more lead-only areas.

A very common theme was poor enforcement. Respondents repeatedly said existing rules are often ignored, especially at Cherry Hinton Hall and Histon Road Cemetery, and that stronger policing, fines or visible consequences are needed. Linked to this, many said signage and public awareness are inadequate, particularly at Cherry Hinton Hall, where signs were described as too small, unclear or not visible enough, and the boundary of the restricted area as poorly defined.

Protection of wildlife was another major reason given for support, especially around ponds, streams, swales and nature areas. People mentioned ducks, swans, squirrels, aquatic habitats and nesting birds being disturbed or harmed by off-lead dogs. Safety and comfort for children and other park users also came up frequently, with some saying they or their children had been frightened by dogs running up to them, and that public spaces should be usable without fear.

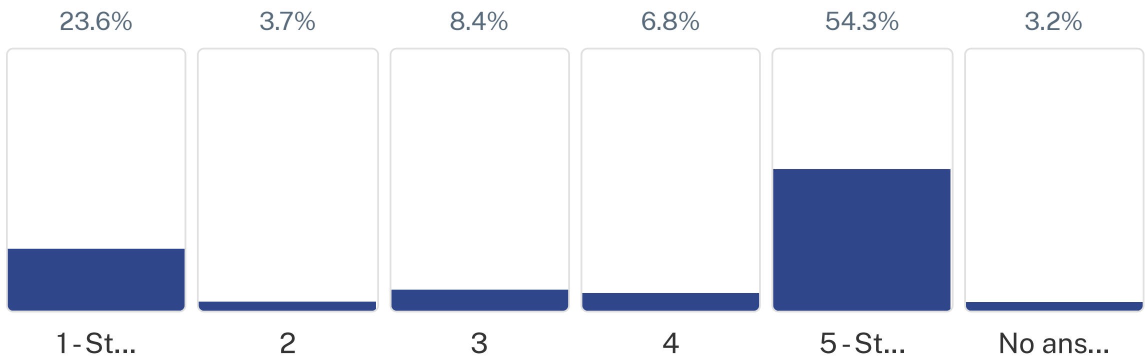
A substantial minority disagreed with blanket lead rules. Their main view was that well-trained, calm dogs with good recall should be allowed off lead, and that the focus should be on whether dogs are under control rather than on universal restrictions. Some said constant lead use can frustrate dogs, reduce exercise and socialisation, and unfairly penalise responsible owners. Several called for a better balance: some lead-only areas, but also enough off-lead spaces or enclosed dog areas.

Another recurring concern was lack of justification. Quite a few respondents said the choice of areas seemed random or inconsistent, and asked for clearer evidence or area-specific reasons, such as wildlife, children, or road safety. Some suggested seasonal or time-limited restrictions instead of all-year, all-day rules, especially where the main concern is nesting birds or busy periods. Many also said they were not familiar enough with the listed locations to comment confidently.

Dogs on leads (Proposed new area)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the new proposal that dogs must be on leads at all times at Mill Road Cemetery?

792/818 - Linear scale - optional



1 - Strongly disagree
gree

English

Do you have any other comments on the new proposal that dogs must be on leads at all times at Mill Road Cemetery?

280/818 - Long answer - optional

Responses were strongly split, but opposition was more common and more detailed than support.

The most frequent theme was that year-round leads would reduce dog-walker footfall and make the cemetery feel less safe. Many respondents said the current seasonal restrictions have already coincided with more drug dealing, drug use, litter, needles, rough sleeping, human waste and other antisocial behaviour, and that regular dog walkers provide informal surveillance, report issues and pick up litter. Related to this, many said dogs are not the main problem in the cemetery and enforcement should focus on crime, drugs and maintenance instead.

Another very common point from opponents was that Mill Road Cemetery is one of very few nearby, enclosed or relatively safe spaces for off-lead exercise in this part of Cambridge. They stressed the importance of off-lead time for dog welfare, exercise and socialisation, especially for people without cars, older residents, and those using the space as part of a local dog-walking community.

Many opponents also challenged the stated ecological justification. Repeated comments said there is no evidence of ground- or low-nesting birds in the cemetery, and several argued that keeping dogs on leads would not prevent urination anyway. Some asked the Council to publish clearer evidence about affected birds, plants and grassland.

Supporters most often argued that a cemetery should be a respectful, contemplative place rather than a dog exercise area, and that dogs should be on leads there as in other cemeteries. A common supporting theme was consistency and simplicity: several felt “all cemeteries, all dogs on leads” would be clearer and easier to understand and enforce. Others cited wildlife protection, fear of loose dogs, dogs approaching children, fouling, and dogs running over graves.

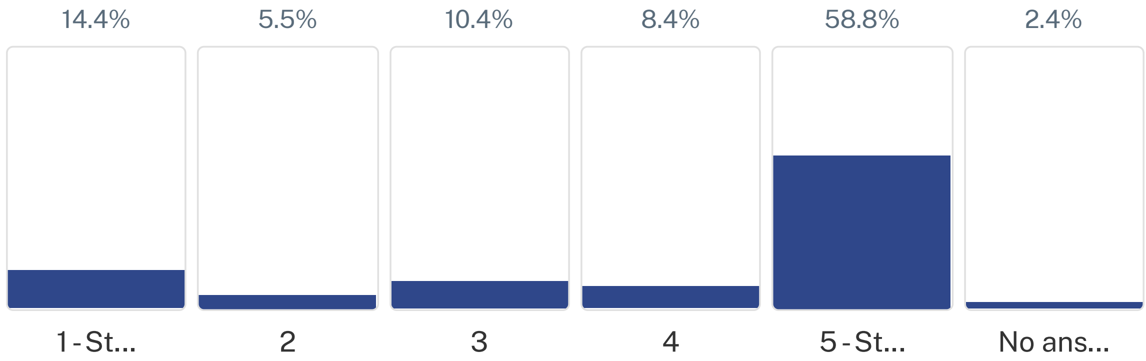
Across both sides, a recurring practical issue was enforcement. Some said the current seasonal rule is confusing, patchily followed and hard to police, so a blanket rule would be simpler; others doubted any new rule would be enforceable without more patrols and signage.

A smaller middle group suggested compromise options: keep the current seasonal approach, improve signs and communication, target only irresponsible owners or problem dogs, or create/identify alternative off-lead space nearby.

Dogs on leads (Existing seasonal restrictions)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the existing seasonal restrictions that dogs must be on leads at all times in the above areas?

798/818 - Linear scale - optional

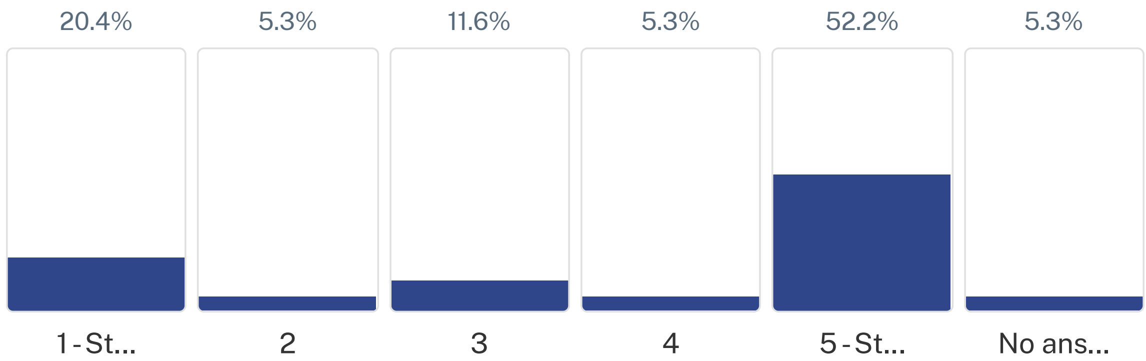


1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Dogs on leads (seasonal restrictions) - Proposed new areas

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the new proposed seasonal dogs on leads at Byron's Pool LNR?

775/818 - Linear scale - optional

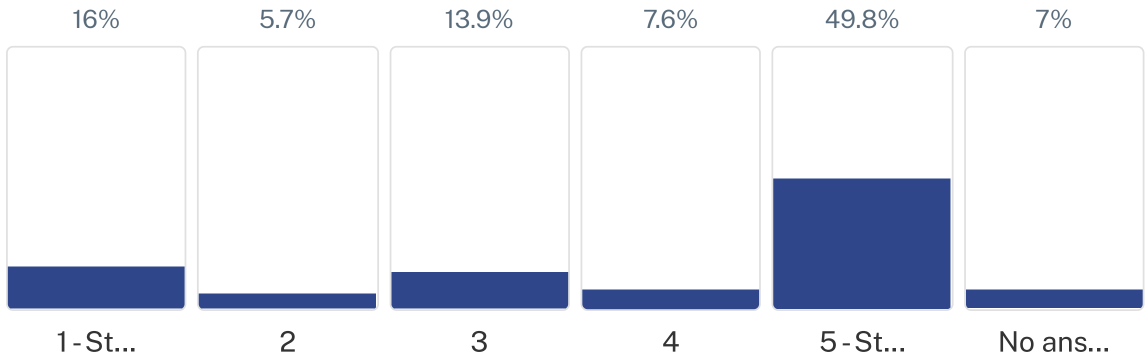


1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Church End, Cherry Hinton LNR

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the new proposed seasonal dogs on leads at Church End, Cherry Hinton LNR?

761/818 - Linear scale - optional

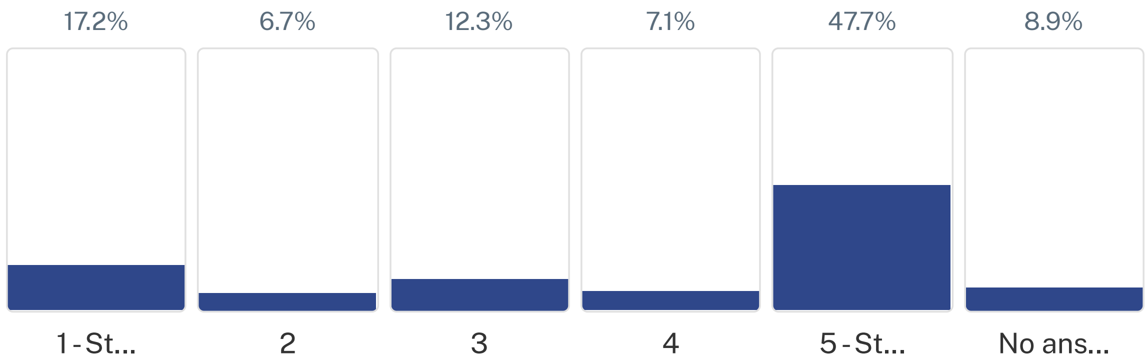


1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Fulbourn Road Open Space, Cherry Hinton

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the new proposed seasonal dogs on leads at Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton?

745/818 - Linear scale - optional

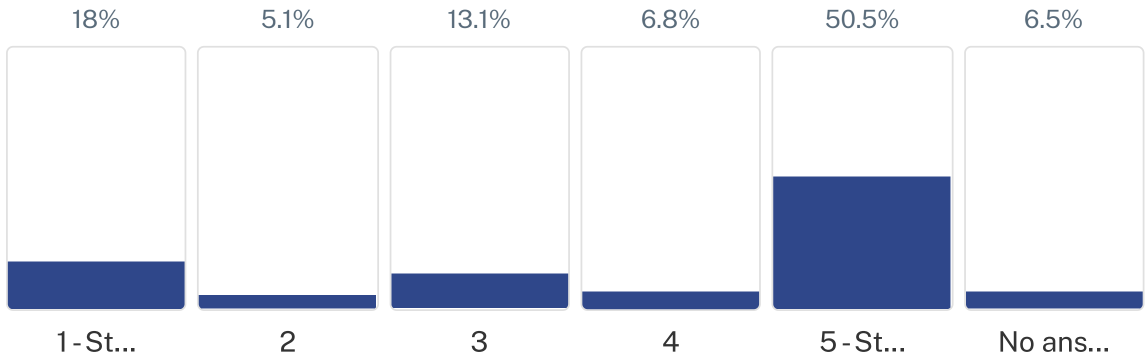


1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Hobson's Park

To what extent do you agree or disagree with introducing seasonal dogs on leads restrictions at Hobson's Park?

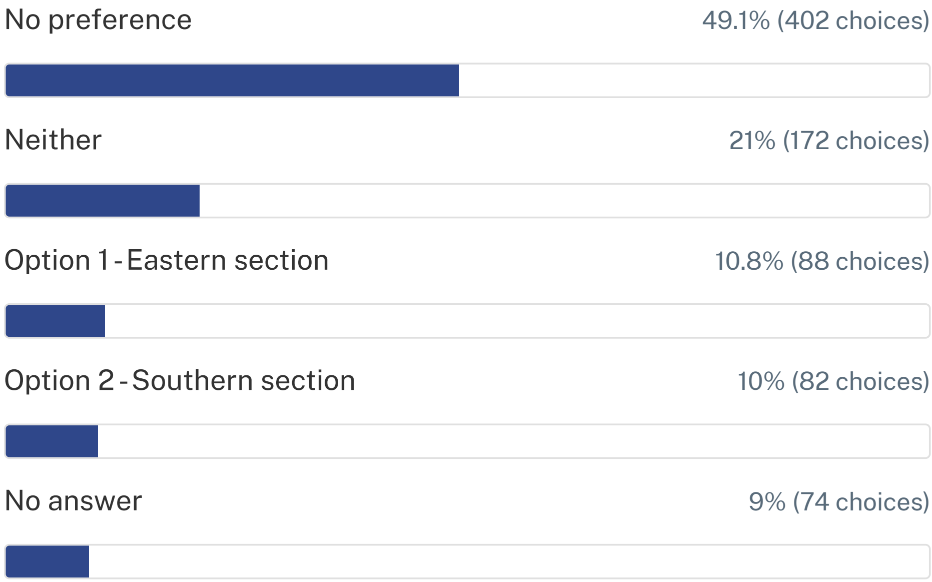
765/818 - Linear scale - optional



1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Which option do you prefer for seasonal dogs on leads restrictions at Hobson's Park?

744/818 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Do you have any other comments on the new proposed seasonal dogs on leads areas?

211/818 - Long answer - optional

Many respondents focused on the choice between the two proposed sections and a common view was that restricting only one section does not make sense. A large number explicitly asked for both areas to be included, often saying this would be simpler, clearer and easier to enforce. Some went further and wanted restrictions across the whole park or year-round, especially in wildlife or nature reserve areas.

Another major theme was criticism of the survey itself. Many said the map, labels and options were confusing or mismatched, especially the ordering of option 1/2 and southern/eastern sections, and some felt this undermined the validity of responses.

There was a strong split in views on the principle of restrictions. Supporters emphasised protecting nesting birds and wildlife, saying dogs should be on leads in sensitive areas, sometimes at all times, and that signs and enforcement should be clear and robust. Some also said short leads rather than extendable leads were needed.

Opponents most often argued that there is not enough evidence that dogs are the real problem. Many asked for proper ecological evidence, bird surveys and clearer justification before imposing restrictions, and questioned whether there are actually ground-nesting birds in some locations, especially Mill Road Cemetery and parts of Byron’s Pool/Hobson’s Park. Several suggested cats, foxes, people, cyclists, antisocial behaviour, or development are bigger threats to wildlife than dogs.

A frequent concern was loss of off-lead space for dogs, especially in dense urban areas and near new housing. Respondents said dogs need room to run, socialise and stay healthy, and that too many restrictions would harm dog welfare, reduce safe local exercise options, and unfairly penalise responsible owners. Some asked where dogs would be able to go off lead during the restricted season, and suggested designated dog parks or enclosed exercise areas as an alternative.

Practicality and enforcement also came up often. Respondents said partial restrictions would confuse users, be hard to police, and may only affect responsible owners while others ignore them. Clear signage, fencing and public information were repeatedly requested.

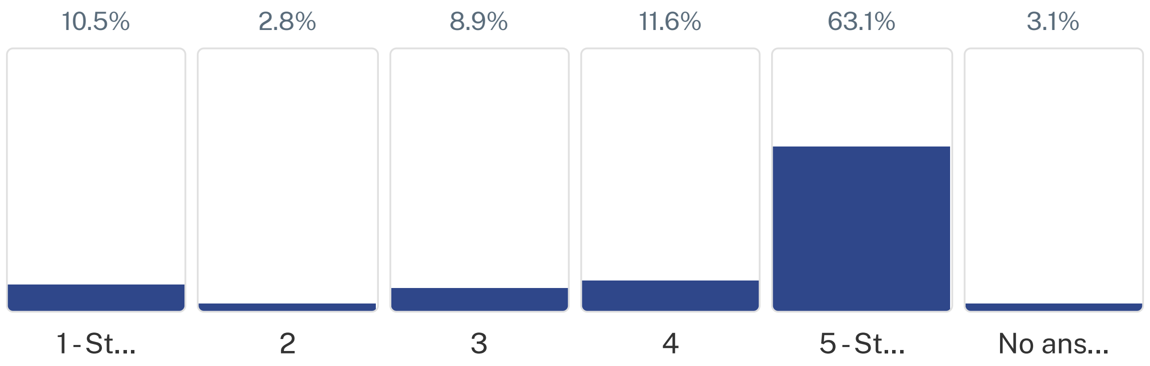
Mill Road Cemetery drew particularly polarised comments. Some supported restrictions there, but others strongly opposed them, saying there are no ground-nesting birds, that dog walkers help keep the area safe and discourage antisocial behaviour, and that restrictions have already caused mistrust and division.

Overall, the strongest recurring points were: include both areas if restrictions are introduced; fix the confusing survey materials; provide clear evidence and justification; and address the balance between wildlife protection and the shortage of safe off-lead space for dogs.

Dog Exclusion Areas

Do you support the proposed amendment to Schedule 2 that would prohibit dogs and their owners from entering specified fenced or enclosed recreational areas within Cambridge City Council public open spaces?

793/818 - Linear scale - optional



1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Do you have any other comments on the requirement for dogs to be excluded from the above areas?

159/818 - Long answer - optional

English

Many respondents supported excluding dogs from clearly defined children's play areas, paddling pools and some sports facilities, often describing this as common sense, necessary for safety, cleanliness and reducing fear among children. Concerns about dog fouling, hygiene, dogs knocking over or frightening children, and disruption to sport came up repeatedly.

A very common concern, including from people who agreed with some exclusions, was that the policy is too broad or too vague, especially around "green open spaces". Many said play areas and enclosed specialist spaces are fine, but wider parks and open grass areas should not be automatically included, as this could unnecessarily reduce places for dogs to exercise and displace use elsewhere.

Enforcement was one of the strongest recurring themes. Many respondents said restrictions are pointless without visible enforcement, dog wardens, monitoring, penalties and clear signage. Related to this, several raised the need for secure, well-maintained fencing, saying broken fences and gates undermine compliance and create conflict.

Another frequent theme was the impact on families, especially parents or carers with both children and dogs. Some felt a total ban in children's areas would make everyday outings difficult, and suggested on-lead rules rather than full exclusion in some places.

Many respondents also asked for more dedicated dog space, such as fenced dog exercise areas or reassurance that there will still be enough off-lead space in the city. Some felt responsible owners and well-behaved dogs were being unfairly penalised by blanket rules.

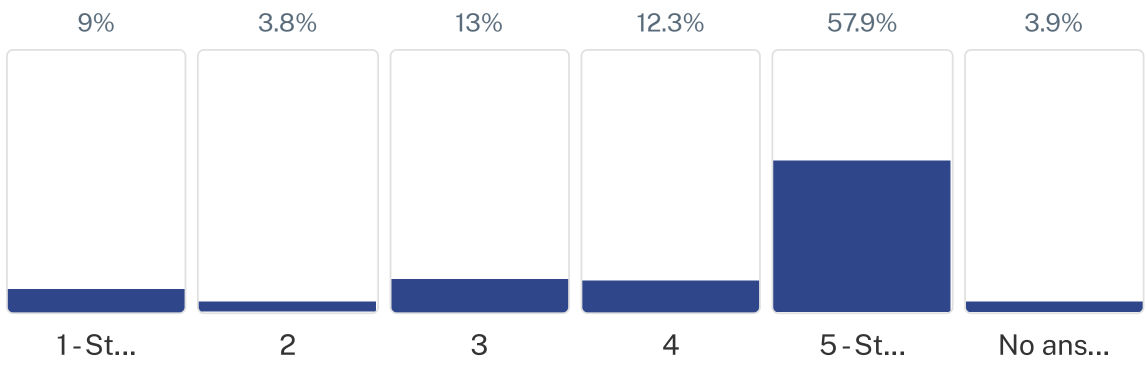
A smaller but notable group wanted stricter rules still, including more dog-free zones, wider lead requirements, buffer zones around children's areas, and stronger action against non-compliant owners.

There were also a few site-specific comments, including objections to particular listed areas or requests for wording corrections, such as the Nightingale Avenue bowling green no longer existing. Some respondents asked for clearer exemptions for assistance dogs.

Maximum number of dogs (Existing restrictions)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the limit on the number of dogs that can be walked by a person at Byrons Pool LNR?

786/818 - Linear scale - optional

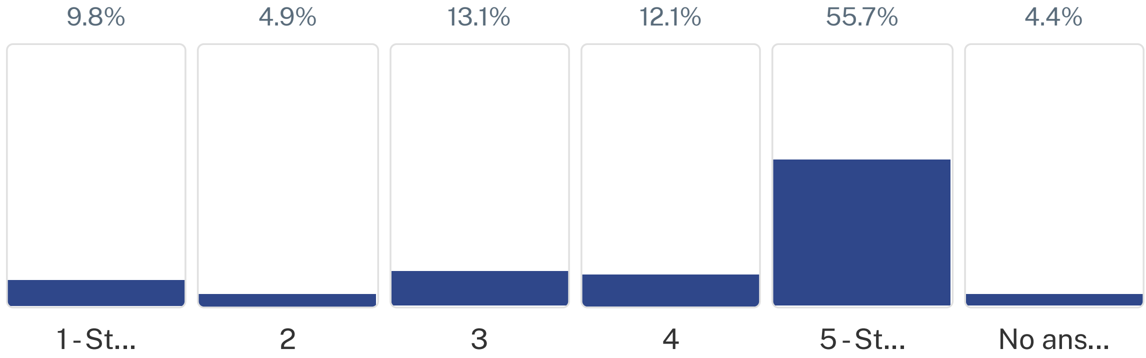


1 - Strongly disagree

English

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the limit on the number of dogs that can be walked by a person at Coldhams Common sports pitches?

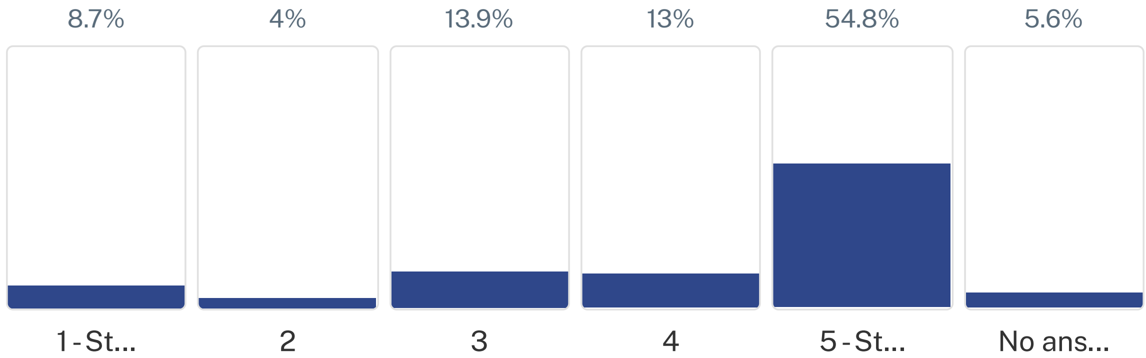
782/818 - Linear scale - optional



1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the limit on the number of dogs that can be walked by a person at Hobson's Park?

772/818 - Linear scale - optional



1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Do you have any other comments on the limit on the number of dogs that can be walked by a person at the above locations?

199/818 - Long answer - optional

Many respondents supported having a limit, but the strongest trend was that four dogs was seen as too high. A large number said the maximum should be two, with others suggesting three or saying four was the absolute upper limit. Concerns focused on safety, control, dogs behaving as a pack, difficulty managing large or strong dogs, narrow paths, and being unable to pick up after multiple dogs properly.

A similarly common theme was that the fixed number felt arbitrary, and that control matters more than the number. These respondents argued that one badly controlled dog is more of a problem than several well-controlled ones, and said any rule should take account of dog size, breed, temperament, whether dogs are on or off lead, and the competence of the walker. Some suggested licensing or accrediting professional dog walkers instead of using a blanket limit.

Enforcement came up repeatedly. Several questioned how a numerical limit would be monitored, and whether it would be ignored without visible enforcement, fines or warnings. Some felt the proposal was overcomplicated or a poor use of council resources, preferring simpler rules such as dogs allowed, banned, or seasonally restricted.

There were mixed views on professional dog walkers. Some saw them as generally responsible and providing an essential service, and worried the rule unfairly targeted their livelihoods or dog owners who rely on them. Others felt commercial walkers often handle too many dogs, use public spaces to run a business, and contribute to mess and loss of control.

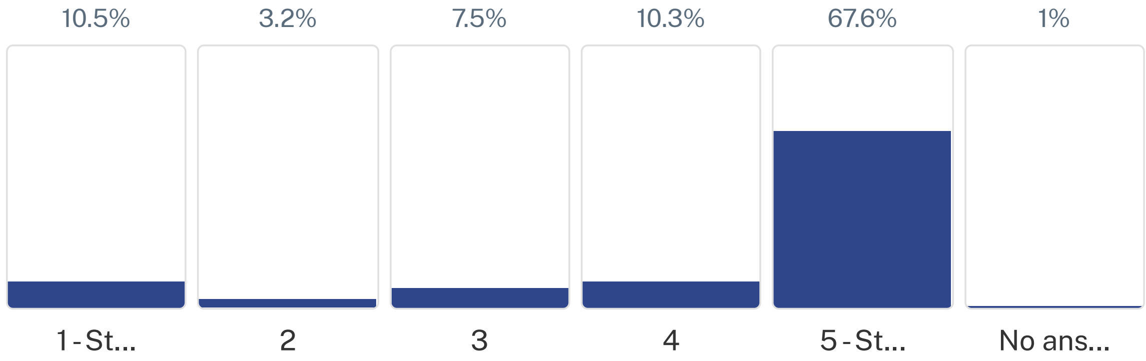
Another recurring point was scope. Quite a few wanted any limit extended city-wide or to more parks and wildlife areas, while others wanted outright dog bans in some locations, especially sports pitches, children's areas, and sensitive nature sites. Specific places people asked to include included Mill Road Cemetery, Romsey Rec, Logan's Meadow, Trumpington Meadows, Paradise, Coe Fen, Jesus Green and Midsummer Common. A few, however, questioned applying the same rule to very different spaces such as Coldham's Common.

Overall, the main messages were: support for some action, strong pressure to reduce the proposed limit below four, and frequent calls for a more nuanced approach based on control, dog type and enforceability rather than a single blanket number.

Means to collect and dispose of dog faeces

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the new proposal that authorised officers could request that the person in charge of dogs produce to them a suitable means to collect and dispose of dog faeces?

810/818 - Linear scale - optional

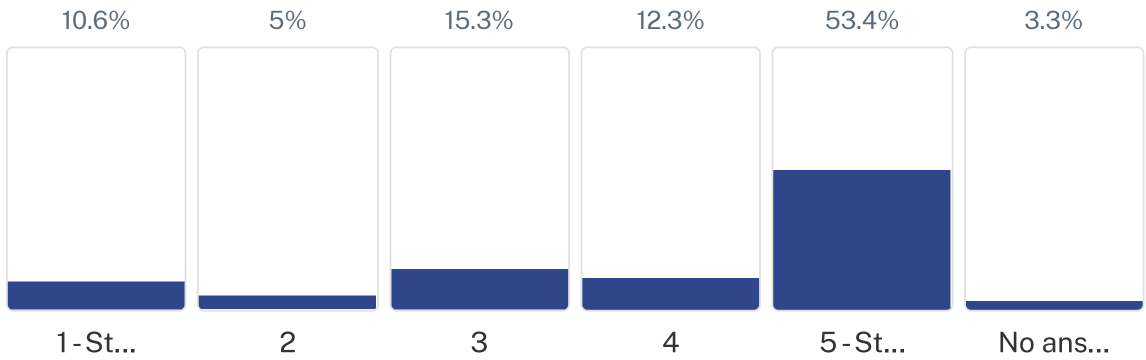


1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Exceptions to the order

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above exception?

791/818 - Linear scale - optional



1 - Strongly disagree
5 - Strongly agree

Do you have any other comments around the above exception? Or any other exceptions that should be included in the order?

184/818 - Long answer - optional

Most comments argued that any exception for assistance dogs should be very limited. The strongest and most repeated view was that dog fouling rules should still apply to everyone: respondents repeatedly said dog mess is a public health and hygiene issue regardless of who owns the dog, and owners or handlers should still carry bags and clear it up.

A very common concern was abuse of the term “assistance dog”. Many respondents said the definition is too vague, especially around emotional support, therapy or comfort dogs, and wanted tighter wording, proof, registration, certification, visible identification, or a nationally recognised standard for genuine working assistance dogs. Several said exemptions should apply only to clearly trained guide dogs, hearing dogs, or other officially recognised assistance dogs, not self-declared support animals.

Another frequent point was that assistance dogs are usually on lead anyway, so many respondents did not see the case for exempting them from lead requirements. A common compromise view was: allow access to restricted areas where needed for disabled people, but still require the dog to be under control, usually on a lead, and subject to fouling rules.

Many respondents said any exception should depend on the handler’s disability and whether it genuinely makes compliance impossible or unreasonable. Blind people were the group most often mentioned as a possible case for exemption; others said many disabled handlers are perfectly capable of complying, so exceptions should be case-specific rather than blanket.

There was also a smaller but noticeable group strongly supporting broad exemptions for assistance dogs, mainly on accessibility and anti-discrimination grounds, saying people who rely on them must be able to access public spaces fairly.

Other recurring comments were about practicality and enforcement: concerns about over-policing, inconsistent or discriminatory enforcement, and doubts about checking whether someone has bags. Several also asked for more bins, emptied more often, and in some cases biodegradable bags or better disposal arrangements.

Additional information

Do you have any other comments about the public spaces protection order for dog control?

302/818 - Long answer - optional

Enforcement was the strongest theme. Many respondents said any PSPO will only work if rules are actually enforced, with more patrols, dog wardens/officers, visible penalties and repeat-offender fines. Several said current rules are widely ignored and that they rarely see any enforcement at all.

A large number also focused on uncontrolled dogs: dogs off lead approaching or jumping at people, frightening children, attacking other dogs, chasing wildlife or livestock, and causing problems for runners and cyclists. Many wanted stricter lead requirements, often in all public spaces or at least in busy parks, commons, paths, play areas and near water/play facilities. Jesus Green, Midsummer Common, Lammas Land, Cherry Hinton Hall and Parker's Piece were mentioned repeatedly.

Dog fouling was another major topic. Respondents complained about poo on pavements, parks and sports grounds, and about tied poo bags being left behind or hung in trees. A common practical request was for more bins, replacement of removed bins, more frequent emptying, and in some cases free poo bags near bins.

There was a clear split over whether restrictions should be tightened. One group wanted much stronger controls, more dog-free spaces, more leads-only areas, tougher fines, licensing/registration, and greater priority for children, non-dog owners and wildlife. Some said all dogs should be on leads except in designated enclosed dog areas.

The other large group argued the proposals are disproportionate, anti-dog or overly bureaucratic, and punish responsible owners for the behaviour of a minority. They stressed dogs need accessible off-lead exercise for welfare, socialisation and owners' mental health, and asked for more designated off-lead or fenced dog areas instead of blanket restrictions.

Mill Road Cemetery drew especially strong and divided comment. Supporters of tighter controls cited children being scared and wildlife protection. Opponents repeatedly said the evidence for bird-related restrictions there is weak, that dogs should remain off lead, and that dog walkers help deter antisocial behaviour, drug use and human fouling in the cemetery.

Many objected specifically to officers being able to ask people to show they are carrying poo bags. This was often described as heavy-handed, pointless, overreach or a poor use of resources; several preferred fines for actual fouling rather than "stop and produce" style checks.

Signage and communication came up often too. Respondents wanted clearer, more visible signs, maps, and better explanation of why restrictions are needed, especially around wildlife and seasonal controls.

A recurring secondary theme was that other problems in public spaces deserve more attention and resources, especially drugs, antisocial behaviour, litter, human fouling and dangerous cycling/mopeds. Some argued these are more serious than dog issues, or that dog walkers actually help make spaces safer.

About you

Do you own a dog/s?

747/818 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No — 51% (417 choices)

Yes — 40.3% (330 choices)

No answer — 8.7% (71 choices)

Are you a professional dog walker?

731/818 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No — 88.4% (723 choices)

No answer — 10.6% (87 choices)

Yes — 1% (8 choices)

Demographic data

Respondents are invited to share some details about themselves as part of the registration process on our online engagement platform. This helps us better understand how representative the responses are of the people who live and work in Cambridge.

To ensure that the survey is accessible to as many people as possible, we do not make it compulsory to provide this data. The online engagement platform is continually working to improve how it presents this data.

Age

Age	
0 - 9	
10 - 19	
20 - 29	1%
30 - 39	9%
40 - 49	8%
50 - 59	12%
60 - 69	11%
70 - 79	7%
80 - 89	2%
90+	
Unknown	50%

Place of residence

Abbey	2%
Arbury	6%
Castle	3%
Cherry Hinton	3%
Coleridge	2%
East Cambridgeshire	
East Chesterton	4%
Fenland	
Huntingdonshire	
King's Hedges	3%
Market	2%
Newnham	1%
Petersfield	14%
Queen Edith's	3%
Romsey	4%
South Cambridgeshire	5%
Trumpington	6%
West Chesterton	6%

Somewhere else 1%

Unknown 35%

Which of the following describes how you think of yourself? (please select one response from the following)

Male 28%

Female 36%

In another way

Prefer not to say 5%

Unknown 31%

Formal Response to Cambridge City Council's Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation

Submitted on 8th September 2026 by: Royal Kennel Club, Clarges Street, London W1J 8AB, email: kcdog@royalkennelclub.com

The Royal Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare, and training. Our objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners. We campaign for and advocate on behalf of dogs and their owners and, as part of our external affairs activities, engage with local authorities on issues such as Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs).

The Royal Kennel Club is the only national organisation named by the UK Government as a body that local authorities should consult prior to introducing restrictions on dog walkers and is considered the leading canine authority on dog access. As such, we would like to highlight the importance of ensuring that PSPOs are necessary and proportionate responses to problems caused by dogs and irresponsible owners. We also believe that it is essential for authorities to balance the interests of dog owners with the interests of other access users.

Response to proposed measures

Dog fouling

The Royal Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the local authority to employ further proactive measures to help promote responsible dog ownership throughout the local area in addition to introducing Orders in this respect. These proactive measures can include: increasing the number of bins available for dog owners to use; communicating to local dog owners that bagged dog faeces can be disposed of in normal litter bins; running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog.

On lead

We can support reasonable 'dogs on lead' Orders which can, when used in a proportionate and evidence-based way, include areas such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic. However, we will oppose PSPOs which introduce blanket restrictions on dog walkers accessing public open spaces without specific and reasonable justification. Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, dog owners have a legal duty of care to provide their dogs with appropriate daily exercise, including “regular opportunities to walk and run”, which in most cases will be off lead whilst still under control.

Accordingly, the underlying principle we seek to see applied is that dog controls should be the least restrictive to achieve a given defined and measurable outcome; this is the approach used by Natural England. In many cases, a seasonal or time of day restriction will be effective and the least restrictive approach, rather than a blanket year-round restriction. For instance, a “dogs on lead” order for a picnic area is unlikely to be necessary in mid-winter.

On lead by direction
The Royal Kennel Club welcomes ‘On lead by direction’ Orders. These allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst simultaneously giving the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control.

We recommend that the authorised officer enforcing the Order is familiar with dog behaviour in order to determine whether restraint is necessary. There exists the possibility that a dog, through no fault of its own, could be considered a ‘nuisance’ or ‘annoyance’ to someone who simply does not like dogs.

We encourage local authorities to make use of more flexible and targeted measures at their disposal, including Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices. Royal Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and our accredited trainers can assist owners whose dogs run out of control due to them not having the ability to train a reliable recall.

Exclusions
The Royal Kennel Club does not typically oppose Orders to exclude dogs from playgrounds or enclosed recreational grounds, such as skate parks or tennis courts, as long as alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity. Children and dogs should be able to socialise together quite safely under adult supervision, with having a child in the home the biggest predictor for a family owning a dog.

Sports Pitches
Regarding dog control measures on sports pitches, we ask local authorities to consider whether or not access restrictions are necessary. If they are deemed to be so, time or seasonal restrictions may be more appropriate than a continuous exclusion order. We are aware that in many areas, dog walkers do allow their dogs to exercise on playing fields when they are not in use.

We understand the safety concerns underpinning restrictions while the sports pitches are in use. It is also worth noting that compliance with such an order can be difficult for dog walkers if there are no boundaries around the playing field, given that dogs will not recognise the difference between playing fields and other grassed areas.

Nature Reserves, Lakes and Waterways
The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is clear that a PSPO can only be introduced 'where activities have had or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality…'. It is clear from the Act, its accompanying explanatory notes and Government guidance documents that this is referring to the effects on people, and not other non-human species.

The Council should be satisfied that the implementation of restrictions to protect nature reserves meets the legal requirements. We support Natural England's policy that restrictions on public access should be the least restrictive possible. For example, if the sensitive time for ground-nesting birds is between 1 March and 31 July, the implementation of a year-round dogs on lead rule would be inappropriate response.

Maximum number of dogs
We feel that an arbitrary maximum number of dogs a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control that can result in displacement and subsequently intensify problems in other areas. The maximum number of dogs a person can walk in a controlled manner is dependent on a number of other factors relating to the walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used, and the location where the walking is taking place.

If the proposed measure is being considered as a result of issues arising from commercial dog walkers, we suggest councils instead look at accreditation schemes that have worked successfully in places like East Lothian. These can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice rather than simply curbing the excesses of just one aspect of dog walking. Accreditation can also ensure dog walkers are properly insured and act as advocates for good behaviour by other dog owners.

Appropriate signage
It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs, The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 makes it a legal requirement for local authorities to –
"cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to -

> (i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and
> (ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be)."

Regarding dog access restrictions, such as a ‘Dogs on Lead’ Order, on-site signage should clearly state where such restrictions begin and end. This can be achieved with signs that say on one side, for example, ‘You are entering [type of area]’ and ‘You are leaving [type of area]’ on the reverse.

While all dog walkers should be aware of their requirement to pick up after their dog, signage must be erected for the PSPO to be compliant with the legislation.

Assistance dogs

We urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission’s guidance for businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs. The guidance can be viewed here:
https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf

Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This tool helps the Council ensure that we fulfil legal obligations of the Public Sector Equality Duty to have due regard to the need to –

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Guidance on how to complete this tool can be found on the Cambridge City Council intranet. For specific questions on the tool please contact the Community Equity Team at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk.

Also, once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to equalities@cambridge.gov.uk for checking.

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service
Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Renewal and Variation

2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)
https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/dog-control-public-spaces-protection-order-2026

3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?
The purpose of the Dog Control PSPO is to promote responsible dog ownership and ensure public spaces remain clean, safe and accessible for everyone. The PSPO addresses dog fouling, dogs being out of control, and dog-related nuisance while balancing the interests of dog owners and other users of public spaces.

4. Responsible Team and Group
Public Safety Team, Communities Group

5. **Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?** **(Please tick all that apply)**	☒ Residents ☒ Visitors ☐ Staff
Residents, visitors, dog owners, professional dog walkers, users of parks and open spaces, disabled people who rely on assistance dogs, children and families.	

6. **What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this?**	☐ New ☐ Major change ☒ Minor change

7. **Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick)**	☒ Yes ☐ No
Public Safety Team, Legal Services, Communications Team, Public Realm and Environment (Development Team)	

8. **What research methods/ evidence have you used in order to identify equality impacts of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?**
Complaints data, enforcement records, consultation responses, statutory guidance, Equality Act 2010 considerations and officer experience.

9. **Potential impacts** For each category below, please explain if the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could have a positive/ negative impact or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is. Consider impacts on service users, visitors and staff members separately.

(a) Age - Please also consider any safeguarding issues for children and adults at risk
Positive impact. Cleaner and safer parks benefit children, young people and older residents.

(b) Disability
Positive overall impact. Cleaner spaces improve accessibility. Exemptions and reasonable adjustments for assistance dog users will be maintained.

(c) Gender reassignment
No impact identified

(d) Marriage and civil partnership
No impact identified

(e) Pregnancy and maternity
Positive overall impact. Cleaner spaces improve accessibility. Exemptions and reasonable adjustments for assistance dog users will be maintained.

(f) Race – Note that the protected characteristic 'race' refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.
No significant impact identified. Clear communication will reduce any language barriers

(g) Religion or belief
No impact identified

(h) Sex
No Impact identified

(i) Sexual orientation
No Impact identified

(j) Other factors that may lead to inequality – in particular, please consider the impact of any changes on:

- **Low-income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty.**
- **People of any age with care experience – this refers to individuals who spent part of their childhood in the care system due to situations beyond their control, primarily arising from abuse and neglect within their families. The term "Care experience" is a description of a definition in law, it includes anyone that had the state as its corporate parent by virtue of a care order in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and amendments.**
- **Groups who have more than one protected characteristic that taken together create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. (Here you are being asked to consider intersectionality, and for more information see: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/1_l59kt25q).**

Fixed Penalty Notices may affect lower-income groups disproportionately. Enforcement will be proportionate and education-led. No specific impacts identified for care-experienced people.

10. Action plan – New equality impacts will be identified in different stages throughout the planning and implementation stages of changes to your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service. How will you monitor these going forward? Also, how will you ensure that any potential negative impacts of the changes will be mitigated? (Please include dates where possible for when you will update this EqIA accordingly.)

- Ensure assistance dog exemptions are clearly explained in PSPO documents and publicity.
- Provide equality and reasonable adjustment guidance to officers.
- Monitor complaints and enforcement activity for disproportionate impacts.
- Review equality impacts during future PSPO reviews.

11. Do you have any additional comments?

The assessment identifies an overall positive impact through cleaner, safer and more accessible public spaces. No significant adverse impacts on protected groups have been identified.

12. Sign off
Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Sarah Steggles Public Satety Team Manager Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: Graham Lewis Community Equity Officer Date of EqIA sign off: 08/09/2026 Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: September 2029 Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: Click here to enter text.

All EqIAs need to be sent to the Community Equity Team at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk

REPORT TITLE: River Cam, Chalk Streams and Tributaries – Strategic Review and Environmental Projects

To:
Cabinet 23rd September 2026

Report by:
Alistair Wilson – Assistant Director for Public Realm and Environment
Tel: 01223 458514 Email alistair.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:
All

Director Approval: Director James Elms confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	**Recommendations**
1.1	It is recommended that Cabinet: **a. Chalk-stream restoration and external funding** i. **Note** the significant programme of existing Council and partnership activity to protect, restore and improve the River Cam, its chalk streams and tributaries. ii. **Note** the evidence emerging from the Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project and **support** its transition into a Cambridge city-wide chalk-stream restoration programme. iii. **Approve** the acceptance of grant funding of up to **£1.9 million from South Staffordshire Water (Cambridge Water)** to support the development and delivery of restoration projects across Cambridge's chalk-stream network, including Coldham's Brook, Cherry Hinton Brook, Hobson's Brook, Vicar's Brook

and associated springheads and connections to the River Cam.

iv. **Approve** officers to secure grant funding of approximately **£600,000**, to develop and deliver a resilient, nature-based pollution-mitigation scheme for Hobson's Brook, subject to final agreement of the funding terms.

v. **Delegate authority** to the Assistant Director for Public Realm and Environment, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to finalise the necessary grant and partnership agreements relating to the South Staffordshire Water and Hobson's Brook pollution-mitigation scheme provided that the final terms do not create material unfunded liabilities for the Council.

vi. **Support** the continued development of an evidence-led restoration programme across Cambridge's chalk-stream network, with individual interventions determined by hydrological, water-quality, ecological and other relevant evidence.

b. River infrastructure and Jesus Green

i. **Note** progress on the Council's River Cam infrastructure, including the proposed stabilisation and replacement of the Jesus Green river wall and its relationship with the future repair and management of Jesus Green Lock.

ii. **Recommend to Council to approve** an increase in the Jesus Green river wall project budget from the **£850,000 approved in October 2024 to a maximum of £2.441 million**, to enable the stabilisation and replacement works to proceed and the competitive procurement process to commence.

iii. **Approve** an open, two-stage procurement process comprising:

   a. the appointment of a preferred contractor under a Pre-Construction Services Agreement; and
   b. subject to an acceptable final design, construction methodology, cost plan and contract sum, entry into the main construction contract.

	iv. **Support** the Council using its convening role to work with the Conservators of the River Cam, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, relevant public bodies, businesses and other partners to: a. explore sustainable financial and commercial opportunities for the repair and future management of Jesus Green Lock; and b. strengthen the longer-term financial sustainability and resilience of the Conservators of the River Cam. **c. Water quality, water resources and environmental projects** i. **Note** the work undertaken and planned at Sheep's Green, and the importance of Designated Bathing Water monitoring data in informing continued engagement with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and other relevant partners. ii. **Note** the work being undertaken through the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service in relation to water scarcity, abstraction, water efficiency, wastewater capacity and sustainable growth. iii. **Support** the continued development of externally funded environmental improvement projects, including opportunities available through the Cambridge Water Pebble Fund, subject to the Council's normal governance, financial and approval arrangements. iv. **Support** the development, consultation and adoption of watercourse land drainage model byelaws, subject to the necessary consultation and approval processes, to strengthen the protection and management of the River Cam, associated chalk streams, water environments and adjacent public spaces. **d. Coordination and partnership working** i. **Support** continued partnership working with statutory bodies, catchment

	organisations, voluntary and community groups, academic institutions and other partners to protect and improve the River Cam and its tributaries. ii. **Agree** that future river and chalk-stream activity should increasingly be developed and managed as a coordinated programme, enabling the Council and its partners to identify shared priorities, funding opportunities, intended outcomes, dependencies and gaps in provision.
2.	**Purpose and reason for the report**
2.1	This report responds to the resolution of Full Council in July 2026 requesting an officer report reviewing current Council activity relating to the River Cam and its tributaries, existing partnership arrangements, opportunities for improvement, and alignment with the Council's Biodiversity Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy and the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The motion recognises the River Cam and its tributaries as important environmental, ecological, recreational and cultural assets and confirms that the Council will continue to have regard to the impact of its decisions on the health of the river, consistent with its statutory duties, powers and responsibilities. The Council has an important role as a significant riverbank landowner, local planning authority, open-space manager, land drainage authority, project funder and delivery partner. It undertakes riverbank management, biodiversity enhancement, sustainable drainage and flood resilience work, manages public access and assets adjoining the river and is directly involved in a growing programme of river and chalk-stream restoration. Responsibility for the health and management of the River Cam is distributed between several organisations. These include the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water, Anglian Water, the Conservators of the River Cam, Natural England, Cambridgeshire County Council, universities and colleges, other riparian landowners and local communities. This report therefore considers both the activity for which the City Council is directly responsible and the wider partnerships through which the Council can influence water quality, water quantity, biodiversity, river infrastructure and the long-term resilience of the Cam catchment.

	The report also covers investment in river infrastructure, including the Council-owned river wall and work relating to Jesus Green Lock; activity at Sheep's Green; planning and water-resource work through the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service; and collaboration with statutory, voluntary, academic and community partners.
3.	**Background and Key Issues**
3.1	Full Council considered a motion concerning the River Cam and its tributaries in July 2026. The adopted motion recognised a series of aspirations for the river, including its ability to flow, sustain biodiversity, remain free from pollution, connect with other watercourses and be capable of restoration. The amended motion recognises that the Council must act within its statutory duties, powers and responsibilities and that responsibility for the river is shared between several organisations. Full Council specifically requested an officer report reviewing current Council activity, partnership arrangements, opportunities for improvement and alignment with relevant Council strategies and the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The motion also recognises the extensive evidence already prepared through the Local Plan process concerning water scarcity, abstraction reduction and sustainable growth and supports continued collaboration with relevant partners. The purpose of this report is not to establish a new body responsible for the River Cam. It brings together activity already being undertaken by the Council and its partners, identifies the areas in which the Council can make the greatest contribution, and considers how that work can be better coordinated. The environmental conditions described in the motion are interacting processes rather than separate issues. Flow, groundwater recharge, sediment movement, water chemistry, temperature, pollution and ecological connectivity all influence the ability of freshwater habitats to support characteristic plants and wildlife. An observed environmental problem does not necessarily establish its principal cause. For example, evidence of low river flow may raise legitimate concerns but will not, by itself, establish the relative contributions of abstraction, groundwater levels, recharge, augmentation or groundwater-river exchange. Determining causation and selecting an effective response requires appropriately integrated and specialist evidence. The Council's approach is therefore based on distinguishing between identifying a problem, establishing its cause and determining the most effective and sustainable

	intervention. It also recognises that pollution, nutrients and sediment entering a springhead, tributary or drainage network can subsequently move through the connected freshwater system towards the River Cam.
4.	**Strategic Context**
4.1	The Council's work to protect and enhance the River Cam, its tributaries and the wider chalk stream network sits within an increasingly strong national and local policy framework for nature recovery, climate resilience and sustainable water management. The work described in this report contributes directly to the Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2022–2030, Climate Change Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy 2026–2036 and emerging planning policy, while also supporting wider sub-regional priorities. **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy** Of particular significance is the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), published in December 2025. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a statutory component of the Environment Act 2021 framework and are intended to identify priorities and opportunities for recovering and enhancing biodiversity and to provide a spatial framework for coordinated action. The LNRS is particularly relevant to Cambridge because it recognises rivers, streams, drains and their associated floodplains as an important connected ecological network. All rivers and their floodplains within the strategy area are identified as local priorities for nature recovery, reflecting their role as landscape-scale corridors for wildlife and their potential to deliver wider benefits including improved water quality, natural flood management, climate resilience and public access. The strategy gives prominence to the upper Cam catchment and its chalk streams. These are internationally rare habitats which have been affected by a combination of water abstraction, modification of river channels, drainage, pollution and wider pressures on water quality and quantity. The LNRS includes a specific priority to conserve and restore chalk streams and their associated habitats, alongside measures aimed at improving their ecological function. These include creating and enhancing natural or semi-natural buffers alongside rivers and chalk streams, reducing sediment and pollutant run-off, reconnecting rivers with their floodplains, restoring more natural river processes and improving riparian habitat. This provides an important strategic context for the Council's work on the River Cam and its tributaries. Activities described elsewhere in this report – including partnership

	working on chalk streams, biodiversity enhancement, water-quality initiatives, management of riverside open spaces, natural flood management and collaboration with voluntary and community organisations – can therefore contribute directly to delivery of the LNRS. The LNRS also provides an opportunity to move from individual projects towards a more connected, catchment-based approach. Future projects should, where appropriate, consider the LNRS Local Habitat Map and identified nature-recovery opportunities when developing proposals, seeking external funding or collaborating with landowners and partner organisations. **Alignment with Cambridge City Council Strategies** Within the **Biodiversity Strategy 2022–2030** the protection and restoration of the River Cam and its tributaries are aligned. Rivers, chalk streams, wetlands, springheads and riparian habitats form important parts of Cambridge's ecological network. Water quality is itself a biodiversity issue. Characteristic chalk-stream plants, macroinvertebrates and fish depend upon suitable combinations of nutrients, dissolved oxygen, temperature, flow, sediment and physical habitat. The physical appearance of a watercourse, or the completion of habitat works, cannot therefore demonstrate ecological recovery on its own. Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project (GCCSP) and Cambridge Chalk Stream Project (CCSP)[1] combine physicochemical monitoring with biological and habitat evidence so that interventions can be designed and evaluated according to ecological function as well as physical outputs. This supports the Biodiversity Strategy's emphasis on larger-scale connected projects, long-term monitoring and measurable nature recovery. CCSP will consequently be one of the Council's principal delivery mechanisms for freshwater biodiversity recovery, subject to individual interventions being supported by appropriate evidence, consents and long-term management arrangements. Cambridge Chalk Street Project (CCSP) should be understood as multifunctional green-blue infrastructure rather than solely as a biodiversity or physical river-restoration project. Its intended functions include biodiversity recovery, pollution mitigation, improved water quality, drought and flood resilience, wetland and riparian habitat

[1] CCSP is the next, larger-scale phase arising from the Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project (GCCSP). It will apply the evidence, monitoring and practical lessons developed through GCCSP across Cambridge's connected chalk-stream network.

	management, ecological connectivity, community participation and long-term freshwater stewardship. There is also a strong relationship with the **Urban Forest Strategy 2026–2036**. Riparian trees can provide shade, temperature moderation, woody habitat, bank stability and ecological connectivity. However, chalk streams also support aquatic plants that require appropriate light conditions. The appropriate approach is therefore evidence-led riparian tree management rather than an assumption that either additional planting or canopy removal will be beneficial in every location. Decisions about retention, planting, coppicing or selective canopy opening should be made reach by reach, taking account of temperature evidence, channel characteristics, aquatic vegetation, bank stability, public safety and ecological objectives. This reflects the wider principle of CCSP: an intervention should not be applied uniformly simply because it may be beneficial under some conditions. The Council's **Climate Change Strategy** is similarly relevant. Climate change is increasing pressure on freshwater environments through changes in rainfall, groundwater recharge, drought, temperature and the frequency of extreme weather. The resilience of the Cam catchment is therefore both a biodiversity and climate-adaptation issue. CCSP will contribute to this work by integrating evidence concerning groundwater and springhead behaviour, seasonal flow, geology, topography, water quality and biological condition. Proposed technical work will also consider drought and flood scenarios so that interventions can be assessed against a range of future conditions. The programme is therefore intended to contribute to biodiversity recovery, drought and flood resilience, water-quality resilience and climate adaptation. This does not mean that individual restoration measures will provide all these benefits automatically; the relevant benefits and limitations will need to be established for each location through design, assessment and monitoring. **Planning and Development** The planning system also has an increasingly vital role in delivering nature recovery. The Greater Cambridge planning framework, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements

	and the LNRS together provide opportunities to ensure that development contributes to a coherent ecological network rather than delivering isolated habitat interventions. The LNRS should therefore increasingly inform consideration of opportunities associated with development, Biodiversity Net Gain, Section 106 contributions and other environmental investment, particularly where these can strengthen the River Cam corridor, chalk streams and their wider catchments. This strategic alignment provides an opportunity for Cambridge to connect Council-owned land, planning interventions, externally funded projects and community-led activity into a broader programme of nature recovery across the River Cam catchment. The Cambridge City Council Biodiversity Strategy 2026–2031 provides an important strategic framework for the Council's work to protect and enhance the River Cam, its tributaries and associated wetland and riparian habitats. The river corridor is one of the city's most important ecological assets, connecting internationally important chalk stream habitats with commons, parks, Local Nature Reserves and the wider countryside. A key objective of the Strategy is to restore and enhance chalk streams and river habitats, recognising healthier chalk streams, riverbanks and associated wetlands as an important biodiversity outcome for Cambridge. This includes improving the ecological condition and connectivity of priority habitats along river corridors, enabling wildlife to move more freely through the city and between Cambridge and the surrounding countryside. The River Cam and its tributaries also have an important role in strengthening the Cambridge Nature Network[2]. The river, its tributaries, riverside commons and Local Nature Reserves provide a connected network of green and blue infrastructure through the city. Protecting and enhancing these corridors can increase the resilience of habitats and species to climate change and other environmental pressures while providing wider benefits for landscape, recreation and people's connection with nature. The Strategy supports delivery of the LNRS and provides a local mechanism through which opportunities identified by the LNRS can be translated into practical action. This is particularly relevant to the restoration of chalk streams, enhancement of riparian

[2] The Cambridge Nature Network is a landscape-scale spatial vision and partnership seeking to protect, enhance and connect important habitats across Cambridge and its surrounding countryside. The River Cam, its chalk streams, wetlands, springheads and riparian corridors form important elements of this connected ecological network. GCCSP and CCSP contribute to its objectives by improving freshwater habitats and strengthening ecological connections from Cambridge’s springheads and tributaries towards the River Cam.

	habitats, wetland creation and improved ecological connectivity across the wider Cam catchment. The Council has already demonstrated how targeted interventions can improve river and wetland habitats. Projects such as the Logan's Meadow wetland creation and the Rush fish pass at Sheep's Green provide examples of practical habitat restoration and enhancement. The Strategy provides a framework for building on these interventions and identifying further opportunities on Council-owned land and through work with partners and other landowners. There is also a particular focus on improving the condition of designated sites and Local Nature Reserves associated with the Cam corridor. Appropriate management plans, monitoring and targeted habitat interventions have been developed to ensure that these sites improve in ecological condition over time and function as part of a connected network rather than as isolated areas of habitat. Development and green infrastructure planning also have an important role. The application of Biodiversity Net Gain, alongside planning policy and other developer contributions, provides opportunities to create, restore and connect habitats associated with rivers and watercourses. Where appropriate, investment should be directed towards strengthening green and blue corridors and delivering interventions that complement wider nature recovery priorities. The Strategy recognises that many of the pressures affecting rivers cannot be addressed within administrative boundaries or by individual organisations. The Council therefore supports catchment-scale partnership working, including the principles of the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA), bringing together local authorities, environmental organisations, water companies, landowners, community groups and other stakeholders. This approach can help coordinate action on water quality, biodiversity, climate resilience, natural flood management, and habitat restoration across the Cam catchment. Through our CCSP funding we are supporting the Cam Catchment partnership Coordinator role hosted at the Wildlife Trust. Finally, the Council is itself an important riverside landowner. Its parks, commons and open spaces along the River Cam and other watercourses provide significant opportunities for nature recovery. Management of these areas should therefore seek opportunities to improve riparian and wetland habitats while recognising that many are also highly valued and intensively used public spaces. The long-term approach will need to balance biodiversity enhancement with recreation, navigation, events, grazing, heritage, landscape and public access. Taken together, these priorities provide a clear strategic basis for the activities and projects described in this report. They also support a shift from individual site-based

	interventions towards a more coordinated river and catchment-scale approach, linking the Council's management of its own land with planning, external investment, community activity and the work of partner organisations.
5.	**Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project**
	The Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project represents one of the Council’s most significant programmes of direct intervention in the Cam catchment. The project was established because the Council identified a gap between the local identification of potential physical restoration measures and the evidence required to determine which interventions would be most likely to produce sustainable ecological benefits. The 2019 Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams Audit provided useful observational information and identified potential works, but subsequent Council-led assessment concluded that further evidence was required to justify and prioritise effective in-channel intervention confidently. The Council therefore assembled funding from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, water companies and Council sources to create an evidence-led case-study programme investigating the principal factors affecting Greater Cambridge’s chalk streams. GCCSP combines water-quality and biological monitoring, sediment and erosion assessment, hydraulic and ecological evidence, practical restoration, academic expertise and citizen science. Its central purpose is not to delay intervention but to reduce the risk of inappropriate or ineffective investment. The methodology moves the starting question from “what physical feature should be installed?” to “what processes are preventing ecological recovery, what evidence demonstrates this and what intervention can sustainably address them?” GCCSP has combined this investigation with substantial practical delivery. Within Cambridge, approximately 1,300 metres of in-channel restoration, 1,200 metres of bankside stabilisation, 2,400 square metres of bankside habitat improvement and 1.4 hectares of springhead and spring-system restoration have been delivered. The Cambridge case-study works and associated springhead restoration have been completed. Remaining River Granta works at Abington and Linton are expected to conclude the practical GCCSP programme in October 2026, with monitoring intended to continue to provide an early post-restoration dataset. **Water-quality evidence** A comprehensive monitoring framework has been established in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University and a network of citizen scientists. Monitoring covers rural and urban chalk-stream sites and examines nutrients alongside pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and turbidity.

	The quarter one 2026 evidence identifies significant pressures across the network. Nitrate exceeded the project's indicative chalk-stream target at every monitored site. Cambridge City sites were also affected, with Cherry Hinton Brook and Coldham's Brook commonly recording nitrate concentrations around 13 mg/l N. Phosphate frequently exceeded the project's threshold, while ammonia was lower but with episodic spikes. The evidence demonstrates why river condition cannot be assessed from appearance alone. Turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH and bacterial indicators can identify short-lived events and localised pressures that would otherwise be missed. The emerging picture is of chalk streams under pressure from nutrient enrichment, low flows, fine sediment, urban runoff, thermal stress, localised pollution pathways, invasive species and historic channel modification. This evidence is increasingly being used to inform restoration design. Rather than applying generic chalk-stream solutions, interventions are developed according to flow, sediment behaviour, water quality, channel form and ecological need. The monitoring programme combines regular physicochemical sampling, laboratory nutrient analysis, continuous logging and biological evidence. This is important because short-duration pollution events, first-flush runoff, temperature changes, dissolved-oxygen stress, turbidity and sediment movement may occur between occasional site visits. The absence of visible pollution, or the presence of apparently attractive physical habitat at a particular moment, cannot therefore be treated as evidence of ecological health. Regulatory classification and ecological restoration design also answer different questions. Water Framework Directive and UKTAG[3] classifications provide an essential regulatory framework, while restoration design may need to consider episodic, cumulative or reach-specific pressures affecting sensitive species or life stages. Project ecological benchmarks should therefore be presented as restoration and risk-management tools, not as alternative statutory compliance standards. This evidence increasingly allows the Council to examine not only whether pollution is present, but where and when it enters the system, the load involved, the ecological response and where it may most effectively be intercepted or mitigated before progressing towards the River Cam. **Moving from project to long-term programme** The current GCCSP delivery phase is due to conclude in October 2026 following completion of the remaining River Granta habitat and visitor-access works at Abington and Linton. Water-quality monitoring at these locations is intended to continue until July 2027 to establish a stronger post-restoration dataset.

[3] UK Technical Advisory Group (UKTAG), which develops the technical standards and assessment methods used by the UK environmental regulators to classify the ecological and chemical condition of water bodies.

A funding agreement with Cambridge Water has been confirmed whereby the project will deliver part of Cambridge Waters' statutory obligations in its Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) to undertake river restoration, providing up to £1.9 million for chalk-stream restoration within Cambridge City. The overall programme is intended to cover the connected urban network including Coldham's Brook, Cherry Hinton Brook, Hobson's Brook and Vicar's Brook, working from springhead to main river.

The programme will include interventions such as in-channel restoration, appropriate gravel augmentation, woody material, marginal and wetland habitat creation, riparian planting and management, buffer creation, pollution mitigation and improved fish passage. The precise intervention at each location will depend upon the evidence identifying the factors limiting ecological recovery. The work will also strengthen the evidence base for effective river restoration interventions through hydrological modelling, geomorphological profiling, flow monitoring, and further water-quality investigation.

Logan's Meadow Wetland Creation Project

The Logan's Meadow Wetland Creation Project provides a strong example of how partnership working, external funding and community-led action can deliver significant biodiversity and wider environmental benefits along the River Cam corridor. Located

	within Logan's Meadow Local Nature Reserve, the project has created new wetland habitats designed to enhance biodiversity, strengthen ecological connectivity, improve floodplain function and increase the resilience of the site to climate change. The scheme contributes directly to the objectives of the Cambridge Nature Network, the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and wider nature recovery ambitions for Greater Cambridge. The project originated from a vision developed by the Friends of Logan's Meadow, working with Cambridge City Council and a range of environmental and community partners, including the Cambridge Nature Network and Natural England. Importantly, the project demonstrates how different sources of external investment can be brought together around a shared nature recovery objective. Funding was secured from a number of sources, including National Lottery funding to support design and consultation, Natural England Green Recovery funding for woodland buffer creation, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority funding, and developer contributions secured through Section 106 agreements. Bringing these different funding streams together enabled a more ambitious and integrated scheme than would have been achievable through a single source of funding. Construction of the new wetland features has created a mosaic of aquatic, marginal and surrounding terrestrial habitats, increasing opportunities for wetland-dependent wildlife and improving the ecological diversity and connectivity of the reserve. Early monitoring has recorded species including water vole, otter and kingfisher, illustrating the potential for appropriately located habitat creation and restoration to produce rapid ecological benefits. The project also demonstrates the importance of the Council's riverside parks, commons and nature reserves as places where nature recovery can be delivered alongside public access and recreation. In addition to biodiversity enhancement, the scheme provides benefits associated with climate adaptation, floodplain restoration, community involvement and improved access to nature. Logan's Meadow therefore provides a practical example of the approach advocated elsewhere in this report: combining community initiative, Council land management, partnership expertise, external grant funding and developer contributions to deliver nature recovery at a strategically important location. The lessons from the project can help inform future opportunities for wetland creation, riparian habitat enhancement and river restoration elsewhere along the River Cam and its tributaries.
6.	**Community Participation and Citizen Science**
	A significant strength of GCCSP has been the combination of community participation with professionally governed monitoring and evidence.

Volunteers provide regular local monitoring, observations, practical support and longer-term stewardship. Anglia Ruskin University and other specialist partners provide scientific protocols, laboratory analysis, biological monitoring, quality assurance, interpretation and evidence synthesis.

The project has supported training in river-habitat assessment, data-logger maintenance, aquatic-plant identification, non-native species management, safe working and the leadership of practical work parties. Through the PEBBLE[4]-supported programme, 46 volunteers contributed 368 hours of practical support, with an indicative in-kind value of £4,493.28.

This model increases monitoring and practical capacity without lowering the evidential standard. Citizen science supplements and strengthens professional evidence; it does not replace it.

Water quality monitoring

[4] Cambridge Water's Pebble Fund provides grants for community-led projects that support water conservation, biodiversity and improvements to the local water environment. It may offer a potential funding route for smaller-scale river and chalk-stream restoration, monitoring, education and community-engagement projects

7	**River Cam - Council Land and Riverbank Management**
	Cambridge City Council is a significant riparian landowner. Its responsibilities extend beyond biodiversity projects and include management of major public open spaces and sections of riverbank adjoining the Cam. These responsibilities include vegetation and tree management, public access, bank management, drainage and flood resilience, biodiversity enhancement, management of recreational activity and maintenance of Council-owned infrastructure. Major riverside open spaces include Jesus Green, Midsummer Common, Stourbridge Common, Sheep's Green/Lammas Land, Coe Fen, Paradise Local Nature Reserve and other sites through which the Cam and its tributaries pass. These areas need to fulfil several functions simultaneously: important ecological corridors, floodplain, highly used recreational spaces, historic landscapes and routes for walking, cycling and access to the river. The Council's management approach therefore needs to balance ecological enhancement with public safety, access, recreation, flood management, heritage and operational requirements. Council-owned riverbanks, commons and open spaces should increasingly be considered as parts of a connected green-blue ecological network, while recognising their equally legitimate recreational, heritage, navigation, access and operational functions. Evidence generated through CCSP can help inform decisions concerning bank stability, erosion, sediment, vegetation, shade, water quality and ecological connectivity. The intention is not for biodiversity to override every other use, but for routine land-management and capital decisions affecting river corridors to take appropriate account of freshwater ecological function. **Residential Moorings** The Council has a long-established role in managing residential moorings on sections of the River Cam where it is the riparian landowner. This forms part of the wider management of the river corridor and requires the Council to balance the needs of the residential boating community with navigation, biodiversity, public access, recreation and the amenity of adjoining open spaces. The Council currently provides 75 licensed residential moorings, comprising 60 narrow-beam and 15 wide-beam spaces. Residential mooring is permitted alongside areas including Jesus Green, Midsummer Common and Stourbridge Common, with pontoon

provision at Riverside. Moorings are allocated and managed in accordance with the Council's River Moorings Policy and associated rules and regulations.

The Council's responsibilities include the allocation and annual renewal of licences, management of waiting lists, setting and collecting licence fees, management of designated residential, visitor and temporary mooring areas, and addressing breaches of mooring conditions. Licence conditions also help protect the river and adjoining open spaces, including controls relating to waste and sewage discharge, nuisance, obstruction, smoke, generators and the use of moorings for business activity.

This role is distinct from that of the Conservators of the River Cam, who are the statutory navigation authority. Residential vessels therefore operate within a framework in which the City Council manages use of its riverbank and mooring spaces as landowner, while the Conservators regulate navigation and vessels on the river. This illustrates the wider theme of this report that effective management of the Cam frequently requires different organisations to exercise complementary responsibilities.

Residential moorings also represent an established community on the river and need to be considered when significant river infrastructure or environmental projects are developed. Projects affecting riverbanks, access, navigation or water levels should therefore consider potential effects on residential moorings at an early stage, alongside ecological, engineering and public-access requirements.

Commercial Punt Stations

Commercial punting is another important use of the River Cam and is integral to Cambridge's visitor economy and the character of the city centre. As with residential moorings, responsibility is shared between the Council and the Conservators according to their respective roles.

The Conservators recognise and license six punting stations in Cambridge, including stations at La Mimosa/Jesus Green, Quayside, Trinity College, the Mill Pond at Silver Street, Mill Lane and the Granta mill pond near Sheep's Green. Not all of these are on City Council land.

Where commercial punt stations operate from Council-owned land or landing stages, the Council acts principally in its capacity as landowner and commercial property owner. Long-standing arrangements at the Jesus Green/La Mimosa punt station, for example, have allowed operators to trade from Council-owned landing stages under agreements granted by the Council as landowner, while the Conservators separately regulate navigation and grant commercial punt licences.

	The letting and management of commercial punt stations therefore provides the Council with a further mechanism for managing activity associated with the river. Commercial arrangements need to secure appropriate use of Council assets while also considering public access, congestion, environmental impacts, neighbouring uses and the quality of the riverside environment. Commercial punting and residential moorings demonstrate that the Cam is not solely an environmental asset. It is simultaneously a habitat, navigation, home, workplace, visitor attraction and recreational space. The Council's role as riparian landowner consequently requires these uses to be managed alongside the biodiversity, water-quality and climate objectives described elsewhere in this report, **Industrial water offtakes** Several decarbonisation projects are being developed across Cambridge to support the transition to net zero. These include proposals for river-source heating, such as the Darwin College scheme granted planning permission in 2025, and the larger city-centre heat network being explored by the Council in partnership with city-centre colleges. River-source heat systems abstract water temporarily, extract heat through a heat exchanger and return the water to the river at a lower temperature. Subject to their design, scale and operating conditions, such schemes may contribute to the decarbonisation of heat while potentially helping to moderate some of the artificial warming experienced by the River Cam as it passes through the developed city centre. These potential benefits should not be assumed or considered in isolation. Each proposal must assess its effects on river flow, water temperature, water quality, ecology, fish and other aquatic species, navigation and the cumulative impact of other abstractions and discharges. Any scheme must be designed and operated sensitively and obtain the necessary planning permission, Environment Agency licences and environmental permits before it proceeds. The Council should continue to engage with the Environment Agency and scheme promoters so that the carbon benefits of river-source heat are considered alongside the protection and, where practicable, improvement of the River Cam’s ecological condition.
9	**Sheep's Green and Bathing Water**
	Sheep's Green and Coe Fen Local Nature Reserve is an important location for the interaction between public access, recreation, biodiversity and river water quality.

	The Council has undertaken and is progressing works at Sheep's Green to improve the site and its relationship with the river. The delivery of The Rush fish pass at Sheep’s Green Local Nature Reserve represents a significant achievement in the restoration and enhancement of the River Cam corridor within Cambridge. The scheme was developed to improve fish passage around the historic mill structures and water control features that can impede the movement of aquatic species. By reconnecting sections of the river and creating more natural flow conditions, the project has enhanced habitat connectivity, supported biodiversity, and contributed to the ecological resilience of the River Cam. The project demonstrates the value of partnership working and has become an exemplar of how targeted infrastructure improvements can deliver benefits for both wildlife and people.  The Rush Fish Pass, Sheep’s Green Building on the success of The Rush, partners are now progressing the Sheep’s Green Watercourse Creation scheme, which will further enhance the ecological value of Sheep’s Green and the wider river corridor. Supported by funding from the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), the project will restore and create watercourse habitats, improve wetland features, and increase opportunities for aquatic and riparian species. The scheme is expected to deliver biodiversity gains, improve habitat connectivity between the River Cam and adjacent green spaces, and increase the resilience of the site to future environmental pressures, including climate change.

	The project has successfully completed its development and design stages and is currently progressing through the costing and procurement phase, with delivery anticipated following contractor appointment. Once implemented, the scheme will complement previous investments in the area, helping to establish Sheep's Green as a key component of the Cambridge Nature Network and a flagship example of urban river restoration that contributes to local biodiversity, water management and public enjoyment of the River Cam landscape Sheep's Green also provides an important source of evidence through its status as a Designated Bathing Water. The Full Council motion specifically resolved that water-quality information from Sheep's Green should be used to press for action to improve the quality of the River Cam. Responsibility for regulating water quality does not rest with the City Council. However, as landowner and a representative of residents and river users, the Council has an important role in using monitoring evidence to engage with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and other responsible bodies. Sheep's Green remains formally classified as having Poor bathing-water quality for the 2025 assessment year, and the associated advice remains that bathing is not advised. Monitoring during 2025 nevertheless showed some improvement compared with 2024, with many E. coli results within the range of 200–300 colonies per 100ml. However, several elevated results meant that the overall statutory classification remained Poor. Monitoring continues during the 2026 bathing season. The latest publicly accessible Environment Agency-derived record, from early August 2026, reported intestinal enterococci at 36 CFU per 100ml, with a pH of 8.1 and water temperature of 21°C. An accompanying E. coli result was not available within the published record reviewed. This individual result is encouraging but cannot be used on its own to determine whether water quality has improved sufficiently to alter the annual classification. Environment Agency investigations have identified both human and ruminant bacterial markers, indicating that the sources of faecal pollution are likely to be complex. The Council should continue to use statutory monitoring evidence to press the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, and other responsible bodies for completion of source-apportionment work and delivery of measures capable of securing a sustained improvement in water quality. Bathing-water and ecological monitoring provide different but complementary forms of evidence. Designated Bathing Water monitoring is particularly important for assessing public-health risks and identifying faecal contamination. It does not, on its own, provide a complete assessment of freshwater ecological condition. GCCSP and CCSP provide complementary evidence concerning nutrients, dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, turbidity, sediment, flow and biological response.

	Bringing the two evidence streams together, where relevant, will provide a stronger basis for the Council's engagement with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and other responsible organisations.
10	**River Infrastructure - River Wall**
	The City Council is the riparian owner of the river wall at Jesus Green. The affected section lies between Jesus Green Lido and Jesus Green Lock. Inspections and investigations have confirmed that the wall is actively moving and rotating, creating a gap of up to two feet between the concrete capping beam and the soil embankment and indicating ongoing structural failure. In October 2024, a budget of £850,000 was approved for repair works. That estimate was based on a high-level assessment of the length of wall requiring repair and assumed that conventional construction plant could operate from the bankside. Subsequent arboricultural, engineering and geotechnical investigations have demonstrated that this delivery assumption is not achievable. The wall adjoins an avenue of mature trees. The scale of land-based plant required for the piling works would cause unacceptable impacts on root-protection areas and tree canopies. The works must therefore be undertaken from the river using floating plant and pontoons. Low bridge clearances restrict the type and size of equipment that can reach the site and require specialist river access, plant and construction solutions. These constraints materially increase the complexity and cost of the project. The technical assessment has identified steel sheet piling as the most viable solution capable of meeting the site's geotechnical and load-bearing requirements while maintaining the required river frontage alignment. Alternative hard-engineering solutions would incur higher costs, longer installation periods and greater embodied carbon. Softer revetment approaches would not provide the necessary structural performance or maintain the required river alignment, particularly given the proximity of existing infrastructure and the adjacent lock. The enhanced total project budget estimate is up to £2,411,000. This reflects the revised water-based delivery methodology, specialist plant requirements and appropriate risk allowances identified following the site investigations. The original £850,000 provision is already included within approved budgets and the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The additional budget requirement and its funding source should be confirmed through the Council's financial decision-making arrangements.

	An open tender using a two-stage procurement approach is proposed. At Stage 1, a preferred contractor would be appointed under a Pre-Construction Services Agreement to work with the Council and design team to develop the detailed design, temporary works, river logistics, construction methodology and final cost plan. Stage 2 would involve negotiation and entry into the main construction contract. If an acceptable contract sum cannot be achieved, the Council would retain the ability to re-tender the developed scheme. A reliable cost estimate will be available for the Councils Budget Setting Report 2027/28. This approach reflects the lessons from previous major infrastructure projects by securing specialist contractor involvement before the Council commits to the main works. It is intended to improve buildability, cost certainty and risk allocation and to reduce the likelihood of inflated tender prices or substantial variations during construction. Subject to approval of the enhanced budget, the programme anticipates commencement of the competitive tender process by October 2026. Failure to intervene would create a risk of localised collapse and potential impacts on Jesus Green Lido, Jesus Green Lock, the boat-user foul-water pump-out facility, adjoining footpaths and strategic cycle routes, underground fibre-optic and drainage infrastructure, mature trees and the riverbank environment. Continuing reactive maintenance or delaying the project would not provide an acceptable response to the active structural movement. The Council has explored opportunities to coordinate the wall works with the adjacent Jesus Green Lock Island repairs being progressed by the Conservators of the River Cam. Shared access arrangements could provide efficiencies, but the Conservators' programme is progressing more slowly than is compatible with the condition of the Council-owned wall. The Council's project should therefore continue to be coordinated with the Conservators but should not be delayed where that would increase the risk of structural failure. Any shared arrangements must clearly allocate cost, liability and future maintenance responsibilities.
11	**Jesus Green Lock and the Conservators of the River Cam**
	The Conservators of the River Cam are a statutory corporate body and remain the navigation authority for the River Cam. Under the legislation governing the Conservators, they are responsible for the regulation of navigation and river traffic and for the maintenance and operation of navigation infrastructure, including locks, weirs and sluices. Those responsibilities remain with the Conservators unless and until the governing legislation is amended or repealed. Jesus Green Lock and Baits Bite Lock have required intervention because of structural concerns. A longer-term solution is required for Jesus Green Lock, and the Full Council

	motion recognises that the cost of major navigation infrastructure can exceed the resources normally available to the Conservators through navigation income alone. The City Council has therefore been working with the Conservators and other partners to understand the condition of Jesus Green Lock, potential engineering solutions, funding requirements and its relationship with the adjacent Council-owned river wall. The Council has an important interest in this work as a riparian landowner and because failure of significant river infrastructure could have wider consequences for navigation, water levels, recreation, biodiversity and the management of adjacent public land. The Council also appoints seven of the thirteen Conservators and consequently has a significant governance interest. This does not, however, make the Council directly responsible for the Conservators' finances, operations or statutory navigation functions. Section 12 of the Cambridge City Council Act 1985 provides that the Council may, if it thinks fit, pay money to the Conservators. Legal advice records that this is a discretionary power, rather than a statutory duty to fund the Conservators or make good any deficit. The 1985 Act removed the Council's historic responsibility to make up deficits incurred by the Conservators. Any proposal for a Council contribution would therefore require a separate decision under the Council's normal financial and governance arrangements, having regard to the purpose, benefits, affordability, risks and any conditions attached to the funding. The Conservators cannot be dissolved, wound up or have their statutory functions transferred through a simple governance decision by the Council or the Conservators. Advice obtained by the Council indicates that the Conservators' statutory duties continue while the governing legislation remains in force and that dissolution, or the transfer of navigation responsibilities to the Council or another authority, would require legislative change and extensive consultation. Any alternative long-term model would also need to identify which body would assume the navigation function, infrastructure liabilities, regulatory powers, assets and ongoing financial obligations. The immediate focus should therefore be on practical collaboration within the present statutory framework. The Council can use its convening role, governance interest and relationships with public bodies, landowners and potential funders to help the Conservators explore sustainable business and financial options and to develop a deliverable solution for Jesus Green Lock. This should not be interpreted as the Council accepting responsibility for the Conservators' statutory functions, operational liabilities or future deficits.
12	**Planning, Water Resources and Sustainable Growth**
	The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has undertaken substantial work examining the relationship between development, water supply, abstraction,

wastewater capacity and environmental constraints as part of preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Water availability is a strategic constraint for Greater Cambridge. The issue is particularly important because of the relationship between groundwater abstraction and the chalk aquifer which supports the area's chalk streams.

The formation of a Cambridge Water Scarcity Group in 2023 brought together the key agencies to identify solutions. The objectives of the Water Scarcity Group are to advise government on the development of a detailed approach to water scarcity issues in Greater Cambridge in the short, medium, and long-term, and to advise on wastewater and drainage services. The Group is chaired by Dr Paul Leinster (current Chair of Water Resources East and previous Chief Executive of the Environment Agency), and consists of key stakeholders including water companies, Water Resources East, the Environment Agency and water regulators, and the local planning authorities.

Measures being implemented include a Water Efficiency Programme to retrofit public buildings and social housing with water efficiency and water reuse measures. Government funding has been provided to the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service to implement the programme, which has now commenced. A second phase involving other stakeholders has also commenced to explore a wider range of efficiency and reuse measures in different types of buildings. A water credits system has also been considered and could be subject to further work in future. Programmes are also trialling nature-based solutions to assist with aquifer recharge and exploring a range of measures with the agricultural sector.

Water plans by Cambridge Water and Water Resources East include various additional measures to address short term water issues, including measures to increase water efficiency, an enhanced metering programme, leakage reduction through a range of measures, and risk-based approach to abstraction management. Strategic water supply solutions are also planned. A pipeline connection to Grafham Water will boost supplies to the Cambridge area from 2032. The Fens Reservoir will further increase supplies from 2036 (at the earliest). In addition to helping meet future water supply needs they will enable reductions in abstraction from existing sources, helping to restore and protect the chalk streams in Cambridge.

To consider the impact of additional development being explored though the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service commissioned a Water Supply Evidence to accompany the draft Local Plan in 2025, and it was updated in 2026 to accompany the Proposed Submission Local Plan. Working closely with the Water Scarcity Group this also produced a water supply dashboard, allowing different growth scenarios to be tested.

	The development trajectory in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan has taken account of water supply availability, and the availability of the strategic water supply interventions. The adopted 2018 Local Plan implemented the optional standard for water efficiency set out in national planning guidance (110 Litres per person per day (LPD) design standard), which is more stringent than the standard building regulations requirement. It also set requirements for non-domestic buildings using BREEAM standards. Higher standards have already been achieved in many recent developments. For example, the village centre development at land North of Cherry Hinton has a standard of around 100 LPD, and the Virido site at Great Knighton which includes communal rainwater harvesting will delivery around 80 LPD. The Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to tighten standards further, requiring highly water efficient design standards in housing and non-housing developments which go beyond Building Regulation levels. These draw on approaches set out in the Shared Standards in Water Efficiency for Local Plans developed by water stakeholders and are informed by other evidence including from the Enabling Water Smart Communities project. The emerging strategy has considered wastewater treatment capacity to accommodate the planned development. Upgrades will be required to a number of treatment works to accommodate development needs. Policies require treatment to be available when development takes place. Officers have also been liaising with Anglian Water to ensure that their emerging Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan takes account of this. Planning policy has a wider role in protecting the river system through sustainable drainage, Biodiversity Net Gain, habitat connectivity, flood-risk management and appropriate assessment of development affecting watercourses. The Council motion recognises the extensive evidence prepared through the Local Plan process and states that future development should continue to be informed by evidence demonstrating sustainable water supplies, reduced abstraction, water efficiency and environmental capacity.
13	**Statutory and Strategic Partnerships**
	No single organisation has the powers, resources, or responsibilities necessary to address all the pressures affecting the Cam. The Council's role is therefore one of direct delivery where it owns land or assets, combined with partnership, evidence gathering, advocacy and influence where responsibilities sit elsewhere.

	Key strategic relationships include: • Environment Agency • Cambridge Water • Anglian Water • Conservators of the River Cam • Cambridgeshire County Council • Natural England • Water Resources East • Anglia Ruskin University • University of Cambridge and colleges Through CCSP, the Council's role is developing beyond convening partners. It is leading a multidisciplinary programme combining water-company investment, university monitoring, scientific assurance, specialist procurement, local-government governance, and community participation. This enables the Council to act as an informed technical delivery partner: commissioning work, testing assumptions, integrating specialist evidence, and developing defensible restoration strategies. Responsibilities must nevertheless remain clear. Abstraction regulation, wastewater treatment, navigation, and environmental regulation remain with the relevant statutory organisations. The Council's leadership lies in taking responsibility for where it has powers and assets, generating evidence where it can influence others and ensuring technical questions are considered by people with the appropriate expertise.
14	**Collaboration with Voluntary, Community and Catchment Groups**
	An important feature of work to protect and improve the River Cam and its tributaries is the contribution made by voluntary organisations, community groups, trusts, and individual volunteers. These organisations provide local knowledge, relevant experience, monitoring capacity, practical delivery, community perspectives and independent advocacy, monitoring capacity, practical delivery and an important connection between statutory organisations and communities with a direct interest in the river. The Council recognises that the long-term health of the Cam cannot be secured through statutory organisations acting alone. Effective river restoration requires sustained collaboration between local authorities, environmental regulators, water companies, landowners, academic institutions, voluntary organisations, and communities. Where an individual or organisation possesses relevant specialist technical expertise, this should be recognised specifically. More generally, community organisations can

	identify concerns, gather observations, campaign for change, support monitoring and undertake practical activities. Technical causes and solutions should then be assessed using appropriate scientific evidence and specialist advice. The Council’s approach should therefore be one of evidence-led partnership: community knowledge and advocacy identify questions; scientific investigation helps establish cause; appropriate specialist expertise informs solutions; and statutory organisations retain their responsibilities. **Cam Valley Forum** Cam Valley Forum is a long-established voluntary organisation concerned with the River Cam and its tributaries. It provides an independent voice on issues including water abstraction, water quality, sewage pollution, river flows, biodiversity, and management of the wider catchment. The Council and Cam Valley Forum have worked collaboratively on river-related issues. A significant recent area of shared interest has been the work associated with Designated Bathing Water status at Sheep's Green, which has enabled systematic monitoring to provide additional evidence about water quality in this part of the River Cam. Voluntary organisations also provide constructive challenges to the Council and other public bodies. Partnership working does not require partners to hold identical positions on every issue. Independent scrutiny, local knowledge, and challenge can contribute to better evidence, greater transparency, and better environmental outcomes. **Cam Catchment Partnership** The Cam Catchment Partnership provides a broader catchment-scale mechanism for organisations and communities interested in the Cam and its tributaries to work together. Its work enables the river to be considered as a connected catchment rather than through individual administrative boundaries, sites, or projects. This is particularly important because pressures including abstraction, pollution, sediment, habitat fragmentation and agricultural or urban runoff frequently arise some distance from where their ecological effects are observed. The Council's involvement in catchment arrangements complements the more locally focused work being undertaken through the Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project. As that project transitions towards a Cambridge City-focused restoration programme, wider catchment partnerships provide an important mechanism through which evidence

	and experience gathered by the Council can continue to support work elsewhere in the Cam catchment. An emerging Cambridge city-focused river partnership group is strengthening coordination of activity within the urban section of the Cam and its tributaries, where development pressures, recreation, water quality challenges, and habitat fragmentation are particularly significant. The group brings together key stakeholders with an interest in the river corridor to identify shared priorities, develop integrated projects and align investment. Its focus on practical delivery complements the strategic work of the Cam Catchment Partnership and supports wider objectives within the Cambridge Nature Network and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy, helping to create a healthier, more resilient, and better-connected river environment across Cambridge. **River Granta and local catchment groups** Cambridge City Council has not acted as the overall River Granta catchment lead. GCCSP's involvement in South Cambridgeshire has focused on the Linton and Abington case-study sites, investigating ecological decline, undertaking monitored restoration and establishing regular water-quality and biological monitoring. The practical programme is expected to conclude in October 2026, while monitoring at Linton and Abington is intended to continue until July 2027 to provide an early post-restoration dataset and support an orderly transition to the developing South Cambridgeshire catchment partnerships. This provides a positive project legacy. GCCSP will leave monitoring infrastructure, trained volunteers, practical restoration case studies, and evidence base upon which catchment organisations, landowners, parish councils and local communities can build. **Friends of the River Cam** Friends of the Cam is a local community and advocacy group campaigning for the protection and restoration of the River Cam. Its interests include water quality, abstraction, biodiversity, the effects of development and the wider recognition of the river's environmental value, including advocacy for the rights of the river. The group should therefore be recognised as a relevant stakeholder in future engagement and partnership discussions, while distinguishing its community and campaigning role from the statutory, regulatory and operational responsibilities held by organisations such as the Environment Agency and the Conservators of the River Cam.

	Citizen science and practical environmental action Citizen science has become a key component of the Council's chalk-stream work. The GCCSP monitoring programme is delivered with Anglia Ruskin University and supported by volunteers, enabling regular monitoring across the network and building an increasingly detailed evidence base concerning water quality, flow and ecological condition. Voluntary and community organisations can also contribute through habitat management, river clean-ups, monitoring, invasive-species control and identification and reporting of pollution or environmental deterioration. Such activity can supplement, but does not replace, the responsibilities of statutory organisations. The Council's role should include helping voluntary activity to be targeted safely and effectively and ensuring that community evidence can be connected to organisations able to investigate or address underlying environmental problems. **Future approach** There is an opportunity to strengthen the Council's relationship with voluntary and catchment organisations as the programme develops. This should include: • maintaining regular dialogue with key river and catchment organisations; • ensuring community and voluntary-sector knowledge contributes to project identification and design; • supporting citizen-science monitoring where it can contribute useful evidence; • sharing Council monitoring and project evidence where appropriate; • working collaboratively on external funding opportunities; • supporting practical volunteering and community stewardship where appropriate; • connecting locally identified concerns with the statutory organisation responsible for addressing them; and • ensuring that the emerging Cambridge City chalk-stream programme complements rather than duplicates wider catchment activity. It will also be important to maintain the independence of voluntary organisations. Their value lies not only in practical delivery but also in their ability to provide specialist knowledge, community perspectives and constructive challenge. The Council should therefore seek to develop these relationships as partnerships rather than simply delivery arrangements.
15	**Future Environmental Projects and External Funding**

	The Cambridge Chalk Stream Project is the landscape-scale implementation of the evidence and case-study learning developed through GCCSP. Cambridge City Council is the lead authority and accountable body for the programme. Subject to confirmation of the final funding agreements, CCSP combines up to £1.9 million of Cambridge Water WINEP funding with grant funding for the Hobson's Brook pollution-mitigation and resilience component. The principal delivery period is July 2026 to March 2029, with monitoring, maintenance and management continuing beyond the capital programme. The two funding streams are complementary elements of one controlled programme rather than separate chalk-stream restoration projects**.** **Cambridge Water WINEP** The £1.9 million WINEP allocation is the wider Cambridge restoration component of CCSP. It supports programme management and governance, research and technical assurance, planning and mobilisation, and capital habitat delivery. This budget structure reflects the evidence-led methodology. Science, design, consents and assurance are integral parts of delivery and provide safeguards for the subsequent capital investment; they are not separate additions to the physical works. **Hobson's Brook pollution mitigation** The proposed grant funding approach will support the Hobson's Brook pollution-mitigation and resilience component of CCSP. The project will investigate, design and deliver nature-based measures intended to intercept and mitigate pollution before it reaches sensitive chalk-stream habitats and progresses through the connected freshwater system towards the River Cam. The proposed methodology is to identify and quantify pollutant pathways, undertake modelling and design, construct the agreed measures, monitor inputs and outputs, validate performance and adapt future management where necessary. The final value, funding conditions, approvals and ongoing liabilities must be confirmed before the agreement is completed. **Cambridge Water Pebble Fund** Cambridge Water provided a £27,000 PEBBLE grant for the 2025/26 delivery period. The funding was fully allocated to eligible practical biodiversity delivery at Hobson's

	Brook, Coldham's Brook and the East Cambridge Main Drain, Nine Wells and Giant's Grave. Of the total, £17,250 supported eligible habitat materials and £9,750 supported contractor installation. The funding was restricted to practical biodiversity delivery and was not used for project staffing, consultancy, monitoring, research or design. The PEBBLE grant provides an example of different external funding sources being combined and controlled transparently to deliver measurable environmental outputs while avoiding duplication or double funding. **Watercourse Land Drainage Model Byelaws** The watercourses throughout the city provide essential surface water drainage functions and support valuable ecological habitats. Damage to, obstruction of, or unauthorised activities within these watercourses can increase flood risk, reduce biodiversity, impede maintenance operations and adversely affect water quality. To provide additional protection for ordinary watercourses, local authorities have powers to make byelaws under the Land Drainage Act. The adoption of model byelaws is recommended by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and is established practice amongst several risk management authorities. The Environment Agency, Conservators of the River Cam and South Cambridgeshire District Council already operate byelaws covering watercourses within their respective jurisdictions. The proposed byelaws would provide the Council with an additional regulatory mechanism to help protect watercourses from activities that may obstruct flows, damage banks, impede access for maintenance, or otherwise increase flood risk. The byelaws would also complement ongoing work to improve water quality, biodiversity and the resilience of Cambridge's chalk streams and wider water environment. The proposed byelaws are based on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' model byelaws and would apply to ordinary watercourses within the administrative boundary of Cambridge City Council. Subject to Cabinet approval, officers would undertake the necessary consultation and statutory approval process prior to the byelaws being formally adopted and brought into force.
16	**Opportunities for Improvement**

	The review demonstrates that a substantial amount of activity is already taking place. The principal opportunity is therefore not necessarily the creation of additional structures, but better coordination and visibility of existing activity. Future work should focus on: • maintaining and strengthening the evidence base; • moving from individual demonstration projects towards catchment and network-scale restoration; • identifying and addressing pollution pathways; • integrating water quantity, water quality, biodiversity and physical habitat; • improving coordination between Council projects and external partners; • maximising external funding; • supporting community stewardship and citizen science; • ensuring Council land and assets are managed consistently with biodiversity and climate objectives; • embedding river and water considerations within planning and development; • improving communication with residents about the condition of the Cam and actions being taken; and • maintaining clear distinctions between matters for which the Council is responsible and those requiring action from statutory partners. A simple programme or pipeline of river-related projects could provide a useful mechanism for recording project status, funding, lead organisation, outcomes and dependencies. This could also provide the basis for periodic reporting through the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and associated governance arrangements rather than creating a separate permanent reporting structure.
17.	**Corporate plan**
17.1	The recommendations support the Council's corporate priorities by protecting and enhancing Cambridge's natural environment, strengthening the city's resilience to climate change and supporting the sustainable management of its natural assets. The River Cam, its chalk streams, tributaries and adjoining open spaces form an important part of the city's green and blue infrastructure and contribute significantly to biodiversity, recreation, wellbeing and Cambridge's sense of place. The proposed programme demonstrates the Council's commitment to working collaboratively to achieve these outcomes. Delivery will involve statutory agencies, water companies, academic institutions, voluntary and community organisations, landowners and other partners. The South Staffordshire Water and other grants will enable the Council to use external investment to increase the scale and pace of

	environmental improvement, while supporting community participation, citizen science and partnership working. The recommendations also support a more sustainable and financially responsible approach to delivery. Rather than treating individual river projects in isolation, the report proposes a more coordinated and evidence-led programme, using monitoring and environmental evidence to prioritise interventions and maximise external funding. This will help ensure that Council resources and partner investment are directed towards projects capable of delivering demonstrable environmental and community benefits. Taken together, the recommendations support the Council's ambitions for a greener, fairer and more resilient Cambridge, combining nature recovery and climate adaptation with improved public spaces, partnership working and responsible use of Council and external resources.
18.	**Consultation, engagement and communication**
18.1	The activities described in this report involve significant ongoing engagement with statutory bodies, environmental organisations, water companies, academic institutions, landowners, voluntary and community organisations and other partners with an interest in the River Cam and its tributaries. Partnership and community engagement has been an important feature of the Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project. This has included collaboration with Anglia Ruskin University and citizen scientists undertaking water-quality and environmental monitoring, together with volunteer training and practical involvement in the management and stewardship of chalk streams. The Council also works with voluntary and catchment organisations, including Cam Valley Forum, the Cam Catchment Partnership and local Friends and conservation groups. These relationships provide local knowledge, specialist expertise, monitoring capacity and constructive challenge alongside practical opportunities for joint delivery. Engagement will continue as the Cambridge City chalk-stream programme and individual projects are developed. The nature and extent of consultation will be proportionate to each project and will include affected communities, landowners, river users and relevant statutory and community partners where appropriate. This will be particularly important where proposals affect public open space, access, residential moorings, navigation or established recreational uses. There is also an opportunity to improve communication about the work taking place across the River Cam and its tributaries. Bringing projects together as a more coordinated programme should make it easier to communicate the evidence informing

	investment, the respective responsibilities of the Council and other organisations, progress with individual projects and the environmental outcomes being achieved.
19.	**Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact**
19.1	The Full Council motion provides an opportunity to bring together a wide range of work already being undertaken to protect and improve the River Cam and its tributaries. The Council is not the sole body responsible for the condition of the river. Its ability to influence abstraction, sewage treatment, navigation infrastructure and regulatory matters is necessarily dependent upon effective engagement with the organisations holding those statutory responsibilities. Nevertheless, the Council has an important and increasingly active role. It is a major riparian landowner, manages important riverside open spaces and infrastructure, leads significant biodiversity and chalk-stream projects, participates in water-resource partnerships and, through the Shared Planning Service, has an important role in ensuring future growth responds appropriately to water scarcity and environmental capacity. The Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project demonstrates the value of combining evidence, practical restoration, academic expertise and community participation. Its monitoring has identified significant and complex pressures affecting both rural and urban chalk streams, while the transition to a Cambridge City-wide programme supported by up to £1.9 million of WINEP funding provides a significant opportunity to move from individual interventions towards coordinated restoration of the City's connected chalk-stream network. Alongside this work, investment in the River Cam wall, work concerning Jesus Green Lock, improvements at Sheep's Green, planning for sustainable water resources, collaboration with voluntary and catchment groups, and the development of externally funded environmental projects demonstrate the breadth of Council activity relating to the Cam. The next stage should focus on coordination, delivery and outcomes: ensuring that the Council's own projects are aligned, external funding is maximised, evidence informs investment, community expertise is utilised and the Council continues to use its influence to secure action from organisations responsible for water quantity, water quality and river infrastructure.
20.	**Implications**

20.1	**Financial Risk**
	The programme described in this report combines existing Council resources with significant external investment. External funding provides an opportunity to increase the scale of environmental improvement without the full cost falling on the Council. It can, however, create requirements relating to programme management, procurement, technical assurance, monitoring, maintenance and the future ownership of assets and liabilities. The progression from GCCSP to CCSP represents a risk-managed approach to environmental investment. The Council first assembled a multi-funder programme to establish baseline evidence, undertake monitored case studies and develop practical delivery capability before progressing to landscape-scale investment. Research, monitoring, design and technical assurance should therefore be understood as safeguards for the capital programme rather than simply as project overheads. They reduce the risk of investing in interventions that fail to address the principal environmental constraint or cannot be sustained. Subject to confirmation of the final funding agreements, no Council match funding is currently assumed for CCSP. The agreements must nevertheless define eligible expenditure, Council staffing implications, procurement requirements, maintenance responsibilities, asset ownership, monitoring commitments, treatment of VAT and the arrangements applying if external funding or project outputs change. Significant capital expenditure is also proposed for the Council-owned Jesus Green river wall. The budget, funding sources and any related revenue implications will be set out separately within the relevant financial and project approvals.
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
20.2	The recommendations have been developed to avoid creating unnecessary structural dependency ahead of Local Government Reorganisation and to maintain flexibility in future operating arrangements. Temporary and phased implementation approaches reduce the risk of embedding arrangements that may require redesign during transition.
	Legal Implications
20.3	The Council has a range of statutory functions and powers relevant to the matters described in this report, including those relating to planning, biodiversity, land

	ownership, open-space management and drainage. Other statutory responsibilities rest with organisations including the Environment Agency, water companies and the Conservators of the River Cam. Partnership and funding arrangements will need to clearly identify responsibilities, liabilities, ownership of works and future maintenance obligations. The environmental aspirations contained in the Full Council motion do not transfer statutory responsibility for abstraction, wastewater treatment, navigation or environmental regulation to the City Council. Similarly, ecological benchmarks used by GCCSP and CCSP are tools for restoration design and ecological risk management. They should not be presented as statutory compliance standards or as replacing established regulatory classifications. The funding and partnership agreements for CCSP must clearly address the Council's legal powers, eligible expenditure, procurement, landowner permissions, environmental and flood-risk consents, liabilities, ownership of completed works, maintenance and monitoring obligations, and exit or variation arrangements.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
20.4	Rivers and riverside open spaces provide important opportunities for recreation, wellbeing and access to nature. Restoration and infrastructure projects should therefore consider accessibility alongside biodiversity and environmental objectives and seek, where practicable, to improve opportunities for a wide range of residents and visitors to experience the river.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
20.5	The recommendations are expected to have positive climate change and environmental implications. The programme described in this report will support the restoration and improved resilience of the River Cam, its chalk streams, tributaries, wetlands and associated riparian habitats. Climate change is expected to place increasing pressure on Cambridge's water environment through periods of drought and low flows, higher temperatures, more intense rainfall and increased flood risk. Restoring more naturally functioning rivers, wetlands and floodplains, improving riparian habitats and increasing ecological

	connectivity can help the natural environment adapt to these pressures and improve its resilience to future climate change. The proposed programme will also support the Council's wider environmental objectives through habitat creation and restoration, improved biodiversity and ecological connectivity, measures to address pollution pathways, and interventions designed to improve the condition and resilience of chalk streams. The use of nature-based solutions, including the proposed Hobson's Brook pollution-mitigation project, provides opportunities to deliver multiple benefits for water quality, biodiversity and climate adaptation. The South Staffordshire Water-funded chalk-stream programme will enable interventions to be developed on an evidence-led basis, taking account of water quality, hydrology, channel condition and ecological need. This should help ensure that investment is targeted towards the factors limiting ecological recovery rather than applying standard interventions irrespective of local conditions. There may be short-term environmental and carbon impacts associated with the construction and delivery of individual projects, including the use of materials, plant and transport and temporary disturbance to habitats and public spaces. These impacts will be considered through project design, procurement and, where applicable, ecological, flood-risk, planning and environmental consenting processes. Opportunities to minimise embodied carbon, reuse materials and adopt lower-carbon construction methods will be considered as individual schemes are developed. Overall, the recommendations are considered to make a positive contribution to climate adaptation, biodiversity recovery and the resilience of Cambridge's water environment. The principal climate benefit is expected to arise from adaptation and resilience rather than direct operational carbon reduction.
	Procurement Implications
20.6	The acceptance of external grant funding does not in itself commit the Council to the appointment of suppliers or contractors. Any goods, works or services required to deliver the projects described in this report will be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and applicable procurement legislation. The conditions attached to the South Staffordshire Water and other funding will be reviewed to ensure that any requirements relating to expenditure, procurement, delivery timescales and reporting are compatible with the Council's procurement obligations. Individual projects may require the procurement of specialist professional services, surveys, design work, monitoring equipment and construction or environmental works.

	Appropriate procurement routes will be determined as individual schemes are developed, taking account of value, complexity, available frameworks and the requirements of the relevant funding agreements. Where appropriate, procurement will also seek to secure wider social, environmental and carbon benefits, consistent with the Council's policies and the nature of the individual project. There are therefore no procurement implications that prevent acceptance of the proposed grant funding. Subsequent expenditure will remain subject to the Council's normal procurement and governance requirements.
	Community Safety Implications
20.7	There are no significant adverse community safety implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report. The River Cam and its adjoining open spaces are extensively used for recreation, navigation, walking, cycling and other activities. Individual river restoration and infrastructure projects will therefore need to consider public safety, safe access to the river and adjoining open spaces, and the interaction between construction activity and existing river users. Where works are undertaken, appropriate risk assessments, site management arrangements and temporary access restrictions will be put in place as necessary. Consideration will be given to works affecting riverbanks, paths, navigation, residential moorings and other areas of high public use. In the longer term, investment in riverbank infrastructure, appropriate management of riverside land and improved environmental condition should contribute positively to the safety, resilience and quality of the river environment.
21	**Background documents** Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
21.1	None
22	**Appendices**
22.1	None

	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Alistair Wilson, City Services, alistair.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2026

To:
Cllr Mike Todd-Jones, Cabinet Member for Communities

Cabinet 23rd September 2026

Report by: Yvonne O'Donnell Strategic Environmental Health & Public Safety Lead
Tel: 01223 457951 Email: Yvonne.odonnell@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:
Market and Newnham

Director Approval: Director Sam Scharf confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	**Recommendations**
1.1	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1. Agree the Public Space Protection Order (Touting) 2026 as attached Appendix A 2. Approve the amendment to the Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2023 to define the activities of the PSPO as: The Activities prohibited by this Order are: Soliciting for and/or promoting and/or arranging for and/or concluding the booking or sale of river-related goods or services to members of the public in a public place (including any punt tour or the hire or use of punts, boats or similar craft on the River Cam and any walking tour which includes or incorporates such services) whether: • orally, and/or • by distributing sales or publicity materials, and/or • by carrying or wearing a tout board, sandwich board or similar advertising device, and/or • by using, offering or displaying any electronic device for booking or sale purposes, and/or • by any other of verbal advertisement or of touting.

	3. Agree the restricted area for the PSPO as attached Appendix B plan 4. Implement as from 27th September 2026 for a 3 year period until 27th September 2029.
2.	**Purpose and reason for the report**
2.1	The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("2014 Act") gives local authorities the power to make Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). PSPOs were created to deal with problems in public spaces which have a negative impact on the local community's quality of life. A PSPO does this by stopping certain activities in the area it covers. If someone refuses to stop doing the activity covered by the PSPO it is a criminal offence and they will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of up to £100 or prosecuted with a maximum fine £1000. The current PSPO The Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2023 prohibits: Verbally touting, advertising, soliciting for custom or otherwise touting for a punt tour, the hire or use of punt boats (or similar craft) on the River Cam. This included touting for walking tours which include or involve a punt tour, the hire or use of punt boats (or similar craft) on the River Cam. The PSPO prohibits touting in certain parts of the city centre, they are shown in red on this map and are referred to as the Restricted Areas: This PSPO has been renewed twice since 2016 and is due to end on 27 September 2026. Before this date, a decision will need to be made to decide whether to renew the order, vary it or allow it to end. As per legislation this decision should be informed by consultation with: ▪ The Police and Crime Commissioner, ▪ Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the local police body), ▪ Relevant community representatives, ▪ Ward Councillors, and

	▪ The owner/occupier of land the PSPO covers. In addition to these groups, the Council sought views of local people via the Go Vocal consultation platform. 470 responses were received. The consultation questions and responses can be found in Appendix C. The evidence and consultation results have been used to inform consideration about whether to a) renew the PSPO; b) vary it; or c) discharge it.
3.	**Alternative options considered**
3.1	The principal alternative would be not to implement a PSPO for punt touting, when the existing arrangements expire. This option is not recommended as the consultation responses demonstrate significant public support for a continuation of enforcing against illegal and aggressive punt touting. Another option is to continue with the existing PSPO and only consider verbal touting. The consultation responses demonstrate significant public support to strengthen the scope of the PSPO.
4.	**Background and key issues**
4.1	Between 2006 and 2016 268 complaints about aggressive punt touting were received, negatively impacting people's experience when in the city centre. As a result, the City Council created a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which restricts where punt tours can be sold from. The PSPO prohibits touting in certain parts of the city centre, they are shown in red on this map and are referred to as the Restricted Areas as shown in Appendix B.

Punt operators are still allowed to sell punt tours from the 6 authorised locations which are:

- La Mimosa, on the corner of Jesus Green
- Quayside
- Trinity College, inside the college grounds
- The Mill Pond, on Silver Street
- Mill Lane
- The Granta mill pond, near Sheeps Green

In 2016 the PSPO was introduced to address nuisance punt touting. At the time it was introduced there was an increased number of operators and individuals selling punt tours by way of touting in the city centre. Much of the touting took place in Market Square, King's Parade and the surrounding streets.

On 25 May 2018, an Injunction was granted against named and unnamed parties from engaging in unlicensed commercial punt operations, including touting, on certain pieces of Council-owned land. This resulted in operators being unable to punt from Garret Hostel Lane and had a significant impact on illegal touting in Kings Parade and the city in general

The table below shows the impact of both the PSPO and the Injunction on touting complaints since available records (2006).

Year	**No. of complaints**	**PSPO / Injunction**
2006 – 2016	268	PSPO introduced – 15 September 2016
2016 – 2018	164	Injunction introduced – 25 May 2018
2019 – 2023	21	PSPO Extended to 2026
2023 – 2026	23	

The Order is enforced by Cambridge City Council officers who have the power to issue fixed penalty noticed to those who breach the PSPO. The number fixed penalty notices issued per year are:

Year	Fixed Penalty Notices Issued
2016/17	27
2017/18	41
2018/19	24
2019/20	3
2020/21	2
2021/22	7
2022/23	2
2023/24	0
2024/25	0
2025/26	0
Total	**106**

The current PSPO will lapse 27th September 2026. To renew the PSPO we need to show that there is significant evidence that verbal punt touting within the Restricted Areas will get worse without the PSPO.

To change (or vary) the PSPO we need to show that there is evidence to change the spaces that are covered by the PSPO or that there is evidence to stop people from doing other behaviours that have a negative impact on the local community.

Although the complaints received has reduced over the years indicating that the situation has improved, the results of the consultation indicates that visitors and businesses to the city centre are still being approached and feeling uncomfortable when approached.

	There has also been a reduction in the number of FPNs that have been served, however this may be due to the fact that as the touting has to be verbal, it is difficult for enforcement officers to gather evidence that verbal touting is taking place. Officers are well recognised by the punt touts who cease to verbally tout when the Officers are in the vicinity. The consultation showed that 52.8% of the respondents have seen verbal touting for punt tours in the restricted area of which only 4% reported it to the police or the council. The most common locations were Kings Parade, Bridge Street and Magdalene Bridge. However, it was considered that touting was spread across the main tourist routes. A small number of respondents reported aggressive touting at the train station (which is outside the restricted area) and wanted the restricted area extended to include the train station. However, as this is private land section 72 of the Crime and Policing Act 2014 requires that there needs to be a specific consultation with the owner or occupier of any private land. The consultation for this PSPO did not take place for this purpose. Some respondents were concerned about the misleading promotion such as tourist information stands. 76% of respondents agreed that the PSPO should remain with 17.7% stating it should be changed or varied. 6.4% believe it should end. There is over whelming support to either renew or vary the current PSPO. There is a clear message that most respondents wanted the PSPO to be strengthened and increased enforcement. There was a strong view that the touting was aggressive, persistent and general unsafe practices. 67.9% of respondents agree that the PSPO should be extended to all forms of touting. Many respondents wanted the PSPO to include all commercial tour promotion, whether verbal, non verbal, written or digital and to include walking tours. Although the PSPO has had a positive impact on the number of complaints and

	enforcement action that has taken place over the past 10 years, there is public perception that aggressive and unwanted touting continues to take place. Response to the consultation indicates that only 4% have reported it to the police or the Council and therefore the data held may not reflect the current situation.
6.	**Consultation, engagement and communication**
6.1	A public consultation via the City Council website, Go Vocal was undertaken between 3rd June 2026 and 12th July 2026 on the proposed PSPO (touting) 2026. A total of 470 responses were received. The consultation included quantitative questions on the PSPO together with opportunities for respondents to provide written comments. The responses demonstrate particularly strong support for renewing the PSPO with some variation to strengthen the wording of the PSPO to cover more than verbal touting, but to also cover include all commercial tour promotion, whether verbal, non-verbal, written or digital and to include walking tours. Across the consultation, enforcement was one of the most frequently raised issues. Respondents repeatedly called for visible enforcement, appropriate penalties. If the wording was strengthened to include non-verbal touting this would be easier to obtain evidence of breaches of the PSPO and therefore further enforcement could be taken. Subject to approval, communications will be required before the new PSPO takes effect. This should include updated information on the Council's website, appropriate notices and signage at affected locations. Consultation responses and summary can be found as Appendix C
7.	**Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact**
7.1	The proposed PSPO is intended to provide a clear and proportionate framework to tackle illegal and aggressive punt touting The anticipated outcomes include:

	• Cambridge City being a safe place to visit; • Prevent aggressive touting both verbally and non-verbally • An enforcement regime which will prevent touting in particular restricted areas. • Removing illegal punt operators The effectiveness of the PSPO can be monitored through complaints and service requests relating to punt touting, enforcement activity, fixed penalty notices where applicable.
8.	**Implications**
8.1	**Relevant risks**
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
8.2	No specific Local Government Reorganisation implications have been identified at this stage. Any implications for future responsibility for enforcement or management of the PSPO arising from LGR should be kept under review as arrangements develop.
	Financial Implications
8.3	No significant financial implications have been identified.
	Legal Implications
8.4	A PSPO is a statutory mechanism available to local authorities under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In determining whether to make or renew the Order, the Council must be satisfied that the relevant statutory requirements are met and must have regard to the consultation undertaken, proportionality and any applicable rights and equalities considerations. External legal advice has been sought to ensure that the PSPO is robust..

	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.5	An EQiA has been completed and attached as Appendix D
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.6	There will be no net impact on the councils ne zero carbon target
	Procurement Implications
8.7	No significant procurement implications have been identified.
	Community Safety Implications
8.8	The variation and renewal of the PSPO will continue to have a positive effect on community safety in the concerned areas.
9.	**Background documents** Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
9.1	(a) Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted/data.htm (b) Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers, Statutory guidance for frontline professionals: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/352562/ASB_Guidance_v8_July2014_final__2_.pdf (c) Decision details: Public Spaces Protection Orders - https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=476&MId=3971&Ver=4 (d) PSPO – Touting 2016 – Sealed: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/7690/touting-pspo-sealed.pdf
10.	**Appendices**

10.1	Appendix A PSPO (touting) Order 2026 Appendix B Plan of restricted area Appendix C Responses to consultation Appendix D EQiA
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact, Yvonne O'Donnell Strategic Environmental Health & Public Safety Lead. Email : Yvonne.odonnell@cambridge.gov.uk

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

SECTION 59

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

This order is made by Cambridge City Council (the ‘Council’) and shall be known as the Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2026 (formerly Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2016).

PRELIMINARY

1. The Council, in making this Order is satisfied on reasonable grounds that:

   The activities identified below have been carried out in public places within the Council’s area and have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality,

   and that:

   the effect, or likely effect, of the activities:

   is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,

   is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and

   justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

2. The Council is satisfied that the prohibitions imposed by this Order are reasonable to impose in order to prevent the detrimental effect of these activities from continuing, occurring or recurring, or to reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.

3. The Council has had particular regard to the rights and freedoms set out in Article 10 (right of freedom of expression) and Article 11 (right of freedom of assembly) of the European Convention on Human Rights and has concluded

that the restrictions on such rights and freedoms imposed by this Order are lawful, necessary and proportionate.

THE ACTIVITIES

4. The Activities prohibited by this Order are:

Soliciting for and/or promoting and/or arranging for and/or concluding the booking or sale of river-related goods or services to members of the public in a public place (including any punt tour or the hire or use of punts, boats or similar craft on the River Cam and any walking tour which includes or incorporates such services) whether:

- orally, and/or
- by distributing sales or publicity materials, and/or
- by carrying or wearing a tout board, sandwich board or similar advertising device, and/or
- by using, offering or displaying any electronic device for booking or sale purposes, and/or
- by any other form of verbal advertisement or of touting.

THE PROHIBITION

5. A person shall not engage in any of the Activities anywhere within the restricted area as shown shaded on the attached map labelled ‘The Restricted Area’

This Prohibition is subject to the Exception stated below

THE EXCEPTION

6. The Prohibition does not apply to those cross-hatched shaded areas as identified on the attached map labelled ‘Excepted Areas’, provided that the Activities are carried out with the authority of, and by or on behalf of, a punt operator whose vessels are licensed for commercial purposes by the Conservators of the River Cam.

Informative: the Excepted Areas are locations at Quayside, Silver Street, Trinity College frontage at Garret Hostel Lane, Queens Green, and the Walkway from Quayside to Jesus Green (La Mimosa).

PERIOD FOR WHICH THIS ORDER HAS EFFECT

7. This Order will come into force at midnight on 27th September 2026 and will expire at midnight on 27th September 2029.

8. At any point before the expiry of this 3 year period the Council can extend the Order by up to three years if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that this is necessary to prevent the activities identified in the Order from occurring or recurring or to prevent an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER?

Section 67 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 says that it is a criminal offence for a person without reasonable excuse –

(a) to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order, or
(b) to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a public spaces protection order

A person guilty of an offence under section 67 is liable on conviction in the Magistrates Court to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale

FIXED PENALTY

An authorised officer of the Authority may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she believes has committed an offence under section 67 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act.

For the purpose of this order "an authorised officer of the Authority" means an employee, partnership agency or contractor of Cambridge City Council who is authorised in writing by Cambridge City for the purpose of giving directions under the Order.

APPEALS

Any challenge to this order must be made in the High Court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in, or visits the restricted area. This means that only those who are directly affected by the restrictions have the power to challenge. The right to challenge also exists where an order is varied by the Council.

Interested persons can challenge the validity of this order on two grounds: that the Council did not have power to make the order, or to include particular prohibitions or requirements; or that one of the requirements of the legislation, for instance consultation, has not been complied with.

When an application is made the High Court can decide to suspend the operation of the order pending the Court's decision, in part or in totality. The High Court has the ability to uphold the order, quash it, or vary it.

MAPS

The following maps display the Restricted Area, where the Order applies and where the Activities are prohibited (as per paragraph 4), and also the Excepted Areas around the official punt stations where touting is permitted (as per paragraph 6). Further details can be obtained from the City Council by contacting 01223 457950 or envirocrime@cambridge.gov.uk

Section 67 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

(1) It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse-

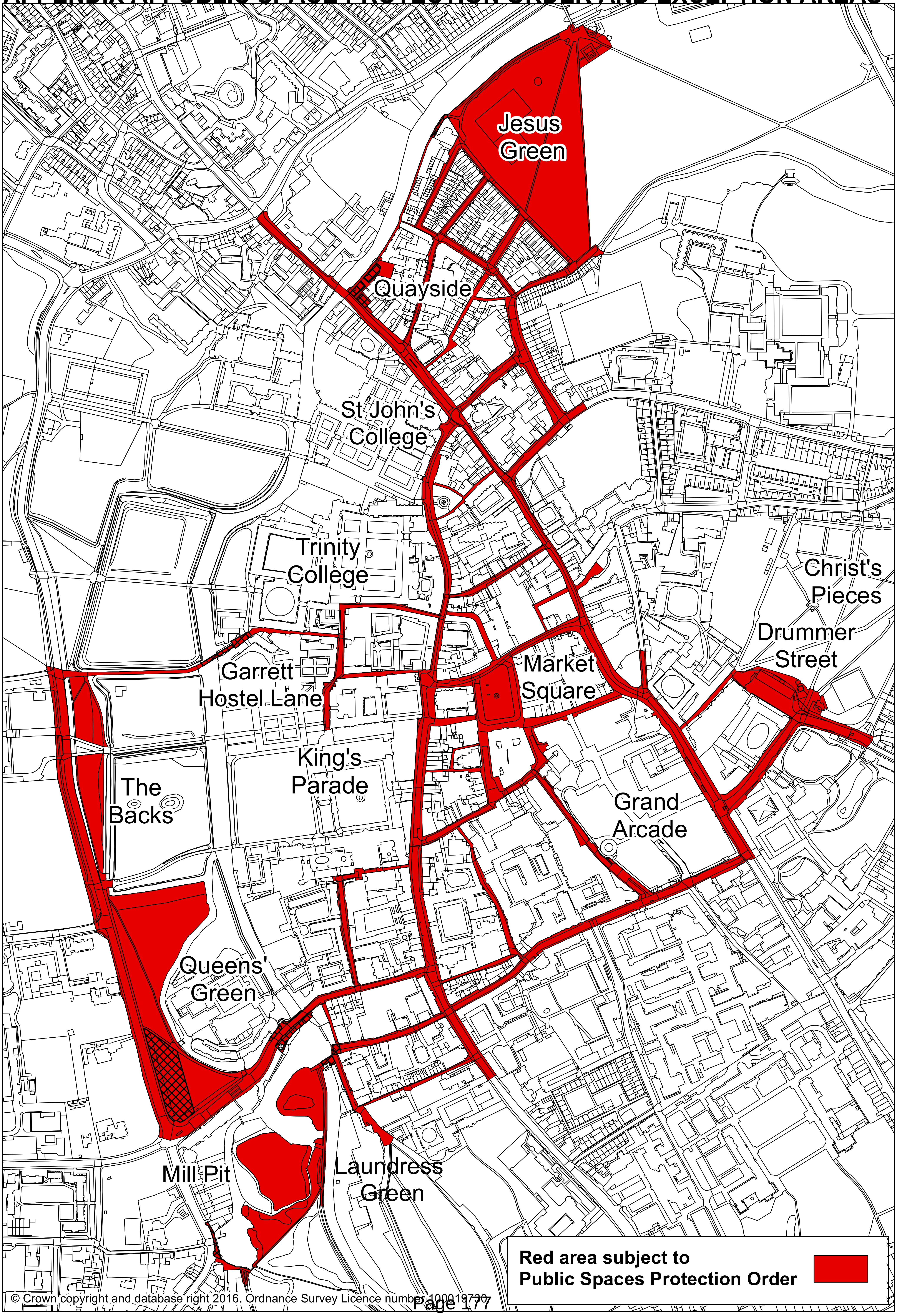
(a) To do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order, or

(b) To fail to comply with a requirement to which a person is subject under a public spaces protection order

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale

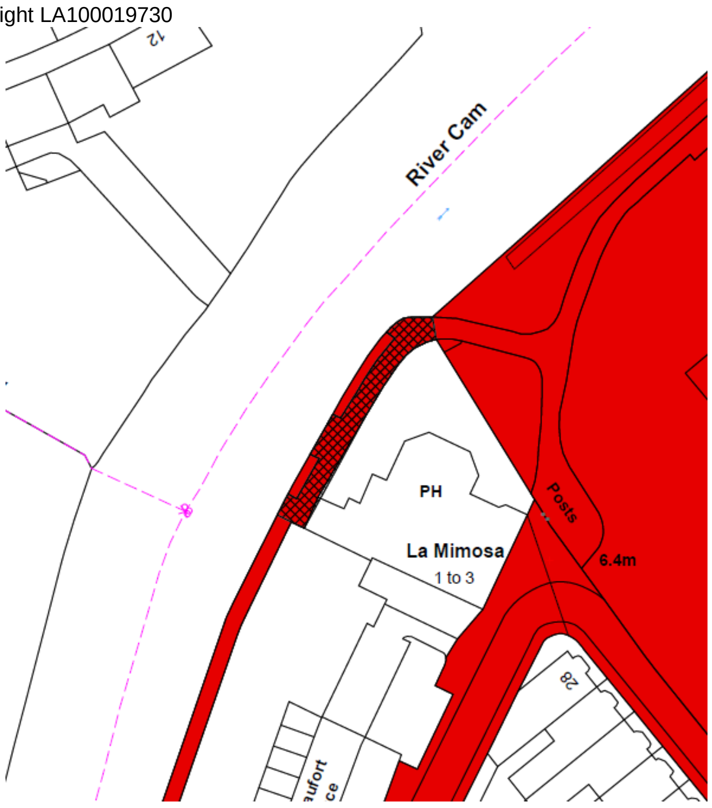
(3) A person does not commit an offence under this section by failing to comply with a prohibition or requirement that the local authority did not have power to include in the public spaces protection order

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER AND EXCEPTION AREAS

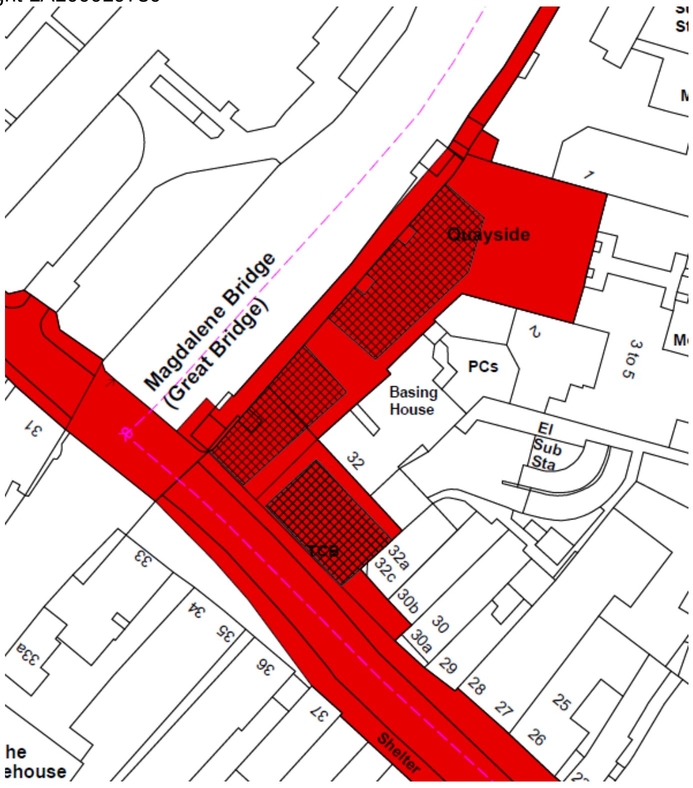


Plan ref: J:\WORKING\PSPO\final version pspo8_a3_LR_labels_3

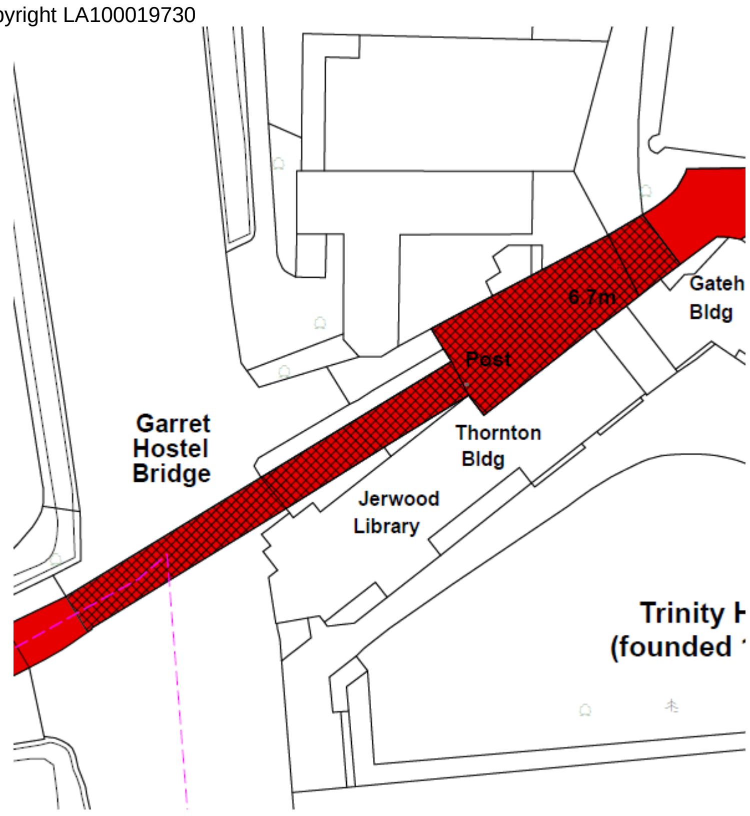
APPENDIX A: EXCEPTION AREAS



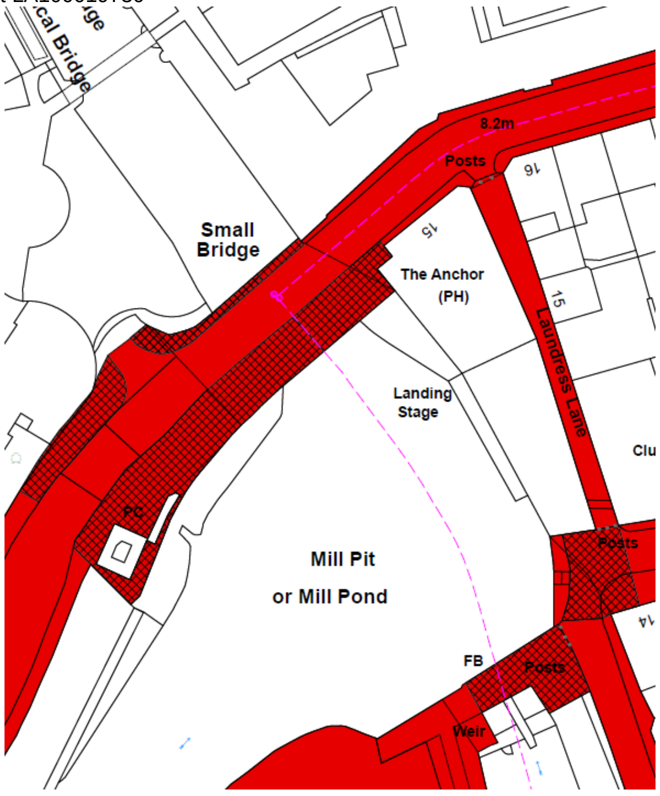
1. LA MIMOSA



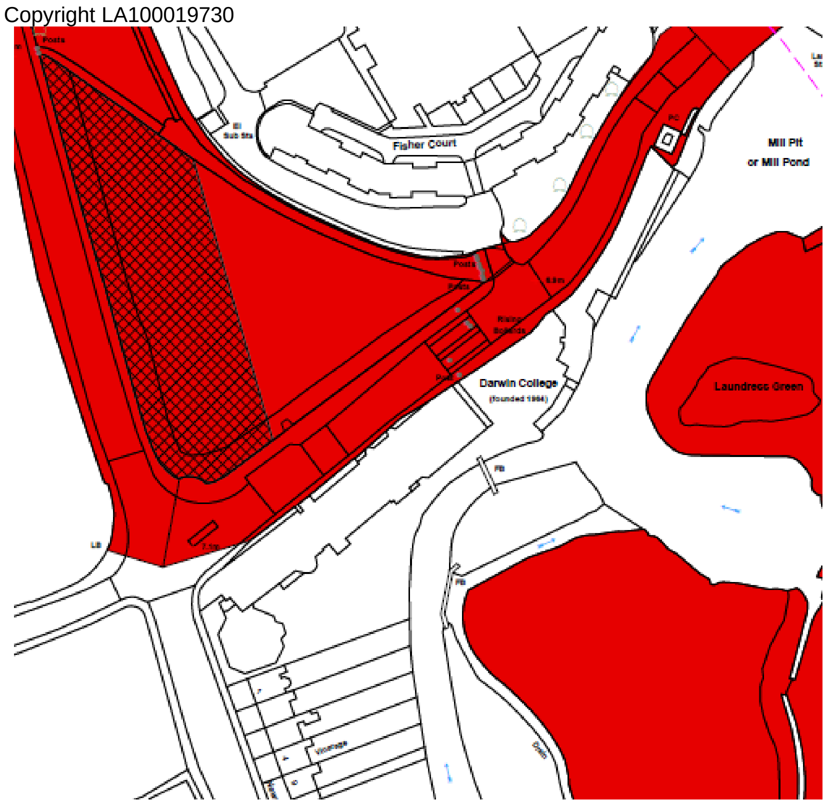
2. QUAYSIDE



3. TRINITY COLLEGE FRONTAGE



4. MILL PIT WEST AND 5. MILL PIT EAST



6. GRANTA MILL POND – QUEENS' GREEN

6. GRANTA MILL POND

Red area subject to Public Spaces Protection Order

Exception Area

Phase report

Add some text about the phase

What is your connection to Cambridge?

470/470 - Multiple choice - choose many - required

Resident 92.3% (434 choices)

Work in Cambridge 23.4% (110 choices)

Business owner 5.5% (26 choices)

Student 2.8% (13 choices)

Visitor 2.3% (11 choices)

In the last 12 months, have you seen people verbally touting for punt tours in the restricted areas?

470/470 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes 52.8% (248 choices)

No 47.2% (222 choices)

Where did you see the touting take place?

248/248 - Short answer - required

The most commonly mentioned locations were King's Parade, especially outside King's College and Great St Mary's, followed by Bridge Street, Quayside and the Magdalene Bridge area. Silver Street/Silver Street Bridge was also mentioned frequently. Many respondents also reported touting at or near Cambridge railway station, suggesting it is not confined to the riverfront.

Overall, respondents described touting as spread across the main tourist routes and river access points, with repeated references to the city centre, market area, Jesus Green/boardwalk, Trinity Street and nearby streets. Several said it happens widely or "all over the city", including from the station into central Cambridge.

A smaller number gave extra detail about how it happens: one tour guide said touts operating from desks on King's Parade are disruptive when guiding clients. Another respondent described tourists being "leapt upon" at the station and one specifically called station touting aggressive. There were also isolated examples of misleading promotion, such as a "tourist information" stand outside John Lewis that was said to be advertising punting and one account of a tout acting territorially on Silver Street Bridge.

A few respondents could not remember the exact location or gave vague answers, but the dominant pattern is clear: reports cluster around King's Parade/Great St Mary's, Bridge Street/Quayside/Magdalene Bridge, Silver Street, and the railway station.

Did you report this to the council or police?

248/248 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

No — 96% (238 choices)

Yes — 4% (10 choices)

If you did report it, where did you do so?

248/248 - Short answer - required

Most respondents said they did not report it at all, usually answering "N/A", "no", "nowhere" or similar. A recurring issue was frustration with the survey design: many said the question was wrongly mandatory even though they had already indicated they had not reported anything, calling it confusing or badly designed.

Among those who gave reasons for not reporting, the main themes were that the issue was already well known or ongoing they did not think anything would be done they did not know it could be reported or were not aware of the ban. A small number objected in principle to the PSPO or to using police powers or said reporting was difficult.

Only a small minority had reported it. Where they did, this was mainly to the council or council-related teams, including online/email, council offices, the community safety team, enforcement staff on the street, or in meetings with council officers. A few mentioned reporting to the police.

If you didn't report it, what was the reason?

248/248 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

I didn’t know I could report this type of behaviour — 48.8% (121 choices)

I didn’t think anything would happen — 26.2% (65 choices)

I didn’t know who to report it to — 8.9% (22 choices)

I reported it elsewhere — 0% (0 choices)

Other — 16.1% (40 choices)

What do you think should happen to the PSPO?

470/470 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

It should continue — 76% (357 choices)

It should be changed/varied — 17.7% (83 choices)

It should end — 6.4% (30 choices)

How do you think the PSPO should be changed/varied?

83/83 - Long answer - required

Most respondents want the PSPO strengthened and, above all, properly enforced. A very common view is that the current rules are not working in practice: touts are still widely visible, enforcement is rarely seen, and some operators are thought to ignore the rules because the rewards outweigh the risks.

A major theme is aggressive, persistent and misleading behaviour. Respondents frequently describe being repeatedly approached, followed after saying no, shouted at across the street, or pressured in ways that make the city feel unpleasant for residents and visitors. Several also mention touts pretending to offer general information, misleading tourists, or not displaying prices clearly.

Many responses focus on obstruction and safety. Touts, boards, barrows and groups of customers are said to block pavements and riverside paths, forcing pedestrians into roads or cycle routes, including wheelchair users and people with mobility issues. This is mentioned repeatedly for Silver Street, Bridge Street, Quayside/Magdalene Bridge, the boardwalk by Magdalene College, and King's Parade.

There is strong support for expanding the restricted area. The locations most often mentioned are Cambridge Railway Station/Station Square, Silver Street, Bridge Street, Quayside, Laundress Green, and other pinch points just outside current red zones. Several note that touting has simply shifted to the edges of the current controlled area.

Another recurring point is that the wording is too narrow and easy to dodge. Respondents say touts avoid specific words like "punting tour" while still selling the same product through images, signs, branded clothing, QR codes or by claiming to promote walking tours. Many want the PSPO rewritten to cover all commercial tour promotion, whether verbal, non-verbal, written or digital, and to include walking tours.

A number of respondents want tougher penalties and stronger controls: higher fines, confiscation of signs/boards, limits on numbers of touts, licensing or designated pitches/booths, and clearer codes of conduct.

Some respondents, particularly from the trade, stress fairness between operators. They argue the current situation rewards companies that break or stretch the rules while compliant businesses lose out; a few specifically name Scudamore's. A smaller minority take the opposite view, saying the focus should be less on restricting sellers and more on allowing legitimate, polite selling by approved companies.

Overall, the dominant message is: make the rules broader, cover more areas and more forms of tour selling, reduce obstruction and harassment, and enforce the PSPO consistently so public spaces are easier and safer to use.

Would you support the council or police taking action on touting for punt tours in a different way?

470/470 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes — 74.3% (349 choices)

No — 25.7% (121 choices)

English

Currently, the only breach of a PSPO is if there is evidence of verbal touting. Do you agree that this should be extended to all forms of touting?

470/470 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Please share any other comments you have about the Touting Public Spaces Protection Order

470/470 - Short answer - required

Most respondents support keeping the PSPO, often saying it has noticeably improved the city centre and reduced the worst aggressive touting compared with the pre-2016 period. Many say Cambridge is “much nicer”, “more pleasant” and less intimidating now, and want the order renewed, strengthened, or made permanent.

The dominant complaint is that touts are intrusive, persistent and sometimes aggressive: repeatedly approaching people, not taking “no” for an answer, getting in people’s faces, and making residents avoid certain routes or areas. Respondents frequently describe it as harassment, a nuisance, embarrassing for Cambridge, and bad for visitors’ first impressions. A common view is that people who want to punt can easily find the operators without being stopped in the street.

Blocking pavements and creating bottlenecks is another major theme. Many mention Bridge Street, Magdalene Bridge, Quayside, King’s Parade, Silver Street and the boardwalk/Jesus Green area as problem locations, with pedestrians, pushchairs, wheelchair users and disabled access affected. Some say people are forced into the road or that queues, signs, tables and boards obstruct footways.

A very common concern is weak or inconsistent enforcement. Many respondents say the PSPO only works if enforced properly, with requests for more patrols, on-the-spot fines, higher penalties, and action against companies and organisers rather than just individual touts. Several argue current fines are too low to deter breaches while others say enforcement officers or police are rarely seen.

Many want the restrictions extended beyond current areas, especially to the railway station, and also to Silver Street and parts of King’s Parade. Some also want walking-tour touting included, saying some operators appear to disguise punt sales as “official” tours or tourist information.

A smaller but recurring set of comments calls for clearer rules and tighter management in permitted areas: defining how far touts can stray from authorised locations, limiting numbers of touts, requiring fixed pitches or booths, clearer signage, ID badges, and keeping sales close to boarding points only.

Some respondents broadened the issue to the scale and impact of commercial punting itself, mentioning too many punts, pressure on the river, noise, wildlife impacts, and dominance by a few firms. A few raised concerns about misleading or variable pricing and tourists being overcharged.

A minority opposed the PSPO or thought the current situation was acceptable, arguing touting supports tourism and local jobs, is not a major problem if polite, or that the current balance is about right. A few described the measure as overreach or said enforcement should focus on serious crime instead. One company response argued the council should manage operator behaviour through leases and licences rather than a PSPO.

Demographic data

Respondents are invited to share some details about themselves as part of the registration process on our online engagement platform. This helps us better understand how representative the responses are of the people who live and work in Cambridge.

To ensure that the survey is accessible to as many people as possible, we do not make it compulsory to provide this data. The online engagement platform is continually working to improve how it presents this data.

Age

Age	
0 - 9	
10 - 19	
20 - 29	1%
30 - 39	6%
40 - 49	7%
50 - 59	13%
60 - 69	13%
70 - 79	10%
80 - 89	4%
90+	
Unknown	46%

Place of residence

Abbey	2%
Arbury	8%
Castle	5%
Cherry Hinton	2%
Coleridge	2%
East Cambridgeshire	
East Chesterton	4%
Fenland	
Huntingdonshire	
King's Hedges	5%
Market	4%
Newnham	3%
Petersfield	6%
Queen Edith's	3%
Romsey	2%
South Cambridgeshire	7%
Trumpington	3%
West Chesterton	9%

Somewhere else 2%

Unknown 33%

Which of the following describes how you think of yourself? (please select one response from the following)

Male 37%

Female 30%

In another way 1%

Prefer not to say 3%

Unknown 29%

This page is intentionally left blank

Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This tool helps the Council ensure that we fulfil legal obligations of the Public Sector Equality Duty to have due regard to the need to –

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Guidance on how to complete this tool can be found on the Cambridge City Council intranet. For specific questions on the tool please contact the Community Equity Team at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk.

Also, once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to equalities@cambridge.gov.uk for checking.

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service
Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2026 ("PSPO Touting")

2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)
Public Spaces Protection Orders - Cambridge City Council

3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

The current PSPO Touting is aimed at tackling verbal touting for punt tours outside of designated areas where legitimate touting can continue (by licensed punt operators). Touting must be verbal and witnessed by either an enforcement officer, police constable or PCSO before the breach of the Order can be sanctioned, by means of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

The change to the PSPO is to strengthen the definition to include non verbal touting which would include:

Soliciting, approaching, responding to, advertising, promoting, arranging, booking, or selling river-related goods or services to members of the public in a public place, whether:

- orally;

- by distributing sales or publicity materials;
- by carrying or wearing a tout board, sandwich board or similar advertising device;
- by using, offering, or displaying any electronic device for booking purposes; or
- by any other form of advertising or touting.

a punt tour or the hire or use of punts boats or similar craft on the River Cam (including any walking tour which includes or involves, whether or not for consideration, a punt tour or hire or use of punts boats or similar craft on the River Cam)

The restrictions have certain exemptions, explained in the Order.

By virtue of Chapter 2 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, a local authority can make a PSPO if satisfied, on reasonable grounds that the following two conditions are met:

(1) that activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

(2) that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature; is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable; and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

A report is presented to Cabinet on 23 September 2026 detailing the responses to consultation and the main substantive issues raised during the consultation process.

Prominent notices are already displayed drawing the attention of members of the public to the fact that the PSPO Touting is in effect.

4. Responsible service

Public Safety Team. Property Services, Legal Services, Communications Team

5. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick all that apply)	☒ Residents ☒ Visitors ☒ Staff

Please state any specific client group or groups (e.g. City Council tenants, tourists, people who work in the city but do not live here):

punt operators and the touts working for them. Tourists

6. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this?	☐ New ☐ Major change ☒ Minor change

7. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick)	☒ Yes ☐ No
If 'Yes' please provide details below: Property Services who license / lease punt operators	

8. Has the report on your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service gone to Committee? If so, which one?

The proposals will go to Cabinet on 23 September 2026

9. What research methods/ evidence have you used in order to identify equality impacts of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

Sources of data used to inform this EqIA include:

- Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Anti-social behaviour powers - Statutory guidance for frontline professionals
- Public consultation via Go Vocal
- Data held on Tascomi

10. Potential impacts

For each category below, please explain if the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could have a positive/ negative impact or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is. Consider impacts on service users, visitors and staff members separately.

(a) Age - Please also consider any safeguarding issues for children and adults at risk

It was anticipated that young people may be affected, especially those looking for summertime work selling punt tickets. However, this proposal is a continuation of the existing PSPO. The proposal is to strengthen the definition of touting for the purpose of this PSPO and if the young people working for the operators are not correctly educated with the extension of the definition thy are likely to be issued Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs). The impact is mitigated as officers will work with the operators and the punt touts to explain the changes and working within the enforcement policy have a graduated approach to enforcement by which if there are persistent offenders they will be subject to the issuing of FPNs.

(b) Disability

The restriction on tout numbers may improve accessibility and safety for this protected characteristic group.

The primary nuisance caused by punt touts shared by consultation was the obstruction of pavements. A reduction in pavement obstructions would reduce impact of those such as wheelchair users when travelling in the areas covered by the PSPO.

(c) Gender reassignment

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

(d) Marriage and civil partnership

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

(e) Pregnancy and maternity

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

The primary nuisance caused by punt touts shared by consultation was the obstruction of pavements. A reduction in pavement obstructions would reduce impact of those such as buggy users when travelling in the areas covered by the PSPO.

(f) Race – Note that the protected characteristic 'race' refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

The notice may not be understood by those whose first language is not English, this would be the same for any Council notice displayed solely in English. Signs will be updated to be more succinct and include images of punting which can be universally understood.

In addition to signage and publication of the PSPO arranged by the City Council it is also the responsibility of punt operators to comply with the local legislation and to inform their employees of how the legislation impacts their work i.e. prohibited behaviours and locations for touting. The negative impact in relation to race may be mitigated by being able to arrange for a translation of the notice, upon request.

(g) Religion or belief

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

(h) Sex

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

(i) Sexual orientation

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

(j) Other factors that may lead to inequality – in particular, please consider the impact of any changes on:

- **Low-income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty**
- **Groups who have more than on protected characteristic that taken together create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. (Here you are being asked to consider intersectionality, and for more information see: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/1_l59kt25q).**

It was anticipated that people punt touting such as young people or students seeking summertime work are on lower incomes and would be impacted. Enforcement of the prohibition would have to be in line with the City Council's Enforcement Policy.

11. Action plan – New equality impacts will be identified in different stages throughout the planning and implementation stages of changes to your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service. How will you monitor these going forward? Also, how will you ensure that any potential negative impacts of the changes will be mitigated? (Please include dates where possible for when you will update this EqIA accordingly.)

In addition to signage and publication of the PSPO arranged by the City Council it is also the responsibility of punt operators to comply with the local legislation and to inform their employees of how the legislation impacts their work i.e. prohibited behaviours and locations for touting. The negative impact in relation to race may be mitigated by being able to arrange for a translation of the notice, upon request.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

The Council has already taken a number of steps to deal with the problems of caused by touts.

A summary of the measures tried:

• Restrictions within leases/licences on the locations and numbers of touts

• A voluntary code of practice covering matters such as behaviour, touting locations and numbers

• An Injunction to prohibit use of certain areas of Council-owned land

Despite these steps, public concern about the activities and prevalence of touts in the city continues. The consultation responses showed 93.7% (440 respondents) supported the continuation of the PSPO.

13. Sign off
Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Yvonne O'Donnell Strategic Environmental Health & Public Safety Lead Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: Graham Lewis Community Equity Officer Date of EqIA sign off: 8th September 2026 Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: September 2029 Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: Click here to enter text.

All EqIAs need to be sent to the Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 8

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TITLE: Future Provision and Operation of Public Toilets at Parker's Piece and Quayside

To:
Cabinet 23rd September 2026

Report by:
Alistair Wilson – Assistant Director for Public Relam and Environment
Tel: 01223 458514 Email alistair.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:
Market and Petersfield

Director Approval: Director James Elms confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	**Recommendations**
1.1	It is recommended that Cabinet: a) Notes the progress made since its decision of 7 July 2026, including the reopening of Parker's Piece public toilets following completion of the necessary condition, compliance and operational checks. b) Agrees that Parker's Piece public toilets continue to operate year-round, free of charge, while usage, operating costs, maintenance requirements and customer experience are monitored to inform the longer-term operating model. c) Agrees that Quayside public toilets move from seasonal to year-round operation from 1 October 2026, subject to confirmation by the Assistant Director – Public Realm and Environment and Chief Finance Officer that an appropriate and sustainable funding source has been identified. d) Agrees that Quayside operates daily from 9.00am to 8.00pm during British Summer Time and from 9.00am to 5.00pm during the winter period, with cleaning, opening and locking provided through the Council's contractual arrangements.

	e) Agrees that officers: i. progress the introduction of contactless payment at Quayside, subject to technical feasibility, accessibility, affordability and value for money; and ii. undertake a condition and feasibility assessment of Quayside and develop costed options for refurbishment in the short to medium term, with any additional capital requirement brought forward through the appropriate budget and decision-making process. f) Delegates authority to the Assistant Director – Public Realm and Environment, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to determine the detailed access, charging, opening, cleaning, security and operational arrangements for Parker's Piece and Quayside within approved budgets, including making reasonable adjustments to opening hours and monitoring usage, income, costs, accessibility, customer experience, maintenance demand and incidents.
2.	**Purpose and reason for the report**
2.1	On 7 July 2026, Cabinet considered a report on changes to public toilet provision, street cleansing and public realm enforcement activity. The report followed the 2026/27 budget amendment and subsequent political agreement relating to the reopening of Parker's Piece and Quayside public toilets and additional resources for street cleansing and public realm enforcement. Cabinet agreed a phased and evidence-led approach. This included the immediate reopening of as many individual toilets at Parker's Piece as was reasonably practicable following condition and compliance checks, together with a further report on the longer-term operation of Parker's Piece and Quayside. This report provides the required update. It summarises progress since the July decision and recommends that Parker's Piece continues to operate while usage and operating information is collected. It also recommends that Quayside moves from seasonal to year-round operation, recognising the strategic importance of the location and the public benefit of providing reliable toilet provision throughout the year. The report identifies the

	financial and operational implications of this approach and proposes continued monitoring to inform future service and investment decisions.
3.	**Background and Key Issues**
3.1	**Parker's Piece Public Toilets** Following Cabinet approval, officers commenced work to reopen Parker's Piece public toilets at the earliest practical opportunity. The facility had been closed and reopening therefore required assessment of the condition of the building and its services and confirmation that it could safely and appropriately be returned to public use. Work undertaken has included: • inspection and testing of plumbing infrastructure; • inspection of electrical installations and services; • assessment and completion of necessary repairs and reinstatement work; • external redecorations • establishment of cleaning and servicing arrangements; • review of access and security arrangements; • completion of water hygiene and legionella requirements; • consideration of accessibility requirements; and • assessment of the infrastructure required to support future payment arrangements. Officers from Public Realm and Property Services have worked with relevant contractors to accelerate the reopening programme. Existing contractual and supply arrangements have been used where appropriate to avoid unnecessary delay and the recommissioning programme noted above has been delivered at a cost of circa £4,000. Once the water hygiene testing certification was received the toilets were reopened on 14th August with all the 5 toilets (including one disabled) within the block being brought back into service. The toilets will operate from 8:00am to 8:00pm every day on the same cleaning rotas as previously. The immediate objective has been to restore a safe and usable public facility rather than undertake comprehensive refurbishment before reopening. This has allowed provision to be restored while giving the Council an opportunity to understand actual usage and

3.2	operational requirements before determining the appropriate scale of longer-term investment. **Initial Operating Period** The reopening of Parker's Piece should be regarded as the first stage of establishing its longer-term operating model. Officers will monitor the operation of both Parker's Piece and Quayside following implementation of the arrangements recommended in this report. Monitoring will be used to assess performance, manage costs and identify any required operational changes. It will not delay the introduction of year-round opening at Quayside. During the initial operating period, officers will monitor: • facility usage; • cleaning requirements; • operating and utility costs; • maintenance demand; • incidents of vandalism or misuse; • customer feedback and complaints; • accessibility issues identified through operation; and • reliability and availability of the facility. This evidence will help establish whether further capital investment is justified and inform decisions about the appropriate future standard and configuration of the facility. Although operational evidence will continue to be collected at Parker's Piece, the proposal for year-round opening at Quayside reflects a wider policy judgment about accessibility, city-centre provision, visitor demand and the availability of facilities throughout the year.
4.	**Future Operating Model**
4.1	The evidence currently available indicates that Parker's Piece and Quayside have different physical characteristics and operating cost profiles. However, both sites occupy strategically important locations and contribute to the availability and geographic coverage of public toilet provision in and around the city centre. Parker's Piece reopened in August 2026 and should remain operational while officers monitor usage, cost, maintenance requirements and customer experience. Quayside serves a busy city-centre and riverside location used by residents, visitors, customers of nearby businesses, river users and people travelling through the area.

	Although demand is expected to be greatest during the main tourism season, the city centre and riverside remain active throughout the year. Seasonal closure removes public provision from this location for a significant part of the year and may particularly affect people who need reliable access to toilet facilities. Officers therefore recommend that Quayside moves to year-round operation. This will create additional recurring expenditure, but it will provide a consistent and more accessible service and remove uncertainty for users about seasonal opening arrangements. Usage, cost, income, maintenance demand, customer feedback and incidents will continue to be monitored. This evidence will inform detailed operational management, future budget planning and any subsequent decisions about refurbishment or service configuration.
4.2	**Contactless Payment** The 2026/27 budget amendment identified contactless access as an important element of the proposed operating arrangements for Parker's Piece and Quayside. The introduction of year-round opening at Quayside should not be dependent upon contactless infrastructure being installed. The facility should initially operate using the existing access arrangements, with contactless payment introduced when a technically suitable, accessible and value-for-money solution is available. Officers have therefore considered the requirements associated with introducing contactless payment, including: • access-control equipment; • payment terminals; • power and communications connectivity; • transaction and system charges; • ongoing maintenance and support; • reliability and arrangements in the event of system failure; and • accessibility for different groups of users. Experience from the Council's other facilities, including Silver Street, provides an opportunity to inform a technical and operational approach but existing facilities will potentially require a bespoke solution for retrofitting at each site rather incorporating payment mechanisms into any new build design. Contactless charging may also provide a contribution towards operating costs and will provide useful information about facility usage. However, there is currently insufficient

	evidence to assume that charging income alone will fully recover the operating, maintenance and lifecycle costs of either facility. The business case for payment infrastructure should therefore be based upon whole-life value for money rather than an assumption that either facility will become self-financing.
4.3	**Accessibility and Future Investment** The immediate reopening of Parker's Piece has appropriately concentrated on returning the existing facility to safe and operational use. Any future substantial refurbishment provides an opportunity to consider the facility more comprehensively, including accessibility, internal layout, cubicle provision, baby-changing provision, privacy and dignity and the needs of a diverse range of users. Officers recommend that major capital investment is not committed until sufficient operational evidence is available to determine the appropriate scale and nature of improvements. This will reduce the risk of undertaking significant refurbishment before future requirements and usage are sufficiently understood. Year-round opening at Quayside will improve the consistency and geographic availability of public toilet provision, particularly for people who may need to plan journeys around access to suitable facilities. The existing facilities must nevertheless continue to be assessed for accessibility. Year-round operation does not remove the need to consider future improvements to access, internal configuration, signage, baby-changing provision, privacy and dignity.
5.	**Quayside Public Toilets**
5.1	Quayside public toilets currently operate seasonally during the main tourism and river-use period, from [insert current opening date] until the end of British Summer Time. During this period, the toilets are open daily from 9.00am to 8.00pm. Subject to Cabinet approval, the facility will move directly to year-round operation from the end of the current seasonal period. For 2026, the winter operating arrangements would therefore begin on 25 October 2026, when British Summer Time ends. During the winter period, the proposed opening hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm daily. The facility would return to its longer opening hours of 9.00am to 8.00pm daily when British Summer Time begins. This provides a consistent year-round service while reflecting reduced daylight hours, expected patterns of demand and the operational and community-safety considerations associated with later evening opening during winter. Authority should be delegated to the Assistant Director – Public Realm and Environment to make minor adjustments to opening hours where operational experience, usage, community-safety considerations or seasonal conditions

demonstrate that this is appropriate, provided that the facility continues to operate throughout the year and any changes can be accommodated within the approved budget.

Cleaning, daily opening, locking and associated routine servicing will be delivered through the Council's existing contractual arrangements. The contract requirements and associated costs will be adjusted to cover the additional winter operating period and the proposed winter opening hours.

Before the winter operating period begins, Property Services and Public Realm officers will confirm whether any additional measures are required to support safe and reliable winter operation. This will include consideration of:

- frost protection and the resilience of external pipework;
- heating and ventilation requirements;
- internal and external lighting;
- water hygiene and legionella controls;
- drainage and slip risks during cold weather;
- building security;
- preventative maintenance and emergency call-out arrangements; and
- the suitability of access and locking arrangements during reduced daylight hours.

Any essential works required to enable winter opening will be completed before the seasonal transition. If those assessments identify material capital expenditure beyond existing approved budgets, this will be reported and approval sought through the appropriate financial process. Minor operational or maintenance works will be managed within the approved provision where practicable.

Current indicative information suggests that the combined operating, maintenance, rent and rates costs associated with Quayside are approximately £4,000–£5,000 per month. Moving to year-round operation is therefore expected to create an additional recurring revenue requirement, although the precise amount will depend upon the agreed winter cleaning specification, contractual costs, utility consumption and any additional maintenance requirements.

Officers will monitor winter usage, cleaning requirements, incidents, maintenance demand, customer feedback and operating costs. This information will be used to refine the detailed operating arrangements and inform future budget planning, rather than to determine whether the facility should remain open throughout the year.

5.2 **Condition and future refurbishment**

The move to year-round operation will increase use of the Quayside facility and place additional demands on the building, fixtures, services and cleaning arrangements. Although the toilets can continue to operate in their current form, officers consider that

	refurbishment should be considered in the short to medium term to ensure that the facility remains safe, reliable, accessible and appropriate for this prominent city-centre location. Year-round opening should not be delayed while the longer-term refurbishment options are considered, provided that the facility remains safe and operational. Essential compliance and maintenance works will continue to be addressed as they arise. Once the assessment has been completed, officers will develop a costed and prioritised refurbishment proposal. Any works requiring capital investment beyond existing approved budgets will be brought forward through the Council's capital and budget-setting process. The timing of any refurbishment will need to be coordinated carefully to minimise disruption and, where practicable, avoid closure during periods of highest demand.
6.	**Wider Public Toilet Network**
6.1	Parker's Piece and Quayside form part of a wider network of public toilet provision across Cambridge and should not be considered entirely in isolation. The Council has continued to invest in retained public toilet facilities, including refurbishment and improvement works at Chesterton Recreation Ground, Coleridge Recreation Ground, Jesus Green, Drummer Street, Cherry Hinton Hall and Nightingale Recreation Ground. The Council has also been progressing improved provision for people with more complex accessibility requirements, including Changing Places provision. The decision to operate Quayside throughout the year represents an enhancement to the existing network and creates an ongoing revenue commitment. This must be managed alongside the Council's responsibilities for maintaining and improving its other retained facilities. Future investment decisions should take account of: • geographic coverage and alternative nearby provision; • levels and patterns of demand; • accessibility and equality considerations; • building and asset condition; • cleaning and maintenance requirements; • opportunities to improve customer experience; and

	• whole-life capital and revenue costs. Year-round operation at Quayside, together with the continued operation of Parker's Piece, will improve the consistency and geographic coverage of provision in and around the city centre. Evidence from both sites will inform future consideration of opening hours, charging, refurbishment priorities and the wider public toilet network.
7.	**Corporate plan**
7.1	Year-round operation at Quayside supports an inclusive and accessible city by providing reliable public toilet provision throughout the year at a strategically important city-centre and riverside location. It supports residents, visitors, local businesses and the visitor economy and particularly benefits people who require ready access to toilet facilities. The proposal creates an additional recurring cost. Financial sustainability will therefore be supported through an identified revenue budget, proportionate operating arrangements, continued cost and usage monitoring, and the investigation of contactless charging as a contribution towards expenditure. Monitoring will enable the Council to test whether the service is operating efficiently and to make evidence-led adjustments to opening hours, cleaning arrangements and future investment.
8.	**Consultation, engagement and communication**
8.1	The proposal for year-round opening reflects the importance placed on the availability of public toilets by residents, visitors and city-centre stakeholders. Before implementation, officers will engage with the Council's Equalities team, the cleaning and maintenance providers, the building landlord where applicable, nearby businesses and other relevant stakeholders regarding the detailed operating arrangements. Communications will clearly set out the opening date, daily opening hours, accessibility arrangements, any charges and the arrangements for reporting faults or cleanliness concerns. Development of the proposals within this report has been informed through previous budget development activity, operational review work and engagement undertaken across Council services.

	The approach proposed in this report draws upon: • previous budget decisions and associated service reviews relating to public toilet provision; • operational experience from management of the existing public toilet network; • customer feedback and usage information where available; • learning from recent investment and operational changes at retained sites, including Silver Street and the Grand Arcade. • consideration of accessibility and equality impacts associated with public toilet availability; • internal engagement with operational services, Property Services, Finance, Equalities and Legal colleagues. Work undertaken to date has highlighted that decisions regarding toilet provision are influenced by a combination of demand, customer experience, affordability, asset condition, accessibility requirements and deliverability. Further engagement will be required during implementation including: • communications with residents and users regarding any reopening arrangements; • engagement with accessibility and equalities colleagues on future design assumptions; • operational engagement regarding cleaning, maintenance and inspection arrangements; • member engagement on delivery options and monitoring.
9.	**Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact**
9.1	The recommendations are intended to deliver the commitment to improve public toilet provision while ensuring that future arrangements are operationally and financially sustainable. The principal anticipated outcomes are: • continued availability of public toilet provision at Parker's Piece; • year-round availability of public toilet provision at Quayside;

	• development of modern contactless payment arrangements where these are technically feasible and represent value for money; • improved information about usage, customer demand and operating costs; • better evidence to inform future capital investment decisions; and • effective management and monitoring of the additional permanent revenue commitment. • greater certainty for residents and visitors; • improved year-round geographic coverage; • reduced barriers for people requiring reliable access to toilets; • support for the city-centre and riverside visitor economy; • reduced risk of inappropriate urination associated with the absence of nearby facilities; • improved information about winter demand and operating requirements. Accessible and reliable public toilet provision can be particularly important to disabled people, older people, pregnant women, families with young children, carers and people with medical or other needs which make ready access to toilet facilities important. The proposed monitoring period will enable officers to assess whether the arrangements are delivering the intended benefits. Performance information will include, where available: • facility usage; • customer feedback; • accessibility issues; • operating costs and income; • cleanliness; • complaints; • maintenance demand; and • reliability and availability.
10.	**Implications**

10.1	**Financial Risk**
	The 2026/27 budget amendment identified £25,000 revenue funding associated with reopening Parker's Piece and £25,000 capital funding to introduce bank card readers at Parker's Piece and Quayside. Officer review has identified that reopening and operating public toilets involves both capital and recurring revenue expenditure. Potential capital expenditure includes: • refurbishment and reinstatement work; • electrical upgrades; • payment and access-control infrastructure; • communications connectivity; • signage; and • compliance and accessibility improvements. Current indicative information suggests that Quayside costs approximately £4,000–£5,000 per month to operate, including cleaning, maintenance, rent and rates. If the current seasonal period covers approximately six months, year-round operation will create an estimated additional annual revenue requirement of £24,000–£30,000. This estimate should be confirmed against the proposed opening hours, cleaning specification, utility costs and contractual arrangements. The cleaning cost accounts for approximately two thirds of the cost with the other ancillary items making up the remaining third. There may also be one-off costs associated with recommissioning the facility for winter operation, lighting, heating or frost protection, security, signage and any changes to access arrangements. These costs should be quantified before implementation. Contactless charging may generate income, but there is insufficient evidence to assume that this will meet the full cost of operation. The financial assessment should therefore avoid including unverified charging income as a guaranteed saving. The additional cost of year-round operation will be met from [funding source]. A budget of £30,000 will be required in 2026/27, reflecting the implementation date, followed by ongoing annual provision of £60,000 from 2027/28. Actual expenditure and income will be monitored and reported through the Council's established budget-monitoring arrangements. Any material variance or requirement for additional investment will be addressed through the appropriate financial process. Any proposal to extend Quayside to year-round operation, undertake significant refurbishment or otherwise create additional permanent revenue expenditure would

	require an identified funding source and appropriate approval through the Council's financial and budgetary processes. The longer-term operating model should seek to minimise additional pressure on the General Fund and should be considered alongside the Council's wider Medium-Term Financial Strategy and future arrangements associated with Local Government Reorganisation.
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
10.2	Year-round operation will create an ongoing service and financial commitment that may transfer into the arrangements established through Local Government Reorganisation. However, the proposed service uses an existing Council facility and established operational arrangements and does not require the creation of a significant new organisational structure. Usage, cost, contractual and asset information will be maintained to support due diligence and service planning through the transition. Where practicable, procurement and contractual arrangements will retain sufficient flexibility to respond to future organisational requirements.
	Legal Implications
10.3	The Council must ensure that the operation and future development of its public toilet facilities comply with relevant statutory requirements, including health and safety, building and accessibility requirements and the Equality Act 2010. The recommendations do not commit the Council to a particular future design or configuration of either facility. This is deliberate and allows any significant future refurbishment to take account of prevailing legal requirements, relevant statutory guidance and appropriate legal and equalities advice at the point detailed proposals are developed. Any contractual or procurement arrangements associated with payment systems, access-control equipment or significant future works will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and other applicable legal requirements. Any changes to the cleaning, maintenance, security or property arrangements will need to comply with the relevant contractual, procurement and property requirements.

	Officers should also confirm whether the Council's lease or occupation arrangements for Quayside permit year-round operation and whether landlord consent is required for payment or access-control equipment
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
10.4	Access to suitable public toilets can have a disproportionate impact on some groups, including disabled people, older people, pregnant women, families with young children, carers and people with medical conditions which require more frequent access to toilet facilities. The reopening of Parker's Piece and introduction of year-round operation at Quay side therefore have positive equality implications by increasing the availability and geographic coverage of public toilet provision. Future refurbishment and investment decisions will need to consider accessibility, privacy, dignity and the appropriate range and configuration of facilities. They will also need to take account of the Equality Act 2010, prevailing statutory guidance and relevant legal advice. The recommended phased approach enables the Council to continue improving provision without unnecessarily delaying operational improvements, while retaining sufficient flexibility for future design decisions to respond to legal requirements, equalities assessment, operational experience and customer evidence. Year-round operation is expected to have a positive equality impact by removing the period during which the facility is unavailable. This is likely to be particularly beneficial to disabled people, older people, pregnant women, carers, families with young children and people with medical conditions requiring frequent or urgent toilet access. Any charging arrangement could, however, create a financial or practical barrier for some users. The detailed design must therefore consider access for people who do not have a contactless bank card or suitable payment device, as well as the operation of accessible facilities and any applicable concessionary arrangements.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
10.5	Year-round operation is expected to result in a modest increase in water and energy consumption, cleaning materials, consumables, waste and servicing journeys compared with seasonal operation. Where practicable, low-consumption fittings, energy-efficient

	lighting, environmentally preferable cleaning products and efficient servicing arrangements will be used to mitigate these impacts. Providing an available public facility throughout the year may also reduce incidents of inappropriate urination and the associated cleansing and environmental impacts.
	Procurement Implications
10.6	Procurement requirements will depend upon the preferred technical solution for contactless payment and the extent of any future capital works. Officers will seek to make appropriate use of existing contractual and procurement arrangements where these provide value for money and are compliant with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Any procurement required for payment infrastructure, access-control systems or future refurbishment will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's procurement requirements and within approved budgets. The move to year-round operation will require a variation to existing cleaning, unlocking, inspection and maintenance arrangements. Contractual arrangements should provide sufficient flexibility to vary cleaning frequency and opening hours in response to actual demand while maintaining appropriate service standards.
	Community Safety Implications
10.7	Public toilets can experience vandalism, anti-social behaviour and misuse, particularly where facilities are unattended or operate for extended hours. The detailed operating arrangements for Parker’s Piece and Quayside will therefore continue to take account of opening hours, access arrangements, inspection and cleaning frequencies, security, reporting arrangements and the design of any future access-control system. Usage and incident information gathered during operation will help officers determine w Year-round opening will extend the period during which the facility is available and may increase exposure to vandalism, rough sleeping, drug-related activity, anti-social behaviour or misuse. These risks will be managed through appropriate opening hours,

	lighting, access controls, cleaning and inspection frequencies, fault-reporting arrangements and liaison with relevant community safety and enforcement services. Officers should review whether the proposed 4.00pm closing time remains appropriate throughout winter and retain delegated authority to adjust hours where evidence demonstrates a significant operational or community-safety concern. Whether any changes to the operating arrangements are required.
11.	**Background documents** Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
11.1	• Report to Cabinet on the 6th of July 2026 • The 2026/27 budget decision or amendment; • Previous Equality Impact Assessment • EHRC guidance
12.	**Appendices**
12.1	None
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Alistair Wilson, City Services, alistair.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk

REPORT TITLE: Budget Outturn 2025-26

To: Cabinet

23 September 2026

Report by:
Jody Etherington, Chief Finance Officer
Tel: 01223 458130 Email: jody.etherington@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:
All

Director Approval: Chief Finance Officer Jody Etherington confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet for decision.

1.	**Recommendations**
1.1	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1. Note this Budget Outturn Report 2025-26. 2. Recommend to Full Council the approval of the revenue budget carry forwards greater than £50,000 listed at Appendix C. 3. Recommend to Full Council the creation of a new earmarked reserve for asset compliance, and the transfer into this reserve of the net 2025/26 General Fund underspend of £1.930 million. 4. Recommend to Full Council the approval of the General Fund capital budget carry forwards listed at Appendix D, together with the carry forward of associated resources to finance this expenditure (including £1.767 million of planned revenue contributions to capital). 5. Recommend to Full Council the approval of the Housing Revenue Account capital budget carry forwards listed at Appendix F.

2.	**Purpose and reason for the report**
2.1	This report explains the final outturn position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the 2025/26 financial year. It is presented to Cabinet and then Full Council in support of its statutory and constitutional responsibilities in respect of financial sustainability and monitoring compliance with the budgetary framework.
2.2	Under the council's financial regulations, budget carry forwards in excess of £50,000 require approval by Full Council.
3.	**Alternative options considered**
3.1	The council could choose not to approve some or all of the requested revenue and capital budget carry forwards. The implications of this would vary depending upon the nature of the requests refused, but this would likely have a detrimental impact upon service provision or the ability to complete the council's planned capital programme.
3.2	The council could choose not to create a new earmarked reserve for asset compliance, or not to transfer the full 2025/26 General Fund underspend to this reserve. Such a decision would likely leave the council with significant unfunded and unavoidable capital costs, particularly in relation to the Jesus Green riverbank.
4.	**Background and key issues**
4.1	Draft 2025-26 outturn figures were first presented in the Quarterly Performance Report January to March 2026, which was received by Cabinet on 7 July 2026. There have been no changes to the outturn figures since this report, although some corrections have been made to HRA capital budgets which impacts the capital carry forward requests, as highlighted within this report.
4.2	Note that the external audit of the council's 2025/26 Statement of Accounts commenced earlier this month and is still ongoing, therefore all figures within this report remain as draft for the time being. Should there be any changes as a result of audit which impact

upon the council’s General Fund or HRA reserves, this will be reported as part of the 2027/28 budget-setting process.

5. General Fund

5.1 After proposed budget carry forwards, there was a net underspend on the General Fund of **£1.930 million**, which can be summarised as follows:-

Group	Current Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Unspent budget carried forward £'000	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Chief Executive Office	2,555	2,688	-	133
City Services	1,058	642	-	(416)
Communities	10,240	9,779	17	(444)
Corporate Hub	10,370	5,985	111	(4,274)
Economy and Place	(8,153)	(9,006)	214	(639)
Planning and Building Control	1,559	1,485	-	(74)
Non-service expenditure	14,157	15,202	1,767	2,812
Total net expenditure	**31,786**	**26,775**	**2,109**	**(2,902)**
Funded by:				
Business rates and council tax	(24,114)	(23,161)	-	953
Government grants	(4,374)	(4,355)	-	19
Use of earmarked reserves	(711)	(711)	-	-
Total funding	**(29,199)**	**(28,227)**	**-**	**972**
Total General Fund outturn	**2,587**	**(1,452)**	**2,109**	**(1,930)**

5.2 The final 2025/26 budget included a planned use of unallocated General Fund reserves to support council services of £2.587 million. The net underspend of £1.930 million means that the actual draw on reserves, after carry forwards, is £657,000.

5.3 The most significant areas of **underspend** and **increased income** were as follows:-

- Net investment income was £1.9 million higher than budgeted (after transfers to earmarked reserves). This was due to capital slippage, which meant that cash balances were higher than anticipated throughout the year, along with sustained higher interest rates on investments. Investment income is projected to fall in future years as excess cash is applied to the council’s planned capital programme.
- Net income from car parks was £1.6 million higher than budgeted, reflecting continuing strong demand at the Grand Arcade, Park Street and Queen Anne Terrace car parks, together with tariff increases and the reintroduction of overnight

	charging. Adjustments to budgets from 2026/27 mean that this level of over-achievement is unlikely to be repeated.
5.4	The most significant areas of **overspend** and **reduced income** were as follows:- • Underachievement of business rates income of £1.0 million following a significant number of ratings appeals being resolved in year.
5.5	A more detailed breakdown of outturn by service grouping is provided at Appendix A, whilst Appendix B contains commentary on all individual cost centre variances greater than £50,000.
5.6	Due to the council's current financial position and continuing need to deliver savings over the medium-term, carry forward of service revenue budgets has only been proposed in exceptional circumstances this year. A full list of proposed revenue carry forwards has been provided at Appendix C. In line with the council's constitution, those over £50,000 require approval by Full Council. Those under £50,000 have already been approved by the Chief Finance Officer and are listed for information only.
5.7	There are a number of emerging pressures in the General Fund relating to asset condition and compliance. The most significant of these concerns necessary urgent repairs to the riverbank at Jesus Green, which is the subject of a separate report to the September Cabinet meeting. Other immediate pressures are emerging or likely to emerge as a result of an ongoing asset compliance review. As such, it is proposed that the £1.930 million General Fund underspend be placed into an earmarked reserve, to fund first and foremost the additional costs associated with the Jesus Green riverbank (currently estimated at £1.561 million on top of the £850,000 budget already approved). Any excess will then be held to support other essential asset compliance work.
5.8	The outturn position on the council's General Fund capital programme for 2025/26 is as follows:-

Capital Outturn – Q4 2025/26	Final Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Unspent budget carried forward £'000	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
General Fund				
Loans to Cambridge Investment Partnership	36,704	14,663	22,041	-
Park Street development	32,797	13,233	-	(19,564)
Civic Quarter	6,417	4,629	1,788	-
Sustainable Warmth Grant - HUG2	4,638	2,211	-	(2,427)
Operational Hub	3,495	4,767	-	1,272
East Barnwell new centre	3,449	1,241	2,208	-
S106 funded projects	2,232	1,715	560	43
Other capital projects	18,654	8,326	10,336	8
General Fund total	**108,386**	**50,785**	**36,933**	**(20,812)**

5.9 Project by project variances are set out in detail at Appendix D, alongside capital carry forwards for Full Council approval.

6. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

6.1 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a statutory ringfenced account, whereby rent and service charge income from council tenants and leaseholders can only be spent upon the provision of housing services. As such, it is managed in a different way from the General Fund, with reserve balances held as close as possible to the minimum target level, and surpluses generated from housing operations reinvested into capital expenditure (either on maintaining and improving existing stock, or building new homes).

6.2 The 2025/26 outturn on the HRA is summarised below:-

	(table below)

Service Grouping	Current Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	(Under budget)/ over budget
Income			
Dwelling rents	(51,684)	(52,225)	(541)
Other rents	(1,376)	(1,489)	(113)
Service charges	(4,076)	(4,288)	(212)
Other income	(862)	(356)	506
Total Income	**(57,998)**	**(58,358)**	**(360)**
Expenditure			
Repairs and maintenance	12,871	19,155	6,284
Management	11,245	11,220	(25)
Bad debt provision	527	1,102	575
Depreciation	12,254	12,647	393
Total Expenditure	**36,897**	**44,124**	**7,227**
Net operating surplus	**(21,101)**	**(14,234)**	**6,867**
Net interest cost	8,949	8,284	(665)
Revenue contribution to capital financing	11,140	4,717	(6,423)
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves	0	183	183
HRA (surplus)/deficit	**(1,012)**	**(1,050)**	**(38)**

6.3 As shown above, the operating surplus on the HRA for 2025/26 was £6.9 million lower than budgeted. This was mainly due to the following factors:-

- Increased spend on housing repairs (£2.3 million), including damp, condensation and mould, in order to comply with Awaab’s law.
- The need for interim fire safety measures including waking watch at a number of sites (£1.5 million). As a result of work already undertaken, the number of sites with waking watches in place has reduced from eleven to two. It is taking longer than anticipated to address the final two sites as decanting is required.
- Additional costs of dealing with voids due to the poor condition of significant numbers of void properties (£1.5 million).
- The cost of rectifications (£1.4 million) as a result of fire and other damage to properties.

6.4 The impact of these overspends is that the revenue contribution towards HRA capital

	expenditure in year had to be reduced by £6.4 million in order to maintain revenue reserves above the target level. This will have a knock-on impact on future years, as it has increased the amount the council needed to borrow to fund its capital programme.
6.5	The council continues to take strong action to address overspends in the HRA, including an in-depth budget review and rebasing which took place as part of the 2026/27 budget setting exercise, and continuous monitoring and mitigating actions. However, conditions remain challenging, and the implementation of Awaab's Law Phase 2 will add to those pressures. This will be reviewed again as part of the 2027/28 budget setting process.
6.6	More detailed commentary on significant HRA variances at cost centre level has been provided at Appendix E.
6.7	The outturn on the HRA capital programme for 2025/26 is as follows:-
6.8	Note that within the Quarterly Performance Report January to March 2026, which was presented to Cabinet on 7 July 2026, final budget figures for the HRA capital programme were overstated as a result of an administrative error. This meant that carry forward and under/overspend figures were also incorrect. These errors have been corrected in the table above and the associated Appendix. Actual expenditure of £65.9 million has not changed from the original report.
6.9	Project by project variances are set out in detail at Appendix F, alongside capital carry forwards for Full Council approval.
7.	**Corporate plan**

Capital Outturn – Q4 2025/26	Final Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Unspent budget carried forward £'000	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Housing Revenue Account				
Existing stock	41,271	24,468	17,038	235
New build and acquisitions	51,711	41,463	11,010	762
Other	3,284	2	2,682	(600)
Housing Revenue Account total	**96,266**	**65,933**	**30,730**	**397**

7.1	The council's budget framework supports all aspects of the Corporate Plan. Budgets requested for carry forward have already been approved by Full Council in 2025/26 or an earlier year, and approval of carry forwards will allow for delivery of the priorities these budgets were assigned to support. Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council
8.	**Consultation, engagement and communication**
8.1	The 2025/26 budget setting process was subject to full public consultation in line with the council's Code of Best Practice on Consultation and Community Engagement.
9.	**Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact**
9.1	Approval of budget carry forwards will allow delivery of the associated corporate priorities. The approval of a new earmarked reserve for asset compliance will provide a degree of financial resilience against known and unknown future asset compliance risks.
10.	**Implications**
	Relevant risks
10.1	Where capital budgets are carried forward due to project slippage, this increases the risk of overall overspend due to extended project timelines and the impact of inflation where procurement is delayed. This risk will need to be managed by the relevant project manager in line with the council's usual Financial Regulations.
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
10.2	The maintenance of reserves above their target level helps to demonstrate and secure the council's medium-term financial resilience in advance of local government reorganisation.

	Financial Implications
10.3	The financial implications of the requested carry forwards have already been taken into account within future reserve projections. Since budget has already been assigned, there is no further implication from approving carry forwards (apart from the increased risk of overspend identified above). Earmarking the 2025/26 General Fund underspend to support asset compliance work, including at the Jesus Green riverbank, will avoid the need to fund this essential work from other council resources.
	Legal Implications
10.4	None identified.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
10.5	The equalities and socio-economic implications of individual budget proposals will have been considered at the time of budget setting in line with the relevant council policy and statutory requirements. This includes the preparation of an Equalities Impact Assessment for each year’s budget as a whole, and further assessments for individual proposals where the impact is likely to be significant.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
10.6	The net zero, climate change and environmental implications of individual budget proposals will have been considered at the time of budget setting in line with the relevant council policy and statutory requirements. This includes the assignment of a climate change rating to each individual proposal.
	Procurement Implications
10.7	None identified.
	Community Safety Implications

10.8	None identified.
11.	**Background documents** Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
11.1	General Fund Budget Setting Report 2025/26 to 2029/30 HRA Budget-Setting Report (BSR) 2025/26 Quarterly Performance Report January to March 2026
12.	**Appendices**
12.1	Appendix A – General Fund Revenue Outturn 2025/26 Appendix B – General Fund Revenue Variances Appendix C – General Fund Revenue Carry Forward Requests Appendix D – General Fund Capital Outturn 2025/26 Appendix E – Housing Revenue Account Revenue Variances Appendix F – Housing Revenue Account Capital Outturn 2025/26
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Jody Etherington, Chief Finance Officer, tel: 01223 458130, email: jody.etherington@cambridge.gov.uk

Appendix A – General Fund Revenue Outturn 2025/26

Group / Service Grouping	Current Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Unspent budget carried forward £'000	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Chief Executive Office				
Chief Executive Office	1,022	1,025	-	3
Democratic Services	1,533	1,663	-	130
Total Chief Executive Office	**2,555**	**2,688**	**-**	**133**
City Services				
Bereavement Services	(734)	(872)	-	(138)
Car Parking	(6,558)	(8,173)	-	(1,615)
Community Safety	366	387	-	21
Garage Services	64	(47)	-	(111)
Management	379	464	-	85
Markets and Street Trading	(528)	(549)	-	(21)
Operational Buildings	526	534	-	8
Sport and Recreation	659	1,216	-	557
Streets and Open Spaces	4,433	5,218	-	785
Waste and Recycling	2,451	2,464	-	13
Total City Services	**1,058**	**642**	**-**	**(416)**
Communities				
Community Centres	1,004	958	-	(46)
Community Development	1,765	1,734	-	(31)
Community Grants	1,443	1,437	-	(6)
Community Safety	764	717	-	(47)
Cultural Services	1,049	854	17	(178)
Environmental Health	1,353	1,350	-	(3)
Housing Strategy and Advice	2,124	1,964	-	(160)
Homelessness	535	548	-	13
Management	203	217	-	14
Total Communities	**10,240**	**9,779**	**17**	**(444)**
Corporate Hub				
Central Costs and Recharges	1,558	(66)	-	(1,624)
Customer Service Centre	2,162	2,007	-	(155)
Financial Services	1,998	1,864	111	(23)
Housing Benefit Expenditure	63	333	-	270
ICT	3,518	3,129	-	(389)
Insurance	1,186	1,613	-	427
Internal Audit	257	213	-	(44)
Investment interest and financing costs	(1,349)	(3,867)	-	(2,518)
Legal Services	872	740	-	(132)
Management	227	199	-	(28)
Office Buildings	1,323	1,206	-	(117)
People and Change	2,170	2,108	-	(62)
Procurement	291	301	-	10
Recharges to Housing Revenue Account	(4,915)	(4,839)	-	76
Revenues and Benefits Administration	1,009	1,044	-	35
Total Corporate Hub	**10,370**	**5,985**	**111**	**(4,274)**

Group / Service Grouping	Current Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Unspent budget carried forward £'000	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Economy and Place				
Commercial Property Services	(9,967)	(10,292)	-	(325)
Development	375	259	100	(16)
Economy, Energy and Climate Change	1,104	690	114	(300)
Management	335	337	-	2
Total Economy and Place	**(8,153)**	**(9,006)**	**214**	**(639)**
Planning and Building Control				
Building Control	165	148	-	(17)
Greater Cambridge Planning Service	1,394	1,337	-	(57)
Total Planning and Building Control	**1,559**	**1,485**	**-**	**(74)**
Total for all Groups	**17,629**	**11,573**	**342**	**(5,714)**
Non-service expenditure				
Capital expenditure financed from revenue	7,982	6,342	1,767	127
Contributions to earmarked funds	6,175	8,860	-	2,685
Total non-service expenditure	**14,157**	**15,202**	**1,767**	**2,812**
Net spending requirement	**31,786**	**26,775**	**2,109**	**(2,902)**
Funded by:				
Business rates baseline	(4,750)	(4,750)	-	-
Accumulated business rates growth	(8,767)	(7,814)	-	953
Government grants (including NHB)	(4,374)	(4,355)	-	19
Council tax	(10,597)	(10,597)	-	-
Appropriations from earmarked funds	(1,711)	(1,711)	-	-
Total funding	**(30,199)**	**(29,227)**	**-**	**972**
Total General Fund outturn	**1,587**	**(2,452)**	**2,109**	**(1,930)**

Appendix B – General Fund Revenue Variances

Group	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Chief Executive Office	Democratic Services	Includes £116k net overspend due to changes in members basic and special responsibility allowances. This is slightly offset by an underspend of £29k in the events budget. There is a net overspend of £47k for electoral registration due largely to rising postage, courier, and printing costs and legislative limits on digital alternatives, and annual canvass costs including staff, tablets, and software.	130
City Services	Bereavement Services	Net underspend includes a credit of £227k in relation to the recovery of legal costs incurred in previous years on the A14 settlement – these costs have now been recovered. Without this the service would be showing a net overspend of £89k. This includes an overspend of £114k at the Crematorium reflecting wider national trends across the bereavement sector, with sustained growth in online-only providers offering direct cremation and more customers choosing this simpler, lower-cost option. The position is being actively managed through a review of service offer and pricing. Meanwhile, cemeteries are showing a net underspend of £75k due to increased income. This reflects targeted business improvement activity across the service. There is also a £20k overspend on vehicle repairs reflecting the age of the fleet, with this being managed through planned maintenance and future replacement planning.	(138)
	Car Parking	Income performance reflects strong demand at Grand Arcade, Park Street and Queen Anne Terrace car parks, which has more than offset reduced usage at Grafton Centre following recent closures. Demand at Grafton is expected to improve over time, as new offices and laboratory space become operational. Income has also been supported by the reintroduction of overnight charging and tariff increases in 2025/26. The allocation of some spaces to dedicated EV charging has reduced capacity slightly, although this has been mitigated through returning bays to dual use to optimise overall income.	(1,615)
City Services	Garage Services	Includes overachievement of income on external (£117k) and internal (£98k) work, offset by corresponding overspend of £149k on parts and consumables.	(111)
	Management	A £62k pressure on salaries within this area reflects targeted investment to strengthen leadership capacity across City Services, including the regrading of two posts and the introduction of a Programme Manager role. The overspend also includes focused investment in leadership and management development to establish a strong and consistent City Services leadership team, in the absence of a dedicated training budget.	85

Group	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
City Services (cont'd)	Sport and Recreation	An overspend of £348k within the leisure contract reflects a combination of historic utility recharges and the phasing of the new Leisure Contract Agency model. The budget assumed implementation from April; however the model commenced in August 2025, resulting in the previous operating model continuing for part of the year. This has now been addressed and is reflected in the ongoing budget position from 2026/27. In addition, there is an overspend of £204k on Recreation, including a one-off catch-up on electricity recharges at Jesus Green Pool (where estimated billing has been aligned to actual consumption resulting in a £150k back payment), and salary overspends following the late implementation of the service restructure.	557
City Services	Streets and Open Spaces	Includes salary overspends across the service totalling £430k. This reflects the implementation of the service restructure, including the regrading of posts, structural changes and pay protection arrangements. The timing of implementation from July 2025 rather than April 2025 also contributed to the variance. These changes have now been embedded and are reflected in the ongoing budget position, strengthening the service's leadership and delivery capacity. There is also an overspend of £123k on vehicle hire and repairs, associated with the age profile of the fleet. This is being addressed through the planned vehicle replacement programme, which will reduce maintenance costs and improve reliability over time. A £116k overspend in public toilet cleaning contract costs reflects updated cost levels and service requirements, with this now built into the 2026/27 budget. An overspend of £69k on Open Space Asset Maintenance reflects historic trends, and a £50k budget increase for 2026/27 will bring these budgets in line with actual operating costs.	785
Communities	Cultural Services	A positive variance of £111k on the Corn Exchange and Guildhall is primarily due to an increase in events from 178 last financial year to 208 in 2025/26. This has given the Council an increase in show related income (hire fee, booking fee, recharges, merchandise commission and food & beverages (F&B)). There is also an underspend of £83k within the central Cultural Services team which is primarily due to some staff vacancy gaps during the year – Project Officer, Marketing and Fundraising Assistant and a delay in recruiting the Sponsorship Officer and Marketing Manager.	(178)

Group	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Communities (cont'd)	Housing Strategy and Advice	There has been an increase in the number of properties being managed by Town Hall Lettings which has increased income, coupled with more focused work on recovering rechargeable repairs and minimising void times, as well as some salary underspend due to long term sickness and a vacant post, which has now been filled.	(160)
Corporate Hub	Central Costs and Recharges	Includes £2.025m one-off compensation income in relation to the impact of the construction of the new A14 on the Crematorium. This has been transferred to earmarked reserves and will be used to fund capital works including mitigating works at the Crematorium. Also includes a one-off underspend of £147k on historic pension deficit contributions due to accounting adjustments. This has been offset by £548k of additional staff costs from across the organisation resulting from an above budgeted pay award and increased NI contributions during 2025/26.	(1,624)
	Customer Service Centre	Includes £87k net underspend in staffing budget as a result of high turnover and unused contingency budget. In Business Support there is a net one-off underspend of £68k as a result of one-off income relating to work undertaken in 2024/25.	(155)
	Housing Benefit Expenditure	The net overspend includes subsidy loss of £346k partly offset by £51k overachievement of overpayment recovery. The main pressure continues to be rent allowance subsidy shortfall where entitlement and payment is not fully reimbursed by DWP due to landlords being charitable entities and not Registered Providers. A budget bid has been included within 2026/27 with the intention of addressing this situation.	270
Corporate Hub	ICT	The £389k net underspend includes £174k unused contingency budget for disaster management, £93k underspend from CDIO (Chief Digital and Information Officer) project, £30k underspend from TVI (Triple Value Impact) consultancy project and £80k underspend related to supplies and services. The supplies and services budget has been adjusted for the 2026/27 financial year to reflect the underspend.	(389)
	Insurance	The overspend includes £339k relating to property and fire insurance claims, £94k for liability claims and £60k for insurance premiums. This has been partially offset by a lower claims result in Motor by £37k.	427

Group	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Corporate Hub (contd)	Investment interest and financing costs	No further external borrowing took place in Q4 for the General Fund and this has significantly reduced the interest payable and the Minimum Revenue Provision that needs to be made. As forecast at Q3, there has been increased interest received from loans to the Cambridge Investment Partnership as a result of the drawdown of loans agreed by Full Council in October 2025. Note that £660k of this income has been transferred to the Development Reserve in line with the council's policy to set aside excess amounts for future capital spend. The General Fund also benefits from interest from the HRA on internal borrowing, which has increased this year to avoid more expensive external borrowing for the HRA. In line with the Treasury Management Strategy, it is anticipated that some of this internal borrowing will need to be externalised during 2026/27.	(2,518)
	Legal Services	The underspend of £132k is a result of efficient consumption of legal resource, achieving legal income projections, and underspend due to a vacancy in the Deputy Head of Practice role which is being addressed.	(132)
	Office Buildings	At the Guildhall there was a £104k net underspend on utilities costs due to low building usage, offset by a £56k overspend in business rates following the recent revaluation. There is also a £41k underspend on the Facilities Management team, due to a vacant post.	(117)
	People and Change	Includes a £31k underspend on the Digital and Application Support team as a result of staff vacancy. Recruitment is underway.	(62)
	Recharges to Housing Revenue Account	Underspends on a number of corporate services has seen a corresponding reduction in the recharge to the HRA – essentially this represents the HRA's share of corporate underspends as described elsewhere in this table.	76

Group	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Economy and Place	Commercial Property Services	There was negative impact of £1.05m as a result of the updated ground rent calculations for Lion Yard. These showed that previous amounts paid to the council on account were too high, resulting in a downwards adjustment to rental income of around £350k per year for 3 years. The correct position has been reflected in the 2026/27 budget going forwards. This has been offset to some degree by overachievement of income totalling £440k on other commercial and industrial properties, from a variety of factors including rent reviews and new lease completions. In addition, there is overachievement of income from the Park Street Aparthotel (£813k) due to an accounting adjustment in the treatment of the 6-month rent free period upon lease commencement. There is also an underspend of £122k on the Property Services team due to two vacant posts which were proving challenging to recruit.	(325)
	Economy, Energy and Climate Change	The underspend is due to combination of delays in staff recruitment and £81k cost recovery from capital projects for warm homes and retrofit. There have been some recruitment challenges due to the niche market for posts and shortages of suitable candidates. Some posts have had to be re-evaluated as part of new team development planning.	(300)
Planning and Building Control	Greater Cambridge Planning Service	This is largely due having higher planning application income, unbudgeted government grants and other contributions and costs recovered. These are offset by higher employee related costs and supplies and services overspends most of which relate to the grant funded activities.	(57)
Non-service expenditure	Capital expenditure financed from revenue	Includes financing of £142k of historic unfinanced capital expenditure from excess revenue reserves.	127
	Contributions to earmarked funds	Includes two large unbudgeted contributions in respect of variances above - £2.025m A14 compensation and £660k of income from loans to Cambridge Investment Partnership.	2,685
Funding	Business rates and council tax	Primarily due to underachievement of business rates income following significant rating appeals in recent years. This is a technically complex area and work is underway to better understand the reason for the shortfall and any mitigating actions which can be taken.	953

Appendix C – General Fund Revenue Carry Forward Requests

Group	Service Grouping	Underspend (£'000)	Carry Forward Request (£'000)	Reason
Communities	Cultural Services	(195)	17	To carry over funds set aside for the city's 75th anniversary event in July 2026 (already approved by Chief Finance Officer under £50k delegated authority level).
Corporate Hub	Financial Services	(134)	111	To set aside 2025/26 service underspend to cover known and unavoidable pressures associated with external audit assurance build-back programme, with a focus on ensuring a clean audit opinion can be obtained prior to local government reorganisation.
Economy and Place	Development	(116)	100	To carry forward funding received by Homes England in relation to Hartree and not spent by the end of the year – this will support critical work on obtaining vacant possession and then demolition planning at Orwell House and Orwell Furlong.
Economy and Place	Economy, Energy and Climate Change	(414)	114	Amounts committed to the Included Project during 2025/26 but not yet spent during the financial year.
Total GF revenue carry forwards			**342**	

Appendix D – General Fund Capital Outturn 2025/26

Project	Final Budget 2025/26 £'000	Outturn 2025/26 £'000	Carry Forward Request £'000	(Under)/overspend £'000	Commentary
Administrative buildings maintenance	587	416	171	0	Underspend as a result of no planned capital maintenance in 2025/26 - carry forward against future and emerging pressures.
Automation of Bishops Mill sluice gate	90	0	90	0	Contract amendments made in order to commence flood risk assessment on sluice structure. Rephase to 2026/27.
Building Control Software & Hardware	80	11	69	0	The project is still work in progress and at the final stage, we will receive the invoice from the supplier after formal completion of the project.
Cambridge Corn Exchange - infrastructure improvements	78	197	0	119	Due to the length of the project original costs have risen due to inflation and other pressures.
Cambridge Food Distribution Hub at the Meadows Centre	97	39	58	0	Project delayed by complexity with building control and air conditioning plans. Site should be complete and handed over by end of June. Spend likely to go over budget by £25k due to additional professional fees and some additional required works.
CCTV hardware and software update	120	117	0	(3)	Project completed.
Chalk Streams projects in Cambridge	342	342	0	0	Project financed entirely from external grants, CPCA, Anglian Water, etc.
CHUB - community extension to Cherry Hinton library	93	52	0	(41)	Project completed in June 2025.
Clay Farm centre remedial works	1,669	984	685	0	Project funded from Homes England grant, projected completion in the summer of 2026.
Commercial property repair and maintenance	527	173	354	0	Property maintenance project budget to be carried forward. Backlog of outstanding capital works to be completed.
CPCA grant domestic energy efficiency and low carbon heating	905	887	0	(18)	Project is complete and can be closed. Underspend returned to funder as per agreement.
Creation of a new boat pumping station at Stourbridge Common	58	0	58	0	There has been some slippage in the works programme so this budget will need to be rephased into 2026/27.
Cycle parking improvements at Queen Anne Terrace car park	114	111	3	0	The works were completed in October 2025. Another payment (a contracted retention sum) of around £4.5k is due to the contractor in the autumn of 2026.
Decarbonisation works - Abbey pool, Parkside pool, Cherry Hinton village centre	1,156	42	1,114	0	Decarbonisation works to be continued in the new financial year.
Depot Relocation programme to create Operational Hub	3,495	4,767	0	1,272	The overspend for the new Operational Hub came to a total of £1.3 million, caused by delays from external contractors. It is important to note that the original capital bid was made over five years ago, and since then inflationary pressures—particularly in construction, materials, and labour, have significantly increased the cost base for delivery.
Development loan to CIP for Newbury Farm, ATS and Fanshawe	18,500	3,700	14,800	0	The development loan is drawn down as and when it is required, upon submission of cashflow forecasts and valuation certificates.
Development Of land at Clay Farm	804	44	760	0	Project is work in progress. Expenditure recharge is reducing as infrastructure is nearly complete. Keep project open and carry forward budget.
Development of the Civic Quarter	6,417	4,629	1,788	0	Spending on track to September 2026. Planning approved for Guildhall and Corn Exchange. Expect Market Square to be approved July 2026. Working on Business Plans for Cabinet report in autumn 2026.

Project	Final Budget 2025/26 £'000	Outturn 2025/26 £'000	Carry Forward Request £'000	(Under)/overspend £'000	Commentary
East Barnwell new centre	3,449	1,241	2,208	0	East Barnwell General Fund budget consists of building work for the main development scheme (delivering community centre, library and pre-school) and some off-site works (delivering a bowls green and tennis court at Abbey Leisure Centre). The scheme is progressing and will continue in 2026/27.
Eastnet Connect migration	200	133	0	(67)	Underspend as a result of efficient project delivery and underused additional resource.
EIP - Environmental Improvements Programme options	285	69	216	0	There has been some slippage in the works programme so this budget will need to be rephased into 2026/27.
Electric vehicle charging points - taxis	64	45	19	0	Project nearly completed.
Environmental Improvements Programme	73	25	48	0	There has been some slippage in the works programme so this budget will need to be rephased into 2026/27.
Equity loan to CIP for Newbury Farm, ATS and Fanshawe	4,677	4,213	464	0	The development loan is drawn down as and when it is required, upon submission of cashflow forecasts and valuation certificates.
Essential repairs to Jesus Green river bank	845	33	812	0	Drainage engineer currently scoping works which are likely to exceed budget - see separate report to September Cabinet.
Fire management compliance at the Grand Arcade car park	162	61	101	0	Project nearing completion. Rephase to 2026/27.
Food waste policy implementation programme	464	0	464	0	Food waste implementation programme in progress and planned to complete at the end of 2026/27.
ICT & Digital Capabilities	124	0	124	0	£124k underspend as a result of project planning, scoping the solution.
King's Hedges Play Equipment	75	78	0	3	Minor overspend against project budget.
Laptop and desktop replacement	209	177	32	0	£31k underspend is based on actual laptops purchased. This is a laptop replacement programme, will continue for another couple of years.
Loan to CIP to purchase land south of Cambridge	13,527	6,750	6,777	0	One remaining loan instalment to be drawn down in line with planned profile.
Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (Owner Occupiers)	404	148	0	(256)	Annual grant allocation from the government. The budget is underspent, as the funding awarded is not matched to number of residents requiring adaptations. There is no requirement to carry forward the remaining budget.
Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (Tenants)	404	334	0	(70)	Annual grant allocation from the government. The budget is underspent, as the funding awarded is not matched to number of residents requiring adaptations. There is no requirement to carry forward the remaining budget.
Market Square project	155	1	154	0	This is on hold, pending the outcome of the Civic Quarter project. Should the Civic Quarter project be approved, this project would be incorporated into it. For the time being, the budget has been carried forward.
Meadows Community Hub and Buchan St retail outlet	0	126	0	126	The variance arises from additional professional fees, initially expected to be funded from the HRA but ultimately charged to the General Fund without a contingency budget.
Minor Highway Improvement Programme	106	11	95	0	Commitments with County to be reviewed in 2026/27.
NHS new community room at Abbey Leisure Centre	168	135	33	0	Some fit out works yet to be completed and then 12 month retention monies on hold in case of defects.
Park Street Car Park Development	32,797	13,233	0	(19,564)	The Council spent £19.6 million less than budgeted on the Park Street redevelopment, which opened fully this year, as a result of strong contract management. This project is funded from external borrowing, so the underspend reduces the need to borrow rather than releasing any new resource.
Pathfinder House data centre equipment replacement	110	0	110	(0)	Carry forward to 2026/27.

Project	Final Budget 2025/26 £'000	Outturn 2025/26 £'000	Carry Forward Request £'000	(Under)/overspend £'000	Commentary
Pool and rainwater recovery system	424	0	424	0	The project is scheduled for delivery in 2026/27, the funding mechanism for the grant is administered by South Cambridgeshire District Council.
Purchase of 2 pest control vehicles	84	0	84	0	The purchase of the vans was approved in November 2025, but due to the long lead time - from order to purchasing - the spend will take place in 2026/27.
Purchase of 4 new wood shredders	59	59	0	0	Project completed.
Purchase of a second LGV channel sweeper	180	180	0	0	Project completed.
Recommended maintenance at Abbey pool, Parkside pool and Cherry Hinton village centre	367	98	269	0	Works on the capital upgrades to continue in the new financial year.
Redevelopment of Silver Street Toilets	382	612	0	230	Project completion in early March. Overspend is relating to traffic management from County Council, commodity costs have increased and the project team have been working on the project longer than originally budgeted.
Repairs Assistance (Owner Occupiers)	522	72	450	0	Spend is demand-led - carry forward unspent budget to 2026/27.
Replacement air quality monitoring equipment	81	31	0	(50)	Project fully completed well under budget.
Replacing ride-on lawn mowers	69	69	0	0	Project completed.
Structural Holding Repairs & Lift Refurbishment - Car Parks	82	41	41	0	Project nearing completion. Rephase to 2026/27.
Structural repairs at Cambridge car parks	165	152	13	0	Carry forward unspent amounts against future required repairs.
Sustainable Warmth Grant - Home Upgrade Grant 2	4,638	2,211	0	(2,427)	The original budget was higher than the final grant amount received. This is a fully grant funded project which has now been completed successfully.
Urban Tree Challenge Fund: Priority, people, planting, parks	57	8	49	0	2 years left on the project. Project on course. Rephase to 2026/27
Warm Homes: Local Grant - DESNZ funding	1,834	1,422	412	0	Year 1 of 3 year project with external funding from Government. Unspent budget to be carried forward.
Waste vehicle replacement programme	1,374	42	1,332	0	Waste vehicle replacement programme in progress and planned to complete at the end of 2027/28.
Wetlands at Logan's Meadow LNR	197	204	0	7	Project completed and grant fully claimed from the Combined Authority.
WREN solar project at Waterbeach	1,482	146	1,336	0	WREN project in progress and forecasting to complete at the end of 2026/27.
Section 106 Funded Projects	2,232	1,715	560	(43)	All projects where the S106 monies have not been fully spent are requested to be carried forward.
Other Capital Projects (under £50k budget)	727	399	356	(30)	
Total	**108,386**	**50,785**	**36,933**	**(20,812)**	

Appendix E – Housing Revenue Account Revenue Variances

Budget Line	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Income	Dwelling rents	Gross rents are higher than budgeted. This is partly due to new council dwellings being let out to tenants earlier than assumed in the budget. The number of dwellings that are being re-let on the basis of rent flexibility is higher than anticipated with an overall positive impact on rental income.	(541)
	Other rents	Consists of £65k overachievement of income on HRA commercial properties (shops) and £48k overachievement of income on HRA garages following changes to the charging structure.	(113)
	Service charges	Overachievement of £143k on leaseholder service charges which vary depending upon actual costs in line with statutory requirements. Other service charges have overachieved broadly in line with dwelling rents, reflecting the early letting of new dwellings as above.	(212)
	Other income	Includes underachievement of income from the General Fund for shared amenities of £436k following changes to recharge model – this will be investigated and any adjustments made in 2026/27.	506

Budget Line	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Expenditure	Repairs and maintenance	This significant additional expenditure is broken down as follows: £2.347m over budget on day-to day repairs. This reflects a deliberate response to increased damp, condensation and mould (DCM) demand. This combines the use of specialist external support to accelerate complex cases with investment in DCM works to support compliance, prevention, and a more robust end-to-end response. This is supported by the addition of two staff to strengthen initial response and operational oversight, along with improved systems and process controls to enable earlier identification, prioritisation and tracking of cases. These changes are improving operational control and supporting ongoing compliance with Awaab's Law. £1.536m overspend on asset management. This is due to Waking Watch arrangements in response to specific fire safety risks. The requirement has now reduced, with ongoing cover confined to a small number of sites. £1.479m overspend on Voids (voids is the term used for properties returned to the Council at the end of a tenancy). This reflects a high volume of voids returned in a poor condition during the year. Additional works were completed while properties were void to improve overall condition and support a more robust standard for re-letting. £1.431m overspend on Client and Third Party Repairs. This is result of a significant increase in insurance-related repair activity during the year, including major fire incidents within HRA properties. Costs relate to emergency response, reinstatement and follow-on works. The position is largely incident-led and therefore partly one-off, although the increasing complexity and value of claims presents an ongoing financial pressure. Actions in place and continuing into 2026/27 focus on strengthening cost recovery processes, improving visibility and control of uninsured expenditure, and targeted investment in compliance, fire safety and preventative measures to reduce future incident risk and associated financial pressures.	6,284

Budget Line	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Expenditure (contd)	Repairs and maintenance (contd)	£586k underspend on overheads. Operational experience has provided greater clarity on cost drivers at the new Operational Hub, particularly energy and security, alongside one-off setup costs such as equipment and transitional business rates. This improved understanding has been fully reflected in the 2026/27 budget, ensuring a more accurate and robust financial position going forward.	
	Bad debt provision	Ongoing impact of rent regulation error refunds continues to affect the level of rent arrears and collection rates. Until a resolution is reached with DWP it will not be possible to write-off historic uncollectable arrears, therefore both the level of arrears and provision against these will continue to increase.	575
	Depreciation	Depreciation charges depend solely on the annual stock valuation and are therefore outside of the control of the council. Depreciation charges are transferred to the Major Repairs Reserve and used to fund capital repairs and maintenance within the council's existing housing stock.	393
Non-service expenditure	Net interest cost	Net financing costs are lower than budget due to capital slippage, which has reduced the borrowing requirement in year, along with the fact that the HRA has continued to borrow internally from the General Fund rather than externally. However, General Fund cash is now running low, and it is likely that some borrowing will need to be externalised in 2026/27 – this is taken into account within the HRA Business Plan.	(665)
	Revenue contribution to capital financing	The HRA Business Plan seeks to maximise revenue contributions to capital financing, in order to reduce the need for the HRA to borrow. However, service overspends elsewhere, as described above, mean that less money has been available for capital financing this year. This will have a direct impact on borrowing need, leading to increased interest costs in the future. This will be taken into account when the HRA Business Plan is next refreshed.	(6,423)

Budget Line	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Non-service expenditure (contd)	Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves	This represents amounts transfers to Repairs & Renewals reserves to pay for specific future capital works within the HRA estate.	183

Appendix F – Housing Revenue Account Capital Outturn 2025/26

Project	Final Budget 2025/26 £'000	Outturn 2025/26 £'000	Carry Forward Request £'000	(Under)/overspend £'000	Commentary
Existing stock					
Asbestos Removal	53	343	0	290	Additional work identifed by Property Services pushed the spend above the allocated budget for the year. Future budgets brought forward to cover the extra spend.
Bathrooms	1,215	869	346	0	The variation is due to tenant refusals - to be carried forward to 2026/27.
Capitalised Officer Fees - Decent Homes	540	477	0	(63)	Slight underspend due to underspends on underlying work.
Capitalised Officer Fees - Other HRA Stock Spend	122	91	0	(31)	Slight underspend due to underspends on underlying work.
Central Heating / Boilers	2,226	1,543	683	0	The variation is due to tenant refusals - to be carried forward to 2027/28.
Communal Areas Floor Coverings	107	99	8	0	Carry forward small underspend.
Communal Areas Uplift	103	103	0	0	Timber ceilings to communal areas of flat blocks had to be replaced urgently, as identified as a fire risk by Compliance.
Communal Electrical Installations / Fire Systems / Communal	917	13	904	0	To be carried forward to 2026/2027 for work identified.
Communal Entrance / Enclosure Doors + Glazing	440	105	335	0	To be carried forward to deliver the work programme in 2026/27.
Decent Homes Backlog	5,610	0	5,610	0	This budget has not been used due to other decent homes works taking precedence, therefore the budget will be carried forward.
Decent Homes Planned Maintenance Contractor Overheads	1,797	1,173	624	0	This budget has been spent on the main works in 2025/26, but requires a carry forward to bring the project to completion in 2026/27.
Disabled Adaptions	928	737	191	0	All adult work requested completed for the year. Four children's cases allocated significant monies but unable to proceed in year - carry forward.
Electrical / Wiring	607	328	279	0	The variation is due to tenant refusals - to be carried forward to 2027/28.
Estate Investment	1,072	462	610	0	Some works were carried out, however due to staffing vacancies the planned projects were not developed sufficiently for budget to be spent this year, therefore budget will be carried forward.
External Doors	956	697	259	0	Fire doors not ordered until late in the year due to new specification requirements - carry forward to following year.
Fire Prevention / Fire Safety Works	855	1,190	0	335	Overspend due to additional works identified in year - part funded from underspends on HHSRS budget.
Garage Improvements	107	50	57	0	Work required is under order - carry forward to following year.
Hard surfacing on HRA Land - Health and Safety Works	231	256	0	25	All works completed with slight overspend.
HHSRS	678	254	242	(182)	S20 delays and access issues - outstanding works to be carried forward to 2026/27 with some underspend overall used to fund overspend on fire prevention.
Insulation / Energy Efficiency	8,659	7,977	682	0	Underspend as a result of incomplete works and invoices still to be paid on completion - carry forward.
Kitchens	2,012	1,316	696	0	The variation is due to tenant refusals - to be carried forward to 2026/27.
Lifts and Door Entry Systems	125	4	121	0	To be carried forward to 2026/2027 for work identified.
Local Authority Housing Fund Acquisitions	1,600	1,537	0	(63)	Slight underspend against allocated amount - grant funded.
New Build Decent Homes	2,431	0	2,431	0	This budget has not been utilised as other Decent Homes works have taken priority; therefore, the budget will be carried forward for outstanding works.
Other External Works	408	302	106	0	Carry forward unused budget.

Project	Final Budget 2025/26 £'000	Outturn 2025/26 £'000	Carry Forward Request £'000	(Under)/overspend £'000	Commentary
Other Health and Safety Works	53	0	0	(53)	The overall progress of the HRA capital programme, together with current levels of expenditure, indicates that this contingency budget is unlikely to be utilised next year.
Other Spend on HRA Stock Planned Maintenance Contractor Over	204	279	(75)	0	Some works have been completed ahead of schedule; therefore, the budget is requested to be brought forward from a future year.
PVCu Windows	2,981	1,440	1,541	0	The PVCu windows programme is of a significant scale and has not been fully completed due to access constraints. As a result, the budget will be carried forward.
Roof Covering	2,564	1,457	1,107	0	There was a delay in obtaining pricing for these works, which postponed the start on site; as a result, a carry forward is required.
Roof Structure	320	39	281	0	See roof covering works — to be combined into a single budget in the next financial year.
Sulphate Attacks	109	0	0	(109)	Budget not utlilised this year and no spend is expected in the next financial year.
Wall Structure	1,241	1,312	0	71	Budget fully utlilised this year with some overspend due to additional works.
Other projects <£50k	0	15	0	15	
Total existing stock	**41,271**	**24,468**	**17,038**	**235**	
New build and acquisitions					
Acquisitions & Disposals	10	660	0	650	Two council home buybacks in year.
Fanshawe Road	4,363	4,672	(309)	0	Variance of £309k overspend cas Affordable Housing Payment forecasted for next financial year was brought forward. Expecting total project overspend of approximately £180k in future years.
New Build - ATS, Histon Road	4,440	4,577	(137)	0	Delays in securing planning approval, but project now progressing ahead of schedule.
New Build - Aylesborough Close	3,933	3,293	640	0	Significant delay in entering into PCSA agreements were experienced.
New Build - Colville Road III	215	159	56	0	Retention payment of £196k due next year.
New Build - Davy Road	1,876	3,080	(1,204)	0	Overspend in-year as decanting has progressed quicker than expected - bring forward budget from future years.
New Build - East Barnwell	12,454	10,223	2,231	0	Delays in respect of start on site, but this major redevelopment project is now well underway. The budget unused in 2025/26 will be carried forward to the next financial year.
New Build - Eddeva Park	2,404	5	2,399	0	Significant delays are being experienced on this site as a result of the contractor withdrawing from the project, necessitating a re-tender by This Land.
New Build - Ekin Road	3,481	1,629	1,852	0	Expenditure expected to be broadly in line with budget for whole project - carry forward slippage.
New Build - Fen Road	58	71	0	13	Small invoice for professional fees paid in 2025/26.
New Build - Meadows and Buchan Street	1,134	796	338	0	Total expenditure for 2025/26 less than planned due to compensation from contractor being received earlier than expected.
New Build - Newbury Farm	10,234	10,163	71	0	The initial phases of the development were protracted, but the scheme is now in advanced delivery stage.
New Build - Sackville Close	(74)	30	0	104	Project complete with overspend - negative budget this year was as a result of amounts previously brought forward.
New Build - Unallocated Retained RTB Receipts	673	0	673	0	Kingsway/Arbury Court allocation is included in here - carry forward.
Princess and Hanover	4,535	1,579	2,956	0	Acquisition of leasehold properties slower than forecast due to complex negotiations. Planning submission delayed targeted start on site.
Stanton House	1,833	392	1,441	0	Extended design timeframes due to delivering sheltered accommodation and agreeing specifications with the County Council - carry forward unused budget.
Other projects <£50k	142	134	3	(5)	
Total new build and acquisitions	**51,711**	**41,463**	**11,010**	**762**	

Project	Final Budget 2025/26 £'000	Outturn 2025/26 £'000	Carry Forward Request £'000	(Under)/overspend £'000	Commentary
Other					
Commercial Property	133	0	133	0	Unspent budget to be carried forward to 2026/27.
Inflation Allowance	2,455	0	2,455	0	This budget for inflation was not needed in 2025/26 due to an overall underspend on the capital programme.
Orchard Upgrade	72	2	70	0	The main spend on this project is planned for 2026/27 - carry forward.
Shared Ownership Repurchase	600	0	0	(600)	No repurchases in year - this is demand led.
Other projects <£50k	24	0	24	0	
Total other	**3,284**	**2**	**2,682**	**(600)**	
Total HRA capital programme	**96,266**	**65,933**	**30,730**	**397**	

REPORT TITLE: Development Loan to Cambridge Investment Partnership

To: Cabinet

23 September 2026

Report by:
Jody Etherington, Chief Finance Officer
Tel: 01223 458130 Email: jody.etherington@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:
All

Director Approval: Chief Finance Officer Jody Etherington confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet for decision.

1.	**Recommendations**
1.1	It is recommended that the Cabinet: 1. Recommend that Full Council increase the maximum development loan amount to be drawn down by Cambridge Investment Partnership LLP in respect of Newbury Farm, ATS/Murketts Histon Rd, and Fanshawe Road, by £12 million. 2. Recommend that Full Council approves a corresponding increase of £12 million to the total investment counter-party limit with CIP in the Treasury Management Strategy.
2.	**Purpose and reason for the report**
2.1	The council has been approached by representatives of the Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP) with a request to advance further development loan financing totalling a maximum of £12 million to support the housing schemes currently under development at Newbury Farm, ATS/Murketts Histon Rd, and Fanshawe Road.

2.2	Under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, the advancement of loans for capital purposes is to be treated by local authorities as capital expenditure. The council's constitution requires any allocation of council resources to capital purposes in excess of £1 million to be considered by Full Council. Whilst this is usually done as part of the annual budget-setting process, CIP's cash flow projections show that the financing is required in the current financial year, therefore an out-of-cycle decision is required.
3.	**Alternative options considered**
3.1	The council could choose not to advance further loan financing. In these circumstances, there are likely to be two courses of action available to CIP: • Slowing down of development on one or more sites, which will delay the handover of council homes; and/or • Seeking finance from an alternative provider – this may be challenging in the timescales required given the lack of formal credit rating and security over CIP assets already given to the council. As a result of these factors it is also likely that any alternative finance would be at higher interest rates, with a knock-on impact on the return generated by the schemes, of which 50% belongs to the council.
3.2	In addition, if the council chose not to proceed, there would be an opportunity cost to the General Fund. The agreed interest rates receivable on the loans to CIP are higher than the rates that are currently being obtained on the remainder of the council's investment portfolio.
4.	**Background and key issues**
4.1	Cambridge Investment Partnership LLP (CIP) is a 50:50 joint venture arrangement between the council and property developer Hill. The partnership has to date delivered over 700 new council homes within the city. Many of CIP's developments, including the three schemes under consideration in this report, are mixed tenure, meaning that the provision of council homes is supported by the sale of private units on the same

	development.
4.2	In October 2025, Full Council approved the establishment of new development loan facilities totalling £18.5 million from the council to CIP in respect of three ongoing developments at Newbury Farm (£6 million), ATS/Murketts Histon Rd (£7 million) and Fanshawe Road (£5.5 million). Alongside this, Full Council approved an equity investment of £4.7 million, with Hill also putting in an equivalent amount of equity.
4.3	Development on the site is proceeding well, and the equity has now been drawn down along with £11.4 million of development loans.
4.4	The recent and ongoing war in Iran has meant that build cost inflation has increased and sales rates have slowed. Acknowledging this, construction programming has been reviewed and the council's payments for the affordable housing has been reprofiled in line with new handover dates. This, along with a more conservative estimate of sales rates, has led to an increase in the project's cash financing requirement during the development phase.
4.5	There is strong evidence to suggest that the units remain ultimately highly saleable. The Cambridge property market has proved extremely resilient to past economic events, including Covid-19 and recent increases in interest rates. To date, across the three schemes, 20 units have already been sold or reserved.
4.6	CIP have therefore asked for the maximum development loan facilities already in place to be increased by a total of £12 million, to £30.5 million. This breaks down on a scheme-by-scheme basis as £3.9 million for Newbury Farm, £4.5 million for ATS/Murketts Histon Rd, and £3.6 million for Fanshawe Road.
4.7	The amount of £12 million is based upon planned project expenditure of £11.1 million between October and December, rounded up to provide some contingency. This therefore assumes a 3-month delay to sales income. The facility is provided on a flexible drawdown basis – it is in CIP's interest to only drawdown the amount which is actually required to finance the project, therefore the total amount drawn down may in fact be less

	than the maximum should sales proceed at a faster pace.
4.8	The additional amounts would be subject to the same security and protections as the original loans, namely: • A covenant to the effect that the loans are only to be used for the purposes of housing delivery, including regeneration activities, new build development and delivery of affordable housing. • Loans are secured against the assets of CIP and can only be drawn down against capital work-in-progress as certified by the council's employer's agent.
4.9	Other terms and conditions would also remain the same, including the interest rate which is set at 3.50% above the 5-year treasury gilt rate on a quarterly variable basis. This provides sufficient margin to the council to reflect the risk involved and provide some protection against future interest rate movements.
5.	**Corporate plan**
5.1	The recommendation supports the following priorities within the Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council:- Priority 3: • increasing the delivery of homes, and in particular affordable housing, including council homes, to meet housing need • diversifying the housing market and accelerating housing delivery • working with key partners to innovate and maximise available resources Priority 4: • run our services in an efficient way, generating income where appropriate to reinvest into other council services
6.	**Consultation, engagement and communication**
6.1	Specialist external tax and legal advice was sought upon agreement of the original loan

	facilities which confirms the council's approach to setting interest rates. In addition, development scheme approvals were subject to the usual consultation and planning process.
7.	**Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact**
7.1	The primary purpose of advancing loans to CIP is to facilitate the development of housing within the city, including affordable housing. There is a secondary benefit in respect of additional interest income to the General Fund, and the development profit generated by CIP, of which 50% also accrues to the General Fund.
8.	**Implications**
	Relevant risks
8.1	As with any loan there is an inherent risk of default on repayments – however this is significantly mitigated by the loan security, requirement for drawdown to be against certified work-in-progress, and the council's 50% participation in the CIP joint venture.
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
8.2	The loan agreements contain a specific provision for the loans to be transferred to a successor authority in the case of local government reorganisation.
	Financial Implications
8.3	The loans are likely to generate additional interest income for the General Fund. This is hard to quantify as the exact timing and amounts of drawdowns under the facility are unknown. The loans are advanced at a margin of approximately 2.70% above Public Works Loan Board rates, which provides some protection for the council even should it need to borrow to fund future drawdowns.
	Legal Implications

8.4	Legal advice supports the council's approach to both facilitation of loan and applicable interest rates.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.5	The loans will facilitate the provision of social housing within the city which will have positive socio-economic implications.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.6	The housing to be supported by the loans will be delivered to 'Cam Standard', which exceeds minimum energy efficiency requirements and therefore supports the council's environmental objectives.
	Procurement Implications
8.7	None.
	Community Safety Implications
8.8	None.
9.	**Background documents** Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
9.1	Establishment of new loan facilities for Cambridge Investment Partnership – report to Cabinet, September 2025
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Jody Etherington, Chief Finance Officer, tel: 01223 458130, email: jody.etherington@cambridge.gov.uk

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TITLE: Quarterly Performance Report April to June 2026

To:
Cabinet

23 September 2026

Report by:
Jane Wilson, Chief Operating Officer
Tel: 01223 457860 Email: jane.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:
All

Director Approval: Director Jane Wilson confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	**Recommendations**
1.1	It is recommended that the Cabinet: 1. Note the contents of the attached Quarterly Performance Report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2026
2.	**Purpose and reason for the report**
2.1	This report is to provide Cabinet with an overview of the Council's performance over the period 1 April to 30 June 2026 (Q1).
3.	**Alternative options considered:** as this is a report for noting only, no other options were considered.
4.	**Background and key issues**
4.1	**Background** This report is one element in delivering on the Council's Performance Management Framework Principles and Approach agreed March 2025. The primary objective of the Framework is to enable the Council to be an effective, efficient and high-performing organisation, successfully meeting its agreed objectives at every level, and enabling effective scrutiny, both internally and publicly, of our performance against those objectives.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the quarterly report is to provide effective strategic oversight, enabling considered decision-making, effective scrutiny, and public visibility.

It achieves this through a consistent, quarterly, high-level factual snapshot of the overall health of the Council, presented in clear, lay terms.

It brings together performance measures, finance, and risk information into one place. These three sources of information taken together provide a rounded picture of the health of the Council.

Format

The report focuses at the whole Council level, split into two parts:

- The Council's general activities and responsibilities
- The Council as a residential Social Landlord

This separation reflects the financial separation between our General Fund, through which all income and expenditure relating the Council's general activities and responsibilities, and the Housing Revenue Account which is ring-fenced for all income and expenditure relating to the Council as a residential social landlord.

For each part, there is a high-level narrative overview, making the link between performance, finance and risk, and an appendix with supporting detail. This incorporates information previously supplied separately in reports covering finance, our social landlord function and the quarterly update on the Housing Development Agency. Their integration into the single quarterly report ensures that it provides an effective overview of the Council as a whole.

Style

The intention is for the report to be straightforward and easy to understand using minimal jargon or specialist language, and where specialist terms are unavoidable, they are explained.

Schedule

The annual pattern of reporting for the quarterly report is set as Q1: September Cabinet, Q2: December Cabinet, Q3: March Cabinet, Q4: June Cabinet. N.B this Q4 is presented to the July Cabinet rather than the June cabinet to align with the publication of the Council's draft statutory accounts, and the timetable for the Q4 report 2026-7 will be reviewed accordingly.

	Review The review with Members initially planned for Summer 2026 did not take place. The current format will continue in use to allow it to bed down with new Members, with the option for a review in future. The Performance Management Framework as a whole will be subject to periodic review by Internal Audit as part of the risk-based audit plan, with outcomes reported to the Civic Affairs and Audit Committee, providing additional assurance on its effectiveness and alignment with the Council's governance arrangements. **Link to Local Code of Corporate Governance** The Quarterly Performance Report to Cabinet is one of the routes by which the Council adheres to the Local Code of Corporate Governance. Most notably it practically demonstrates the management of risk and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management, and contributes to good practices in transparency, reporting and audit, to deliver effective accountability. **n.b.** it should be noted that this report is written to reflect the position as of 30 June 2026, references to Local Government Reorganisation do not take into account the pause to that programme announced on 7 September 2026.
5.	**Corporate plan**
5.1	*Explain how the decision links to the Councils Corporate Plan* Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council The primary link is to objective 4, Modernising the Council to lead a greener city that is fair for all.
6.	**Consultation, engagement and communication**
6.1	Consultation on the design of the report was undertaken with Members and Officers prior to the first release.
7.	**Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact**
7.1	As set out above, the report provides a quarterly snapshot of the health of the Council, to support effective decision making and scrutiny.
8.	**Implications**
8.1	**Relevant risks**
	This report is to note, there are no associated risks with doing so
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

8.2	This report is to note, there are no associated LGR implications with doing so.
	Financial Implications
8.3	This report is to note, there are no associated risks with doing so.
	Legal Implications
8.4	This report is to note, there are no associated risks with doing so.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.5	There are no equalities or socio-economic implications in noting this report
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.6	There are no net zero carbon, climate change or environmental implications in noting this report.
	Procurement Implications
8.7	There are no procurement implications in noting this report.
	Community Safety Implications
8.8	There are no community safety implications in noting this report.
9.	**Background documents** Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
9.1	*n/a*
10.	**Appendices**
10.1	The Quarterly Performance Report is attached to this covering report
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Jane Wilson, Chief Operating Officer tel: 01223 458760 email: jane.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk

Cambridge City Council: Quarterly Performance Report April to June 2026

Introduction

This report provides a quarterly snapshot of how well the Council is performing, the risks we are facing, and whether we are delivering within our agreed budget.

It covers the period from 1st April to 30th June (called quarter 1 as it is the 1st three-month period in the financial year) and provides a high-level overview, highlighting areas where there are major achievements or outstanding delivery, and areas that have significant risks, issues or challenges.

As this report reflects Quarter 1 activity, and whilst it reflects a good start to the year, it is important to recognise it is early in the financial year to draw any broad conclusions.

The report is split into two parts, the first covering our general responsibilities, the second our role as a residential social landlord. For each part there is an appendix with more detailed information.

For simplicity, central corporate services, which support both our general responsibilities and our social landlord function, are covered in part one of the report. Where there are specific issues affecting the landlord role they are highlighted in the landlord report.

Part One: Our General Responsibilities

The Council carries out a very broad range of activities as part of its general responsibilities. These range from activities relating to our environment, for example domestic waste collection, maintenance of parks and open spaces, air quality monitoring, the 'scores on the doors' food safety inspections; our communities, including community safety, leisure, culture and community facilities, and community engagement; and place making, including planning, inclusive growth, and responding to climate change.

Overview

Between April and June 2026 (Quarter 1) the Council:

- Celebrated 75 years of city status through a programme of city-wide events.
- Opened the new Silver Street public toilets.
- Introduced a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) at Babraham Road Park and Ride to tackle dangerous and anti-social driving, t.
- Launched the Skill Mill project to support young people at risk of offending through training and employment opportunities.
- Secured external funding, including £375,000 to reduce long-term rough sleeping, £155,000 for a food procurement improvement project, and £19,500 to support community wellbeing activities.
- Continued delivery of the £6 million Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) project, supporting the transition of the waste fleet to electric and low-emission vehicles.
- Finalised preparation for changes introduced through the Renters' Rights Act 2025 which came into force on 1 May 2026.

Appendix one provides high level performance, risk and financial outcomes for our general responsibilities.

Agreed:

- Demolition and associated works at the NEC site following the Government's decision not to proceed with relocation of the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant. A capital budget of up to £285,000 was approved.
- Ongoing delivery of the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) project to support carbon reduction and fleet decarbonisation initiatives.

- Publication of the Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory and Housing Land Supply on the Councils' shared planning service website. This will provide annual updates on housing supply and delivery across Greater Cambridge.

Key achievements in the period include:

- Built and Natural Environment team's cost recovery improved from 20% to over 50%, with further improvements planned.
- The Council's Democratic Services Team was shortlisted for the national Democracy Project of the Year 2026 Award in recognition of its successful delivery of the 2026 City Council Elections, including participation in the national flexible voting pilot on behalf of MHCLG.

Significant developments that emerged during the quarter include:

- Ministers confirming in June 2026 that a development corporation will be set up to deliver thousands of new homes and infrastructure across Cambridge city and South Cambridgeshire.

Part Two: Residential Social Landlord

As well as our general responsibilities, Cambridge City Council is also a residential social landlord. The council owns and manages around 7,700 residential properties with an additional 1,250 leaseholders and is actively developing new social housing.

The performance and finances of our landlord function are managed and reported separately to our general responsibilities. Our finances as a landlord are separated out from our general finances and managed through what is called a Housing Revenue Account.

Overview

- Between April and June 2026, the council approved the delivery of four homes through the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF Round 4) to support temporary accommodation and refugee housing needs within the city.
- Submitted a £96.4 million housing bid to support the delivery of approximately 3000 (1400 council) homes over the next ten years[1].
- Continued to work through the refunds owed to tenants following the overcharging of rents and service charges. Due to the large number of refunds and complexity of some accounts this work will be ongoing into at least December 2026.

Housing Improvement Action Plan

- The Housing Improvement Plan has been aligned with the digital improvement programme. to ensure the efficient programme of improvements for the entire housing service. This programme reports into both Housing Leadership Board and Housing Advisory Board. This will support compliance with the Regulator of Social Housing's requirements and the improvements identified following the October 2025 inspection.
- The Tenant and Leaseholder Involvement Strategy is being implemented to strengthen tenant and leaseholder involvement in shaping housing services. Supporting this, the Tenant Census project has been launched to improve tenant data, support regulatory compliance and help ensure services are tailored to residents' needs, with tenant engagement due to commence in the next quarter.

[1] It was announced in August that the bid from Cambridge City Council was successful, with the full amount being awarded. More information will be included in the Quarter Two Performance Report

House building developments

- In relation to our house building activity, schemes at Fanshawe Road, East Barnwell, ATS Murketts, and Newbury Farm continued to make good progress and remained on budget and on schedule at the end of the quarter.

- Hannover and Princess development was approved at planning committee on 24 June[2].

- Davy Road and Stanton House schemes also progressed, with resident decanting near completion and design proposals refined following consultation and Design Review Panel feedback. Work is continuing with planning officers to finalise the schemes ahead of anticipated planning submissions in October 2026.

- Following publication of the North Cambridge Framework for Change in March 2026, engagement with residents, businesses and key stakeholders has continued. Co-design work for the Arbury Court public realm and open space is ongoing as well as resident drop-in sessions. Design work is progressing on Arbury Court and Kingsway/Brackley Close.

[2] With the announcement that the council was successful in gaining funding via a Strategic Partnership with Homes England the council will now ensure funding to deliver 72 council homes at this site

Appendix 1: General Responsibilities: Performance, Finance, and Risk indicators

General Responsibilities: Quarterly Performance Indicators

This quarter a review has taken place to ensure that the KPIs rating (Red, Amber, Green status) better reflects the operating context. The definition for ratings is:

Green (Stretch Target)
A KPI is considered **Green** when performance is operating at an **optimal level**. There are no significant performance concerns, and results are either meeting stretch targets or are within appropriate distance of challenging targets where 100% attainment may not be realistic.

Amber (Baseline Target)
A KPI is considered **Amber** when performance falls between the Amber and Green thresholds. Performance is **above the minimum acceptable level** but has not yet reached an optimal position.

Red (Below Baseline Target)
If the KPI value is below the amber threshold, this is considered **below minimum acceptable performance** levels. Services will have oversight of the position and approaches in place for improvement.

These measures reflect the core services the Council delivers as part of our general responsibilities and show that services are being delivered within our baseline thresholds. They indicate that our core services are being delivered effectively, in the main meeting not only our baseline targets but their stretch targets as well.

It should be noted that these measures can also reflect the performance of the city, with factors outside of the Council's direct control. For example, for the measure '% *Food businesses broadly compliant*' being compliant is the responsibility of the business. The Council's role is to make sure businesses are assessed, and if they are not compliant, to make sure the public are able to see the scores, where possible to work with the business to help them improve, and where necessary, take enforcement actions.

Title & Description	Baseline target	Stretch target	2026/27 Q1	2025/26 Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	2024/25 Q4	Q3	Q2
Bins collected on schedule	99.25%	99.70%	99.90%	99.91%	99.92%	99.90%	99.92%	99.92%	99.87%	99.89%
This measures the effectiveness of our domestic waste collection service										
Household waste sent for reduce, recycling, composting	48%	50.00%	52.00%	47.95%	47.92%	48.03%	48.88%	43.72%	48.59%	52.98%
This tracks the percentage of the City's domestic waste that is not going to landfill										
Street Cleansing inspections of acceptable standard	90%	95%	97.3%	94.4%	92.4%	90.6%	96.0%		95.6%	95.5%
Percentage of Spot inspections across Litter, Detritus, Graffiti & Fly Posting that meet agreed standard										
% food businesses broadly compliant (rated 3 +)	93%	97%	97.3%	97.4%	97.6%	97.6%	98.2%	98.0%	97.8%	97.8%
This tracks food safety compliance in the city, as monitored by our environmental health team										
Average time to determine validated householder planning applications	12	10	7.32	7.37	7.92	7.07	7.93	8.03	7.22	7.61
This is the number of weeks Greater Cambridge Planning Service takes to determine applications										
First Point of Contact resolution	86%	89%	89.6%	89.5%	88.5%	90%	90%	90%	89%	91%
This is the percentage of contacts our customer support team is able to resolve without having to refer onwards										
Complaints resolved within target	70%	85%	69%	75%	84%	72%	75%	83%	84%	81%
We aim to resolve complaints within 10 working days										
Community centre programme balance	10pp away	5pp away	51:20:30	60:22:18	51:30:19	46:28:26	45:30:24			
We aim for facitiy time to be apportioned to Community (40%), Cultural (30%), and Commercial (30%) activities										
Private rented properties (inc. HMOs) in the city are made safe & suitable for occupancy	200 - annual	250 - annual	81 (81)	135 (355)	110 (220)	55 (110)	55 (55)	89 (428)	87 (339)	122 (252)
This is in line with Housing act 2004, associated regulations and the Councils Private Rented Sector Housing Standard (cumulative figure in brackets)										
Days to process benefit claims – Housing Benefits	9	7	3.1	1.5	2	2	3	2	2	3
This is a combined average of new and existing claims; new claims require longer to process, and cannot be done in the same speed										
Days to process benefit claims – Council Tax Reduction	n/a	3	1.8	1.7	2	2	2	2	2	2
These are the number of days taken to process claims for housing benefit and Council tax reduction- we are in the top decile nationally										
Change of applicants in housing need	0	-2%	2.77%	-5.05%	-8.44%	-4.30%	-9.29%	-5.45%	3.27%	4.79%
This is ensuring the need for social housing is decreasing, or we are meeting their needs										
Number of families with children in B&B over 6 weeks	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
The goal is to have no families with children in B&B accommodation for more than 6 weeks										
Homelessness prevention cases with a successful outcome	45%	60%	61.0%	68.8%	55.7%	69.4%	54.3%	54.7%	59.7%	56.3%
Of the homelessness prevention cases we undertake, the % that are successful as defined by law										
Repeat homelessness, or threat of homelessness, when previously resolved in last 2 years	8%	6%	1.1%	3.2%	3.0%	4.38%				
Looking for effectiveness of past resolutions & reduction in repeat homelessness (past resolutions through housing advice or statutory duty) *Note: due to concerns of accuracy, past quarters perfromance has been updated in this report*										
Rough sleepers on a single night	Year on Year Improvement		24	26	28	35	37	23	26	27
Quarterly average of a monthly count of rough sleepers, Rating comes from improvement compared to previous years results										
Private homes retrofitted to Increase EPC rating	n/a		1	2	3	3	3	2	0	1
We are funded to lead this work across the County, city numbers are currently low because this phase is for homes without gas										
No of volunteer hours	n/a		678	35	154	83	123	27		
Volunteers worked hours logged										
No of corporate groups worked with in volunteering	n/a		17	10	18	32	29	5		

These measures reflect the core services the Council delivers as part of our general responsibilities and show that services are being delivered within our baseline thresholds. They indicate that our core services are being delivered effectively, in the main meeting not only our baseline targets but their stretch targets as well.

The majority of services **resolved 75% or more complaints within target**, with five services (City Homes, Council Tax, Customer Services, Housing Benefit and Planning) resolving 100% in target. The only areas to fall below the Council's target were **Repairs** and the **Shared Waste** Service with 36% and 68% respectively. As these two service areas are the highest volume areas for complaints being received, this had a significant effect on the overall average.

The **Repairs** team reports that complexity and the level of detail within complaints have increased, with a growing number appearing to have been generated or supported by AI. This has resulted in significantly longer submissions requiring more detailed investigation and coordination across teams, which has affected the Council's ability to respond within target timescales.
The team are reviewing how complaints are allocated, investigated and monitored, with a stronger focus on early ownership, escalation of complex cases and improved oversight of response deadlines. The aim is to improve performance while ensuring responses remain accurate, evidence-based and fully address the issues raised.

Shared Waste complaint response performance was affected by ongoing Case Tracker system issues, which impacted complaint visibility, allocation, and reporting. This meant some complaints may have appeared overdue or unresolved despite being actively managed. The team introduced manual monitoring processes to help track complaints while the system issues were addressed.
Although wider operational pressures (including staffing pressures, team transitions / secondments, increased workload due to launch of the new weekly food waste collection service) also contributed to meeting performance targets, the reported figures were affected by system reporting inaccuracies rather than complaint handling performance alone. The issues are being tackled, with no recent recurrence, and performance reporting continues to be monitored to ensure data accuracy.

Number of volunteer hours is significantly higher than anticipated: As of April 2026 we are now monitoring this more robustly. Previously it was an estimated figure. It's also a highly seasonal service as corporate volunteer groups wish to be out volunteering when the weather is pleasant.

July - Sept quarter data will show a significant reduction as we've had many cancellations due to amber and red heat health alerts making volunteer sessions unsafe and some businesses cancelling on the day.

Community centre programme balance - The balance of community centre bookings reflects an increase in County Council funded one-to-one tuition for those excluded from schools. These bookings are a positive part of the overall provision and therefore the Council will review this measure to ensure that it better reflects the overall success of the community centres programme. We are expecting to see some change in this in Q2.

Change of applicants in housing need is, to some extent, beyond the Council's control. This KPI reflects demand from new housing applicants, in relation to the number of social housing properties available. Although the number of new applications received in the quarter dropped from quarter 1, this drop was more than offset by an increase in the number of applications made active during the quarter (4% increase) combined with a 13% drop in the number of social housing properties available to let.

General Responsibilities: Finance

Finances for our general responsibilities are managed through our General Fund. Our detailed financial reports use our internal groups. These reflect the way we are organised internally, and all our financial reports use this structure, so you can compare our quarterly figures with our published accounts.

All of our reports show figures in a particular way:

- Expenditure is shown very simply as a number, i.e. 1,234.
- Income is shown in brackets, i.e. (1,234)

So, where a budget has spent more than planned it is shown as a simple number because this is an increased amount of expenditure, and where a budget has spent less than planned that is shown in brackets.

Revenue Budgets

Every quarter, we look at our income and expenditure so far and use that to forecast the expected position at the end of the financial year (a year-end forecast). The Q1 forecast showed that our expected year end position is in line with our published budget.

Forecast Outturn by council group is set out in the table below:

Group	**Current Budget £'000**	**Q1 Forecast £'000**	**(Under budget)/over budget £'000**
Chief Executive Office	2,901	2,911	10
City Services	1,354	1,091	(263)
Communities	10,783	11,533	750
Corporate Hub	14,063	13,560	(503)
Economy & Place	(7,542)	(7,542)	0
Planning & Building Control	1,607	1,597	(10)
Non-service expenditure	10,319	10,319	0
Total net expenditure	**33,485**	**33,469**	**(16)**
Funded by:			
Business rates and council tax	(18,467)	(18,467)	0
Government grants	(12,148)	(12,148)	0
Use of earmarked reserves	(4,345)	(4,345)	0
Total funding	**(34,960)**	**(34,960)**	**0**
Contribution to GF reserve	**1,475**	**1,491**	**16**

Note that the above figures take into account agreed carry forward of £0.3m of specific unspent budgets from 2025/26.

Although the overall forecast position is broadly in line with budget, this reflects a number of significant over and underspends across individual service areas, which are highlighted below.

- The Communities Group is showing 0.7m of additional cost, which reflects the loss of income from the closure of the Corn Exchange venue from 1st January 2027, as part of the Civic Quarter redevelopment project. Should the project not be approved by Full Council in October, there would still be a significant loss of income due to the lead-in times for booking acts.

- Because interest rates have remained higher than expected there is additional expected income of 0.3m from our investments, shown within the Corporate Hub.

- Income from car parking is higher than expected, meaning that at Q1 the position is £0.3m million better than budget. This is shown under City Services.

A detailed breakdown to service level is shown below, followed by a table with explanations of the bigger changes from the published budget.

Group	Current Budget 2026/27 £'000	Current Forecast 2026/27 £'000	(Under)/ Over Budget 2026/27 £'000
Chief Executive Office			
Chief Executive Office	1,097	1,130	33
Democratic Services	1,804	1,781	(23)
Total Chief Executive Office	**2,901**	**2,911**	**10**
City Services			
Bereavement Services	(583)	(603)	(20)
Car Parking	(8,321)	(8,643)	(322)
Community Safety	366	366	-
Garage Services	162	185	23
Management	472	472	-
Markets and Street Trading	(536)	(460)	76
Operational Buildings	752	751	(1)
Sport and Recreation	929	985	56
Streets and Open Spaces	4,930	4,905	(25)
Waste and Recycling	3,183	3,133	(50)
Total City Services	**1,354**	**1,091**	**(263)**

Group	Current Budget 2026/27 £'000	Current Forecast 2026/27 £'000	(Under)/ Over Budget 2026/27 £'000
Communities			
Community Centres	940	949	9
Community Development	2,089	2,081	(8)
Community Grants	1,447	1,453	6
Community Safety	784	792	8
Cultural Services	871	1,562	691
Environmental Health	1,496	1,542	46
Housing Strategy and Advice	2,347	2,352	5
Homelessness	550	547	(3)
Management	259	255	(4)
Total Communities	**10,783**	**11,533**	**750**
Corporate Hub			
Central Costs and Recharges	(4,347)	(4,380)	(33)
Customer Service Centre	2,251	2,259	8
Financial Services	2,240	2,220	(20)
Housing Benefit Expenditure	719	665	(54)
ICT	3,646	3,646	-
Insurance	1,215	1,215	-
Internal Audit	278	262	(16)
Investment interest and financing costs	1,525	1,196	(329)
Legal Services	913	932	19
Management	137	126	(11)
Office Buildings	1,345	1,326	(19)
People and Change	2,405	2,301	(104)
Procurement	325	390	65
Revenues and Benefits Administration	1,411	1,402	(9)
Total Corporate Hub	**14,063**	**13,560**	**(503)**
Economy and Place			
Commercial Property Services	(9,556)	(9,559)	(3)
Development	402	402	-
Economy, Energy and Climate Change	1,263	1,263	-
Management	349	352	3
Total Economy and Place	**(7,542)**	**(7,542)**	**-**
Planning and Building Control			
Building Control	198	198	-
Greater Cambridge Planning Service	1,409	1,399	(10)
Total Planning and Building Control	**1,607**	**1,597**	**(10)**
Total for all Groups	**23,166**	**23,150**	**(16)**
Non-service expenditure			
Capital expenditure financed from revenue	3,341	3,341	-
Collection Fund deficit	6,613	6,613	-
Contributions to earmarked funds	365	365	-
Total non-service expenditure	**10,319**	**10,319**	**-**
Net spending requirement	**33,485**	**33,469**	**(16)**
Funded by:			
Business rates baseline	(7,144)	(7,144)	-
Accumulated business rates growth	(218)	(218)	-
Government grants	(12,148)	(12,148)	-
Council tax	(11,105)	(11,105)	-
Appropriations from earmarked funds	(4,345)	(4,345)	-
Contributions to/(from) reserves	1,475	1,475	-
Total funding	**(33,485)**	**(33,485)**	**-**
Net Total	**-**	**(16)**	**(16)**

Group	Cost Centre/Service	Reason for Variance	Forecast Over budget/ (under budget) £'000
City Services	Car Parking	Increased income reflects strong demand at Grand Arcade, Park Street, Queen Anne Terrace and Adam & Eve Street car parks. This has more than covered reduced usage at the Grafton Centre following recent closures of offices and shops there. The future impact of the new offices and laboratory developments at the Grafton Centre site on parking demand is not yet known	(275)
	Markets	If the decision on the Civic Quarter is to go ahead with the redevelopment of the Market Square, there will be reduced income from January 2027.	77
	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste	A DEFRA capital grant is now covering costs that the Council had expected to pay, saving £50k in this financial year.	(50)
Communities	Corn Exchange and Guildhalls	The forecast additional cost is due to the planned closure of the venue and the loss of income to cover fixed costs	662
Corporate Hub	Office Buildings	The £54k underspend is mainly due to vacant posts during part of the year, which have now been filled.	(54)
	Investment interest and financing costs	Because interest rates have remained higher for longer than anticipated, we are expecting a higher income from investments.	(329)

Group	Cost Centre/Service	Reason for Variance	Forecast Over budget/ (under budget) £'000
	Revenues and Benefits Subsidy	The £54k underspend variance is based on the Q1 Housing Benefit expenditure assessment using the information currently available on Northgate. The forecast may change during the winter period as further information becomes available. Subsidy loss is currently estimated at circa £850k and is expected to be funded from the General Fund budget and income generated from the recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments. The service is working with charities to change their registration status to Registered Provider status, which is expected to help reduce subsidy loss in future years.	(54)
	People & Change	£54k underspend due to delay in recruiting a replacement Digital Lead Officer	(54)
	Procurement	A net overspend of £64k is forecast, mainly due to a fixed-term Procurement Analyst being employed to support a high volume of complex procurements.	65
Economy & Place	Lion Yard - South End	This is due to an improved rental income forecast following a review of rents.	(55)
Economy & Place (continued)	Orwell House Offices-Internal	Reduced costs of £59k are forecast because the empty business rates liability for an empty building is lower than budgeted.	(59)
	4 Cyrus Way, Cygnet Park, Peterborough	Increased income of £73k is forecast due to an improved rental income forecast following a rent review.	(73)

General Responsibilities: Capital

The outturn position on the council's General Fund capital programme is as follows:

Capital Forecast – Q1 2026/27	Current Budget £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Forecast Slippage £'000	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
General Fund				
Loans to Cambridge Investment Partnership	22,041	22,041	0	0
Other	26,021	23,680	2,185	(157)
GF Total	**48,062**	**45,721**	**2,185**	**(157)**

The following individual projects have an underspend or overspend of over £50k, after taking into account budgets carried forward:

Group	Project	Current Budget 2026/27 £'000's	Current Forecast 2026/27 £'000's	Variance 2026/27 £'000's	Commentary
City Services	Redevelopment of Silver Street Toilets	0	128	128	The project is complete and the toilets are now open. A small number of outstanding building invoices have been incorporated into the forecast.
Corporate	Administrative buildings maintenance	571	25	(546)	No significant capital expenditure is currently forecast. However, improvement works to the ground floor of Mandela House are planned to accommodate additional staff as a result of the Guildhall closure. The estimated cost is approximately £25,000 and approval has been obtained.

Group	Project	Current Budget 2026/27 £'000's	Current Forecast 2026/27 £'000's	Variance 2026/27 £'000's	Commentary
City Services	Market Square project	154	0	(154)	The project is currently on hold pending the decision on the wider Civic Quarter project.
City Services	Depot Relocation programme to create Operational Hub	0	283	283	The Operational Hub project is complete. The Garage project is progressing, however there is no project budget remaining in 2026/27.
City Services	Decarbonisation works - Abbey pool, Parkside pool, Cherry	1,114	960	(154)	The full budget is expected to be spent, although not all expenditure will be incurred in 2026/27. The project is due to be completed in 2027/28 and is being delivered as part of the new Leisure Management Contract.
Economy and Place	East Barnwell new centre	2,885	2,656	(229)	The project is currently within budget. Some slippage is anticipated due to off-site recreation works starting later than expected.
Communities	Planned maintenance works at community centres	436	100	(336)	There are multiple tenders and quotations currently active for this project. A cash flow forecast is being prepared to provide a more accurate estimate of costs in the current year. It is unlikely that the full budget will be spent this year.
City Services	Bereavement Service capital improvements	1,000	80	(920)	The tender process has taken longer than anticipated and, as a result, the main roof works will not commence before winter. Enabling works will continue to support an earlier start to the main works programme next year.

Group	Project	Current Budget 2026/27 £'000's	Current Forecast 2026/27 £'000's	Variance 2026/27 £'000's	Commentary
Communities	Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (Tenants)	404	250	(154)	Demand for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) has historically been low within the city. During 2026/27, the Council has adopted an approach arising from the Islington case, enabling more than one DFG to be awarded to an individual where the standard grant limit of £30,000 is insufficient to meet assessed needs.
Communities	Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (Owner Occupiers)	404	250	(154)	Demand for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) has historically been low within the city. During 2026/27, the Council has adopted an approach arising from the Islington case, enabling more than one DFG to be awarded to an individual where the standard grant limit of £30,000 is insufficient to meet assessed needs.

General Responsibilities: Risk

We keep a list of risks that could prevent the Council meeting its goals and its responsibilities, we score those risks to understand how serious they are, and we put in place controls and actions to reduce the level of those risks. All these individual risks feed into our seven strategic risk areas. These strategic risk areas apply across all of our activities, covering both our general responsibilities and our social landlord function. Every risk area is rated either green, yellow, amber or red, as follows:

- Green shows that risk levels in that area are low and well managed.
- Yellow indicates that there is a higher level of risk, but it is still well managed and under control
- Amber flags that the risk level is higher than we want and we are taking action to bring the risk level down. Where the risk level is caused by external factors outside our control and cannot be lowered, it needs to be very closely monitored.
- Red is the most serious level, and where we have a red risk there should be a clear, agreed and closely monitored action plan to reduce the risk.

Strategic Risks

The latest assessment of each strategic risk area is as follows:

	Strategic Risk Area	**Risk level**
1	The Council is able to deliver on our vision and objectives	Yellow
2	The Council is financially robust	Yellow
3	The Council has an effective and resilient workforce	Green
4	The Council's physical and digital infrastructure is fit for purpose	Yellow
5	The Council has viable and robust plans for the future	Yellow
6	The Council is able to meet its legal responsibilities	Yellow
7	The Council is well governed	Green
8	Capacity and Resilience Risk Arising from Local Government Reorganisation	Amber

What this shows is that the Council has good overall control and effective risk management.

The LGR strategic risk will likely be Amber until 1st April 2028. This level has been set as amber as the strategic risk focuses on ensuring operational capacity and resilience; work is ongoing under both the LGR remit in creating an LGR focused team between the City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, there is also work that various services and groups are doing to support LGR capacity once the geography is known. The strategic risk is likely to change once the geography is known.

Operational Risks

In order to make sure that there is full visibility, any operational risk which is rated either amber or red is also reported, split out by whether they are an operational risk for our general responsibilities (reported here) or for our role as a residential social landlord (reported in appendix 2).

Under our General Responsibilities there are five amber operational risks and no red risks.

The Council's amber risks are as follows:

Description	Current Controls	Actions to reduce risk level
Cybersecurity Attack	• Comprehensive cybersecurity protocols • Regular security training for staff • Advanced threat detection systems • Timely security updates • Advanced security testing (Penetration testing etc.) • Business continuity plans	There are multiple controls in place to manage the risk, however it is not possible to reduce this risk below amber. The action now underway is the periodic updating of service business continuity plans to make sure we have the right plans in place in case of a successful attack.
Accounting for S106 balances	• Periodic reconciliations between service-based and Finance records. • S106 drawdown formalised and use of S106 incorporated into capital financing as part of budget setting.	S106 records have now been transferred to a dedicated system which will make reconciliations easier. Planned future recruitment of additional resource within Shared Planning to support S106 monitoring will also help to reduce this risk in the medium term.

Description	Current Controls	Actions to reduce risk level
Impact of ongoing strategic change on service delivery	• Quarterly reporting to Leadership Team and Cabinet on performance, risks and finance to highlight potential impacts • Regular updates on strategic changes that could impact on service delivery, in particular Local Government Reorganisation	The impact of Local Government Reorganisation on service delivery has oversight from the Leadership Team.
Failure to achieve our carbon reduction target and deliver the Council's vision.	• Updated climate change strategy in place to cover 2026-2031. • Climate Change fund in place. • Carbon management plan developed. • GF retrofit manager appointed to deliver retrofit projects to operational and commercial stock.	Developing an implementation plan for newly adopted Climate Change Strategy 2026 (Target: 21 Aug 2026) Asset Management and MEES Strategy (Target: 31 Oct 2026) Participation in EU Horizons City Twinning programme to share best practice on achieving net zero.
Compliance with statutory requirements across Asset Portfolio	Clear leadership, governance and accountability arrangements in place Every corporate building has an identified accountable owner.	Compliance policies and risk registers being reviewed and updated to give better visibility of risk and assurance

In line with new Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act we have developed our risk management system to categorise and report fraud related risks. We are working with colleagues to review existing risks and identify new risks. This new legislation requires all organisations to identify whether any of their activities could be subject to fraud and set out what they are doing to manage the risk of fraud. Individual fraud risks will be reported in the same way as our other risks, so any amber or red fraud risk will be reported here.

Appendix 2: Residential Social Landlord: Performance, Finance and Risk Indicators

Residential Social Landlord: Performance Measures

(for Key, see appendix 1 Performance measures)

Title & Description	Baseline target	Stretch target	2026/27 Q1	2025/26 Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	2024/25 Q4	Q3	Q2
% statutory safety inspections completed on time in our homes *Percentage of all safety-critical and statutory checks that are carried out as required.*	95%	99%	97.7%	97.9%	96.8%	100%				
FRAs, completed or within time, (snapshot of existing risk) *Ensures fire safety-critical and statutory checks are delivered as required, followed up by the appropriate actions*	95%	99%	100%	100%	100%	94%				
Emergency responsive repairs completed within the landlord's target timescale *Reflects speed and reliability of repairs, supporting tenant satisfaction.*	90%	95%	78%	93%	96%	87%	93%	95%	88%	98%
Awaab's Law: % responded to request within 2 working days *Ensures all safety-critical quality of the Council's housing stock in a timely manner*	85%	95%	95%	90%	88%					
Average re-let time in days (standard re-lets) *Ensures both loss of income and the time a household is waiting for a home is minimised*	38.5	35	69.7	56.7	47.5	46.9	43.4	37.3	37.7	39.7
Void loss - % of rent lost through dwellings being vacant (LCRA) *Monitors the impact of empty homes on the council's income stream.*	3%	1%	3.18%	3.07%	2.93%	4.21%	4.16%	3.22%	3.10%	2.96%
Current tenant arrears as a % of the annual rent debit *Monitors outstanding debts owed to the council*	3.85%	3.50%	3.84%	3.95%	4.19%	3.82%	3.64%	3.27%	3.59%	3.52%
Former tenant arrears as a % of the annual rent debit *Monitors outstanding debts owed to the council*	2.2%	2%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%	2.8%	2.7%
No. Council housing starts *Quarterly update of cumulative total on number of builds started this year*	n/a		0	29	29	29	29	105	0	0
No. new affordable homes completed within councils own programme *Quarterly update of cumulative total on number of builds completed this year*	n/a		0	126	126	70	70	98	70	24
Percentage affordable homes to Camstandard *This is about improving the environmental impact of our homes*	n/a		0%	83%	84%	79%	79%	78.65%	77.71%	77.71%
Homes retrofitted to EPC C rating *This is about improving the environmental impact of our homes*	Variable based on funding		35	2	11	7	4	59	72	54

These measures are the key pieces of information we track to understand how well we are performing as a landlord. There are a number of measures that are below our baseline target, and there are specific improvement plans in place to bring them up to baseline and beyond.

The Council provides additional performance information to our Housing Advisory Board. The Year-end report is published on the Council website and can be found here Housing performance report. The Q1 report has not yet been published.

Average re-let time in days and **Void loss** are connected measures, both reflecting the time it takes the Council to re-let properties. This shows the total rent and service charge loss resulting from void properties. This includes properties set aside for redevelopment, bulk handovers of new-build properties awaiting letting, and homes undergoing energy-efficiency works. A new voids process was introduced in Quarter 1 of 2026/27 to help reduce these losses, the Council continues to refine this process to reduce re-let times and void loss as much as possible.

Average re-let time in days (standard relets) includes both the time taken to complete void repairs and the time taken to let the property. Once keys were returned by the void repairs team, it took an average of 6.5 days to house a general needs tenant in Q1. The Lettings Team continues to review its processes to improve performance, reduce rent loss and shorten void times by advertising properties as early as possible with accurate information, shortlisting eligible applicants promptly and arranging viewings during void works where it is safe to do so.

Both **Current** and especially **Former Tenant arrears** are below target while the Rent regulation project continues to work through the refunds owed. It is important to complete the work on the rent charges, so that we can be certain than any arrears figures are accurate. Once this work is complete in 2026/27, the Council will be able to progress the work on arrears and reduce our former tenant arrears. Separately, two software systems are being brought in that will allow for some automation of actions and better management of our accounts, freeing up Income Officers capacity to work with those tenants who most need our support.

Emergency responsive repairs have been negatively impacted due to absences in key roles. This is expected to improve in the coming Quarters.

Residential Social Landlord: Finance

We manage the finances of our social landlord responsibilities separately to the finances for our general responsibilities. This is done through a separate account called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Revenue

Based on data as at the end of June, the HRA's year end-operating deficit is forecast to be £2.0 million higher than budgeted, mainly due to overspends on repairs and maintenance. To ensure that the HRA balance can remain above its target level, the planned revenue contribution to capital expenditure for the year may have to be reduced by £2.0 million. This approach is consistent with previous years, but it will increase the amount of borrowing required to finance the capital programme in the longer term.

Service Grouping	Current Budget 2026/27 £'000	Current Forecast 2026/27 £'000	Forecast Variance 2026/27 £'000
Income			
Rental income (dwellings)	(54,314)	(54,314)	0
Rental income (other)	(2,798)	(2,795)	3
Service charges	(3,333)	(3,325)	8
Contribution towards expenditure	(487)	(487)	0
Other income	(489)	(474)	15
Total Income	**(61,421)**	**(61,395)**	**26**
Expenditure			
Supervision & management - General	6,885	7,080	195
Supervision & management - Special	4,837	4,667	(170)
Repairs & maintenance	15,063	16,991	1,928
Depreciation	12,254	12,254	0
Bad debt provision	561	561	0
Other expenditure	1,374	1,382	8
Total Expenditure	**40,974**	**42,935**	**1,961**
Net cost of HRA services	**(20,447)**	**(18,460)**	**1,987**
Interest receivable	(768)	(768)	0
HRA (surplus)/deficit for the year	**(21,215)**	**(19,228)**	**1,987**
Other movements in the HRA balance			
Loan interest	13,077	13,077	0
Direct revenue financing of capital	8,266	8,266	0
Transfer to/(from) earmarked reserves	0	(10)	(10)
(Surplus)/deficit for year	**128**	**2,105**	**1,977**

The main reasons for the forecast overspend are:

- £0.9 million costs as a result of fire and other damage to properties, which could not be anticipated when budgets were set
- increased spend on housing repairs (£0.5 million), including damp, condensation and mould, in order to comply with Awaab's law.
- additional costs of dealing with voids due to the poor condition of significant numbers of void properties (£0.3 million)
- the need for interim fire safety measures including waking watch at a number of sites (£0.1 million). As a result of work already undertaken, the number of sites with waking watches in place has reduced from eleven to two. It is taking longer than anticipated to address the final two sites as decanting is required.

Although some of these costs are unexpected and unavoidable, the Leadership Team is continuing to take action to ensure that a tight grip is exerted on costs wherever possible.

The table on the following page presents all the major variances on the Housing Revenue Account.

Budget Line	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Income	Other Income	This is a timing issue, this income was received in 25/26 rather than 26/27 so is showing as an underachievement in this year	70
	Service Charges	This is due to lower General Housing Service Charges and increased Consultancy costs relating to Heat Networks.	49
Expenditure	Repairs & maintenance	Client and Third Party Repairs: There continues to be a very high volume of insurance related repair activity. This is linked to property damage caused by fires, floods and emergency response, reinstatement and follow-on works. Some rectification costs cannot be claimed from insurers, and the Council has to cover the excess cost on its claims. The position is largely incident-led and therefore partly one-off, although the increasing complexity and value of claims presents an ongoing financial pressure. A review of provisions and some premiums is underway, with the aim of mitigating this pressure if possible.	886

Budget Line	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
Expenditure (contd)		Delivery Assurance Team: DCM (Damp, Condensation & Mould) is forecasting an adverse year-end position, driven primarily by sustained demand and existing casework. Despite one of the hottest summers on record, demand has remained at winter levels: 65 cases were reported in May and 63 in June, averaging 64 per month compared with a November–March winter average of 65.8. This has significantly reduced the normal opportunity to profile spend in line with the seasons that would normally see expenditure down. The transition backlog of 192 cases has now been reduced by around half, with remaining cases being progressed alongside new high-priority work ahead of the coming winter. The key mitigation is the new in-house DCM taskforce, which will undertake mould treatment, minor remedial works and increasingly the initial assessment of straightforward cases. This represents a significant efficiency opportunity, reducing reliance on external contractors and professional surveys, currently costing around £25k per month, while improving case ownership, productivity and speed of response. Alongside this, tighter control of works and quotations, risk-based prioritisation and reduced reliance on temporary staffing will progressively reduce the cost base while maintaining statutory compliance."	525
		Voids: Overspend reflects a high volume of voids with challenging handover conditions and major clearances received during the year. Additional works were completed while properties were void to improve overall condition and support a more robust standard for re-letting. Overspend relates to jobs assigned to external contractor and property clearance. The service is seeking to find efficiencies in procurement and collaborative working with other teams.	291
		Risk and Compliance: Overspend due to additional Fire Assessment and Safety work being commissioned.	207
		Asset Management: Year to date overspend relates primarily to Waking Watch arrangements implemented in response to specific fire safety risks requiring on-site security presence at a limited number of properties. The requirement has reduced during the year, with ongoing cover now confined to a small number of sites and forecast to the end of January 2027.	96

Budget Line	Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/ over budget £'000
		Enabling Communities - HRA: Overspend due to staffing backfill requirements for the year.	87
		Third Party Management Company Servicing and Repairs: Forecast is based on committed costs which are higher than budget. The budget is to be reviewed as part of Q2 forecast and budget setting.	64
		Citywide Schemes: Savings generated from a reduced rollout of smoke detectors as the programme was accelerated in previous years. In future years this budget may need to be realigned to support other areas such as door and lift entry.	(115)
	Supervision & management - General	Third Party Management and Estate Costs: Net £63k underspend on Third Party Management Costs due to electricity credits. This offsets the increased repair costs on Third Party Management Company Servicing and Repairs shown above. The budget is to be reviewed as part of Q2 forecast and budget setting.	(63)
	Supervision & management - Special	Sheltered Schemes: Mainly due to underspend on utilities across various sites.	(99)
		Other Minor Variances across the Housing Revenue Account	45
		Total	**1,973**

Residential Social Landlord: Capital

The outturn position on the HRA capital programme is as follows:

Capital Forecast – Q1 2026/27	Current Budget £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Forecast Slippage £'000	(Under budget)/over budget £'000
Housing Revenue Account				
Existing stock	35,436	32,408	3,029	0
New build and acquisitions	68,899	49,450	19,450	0
Other	4,681	4,681	0	0
HRA Total	**109,016**	**86,538**	**22,478**	**0**

Within 2026/27, there is an overall underspend on the HRA capital programme. As at Q1, budget totalling £22.478 million is anticipated to be requested to be carried forward into 2027/28 and subsequent years to allow projects to be completed.

The following individual projects have an underspend or overspend of over £50k, before taking into account budgets that may need to be carried forward:

Project	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/over budget £'000
Decent homes programme		
Decent Homes Planned Maintenance Contractor Overheads	The forecast takes account of expected main contractor overheads for the Foster and TSG contracts.	1,028
Wall Structure	All of the Wall Structure funds are being used on Bermuda Terrace project.	669

Project	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/over budget £'000
Central Heating / Boilers	A proactive asbestos testing and removal process is underway, with increased works being taken in void properties. The budget for asbestos removal will need to be reviewed as part of the MTFS .	504
Other Health and Safety Works	No works identified this year.	(53)
Sulphate Attacks	No works identified this year.	(109)
Kitchens	We have ordered the whole year plan, however we are still having no access problems/refusals of works. We have given TSG further planned kitchens to complete ahead of schedule to fill the shortfall.	(184)
Electrical / Wiring	On TSG works programme and forecasted works currently ordered. Further works will be identified during the year, however any underspend will be required as stock condition surveys highlight issues	(234)
Decent Homes Backlog	These works form part of the procurement pipeline agreed by Cabinet in September. Some of this backlog budget in 25/26 will be required in 2026 and 2027 to cover additional roofing works when the new planned maintenance contract is implemented.	(4,199)
Other spend on existing stock		
Asbestos Removal	A proactive asbestos testing and removal process is underway. The budget for asbestos removal will be reviewed as part of the MTFS	215
Other Spend on HRA Stock Planned Maintenance Contractor Overheads	The forecast takes account of expected main contractor overheads for the Foster and TSG contracts	(115)
Lifts and Door Entry Systems	The only cost so far is for work carried forward from last financial year, there are no further works in the programme for this year.	(125)
Disabled Adaptions	Current identified works have been raised with contractors. Awaiting 15 quotes from TSG for further works. Additionally, 2 Major works have been identified.	(325)

Project	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/over budget £'000
New build schemes		
Meadows and Buchan Street	Expected to be around 1% over budget due to increased costs and scope throughout life of project. Overall, Meadows and Buchan HRA and General Fund project expected to be around 3% over.	318
Newbury Farm	Variance due to delay in entering into main works contract	277
ATS, Histon Road	Project is within budget overall. Profiling of budget to be reviewed across life of project.	150
East Road	East Road in no longer a scheme	70
Kendal Way	Variance due to delay in entering into main works contract	(170)
East Barnwell	Project within budget overall. Phase 1 ahead of programme, forecasted spend pulled from 2027-2028 into 2026-2027.	(790)
St Thomas's Road	Project has been on pause but now restarting as part of Small Sites programme. Spend now expected for associated architects' fees	(1,097)
Paget Road	Variance is related to delay in programme due move to re-tender the site for delivery. Tendering is now in progress	(1,112)
Ekin Road	Programme delayed. Cashflow reforecast to start on site later in 2026.	(1,930)
Davy Road	Underspend as planning submission has been delayed. Work now not expected to commence until end of financial year.	(2,715)
Stanton House	Expenditure reflects preplanning consultants costs. The start on site date has been moved to the next financial year, and budget will need to be moved to 2026/27.	(3,469)
Eddeva Park	Eddeva Park is no longer a scheme	(3,471)

Project	Reason for Variance	(Under budget)/over budget £'000
Princess and Hanover	Compulsory Purchase Order required to achieve vacant possession, inquiry date set in October 2026, this has delayed leasehold buy backs. Planning application progression slow as scheme is complex. A Viability Assessment delayed the planning committee date and amendments to the draft conditions have delayed the decision notice. Vacant possession, planning approval and Homes England funding are required to progress construction.	(7,573)
Acquisitions		
Local Authority Housing Fund Acquisitions	Variance due to timing. New budget approved for 4 acquisitions in 26/27. £0.917m LAHF funding announced in May 2026. Budgets to be updated in Q2 and as part of rephasing.	2,000

Residential Social Landlord: Risk

The approach to risk is the same as for our general responsibilities, with the overall risk level as set out in the part one appendix.

There are no red or amber risks that relate specifically to our role as a residential social landlord.

Appendix 3: Treasury Management

The Council has a statutory responsibility to monitor and report on its treasury management activities. Treasury management encompasses the management of the Council's cash flows, investments, borrowing, and associated financial risks, ensuring that public funds are managed prudently and effectively.

All treasury management activity undertaken during the year to date has been carried out in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy Statement approved by Full Council in February 2026.

As at 30 June 2026, the Council's total borrowing stood at £296.6 million, unchanged from the previous quarter and in line with expectations. This includes £213.6 million of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) self-financing loans, originally taken out following the Government's housing self-financing reforms in 2012, and £83.0 million of external borrowing to support the Park Street development. Additional HRA borrowing is anticipated later in the financial year to finance planned capital expenditure.

Investment income is currently forecast to be £1.8 million for 2026/27, compared with a budget of £1.5 million. While the reduction in the Bank of England base rate from 4.0% in 2025/26 to 3.75% in 2026/27 has moderated investment returns, no further reductions are currently forecast during the remainder of the financial year. The higher forecast also reflects delays within the capital programme, resulting in higher average cash balances available for investment pending the progression of approved capital schemes.

The Council's latest prudential and treasury management indicators are set out below and demonstrate continued compliance with the prudential framework and the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

Prudential Indicator Estimates (£m)	BSR 2026/27	Q1 2026/27 (Forecast)
Capital expenditure		
- GF	45.73	47.447
- HRA	109.02	86.538
Total	**154.75**	**133.985**
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31 March		
- GF	172.049	116.133
- HRA	341.186	299.54
Total	**513.235**	**415.670**
Deposits (average annualised balance)	**90**	**90**
External gross debt as at 31 March	**416.529**	**342.778**
Ratio of net financing costs to revenue stream		
- GF %	1.38%	4.37%
- HRA %	20.04%	12.28%
Net income from commercial and service investments		
- General Fund (£ million)	18.425	19.454
- HRA (£ million)	0.625	0.625
Ratio of net income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream		
- GF %	60.13%	63.54%
- HRA %	1.02%	1.02%

* Capital expenditure budgets have been updated to reflect rephasing and other changes to the capital programme approved since the BSR

Treasury Indicator Estimates (£m)	**BSR 2026/27**	**Q1 2026/27**
Authorised limit		
- Borrowing	600	600
- Other long-term liabilities	2	2
Operational boundary		
- Borrowing	523.235	408.601
- Other long-term liabilities	1.173	1.5
Upper limit for total principal sums deposited for over 364 days and up to 5 years	50	50
Analysis of exposure to fixed and variable interest rates		
- Net interest on fixed rate borrowing/deposits	14.264	11.311
- Net interest on variable rate borrowing/deposits	-1.532	-1.675
Maturity structure of new fixed rate borrowing – 5 years and above		
- Upper limit	100%	100%
- Lower limit	100%	100%

Annual Report 2025/26 and State of the City Report 2025/26

To:
Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Leader of the Council

Cabinet, 23 September 2026

Report by:
David Kidston, Head of Strategy and Policy
Tel: 01223 457043 Email: david.kidston@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:
All

Director Approval: Chief Executive Robert Pollock confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	**Recommendations**
1.1	It is recommended that Cabinet notes the Annual Report 2025/26 and the State of the City report 2025/26.
2.	**Purpose and reason for the report**
2.1	The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Report and State of the City Report to Cabinet for information.
3.	**Background - Annual report 2025/26**
3.1	In previous years the Council has published an annual report to provide an update on key achievements in relation to its strategic priorities. The most recent Annual Report covered the 2023/24 period and was organised around the 3 priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027.
3.2	The 2025/26 Annual Report provides a concise summary of key achievements and is organised around the 6 themes in the Council's vision. It is intended to be more succinct

	and accessible than previous reports. It highlights key achievements across a range of teams, but it does not provide an exhaustive list of services and projects delivered by the Council last year.
4.	**Background - State of the City Report 2025/26**
4.1	The State of the City report provides a data-led overview of what Cambridge is like economically, socially, and environmentally. It aims to provide an evidence base to enable the council, local communities, partners, and other stakeholders to have meaningful, data-informed discussions about key trends affecting the future of Cambridge.
4.2	The original State of the City report was produced for the Council in 2023 by Cambridge Econometrics with funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). Council officers have published an annual update on the State of the City metrics for 2023/24 and 2024/25. This report provides an update for 2025/26.
4.3	The data in the State of the City report and subsequent updates is drawn from publicly available data sources and includes national averages and data for other cities in England and Wales for comparison with Cambridge data.
4.4	While the 2025/26 report provides an update on many of the State of the City metrics, it should be noted that it has not been possible to update some metrics because 2025/26 data has not been published yet by ONS and other data owners. These metrics are identified in the report.
5.	**Corporate plan**
5.1	The Annual Report provides an update on key achievements during 2025/26 in relation to the Council's strategic priorities. The information in the report is organised around the 6 themes in the Council's Vision rather than the Corporate Plan priorities.
6.	**Consultation, engagement and communication**
6.1	Consultation has not been carried out in relation to the Annual Report or State of the City report. Both reports will be published on the Council website and the State of the City report will be shared with partner organisations.

7.	**Implications**
	Relevant risks
7.1	There are no risks associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report.
	Financial Implications
7.2	There are no direct financial implications associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report
	Legal Implications
7.3	There are no direct legal implications associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
7.4	There are no direct equalities or socio-economic implications from these reports. The Annual Report provides examples of activity that has contributed to the Council's vision, including thriving and empowered communities, shared prosperity and greater equality in health and educational outcomes. The State of the City report provides updated data for 2025/26 on a range of measures of wellbeing, prosperity and social equity.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
7.5	There are no direct net zero, climate change or environmental impacts from these reports. The Annual Report provides examples of activity that has contributed to the Council's vision, including decarbonisation, biodiversity and sustainable development. The State of the City report provides updated data for 2025/26 on a range of environmental measures, including greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, sustainable travel, air and water quality, recycling and waste.
	Procurement Implications
7.6	There are no direct procurement implications associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report.
	Community Safety Implications

7.7	There are no direct community safety implications associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report. The Annual Report refers to key achievements in relation to anti-social behaviour and public realm enforcement. The State of the City report includes updated data for 2025/26 on crime and reoffending rates.
9.	**Background documents**
9.1	• Cambridge City Portrait: State of the City 2023: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/12916/state-of-the-city-report-2023.pdf • State of the City Annual Report 2024: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/jdpempkq/state-of-the-city-2024-update.pdf • State of the City Annual Report 2025: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/be1ds2kz/state-of-the-city-2025-update.pdf
10.	**Appendices**
10.1	• Appendix 1 – Annual Report 2025/26 • Appendix 2 – State of the City report 2025/26
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact David Kidston, Head of Strategy and Policy, tel: 01223 457043, email: david.kidston@cambridge.gov.uk

Annual report

Cambridge City Council

2025/26

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

"

we have continued work to make Cambridge a fairer, greener and more inclusive city, while maintaining essential services and investing in the city's future.

Introduction

Welcome to our annual report, where you can find out more about what Cambridge City Council has been doing to deliver on its vision over the past year.

The council's vision, as agreed by our councillors, has six key themes which set out our ambitions for the city:

- Residents enjoy a high quality of life and exemplar public services
- Decarbonisation and sustainability are central to prosperity
- Innovation benefits people and planet
- Development is sustainable and inclusive
- Arts, sports, and culture are thriving
- Democratic accountability is genuine and accessible

This report sets out our main achievements during 2025-26 for each of these six themes. It can be read alongside the council's quarterly performance reports and the State the of the City report, which provides an overview of environmental, social and economic conditions in the city.

During 2025/26, we have continued work to make Cambridge a fairer, greener and more inclusive city, while maintaining essential services and investing in the city's future.

Over the past year we completed new council homes, helped prevent homelessness, and awarded more than £1 million to local community organisations tackling inequality. We reduced the council's carbon emissions, improved the energy efficiency of homes and invested in nature and biodiversity.

We also progressed plans for sustainable development through the Greater Cambridge Local Plan; supported young people, skills and local businesses; invested in leisure, culture and community services and facilities; and strengthened the council's governance, performance management and financial planning.

Much of this work has been delivered in partnership with residents, community groups, businesses, public bodies and academic institutions.

Residents enjoy a high quality of life and exemplar public services

We want Cambridge to be a place of high employment where everyone has a warm, safe, and affordable home and beautiful open spaces to enjoy.

Last year we:

- Responded to 2,309 applications for social housing and made 647 housing offers.
- Achieved national standards in an inspection by the Regulator for Social Housing.
- Helped bring 345 privately rented homes up to a safe standard and brought 20 empty private homes back into use.
- Completed 254 adaptations for low-income disabled residents, including ramps, walk-in showers and stairlifts, helping them stay independent at home.
- Helped prevent or ease homelessness in 397 cases and supported 26 rough sleepers into accommodation. We also helped 60 people avoid rough sleeping through a pilot project with partner organisations.
- Kept the city clean with more than 144,000 bin collections and cleaning 3,000 miles of our city streets, equivalent to travelling from Cambridge to Istanbul.
- Held 38 community clean-up days, removing bulky waste, encouraging recycling and helping people take pride in their neighbourhoods.
- Worked with more than 75 businesses on volunteering projects in parks and open spaces, including weeding, tree planting, painting and other environmental improvements.

We want communities to be thriving and empowered, supported by well-run public services and drawing on shared prosperity with greater equality in health and educational outcomes.

In 2025-26 we:

- Gave over £1m in grants to 79 local groups helping tackle inequality.
- Welcomed 150,000 visitors to council community centres – 20,000 more than the previous year.
- Developed the North Cambridge Framework for Change programme. A wide range of engagement activities enabled residents to play an active role in shaping their neighbourhoods of the future.
- Dealt with 850 reports of anti-social behaviour and responded to 480 public realm enforcement requests.

- Helped more than 300 refugees, including 138 children, settle into life in Cambridge and the surrounding area with £133,000 awarded to organisations supporting refugees.
- Managed 1.9 million car park visits, supporting around three million visitors.
- Handled more than 185,000 customer enquiries, with 82% customer satisfaction.
- Processed 63,762 Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims in an average of 1.7 days per claim.
- Put health and wellbeing at the heart of council decision-making through our 'Health in all policies' approach.
- Carried out 687 food safety inspections, helping 98% of food businesses meet standards.
- Held a community health and fitness day for older people in South Cambridge, leading to over 600 conversations and more than 100 people getting extra help.

Decarbonisation and sustainability are central to prosperity

We want Cambridge to be a net zero carbon city where people and nature enjoy a clean river, clean air, and biodiverse green spaces.

During 2025-26 we:

- Agreed our new Climate Change Strategy to move the council and city closer to net zero.
- Were named one of the world's top 120 cities for climate action, with 'A' rating for the third year running.
- Cut our own carbon emissions by 8% in a year and by more than half since 2014/15.
- Completed deep retrofits to 48 council homes, made energy efficiency improvements to 268 council homes and supported energy efficiency improvements to 82 private homes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough through the Action on Energy programme, which we led.
- Approved a £600k investment to develop a city centre heat network to use a network of air and river source heat pumps to heat and cool key buildings in central Cambridge.

- Updated our Biodiversity Strategy and revised our Urban Forest Strategy to protect and restore nature and increase tree cover across Cambridge.
- Planted 201 trees and maintained 14 miles of waterways.
- Created a hectare of new wetland habitats at Logan's Meadow Nature Reserve and launched the Cambridge Butterfly Trail across 30 parks and open spaces.
- Secured £5.3m government funding for water saving devices in council-owned buildings in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

Innovation benefits people and planet

We aim to help Cambridge champion pioneering discoveries which shape a better future for people and planet. We want there to be a lifelong citywide commitment to learning which enables every resident to develop their skills and fulfil their potential. And we want businesses to be key to the success of a thriving local economy which benefits residents and workers.

To help meet these objectives, in 2025-26 we:

- Developed a new AI tool with the University of Liverpool to help review Local Plan consultation feedback.
- Supported 44 apprenticeships across the council.
- Worked with more than 1,100 young people and 29 schools through the Creative Futures programme, delivering 99 sessions and providing 75 work experience placements
- Launched the Included programme, helping young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, access mentoring, work experience, internships and career opportunities.
- Delivered a new youth cabin in Abbey jointly with the NHS to provide a safe space for local young people's organisations to use provide digital skills, mental health support and local social groups.
- Continued to support market traders with mentoring, training and financial help.
- Launched Match My Project, connecting businesses with local charities and community groups. 63 community groups and 86 suppliers have signed up, and 19 matches have been made so far.
- Contributed £1m to Greater Cambridge Impact (GCI) which enables public, civic and business partners to invest in projects tackling poverty, homelessness and inequality in Cambridge. GCI has so far secured investment worth £6.25m.

Development is sustainable and inclusive

High-quality social housing, sustainable public transport alongside key infrastructure is prioritised to ensure Cambridge is a vibrant and caring city.

Last year we:

- Completed 126 new council homes and submitted plans for almost 300 more. The Cambridge Investment Partnership (the Council's development partnership with Hill) completed its 1,000th new home and rehomed its 300th family.

- Finished the sustainable Park Street redevelopment - an underground car and cycle park with a new aparthotel above - on time and under budget.
- Opened a sustainable new Operations Hub in North Cambridge to provide a new base for our street cleaning, parks and open spaces, and housing repair teams.
- Published a draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan and invited public feedback on the proposals, which include identifying sites where 48,195 homes and one million square metres of employment space could be built between 2024 and 2045
- Exceeded all national performance targets for Planning and Land Charges whilst processing over 3,057 applications in Cambridge (including 194 pre application requests)
- Approved more than 140 self-build housing projects.
- Won several national awards for the joint Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, including RTPI Local Planning Authority of the Year 2025 and national awards for youth engagement and biodiversity.

Arts, sports, and culture are thriving

We want Cambridge to celebrate the city's diversity through a vibrant arts and cultural scene, including music, festivals, sports, and food and drink. Accessible arts, sports and culture should provide spaces for people of all ages to come together to enjoy the city, both during the day and at night.

During 2025-26 we:

- Welcomed more than 180,000 people to events at the Guildhall and the Corn Exchange, including special events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the venue.
- Entertained over 45,500 people and showcased the talents of 280 local people at events like Fireworks Night, Music in the Parks and the Out of the Ordinary Festival.
- Prepared for the refreshed 2026 Cambridge Folk Festival, which sold out over three months in advance, and planned more than 20 'Folk Festival Presents' events across the city.

- Saw the number of visits to council-owned swimming pools and leisure centres increase to over 600,000.
- Installed a new lighting and sound system at King's Hedges Learner Pool to provide a safe and stimulating environment for children and young people with sensory needs.
- Replaced the artificial sports pitch at Abbey leisure complex with a new 3G pitch, updated the BMX track on Coldham's Common and improved play areas at King's Hedges, Lammas Land and Nightingale Recreation Ground.
- Facilitated over 1,600 hours of free or low-cost active lifestyles activities, with a total of more than 15,000 attendances over the year.
- Gave 133 participation grants to help young people access sports and activities, awarded kickstart funding to nine community partners and supported 16 organisations to offer free summer activities.

Democratic accountability is genuine and accessible

We want to ensure residents actively participate in democratic life and transparent decisions are made by and for the people of Cambridge. Local control, devolution, and community empowerment are championed through transparent and simplified local government.

To meet these objectives we:

- Submitted the 'Option B' proposal to Government for Local Government Reorganisation, jointly with East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. This proposed future arrangements for unitary councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Trialled 'early voting' in the May 2026 Local Elections – one of only five local authorities selected for this national pilot.
- Implemented new governance arrangements, including regular collective decision making by Cabinet and revised Scrutiny Committees.
- Introduced a new Performance Management Framework, which includes quarterly reports to Cabinet on the council's performance, finance and risk.
- Identified revenue savings as part of the council's budget for 2026/27. This reduced a previously forecast overspend of £11.5 million per year by 2030-2031 to just £1.5 million, out of an annual council spend of around £80 million.
- Delivered changes to our procurement processes in line with the new Procurement Act.

Conclusion

The achievements set out in this report demonstrate the breadth of the council's work and the practical difference it makes to residents, communities and the city as a whole.

From providing homes and essential services to tackling inequality, reducing carbon emissions, supporting culture and leisure, and planning for sustainable growth, the council has continued to have an impact in 2025/26, while preparing for the future.

We would like to thank our staff, councillors, partners organisations and volunteers for their contribution during the year.

We will build on this progress in 2026/27, working with residents and partners to improve services, strengthen communities and ensure that Cambridge's growth and success benefit everyone, while managing financial pressures and the wider changes to local government.

"

We will build on progress in 2026/27, working with residents and partners to improve services, strengthen communities.

CAMBRIDGE
CITY COUNCIL

Publication date: September 2026

State of the City

Cambridge City Portrait

2026 Update

Contents

Foreword

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2026 update to the State of the City report, which presents the latest trends in social, environmental and economic data about Cambridge and how it compares with national data. The first report was commissioned by Cambridge City Council and published in July 2023 and update reports were produced in 2024 and 2025. Now we have the latest data to consider.

I would like to thank Cambridge Econometrics for their professional and innovative approach to the original report, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority for funding the initial project, and all the colleagues, partners and stakeholders who contributed insights and data during the development of the reports and the online tools.

Reading this 2026 update it is hard not be struck by the contrasts it shows. Cambridge is a wealthy, successful city with a fast-growing and highly productive economy. It has the third highest rate of employment in Research and Development intensive industries out of all 55 cities in England. Most residents enjoy a high quality of life, with good employment, good incomes, and good health outcomes. The workforce is highly skilled and highly educated, and social inequality has reduced on some key measures.

If we look at sustainability and the environment, energy consumption per person is lower than the national city average and solar energy capacity is more than three times the national average. We have a lot of EV charge points.

And yet things are far from good for many residents. Housing remains significantly less affordable for low earners in Cambridge than the rest of the country while rates of homelessness increased. The employment rate for non-white people in 2025 was significantly lower than for white people in the city. And while life expectancy increased notably from 2024 to 2025 there is still a significant gap between the most and least deprived wards in the city.

This tells me that we whatever we are achieving for the city as a whole is not reaching everyone, and that we need to consider what we can do to address the areas where people are failing to benefit or falling behind. The growth of Cambridge depends on many factors, some of which are in the control of the City Council while most are not. But how that growth serves everyone is something we can influence much more directly, and we will work to do that. We can see where the gaps are, where the work is needed, and so we have no excuse for failing to address these hard questions.

We want to ensure that Cambridge is a great place to live, and that everyone who lives, works, studies or visits is able to enjoy all that we have to offer. We will continue to focus our efforts on reducing inequalities and do all we can as a local authority to build on the successes we have observed.

I hope everyone will find the report as valuable as I have done. Please use the dashboard and the many links to detailed source data to build your own picture of our amazing city. Over the years we have built up a detailed picture not only of the current state of Cambridge but how it is changing, and this is of enormous value as we assess policy interventions, talk to residents and businesses, and seek to influence government initiatives that will shape the future of the city.

Katie Thornburrow, Leader Cambridge City Council

Executive Summary

The State of the City report, produced in 2023, provided a portrait of Cambridge as a place. It used nationally comparable data to identify and illustrate key economic, social and environmental trends in the city.

This update report suggests that the key trends identified in the original report are broadly still visible in Cambridge in 2026, although there have been noticeable changes in some areas.

Economy – Business and Enterprise

Cambridge continues to have a high growth, highly productive and knowledge-intensive economy:

- Cambridge has the second highest rate of high growth businesses (0.92% in 2023) of all 55 English cities, with only Oxford having a higher rate.
- Cambridge has the third highest rate of employment in Research and Development (R&D) intensive industries out of all 55 cities in England.
- High turnover businesses increased from 11.6% of all businesses in Cambridge in 2024 to 12.3% in 2025.

However, the metrics in the report indicate that it can be harder to start and sustain a new business in the current climate in Cambridge:

- Business start-up and closure rates remain worse in Cambridge than the national average and the average for English cities. However, Cambridge's start-up rate improved slightly (from 10.2% in 2023 to 10.3% in 2024) and the business closure rate decreased (from 11.3% in 2023 to 10.3% in 2024).
- The proportion of start-ups surviving for 3 years decreased significantly in Cambridge between 2023 and 2024 but still remains marginally above the national and city averages.

Economy – Workforce and Jobs

Cambridge's workforce remains one of the most highly-skilled and highly-educated in the country:

- 70.1% of Cambridge's workforce were employed in 'high-skill' occupations, which was the third highest of all English cities. Only Oxford and Brighton had a higher rate.

- 75.9% of working age residents in Cambridge were educated to NVQ3+ (A-level or equivalent and above) in 2025, the sixth highest of all English cities.

However, having been relatively steady for a five-year period, apprenticeship starts fell from 515 starts per 100,000 adult residents in 2024 to 320 in 2025.

Society – Wellbeing and Prosperity

Most residents in Cambridge continue to enjoy a high quality of life, with good employment, good incomes, and good health outcomes:

- Average full-time pay in Cambridge (£634.90 per week) remains significantly above the national city average (£532.70) and national average (£555.50) in 2025.
- The average disposable household income in Cambridge (£25,800 per resident per year in 2023) remains above the national city (£21,722) and national averages (£25,150).
- The employment rate and the economic activity rate both increased in Cambridge from 2024 to 2025, although both rates remained below the national city average.
- Cambridge has the second highest life expectancy for men and the fourth highest for women out of all 55 English cities. Life expectancy increased notably from 2024 to 2025, from 84.0 to 84.5 years for women and from 80.6 to 81.3 years for men.

Housing affordability has improved, but it remains a significant challenge in Cambridge. The city has the second highest housing affordability ratio of all English cities, with the median house costing 10.8 times the median pay in 2025.

Rates of housing delivery have fluctuated significantly over the past 20 years in Cambridge, but the number of new homes delivered increased from 4.3 per 1,000 existing to 9.1 in 2025. Affordable housing delivery decreased over the same period, but it remained higher than the national city average.

Society - Social Equity

Previous State of the City reports have highlighted that while Cambridge is prosperous overall, there is inequality in social outcomes, with some households experiencing low pay, food poverty and fuel poverty.

The most recent data suggests that some measures of inequality have reduced:

- the proportion of employees in low pay in Cambridge fell sharply from more than 9% in 2023 to 6.6% in 2025. This is less than half the overall national rate (14.8%).

- pay inequality also reduced, with employees at the 80th percentile earning 2.1 times what workers at the 20th percentile earned in 2025, compared to 2.3 in 2024.
- child poverty rates in Cambridge (11.6% in 2025) were the third lowest of all 55 English cities and significantly below the national rate (19.3%).
- the gender pay gap decreased in Cambridge from 18% to 11% from 2024 to 2025.
- the employment rate for people with disabilities has increased very sharply in Cambridge, from 49.3% to 78.2%. This was the highest rate out of all 55 English cities.

However, some indicators of inequality remain, such as:

- the employment rate for non-white people in Cambridge (68.8%) was significantly lower in 2025 than for white people in the city (81.3%).
- housing is less affordable for low earners in Cambridge than the rest of the country. The lower quartile house price was 11.2 times the lower quartile pay in 2025 in Cambridge, compared to a national average of 6.8 and a city average of 7.1.
- Rates of homelessness increased, with 17.5 households per 1,000 households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness.

There continues to be inequality in educational attainment, with students that are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) - an indicator of lower household incomes - achieving significantly poorer grades than non-FSM peers. The attainment gap between the two groups at GCSE level widened in Cambridge from 32% in 2023 to 35% in 2024, while the gap at A-level remained constant at 34%.

There continues to be a gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived wards in Cambridge, but the gap for women reduced from 10.3 years in 2023 to 9.2 years in 2024, while the gap for men increased slightly. The life expectancy gap for both men and women was narrower than the average for English cities.

Environment - Sustainability, Wildlife and Nature

A number of key sustainability metrics have improved since the last report and show Cambridge performing well against national comparators:

- Greenhouse gas emissions have remained constant between 2023 and 2024 in Cambridge but reduced significantly over the past 20 years from 8.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e) per person to 3.6 in 2023 and 2024. This was below both the national and city averages for 2024.

- Energy consumption per person has continued to decrease in Cambridge and is lower than the national city average and the national average.
- Solar energy capacity increased in Cambridge between 2023 and 2024 and was nearly double the national city average and more than three times the national average.
- Electric vehicle charging capacity has increased significantly from 2023 to 2024 in Cambridge and the city has the third highest rate of charge points (per 100 licensed EVs) out of 58 cities in England and Wales, behind only Coventry and Brighton.

However, the report presents a mixed picture in relation to other environmental measures:

- The percentage of adults in Cambridge who engage in active travel (at least twice a week in the past 28 days) in Cambridge (70.3%) was far higher than the national average (46.0%).
- Bus, bike and pedestrian journeys into the city from outside Cambridge decreased by 0.5% from 2023 to 2024, while car and motorbike journeys increased by 2.5%.
- Air pollution levels remained static between 2023 and 2024 in Cambridge, but air pollution mortality decreased slightly. Both measures were above the national city and national average.
- Storm overflows (sewage discharges) into the River Cam doubled from 2024 to 2025 but were significantly below the peak in 2021.
- The waste recycling rate in Greater Cambridge reduced slightly from 48% in 2024 to 47.8% in 2025, but the waste footprint per person also reduced slightly over the same period. The recycling rate has remained fairly constant from 2015 to 2025, but the waste footprint has reduced by 9.5% over the past decade.

Introduction

This report is the 2026 update to Cambridge City Council's "State of The City" report. The first State of the City report, published in July 2023, illustrated key trends in social, environmental and economic data about Cambridge, using the most meaningful, nationally comparable data available at the time. Update reports were also produced in 2024 and 2025.

The original report sought to capture a wide range of metrics to help identify the characteristics of Cambridge as a place and was intended to provide a shared evidence base for data informed discussions about key trends in the city. The report was structured into six lenses which speak to three distinct areas, as follows:

- Environment
  - Environment and Sustainability
  - Wildlife & Nature
- Society
  - Wellbeing & Prosperity
  - Social Equity
- Economy
  - Business & Enterprise
  - Workforce & Jobs

This update report is structured around these six lenses. It presents the most recent data available for the metrics included in the original 2023 report, together with a narrative description of key changes since the original report. It does not attempt to explain these trends, aside from providing context to aid in the interpretation of the presented data.

While care has been taken to preserve as much continuity with the data presented in the original 2023 report, not all metrics have been updated for this release. Some are due to timing: this report has been compiled earlier in the year than the 2025 update report, meaning that some indicators and metrics have not yet been updated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and other national data sources. Some are due to metrics being discontinued, with data no longer published by national data owners. Others cannot be updated as they were drawn from one-off studies, or releases with an infrequent release cycle, such as the national Census which was last conducted in 2021.

Central government has recently developed the Local Outcomes Framework, which provides a set of outcomes-based measures of local performance against national priorities. There is some overlap between the State of the City metrics and the Local Outcomes Framework measures. Some aligned metrics have been adopted into this report.

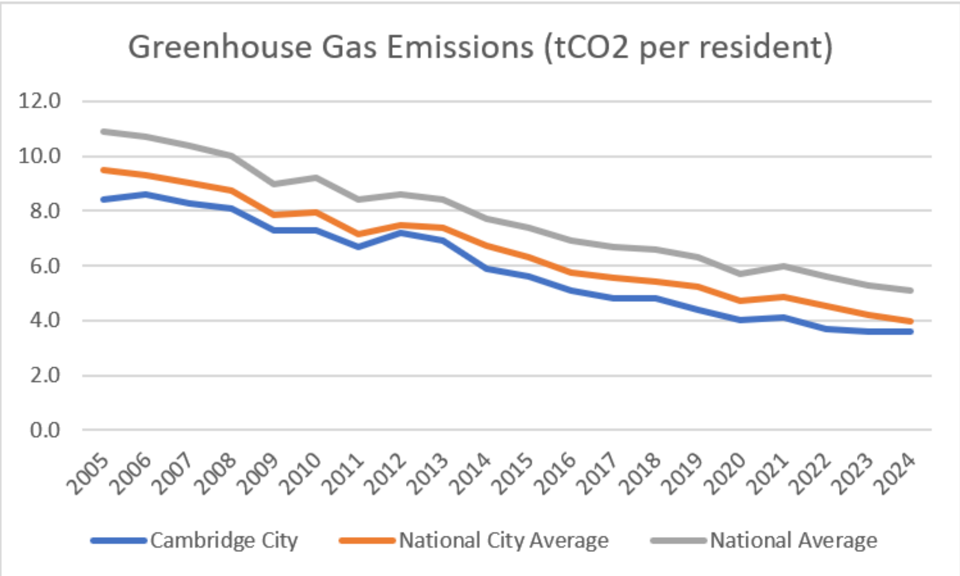
Environment

Environment & Sustainability

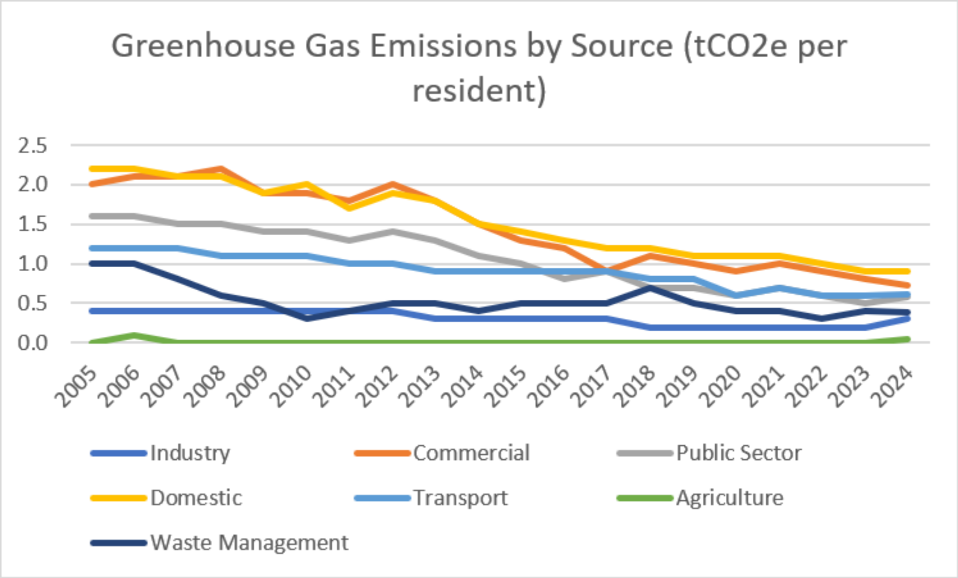
Narrative

This section reports on the environmental conditions of Cambridge, including the wider environmental impacts and sustainability of the city, and our path towards a Net Zero Cambridge. It considers emissions, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.

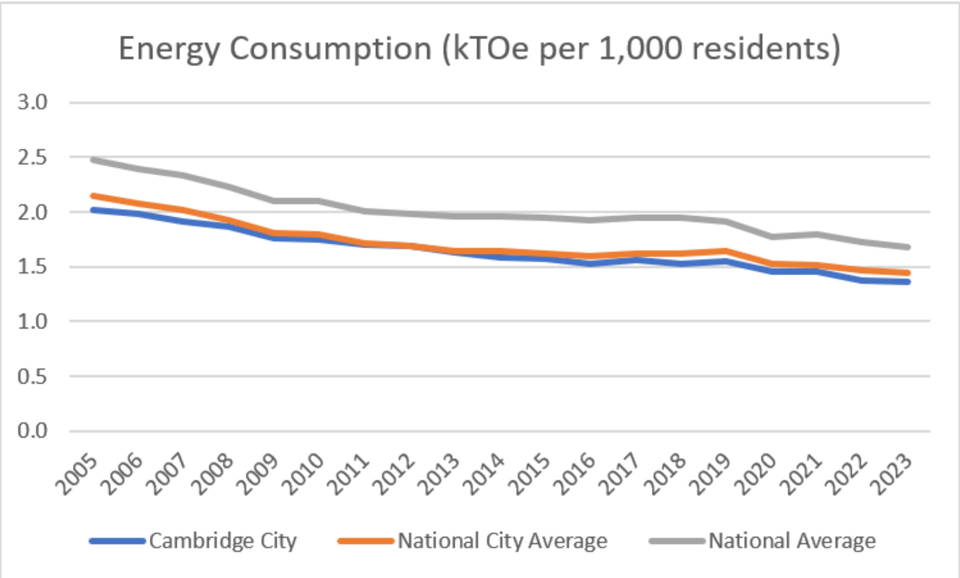
Greenhouse Gas emissions per resident are unchanged from 2023 to 2024. It remained at 3.6 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) across both years. This still represents significantly lower per-capita carbon emissions than the national average, which fell by 0.2 tCO2e from 2023 to 2024, to 5.1 tCO2e. Cambridge had the 25th lowest carbon emissions per head out of 58 cities in England and Wales and remains below the national city average and national average. The overall trend in Cambridge has seen a decline in per capita emissions over the past 20 years.



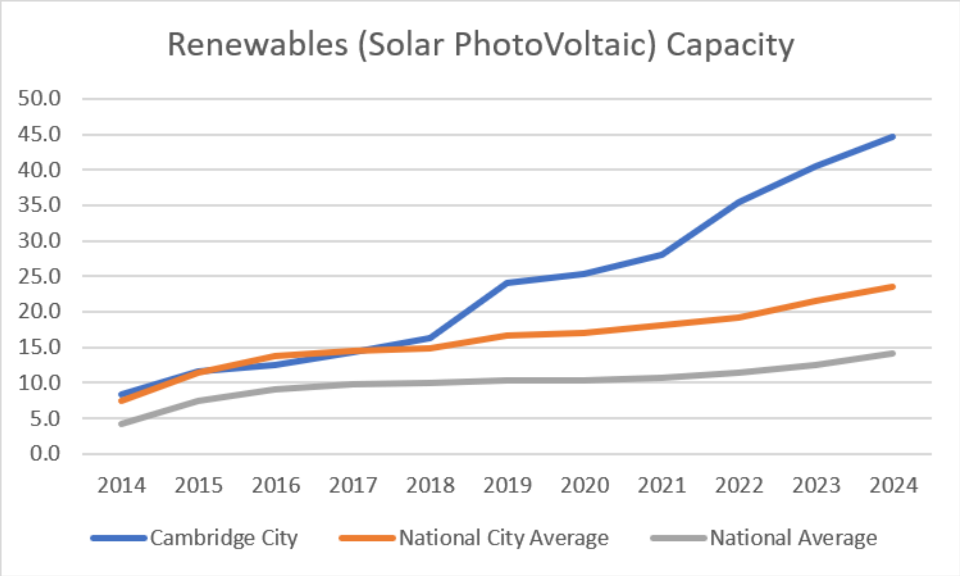
Greenhouse gas **emissions by source** reveals domestic and commercial sources as the highest emitters in Cambridge, though commercial emissions have continued to fall steadily from 1.0 tCo2e per resident in 2021 to 0.7 tCO2e in 2024. Emissions from the industrial and public sectors increased moderately from 2023 to 2024.



Energy consumption per capita has continued to decrease in Cambridge, falling to 1.36 kilotonnes of oil equivalent (kTOe) per 1,000 residents in 2023. This represents a small decrease of 0.1 kTOe per 1,000 residents from 2022. Cambridge has a consistently lower consumption rate than the national city average (1.45 kTOe in 2023) and a significantly lower rate than the overall national average (1.68 kTOe in 2023).

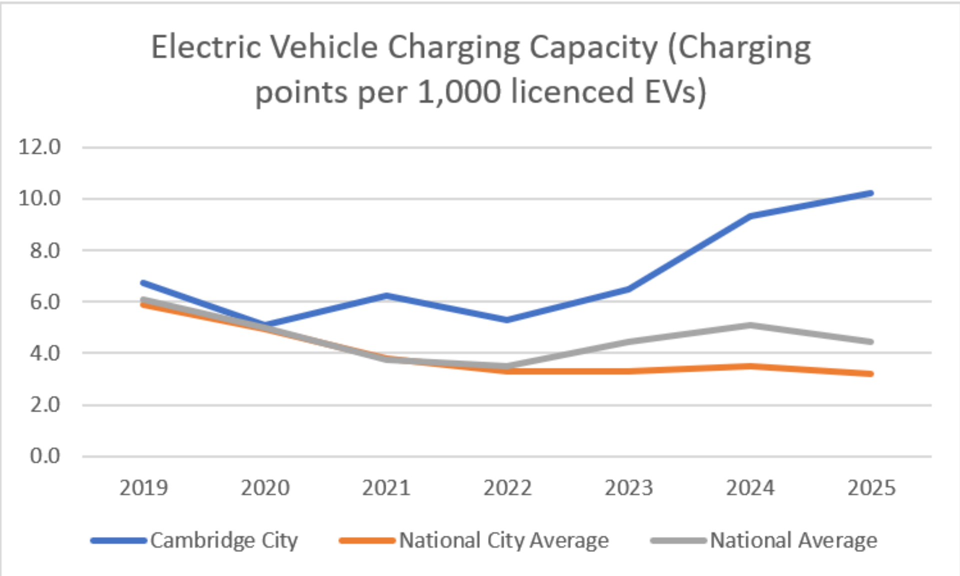


Renewables capacity (solar PV) has increased significantly in Cambridge in recent years. Cambridge's installed capacity density (megawatts per 100km^2) increased by 4.18 from 40.5 in 2023 to a total of 44.7 in 2024. This is nearly double the national city average of 23.5, and over 3 times the overall national average of 14.0. The pace of increase has been dramatically higher for Cambridge than national averages, since a major divergence in the late 2010s.



Electric Vehicles charging capacity has also increased in Cambridge, with 10 charging points per 100 licenced EVs in 2025. This is a significant increase of 3.7 since 2023.

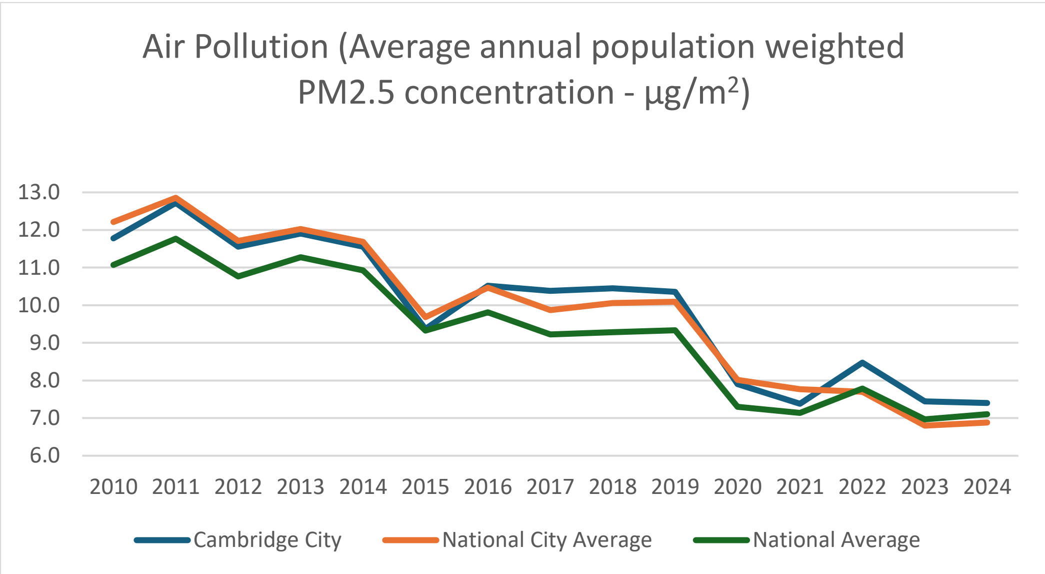
Cambridge has the third highest rate of charge points (per 100 licensed EVs) out of 58 cities in England and Wales, behind only Coventry and Brighton. Charging capacity in Cambridge in 2025 is double the national city average (4.4), and 3 times the overall national average (3.0). Nationally, charging capacity has not kept up with EV take-up, resulting in a reduction in per vehicle capacity. This is not the case in Cambridge.

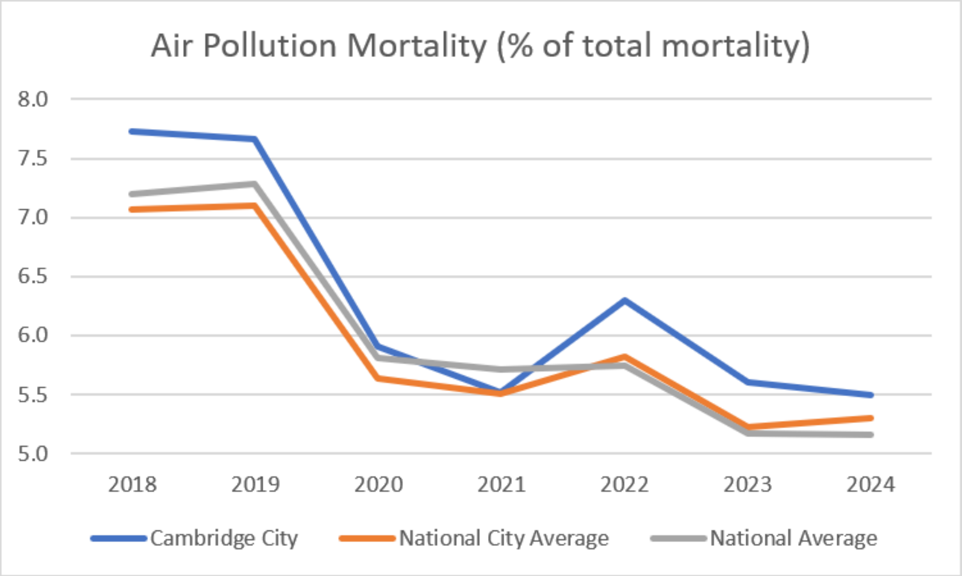


Trips into the city by cars and motorcycles increased by 2.5%. However, trips by **bus, pedestrian and pedal cycle** decreased, albeit by a very small amount (0.5%). **HGV and LGV** trips decreased by 2.5%. Trips by car and motorcycle make up 79% of trips into the city. It should be noted that this metric relates to trips from outside the Cambridge City boundary into the city. It does not include shorter trips that start and finish within the city boundary.

Residents using active travel and **travel time to essential services** were not updated for this report. However, the Local Outcomes Framework contains two comparable metrics. The percentage of adults who engaged in active travel at least twice in the last 28 days was 70% in Cambridge in 2023, well above the national average of 46%. The Department for Transport's public transport connectivity tool ranks Cambridge as "High", with a connectivity score of 72.51 out of 100.

Air pollution (PM2.5 concentrations) remained static in Cambridge between 2023 and 2024 at 7.4, which was above the national city average (6.9) and the overall national average (7.1) in 2024. However, **air pollution mortality** decreased slightly, from 5.6% to 5.5% of mortality related air pollution. This is similar, but slightly above the national city (5.2%) and overall national (5.3%) averages. Cambridge has the 15th highest air pollution concentration and air pollution mortality rates out of 55 cities in England.





Non-Updated Measures

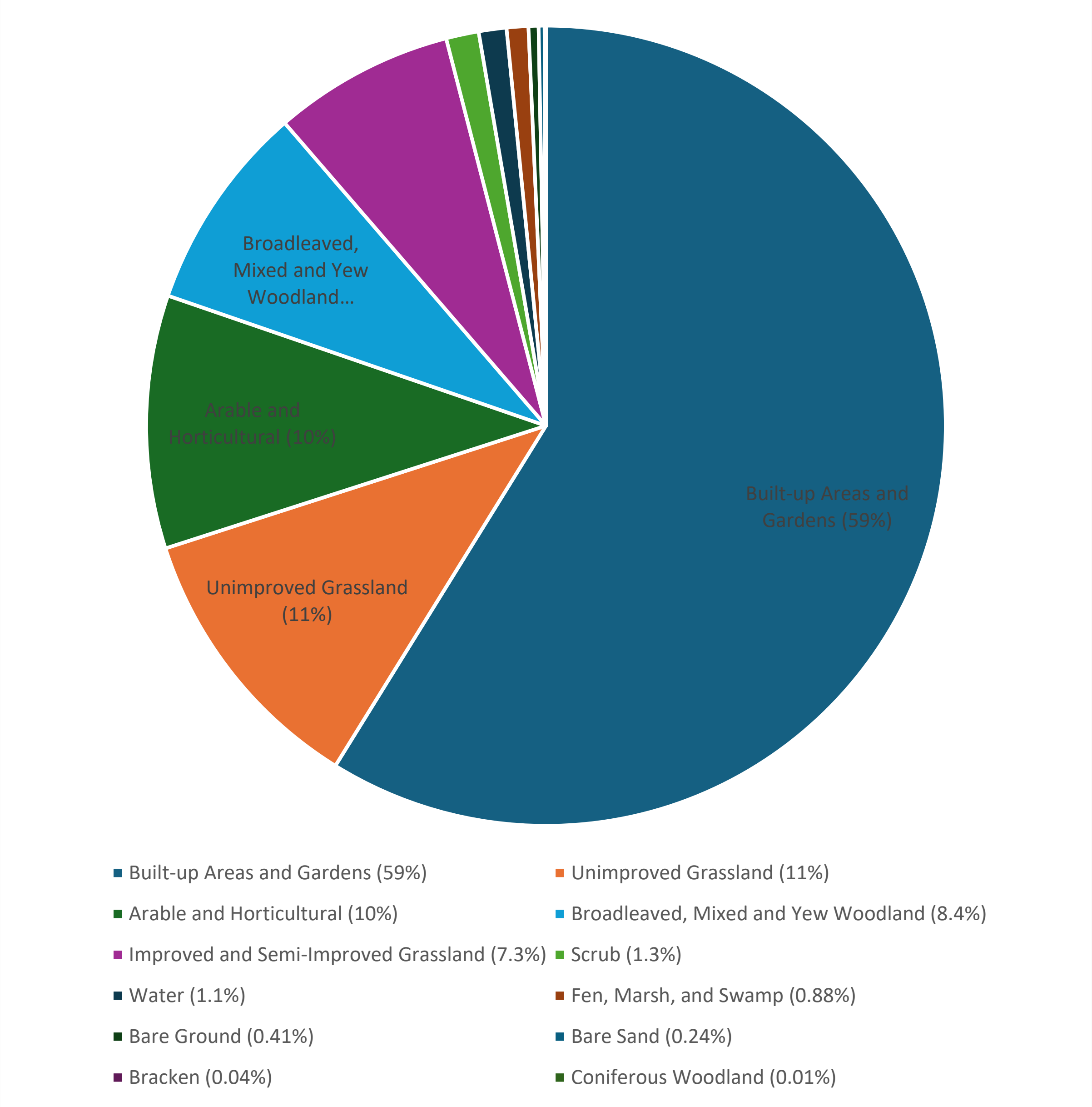
- Travel time to essential services
- Poor air quality days
- Fuel poverty rate
- Licensed EVs
- Residents using active travel

Wildlife & Nature

Narrative

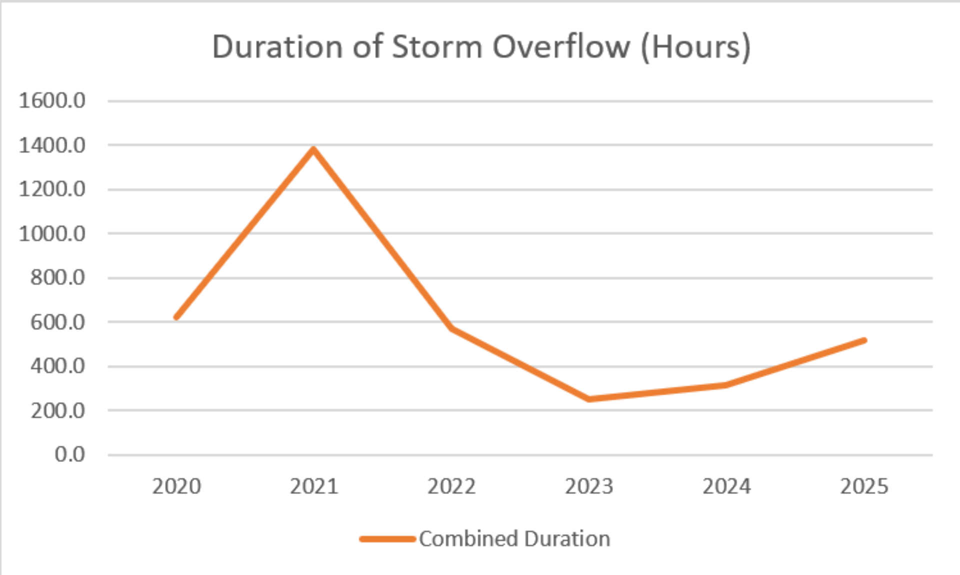
This section of the report presents data on the experience of wildlife in Cambridge, and the ecological conditions in the city. Reported metrics are habitat composition, water levels, water pollution (sewage discharges), noise complaints, recycling rates and waste collection. Data was not available for metrics relating to biodiversity and tree canopy coverage.

The **habitat composition of Cambridge** is predominantly built-up area and gardens – 59% of the city total. However, roughly 11% of the city area is unimproved grassland, referring to natural use. A further 10% is arable and horticultural land, 8.4% is broadleaved woodland, and 7.3% is improved/semi-improved grassland.



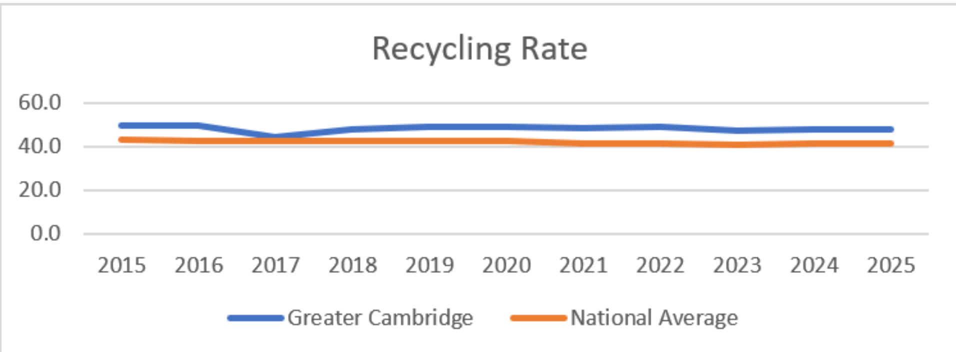
There has been no significant change in the River Cam's **water levels** from 2024 to 2025 (0.71 in both years). A mildly lower summer average figure in 2025 (0.66) is counterbalanced by a slightly raised rest-of-year average (0.71). Typical high and low measurements are virtually unchanged from the previous measure.

Storm overflows (sewage discharges) into the River Cam increased sharply from 2024 to 2025, from a cumulative 251 hours to 516 hours. This represents a significant increase in **water pollution** between the two years, and a continued upward trend since a low in 2023. However, all figures are still significantly below the peak of nearly 1,400 hours in 2021.



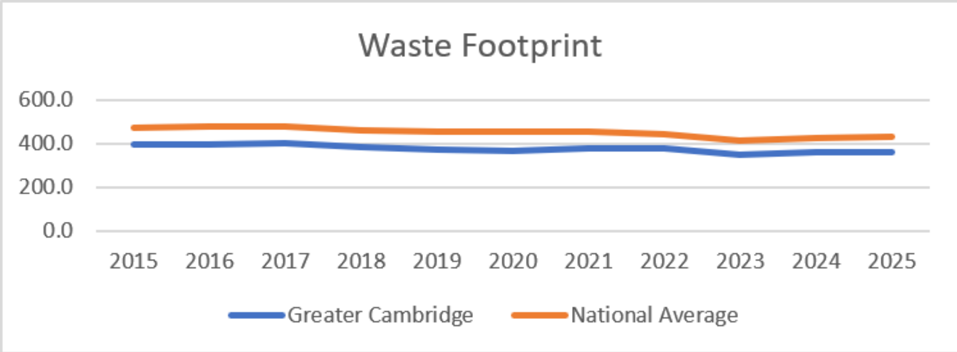
Noise complaints have increased, representing a consistent upwards post-Covid trend. Between financial years 2024-25 and 2025-25, reported noise complaints in Cambridge City increased by 35%. From 2021-22 to 2025-26, the increase has been 58%.

The waste **recycling rate** in Greater Cambridge (Cambridge City and South Cambridge districts) decreased very slightly from 48.0% in 2024 to 47.8% in 2025, Greater Cambridge's rate remains above the national average, which stood at 41.2% in 2025. The national city average has not been updated for 2025. Neither metric has significantly changed since 2015.



The waste footprint - representing the amount of **waste collected** per 1,000 residents - decreased slightly in Greater Cambridge from 2024 to 2025. 357.5 tonnes per 1,000 residents was collected across Greater Cambridge in 2025, compared with 358.9 tonnes in 2024. Greater Cambridge remains below the national average of 429.1 tonnes in 2025.

Over the past 10 years in Greater Cambridge there has been a reduction in the waste footprint, from 395.2 tonnes in 2015 to 357.5 tonnes in 2025, a decrease of approximately 9.5%. This mirrors the national trend, where the 10-year change to 2025 was a 9.3% decrease.



Non-Updated Measures

- Tree canopy coverage
- Land managed for biodiversity & greenspace
- Water body status (% rated poor)
- Insect-friendly wildflower meadows and long grass area
- Heavy rainfall & heatwave days

Society

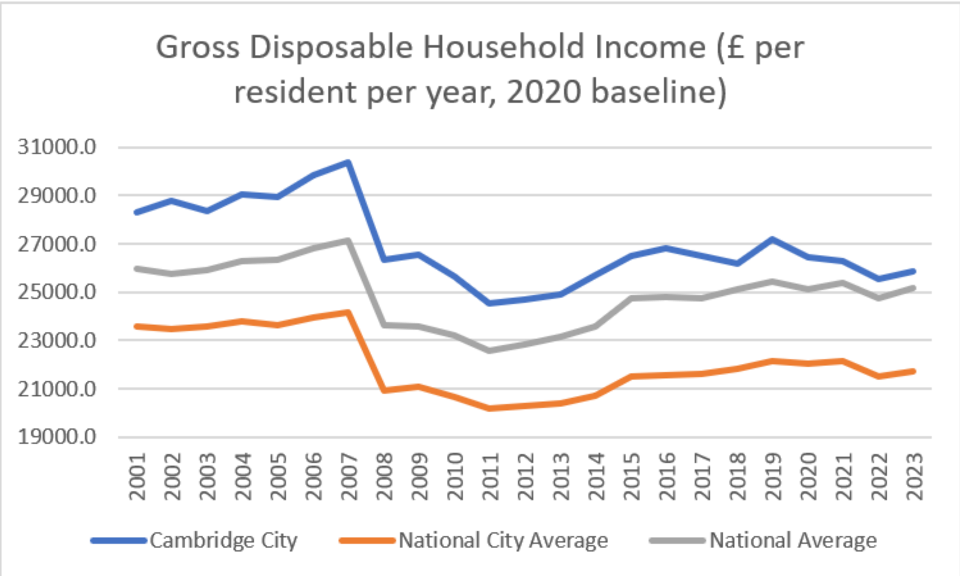
Wellbeing and Prosperity

Narrative

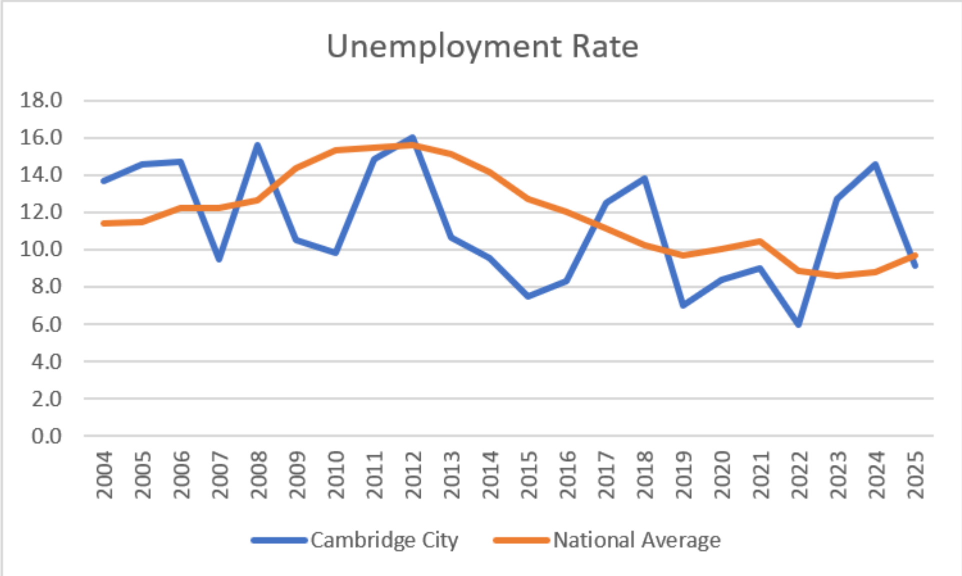
This lens examines the wellbeing, prosperity and inclusiveness of Cambridge and its communities, including economic activity, wealth and poverty, unemployment, crime rates and the housing and homelessness picture in the city. This lens can be seen as measuring similar issues as the national Index of Multiple Deprivation, which was updated in 2025. A full analysis of how Cambridge is reflected in this latest IMD release can be found here.

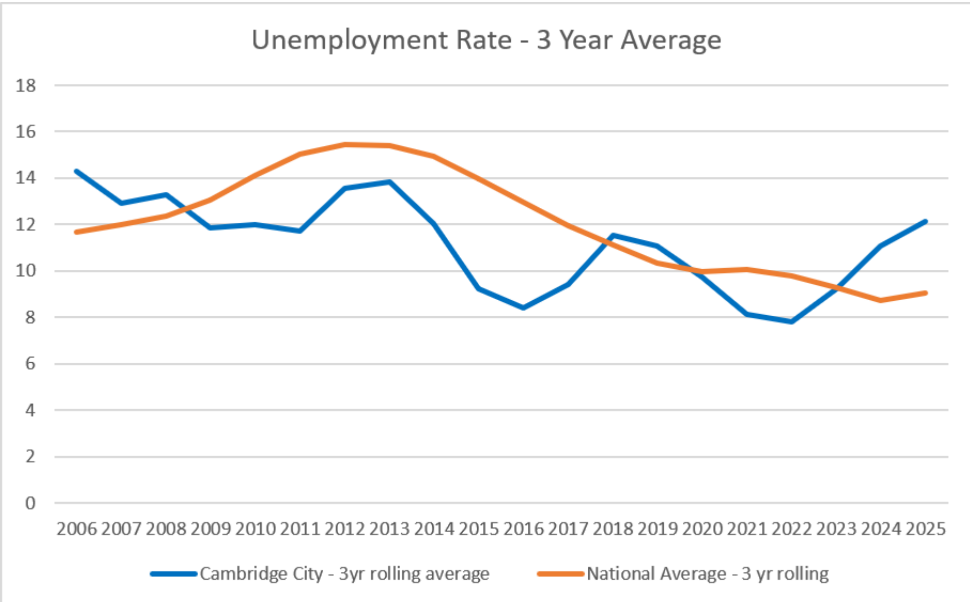
Overall, Cambridge is the third least deprived city in England, with particularly low deprivation in the Employment and Education domains. In both of these areas, Cambridge is the least deprived City in the country. However, inequality within the city is stark, with neighbourhoods in Abbey, King's Hedges and Arbury wards being notably more deprived than national averages, while Newnham, Queen Edith's and Castle wards have some of the least deprived neighbourhoods in England.

Gross disposable household income was approximately £25,800 per resident per year in 2023 (adjusted for inflation – 2020 baseline). While this is above national averages, there has been a general trend of decline since 2019 that is not matched by the overall national average. Figures remain significantly below the pre-2008 trend.



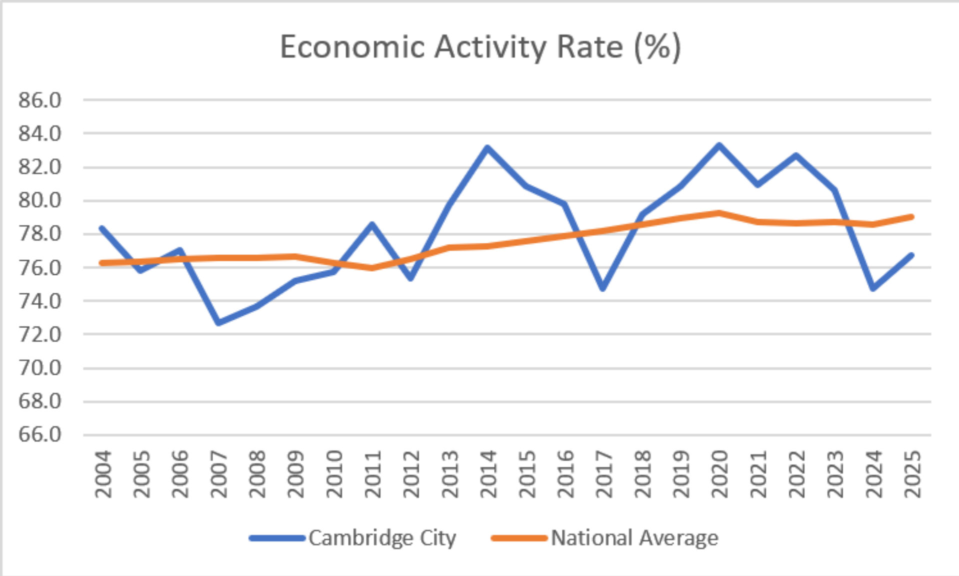
The **unemployment rate** (amongst those of working age who are economically active, including the hidden unemployed**)** decreased by 5.4 percentage points from 14.5% in 2024 to 9.2% in 2025. This puts Cambridge below the national average of 9.7% in 2025. While this is a positive change, it is important to note Cambridge, as an individual area with a smaller sample size, is more susceptible to fluctuation in the data than national averages. The 3-year rolling average unemployment rate is above the equivalent national figure.

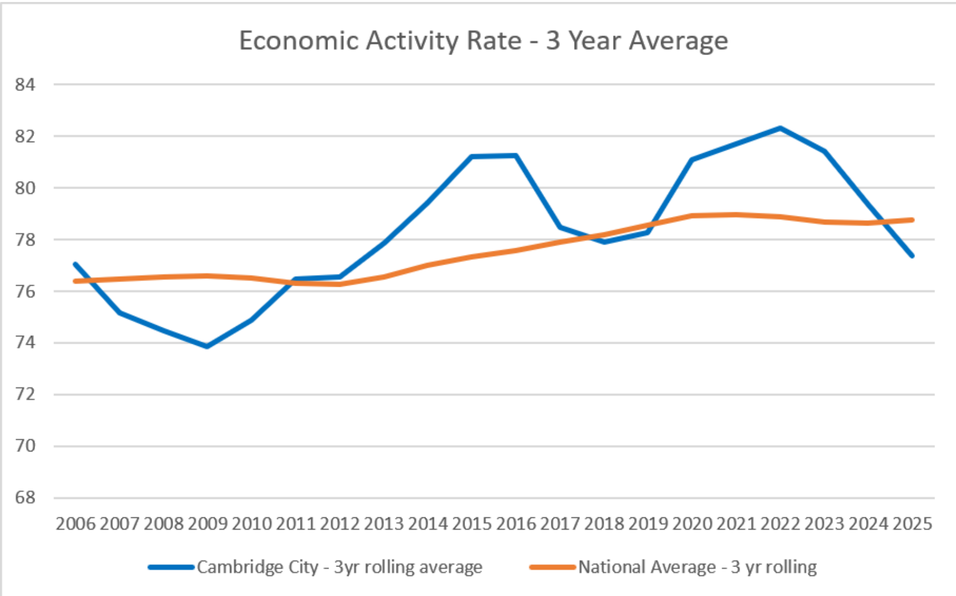




Cambridge's **economic activity rate** improved from 2024 to 2025. 76.8% of working age residents were economically active in 2025, compared to 74.8% in 2024. However, this is below both the national city (78.7%) and overall national (79.0%) averages.

The **employment rate** increased significantly, from 70.2% to 74.8% from 2024 to 2025. This remains slightly below the national city average of 75.4%. It is important to note that these metrics fluctuate significantly in Cambridge due to a smaller sample size at city level in the ONS Annual Population Survey. The 3-year rolling average employment rate, shown in the chart below, smooths out some of these fluctuations.





84.4% of people who **are economically inactive** and of working age in 2025 in Cambridge **do not want a job**. This is a significant increase of 6.2 percentage points from 2024, and places Cambridge above both the national city (78.6%) and overall national (77.7%) averages. This may in part be due to Cambridge's large student population, with students being less likely to want or able to work than other working age residents.

Child poverty increased slightly in Cambridge from 2024 to 2025 by 0.1 percentage point. The 2025 figure of 11.6% is the third lowest out of all 55 English cities and is significantly below the national rate (19.3%). These figures are calculated from a different source and thus methodology than in previous releases.

Housing affordability in Cambridge has improved slightly in 2025, but Cambridge remains one of the least affordable places for buying or renting a home in the country and homelessness has continued to rise in the city:

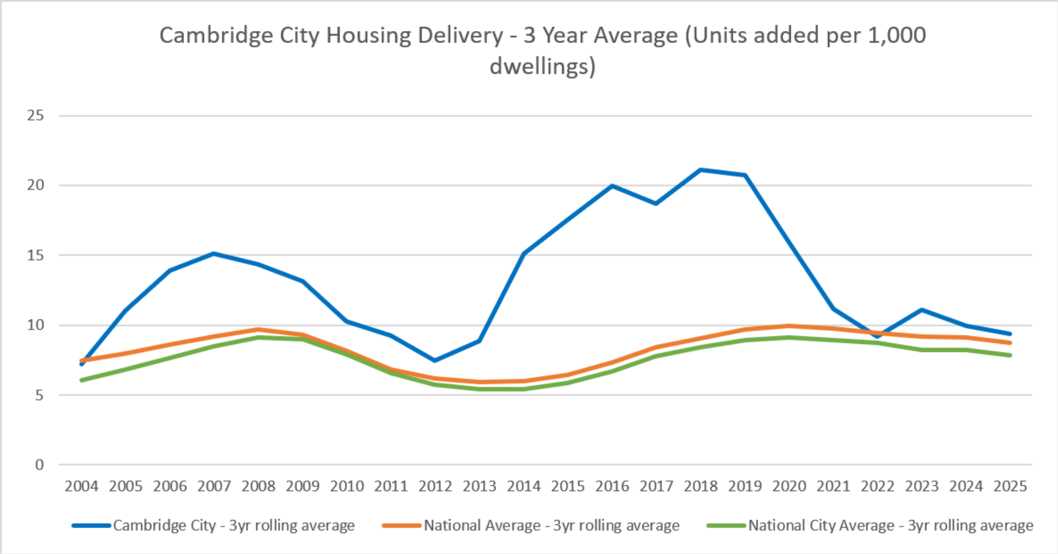
- **Housing affordability** remains an issue in Cambridge, with the median house costing 10.8 times the median pay in 2025. This figure has decreased from 11.3 in 2024 and a peak of 13.5 in 2017, However, by this measure, Cambridge is the second most unaffordable out of 55 cities in England, with only London having a higher housing affordability ratio. Cambridge is still significantly above the national city average (7.0) and the overall national (7.6) average.

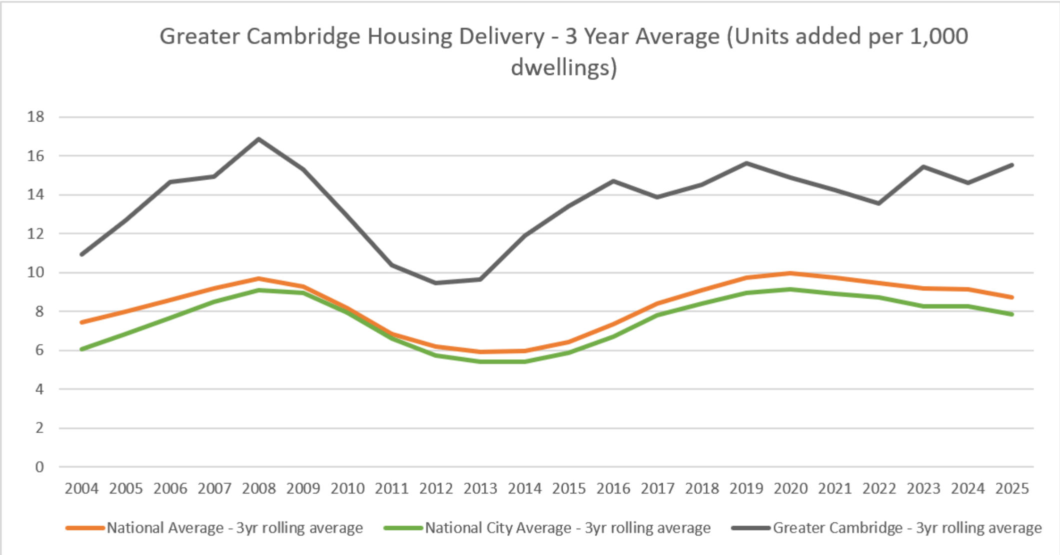
- **Housing affordability for lower earners** remains challenging. The lower quartile house price was 11.2 times the lower quartile pay in 2025, though there was a steeper decrease from 2024, where the figure stood at 12.1. This is worse relative to the rest of the nation than the overall housing affordability ratio – the low-income housing affordability average for cities was 7.1, and the overall average was 6.8.

- The number of households that were assessed as **homeless or threatened with homelessness** has increased significantly from 14.1 cases per 1,000 in 2022 to 17.5 in 2025. Rates of homelessness in Cambridge are significantly above the national city average (15.6) and overall national average (13.6) in 2025, though it is important to note that both averages also rose significantly since 2022.

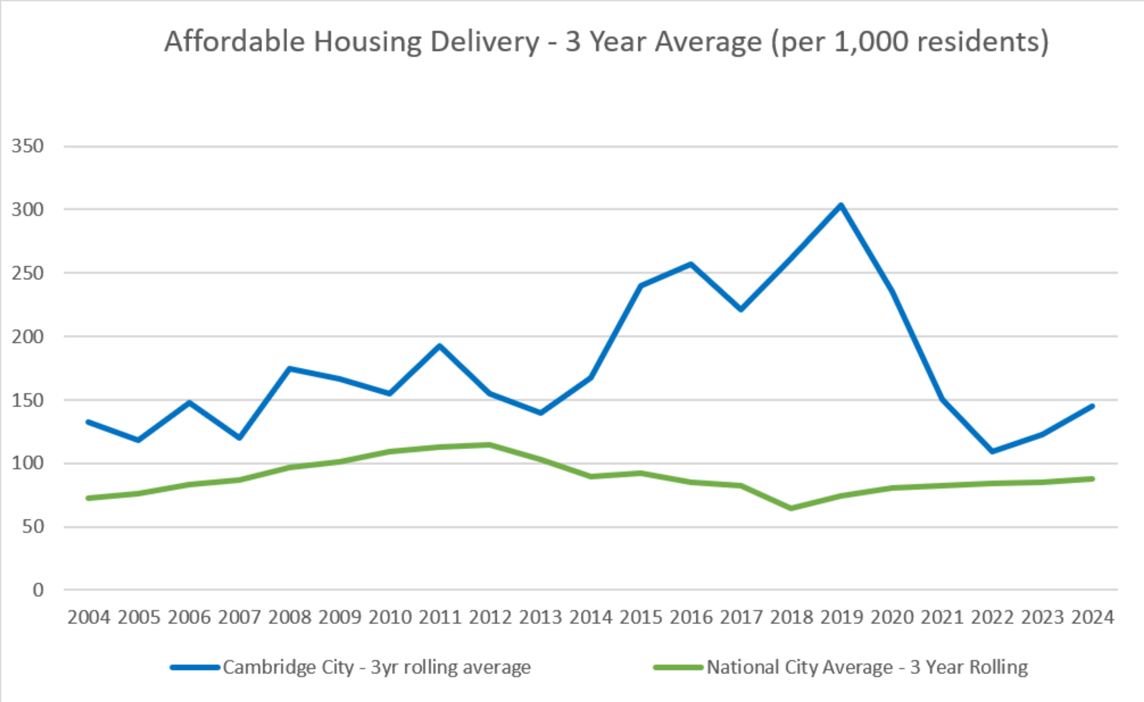
The number of **new homes delivered** per 1,000 existing dwellings in Cambridge improved from 4.3 in 2024 to 9.1 in 2025. Housing delivery in Cambridge has fluctuated significantly over the past 20 years, but overall, there has been a decline from a peak of 27 new homes per 1,000 existing homes in 2014. The 2024 figure was the lowest recorded delivery rate since 2002.

However, as the chart below shows, the 3-year rolling average housing delivery rate in Cambridge has generally been above the national city and national averages. The 3-year rolling average rate for Greater Cambridge (covering Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire districts) has been significantly higher than national averages.

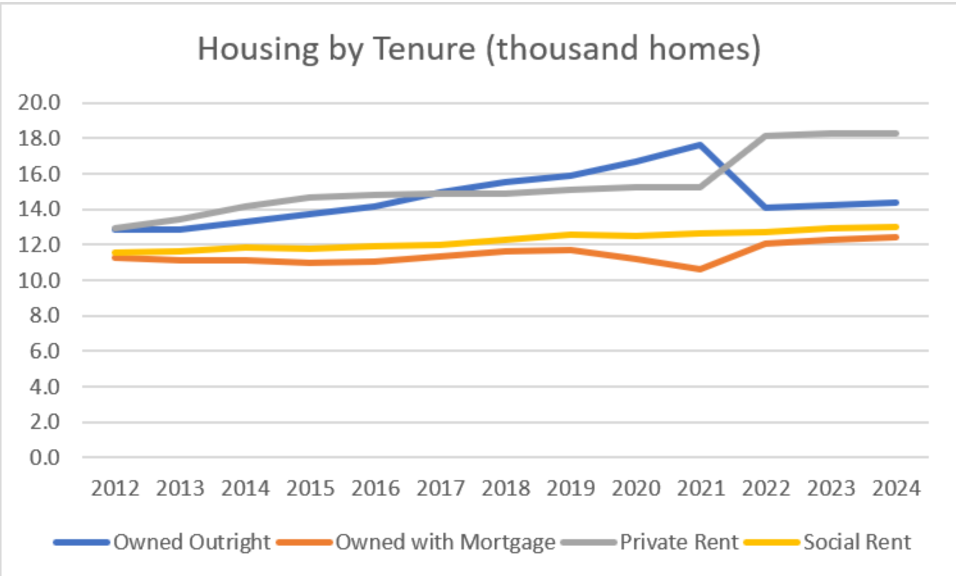




Affordable housing delivery fell in Cambridge from 174.1 new homes per 10,000 residents in 2024 to 123.2 in 2025. However, as the chart below shows, the rolling 3-year average shows that affordable housing delivery was consistently higher in Cambridge than the national city average for the preceding 10 years (2014-2024).



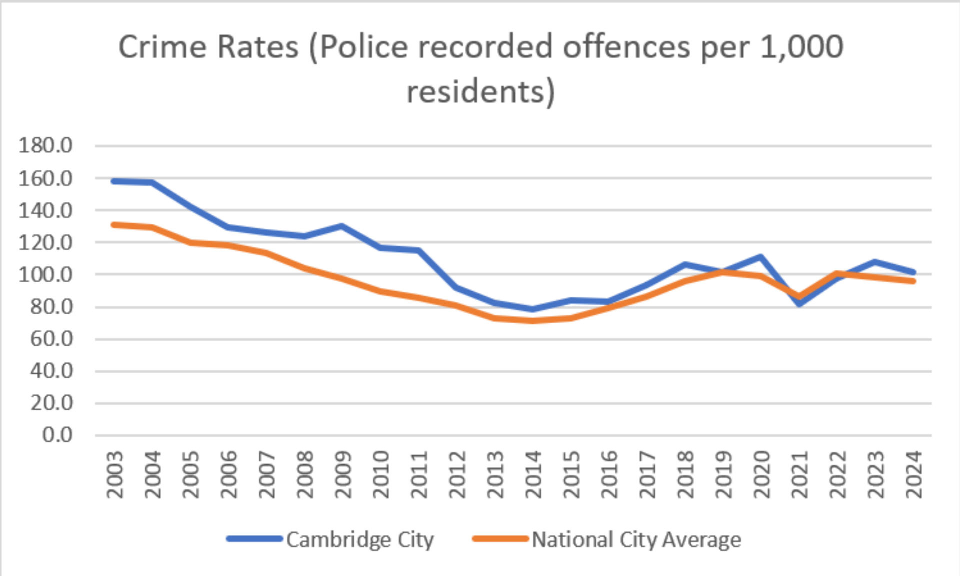
During the Covid period from 2021 to 2022, the number of homes owned outright in Cambridge reduced significantly, while the numbers of homes that were privately rented or owned with a mortgage increased significantly. **Housing by tenure type** has remained largely stable from 2022 to 2024, with slight increases in all four tenure types. The total number of social rental homes has increased steadily and consistently from 11,500 in 2012 to 13,500 in 2024 and remained largely unaffected by Covid.



Crime rates decreased from 107.6 offences per 1,000 residents in 2023 to 101.6 offences per 1,000 residents in 2024. This is a decrease of 6.0 from 2023. However, this rate still remains above the national city average of 95.6 offences.

Re-offending rates increased significantly in Cambridge from 32.7% in 2023 to 37.3% in 2024. This was significantly above national city (29.8%) and overall national (28.1%) averages.

While Cambridge had the 22nd highest crime rate out of 55 cities in England in 2024, it had the third highest reoffending rates.



Non-Updated Measures

- Quality of life ranking
- Food bank use
- Local inflation rate
- Private rental affordability
- Self-reported wellbeing
- Specific crime rate categories
- Census data: Housing, jobs, population growth

Social Equity

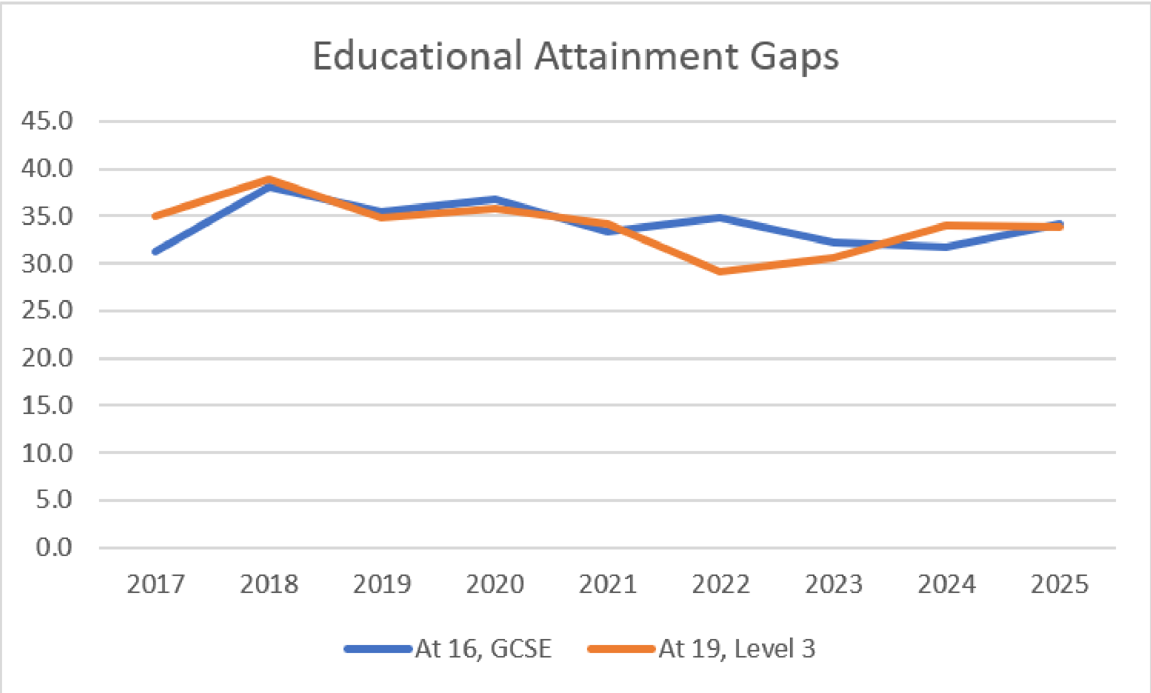
Narrative

The social equity lens examines the experience and quality of life of residents and different social groups in Cambridge, the barriers they face and the inequalities that arise. It considers the size, growth and diversity of the city population, and looks at income and employment gaps, barriers to equality, educational attainment, and health outcomes.

Cambridge's overall educational attainment is still significantly above national city and overall national averages, with the **proportion of working age residents educated to NVQ3+** (A-level or equivalent and above) remaining high at 75.9%. This is the sixth highest rate of all 55 English cities and is significantly above the national average of 68.6%. However, the Cambridge rate decreased by 3.9 percentage points between 2024 and 2025.

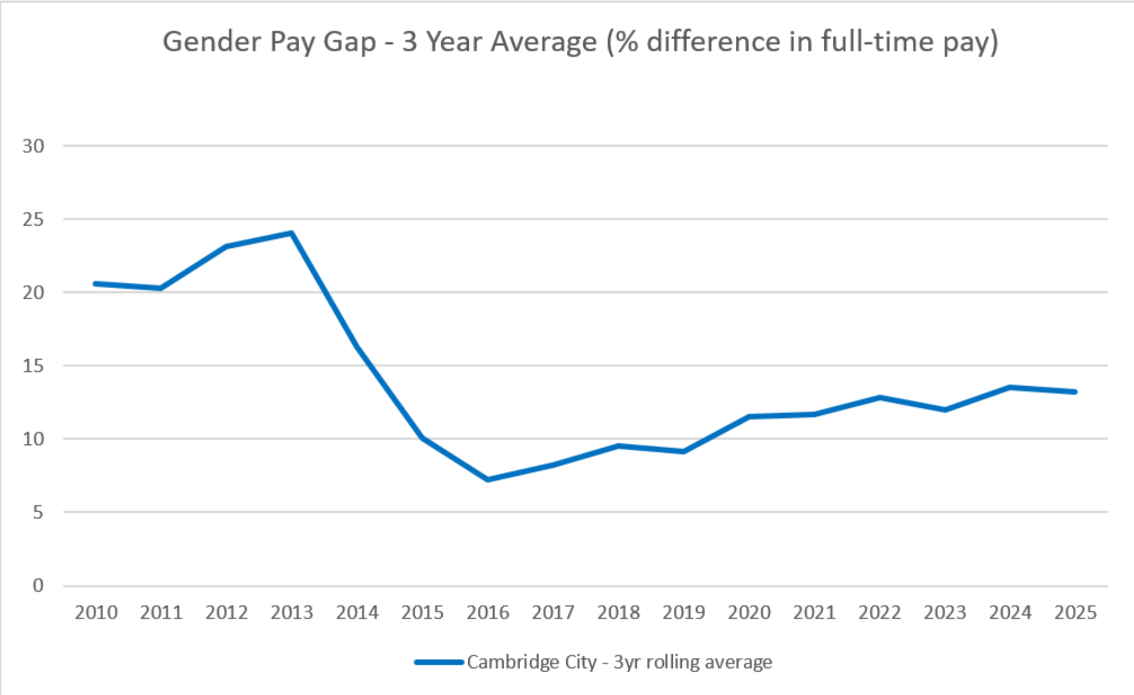
Educational attainment still shows significant inequalities. Students that are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) – an indicator of lower household incomes - achieve significantly poorer grades than non-FSM peers:

- At GCSE level, 43% of FSM pupils achieved benchmark grades in English and maths, while 78% of non-FSM pupils achieved these grades or above. The gap at GCSE widened between 2023 and 2024, going from 32% to 35%. Overall attainment fell for both cohorts, but more sharply for FSM pupils.
- At A-level, the gap is unchanged between 2024 and 2025 at 34%. Attainment rose slightly at A-level (or equivalent).

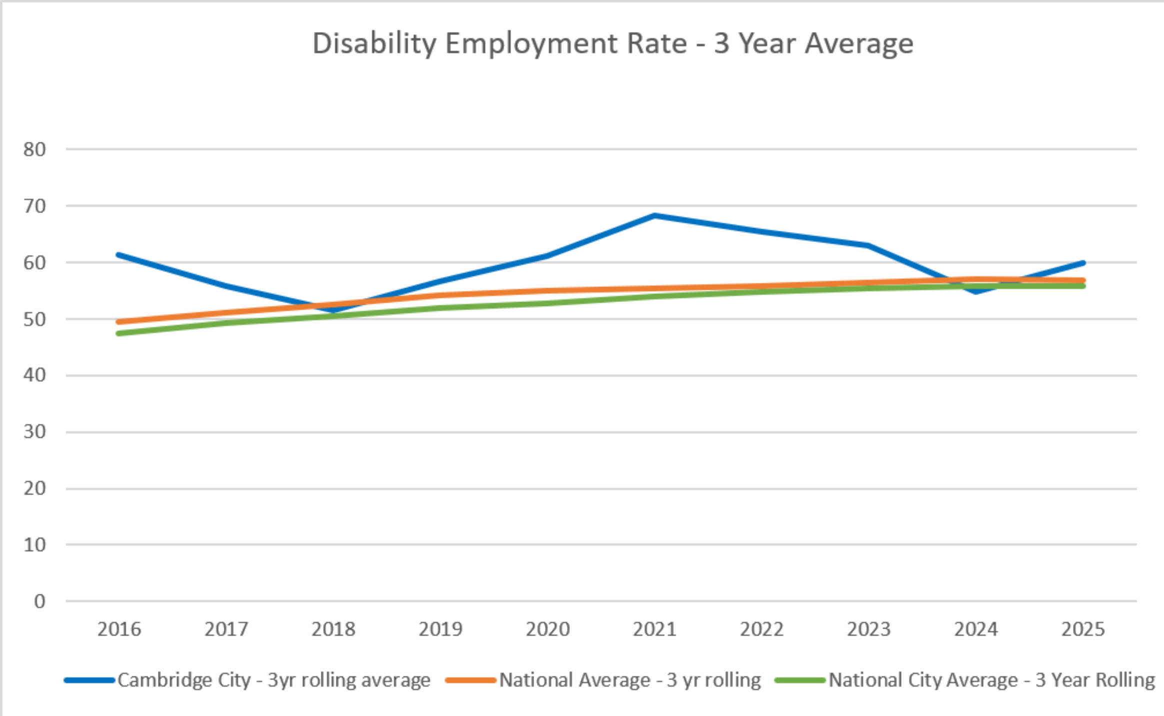


The **employment rate for non-white people** has fallen by 3.4 percentage points, from 68.8% in 2024 to 65.4%in 2025. This is 12.5 percentage points lower than the employment rate for white people. This is below the national city (71.2%) and overall national (70.2%) averages for this measure of equality.

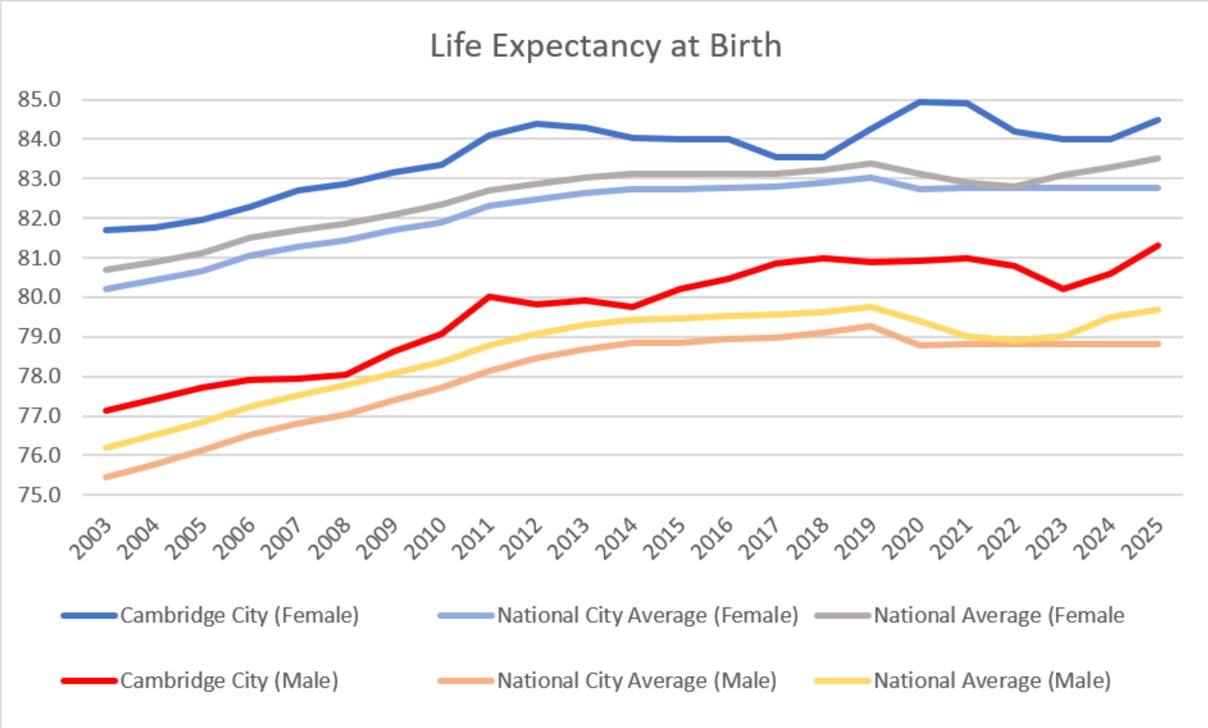
The **gender pay gap** decreased from 18% to 11% from 2024 to 2025. This represents a return to the norm from an unusually high figure in 2024 – which was possibly caused by a significant increase in the number of men employed in the banking, finance and insurance sector from 2023 to 2024 and a reduction in the number of women in the same sector. However, the 3-year rolling average has increased steadily over the past decade.



The **employment rate for working aged people with disabilities** has increased very sharply, from 49.3% to 78.2%. This figure was the highest rate out of all 55 English cities and was above the national rate (56.4%). This is the highest figure recorded for Cambridge since data began being collected in 2014, though this data is historically unstable. The chart below shows 3-year rolling average figures, which smooths out some of the fluctuation in local data for this measure.

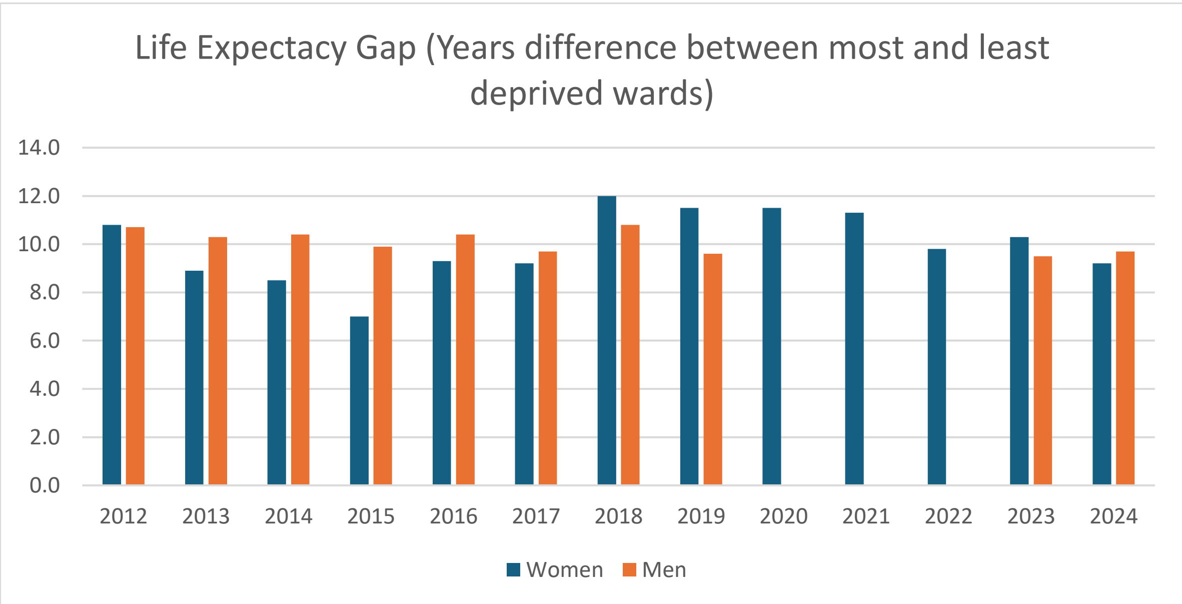


Cambridge has the second highest **life expectancy** for men and the fourth highest for women of out of all 55 English cities. Life expectancy in the city increased notably from 2024 to 2025, to 84.5 years for women and 81.3 for men. This is an increase of 0.5 and 0.7 years respectively and is above both the national city average (82.8 years for women, 78.8 years for men) and overall national average (83.5 years for women, 79.7 years for men).



The **life expectancy gap** between the most and least deprived wards is still significant:

- Women in the most deprived ward in Cambridge live 9.2 years less on average than their peers in the least deprived wards in 2024. This gap has reduced by 1.1 years from 2023 in Cambridge, when it was 10.3 years. The gap for women is higher than the national average (8 years), but lower than the national city average (10.5).
- For men, the gap increased from 9.5 years in 2024 to 9.7 years in 2025. However, this was below the national city average of 10 years and the national average of 10.4 years in 2025.



Physical activity rates fell, by a significant 6.8 percentage points from 2024 to 2025, with 73.5% of residents aged over 19 physically active in 2025. However, Cambridge has the fifth highest physical activity rate of all 55 English cities, and the Cambridge physical activity rate was above the national average (68.0%).

Non-Updated Measures

- Census figures – non-UK born residents, non-White ethnic group residents, population growth, residents with disability, working age residents
- Income inequality
- Avoidable mortality rate
- Low and unskilled employment rate

Economy

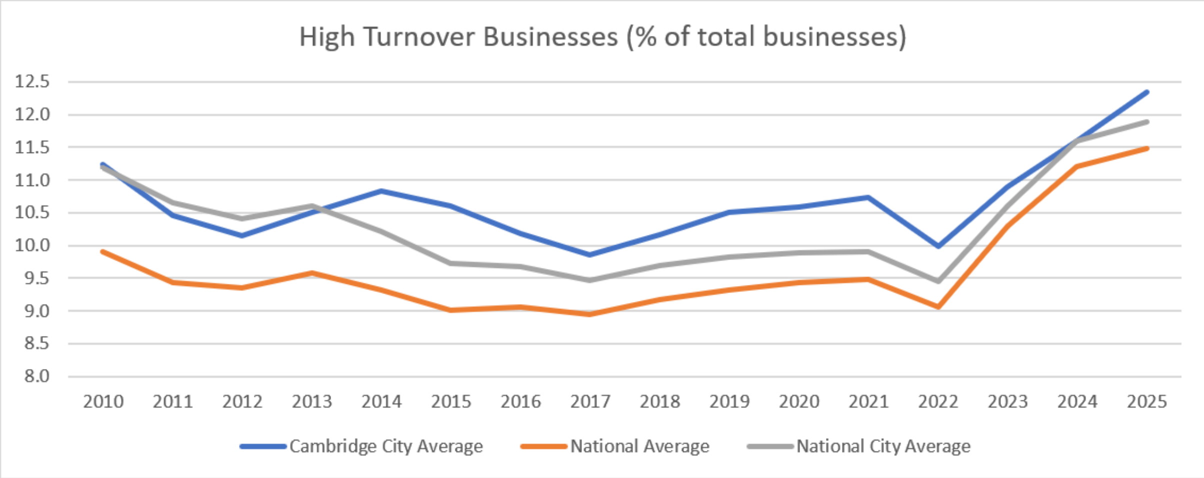
Business & Enterprise

Narrative

This lens looks at data on the experience and performance of businesses and entrepreneurs in Cambridge. It takes into consideration business competitiveness and productivity, business enterprise, business infrastructure and property, alongside key economic drivers more specific to Cambridge.

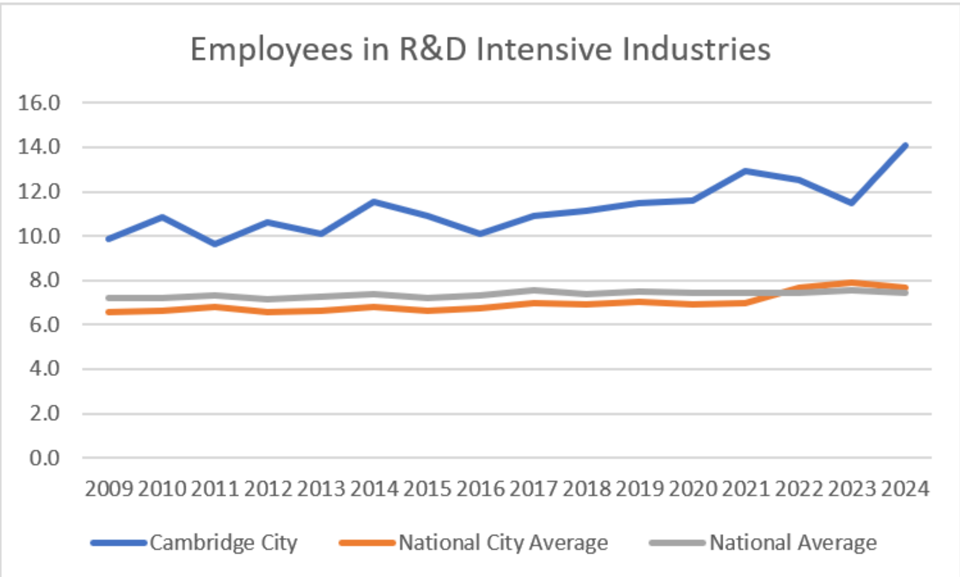
The proportion of businesses classed as **high growth** in Cambridge increased from 0.75% to 0.92% from 2023 to 2024. Cambridge has the second highest rate of high growth businesses of all English cities after only Oxford. The Cambridge rate is significantly above the national city average (0.53%) and the national average (0.50%).

High turnover businesses as a proportion of all businesses in Cambridge increased again from 11.6% in 2024 to 12.3% in 2025. This is above the national city (11.8%) and overall national (11.5%) averages. This represents a continued strong post-Covid performance for Cambridge.



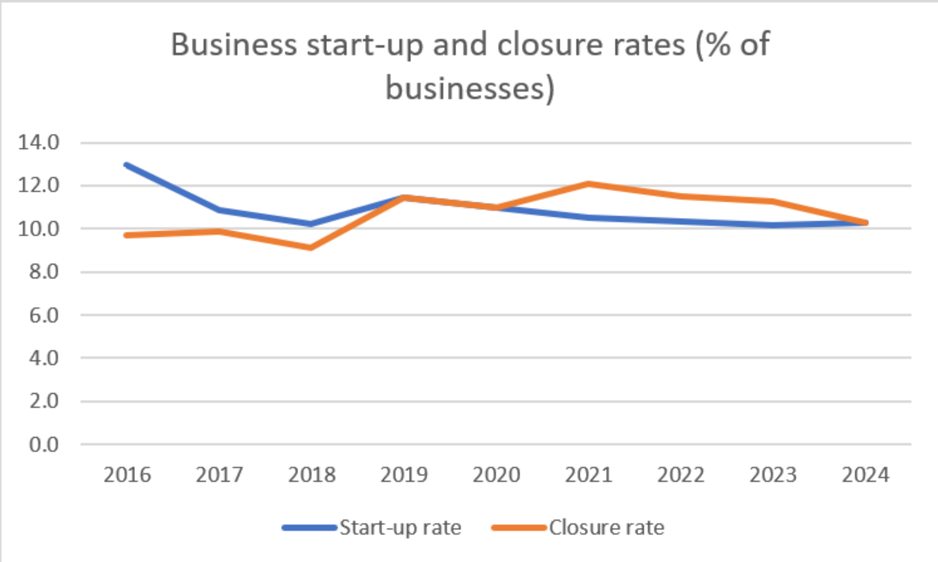
Cambridge has the third highest rate of employment in **Research and Development (R&D) intensive industries** out of 55 cities in England, below only Reading and Aldershot. 14.1% of employees in the city were employed in these industries in 2024, increasing from 11.5% in 2023. This was nearly double the national average (7.5%) and national city average (7.7%).

However, analysis by the Centre for Business Research (CBR) suggests that the challenging macroeconomic backdrop has had some impact on Greater Cambridge businesses. CBR's analysis of employment data for 5,5000 companies in the area suggests that there was slowdown in overall employment growth in Greater Cambridge from 4.5% in 2023/24 to 0.7% in 2024/25. The slowdown was sharper for knowledge intensive companies from 4.8% employment growth in 2023/24 to 0.1% in 2024/25.



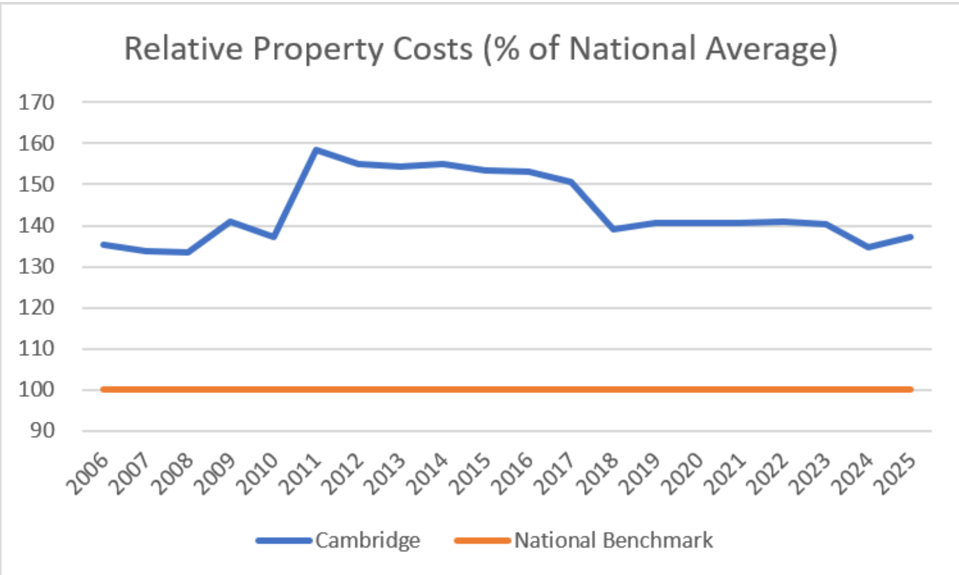
Employment in tourism industries fell from 10.5% in 2023 to 9.8% in 2025 but remains above the national city average of 9.5%. Despite a decrease in tourism employment share, Cambridge has continued to attract more tourists. The rolling average number of **overnight international visitors** increased by 35,000 from 444,000 in 2023 to 479,000 in 2024. While not as high as some pre-Covid figures, this represents a continued recovery.

Cambridge's **start-up rate** improved slightly from 10.2% in 2023 to 10.3% in 2024. However, Cambridge's rate remains below the national city (10.6%) and overall national (11.2%) averages. However, the **proportion of start-ups surviving for 3 years** decreased notably from 62.2% in 2023 to 54.3% in 2024 but still remains marginally above national (53.2%) and city averages (53.8%).



The **business closure rate** decreased by 1 percentage point, from 11.3% in 2023 to 10.3% in 2024, in a continued post-COVID reduction in closures. However, this was higher than the national city average (9.6%) and the national average (9.8%).

Relative commercial property costs rose slightly from 2024 to 2025, though still remain below 2010s rates. Property in Cambridge now costs roughly 137.3% of the national average.



Gigabit broadband coverage remained largely static between 2024 and 2025, increasing from 94.0% to 94.1%. This follows extremely rapid rollout between 2019 and 2022, where coverage increased from 6.0% to 9.0%. The current figure for Cambridge is above national city (92.4%) and overall national (85.9%) averages.

Non-Updated Measures

- Available lab space
- Patent filings
- Productivity per capita
- Commercial floorspace delivery
- GVA growth
- Night-time economy workforce
- Scientific publications and patent filings
- City Centre footfall

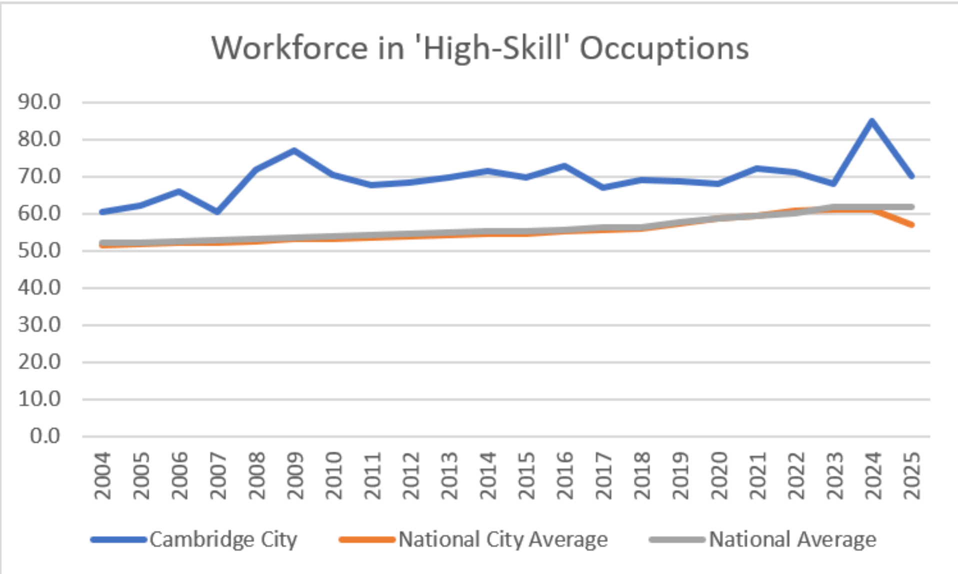
Workforce & Jobs

Narrative

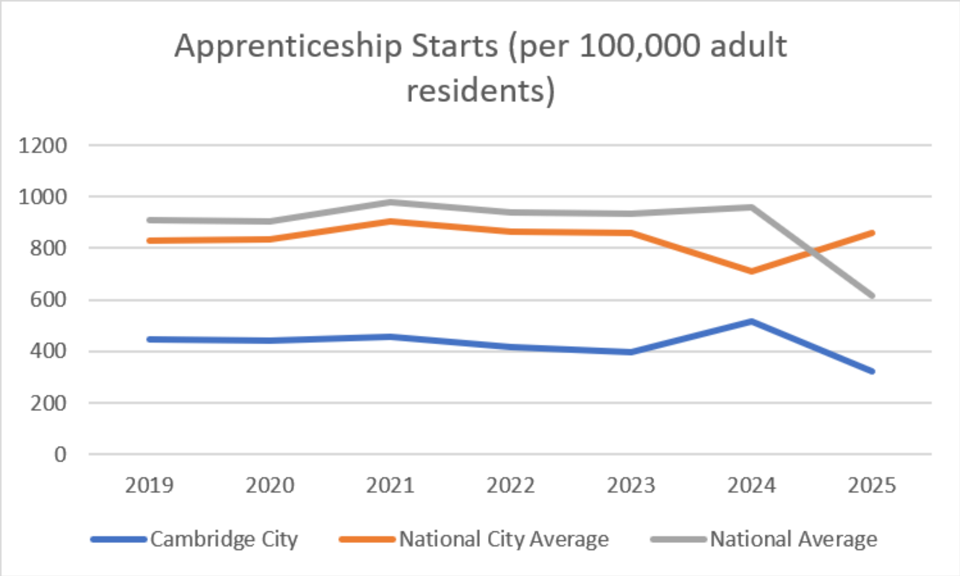
This lens examines labour market conditions, and the experience of people working in the city. Key metrics include job opportunities, earnings and pay, workforce skills and training, and job quality.

Cambridge's workforce is one of the most highly skilled in the country, reflecting the skills needs of Cambridge's education sector and its knowledge-intensive industries. 70.1% of Cambridge's workforce were employed in **'high-skill' occupations**, which was the third highest out of 55 cities in England. Only Oxford and Brighton had a higher proportion of high-skilled employment.

However, the 2025 figure in Cambridge was significantly below the peak in 2024, when 84.7% of employees were in high-skilled occupations. This perhaps suggests that the sharp increase in 2024 was not reflective of the overall trend. The percentage for Cambridge in 2025 is still significantly above the national city (57.0%) and overall national (61.9%) averages. Only Oxford and Brighton had a higher percentage amongst all English cities.

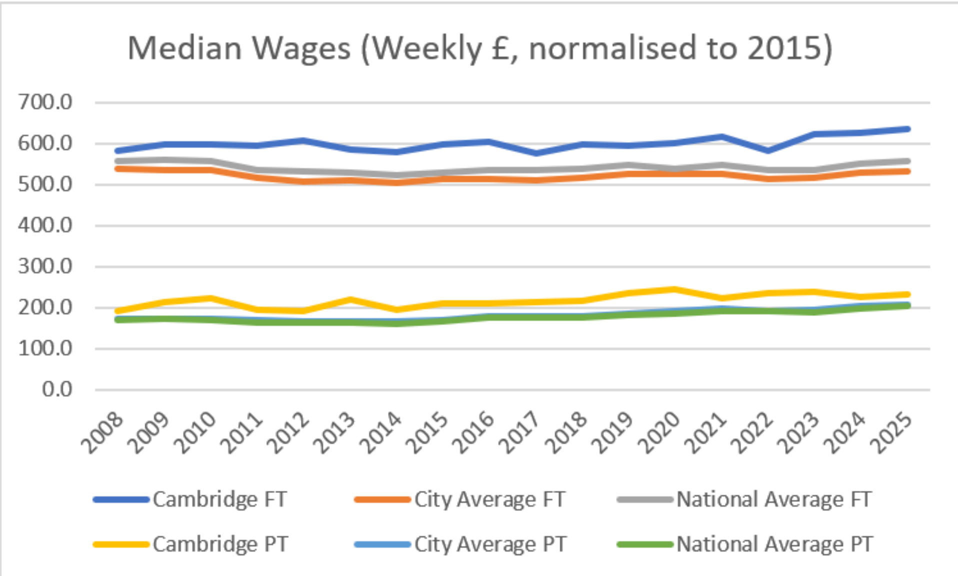


Apprenticeship starts have decreased from a peak of 515 starts per 100,000 adult residents in 2024 to 320 in 2025. This is significantly below both the national average and national city averages. The proportion of the **workforce receiving job-related training** in the last 13 weeks has increased from a 2024 low of 12.7% to 20.2% in 2025. This is above the national city (19.1%) and overall national (19.3%) averages.

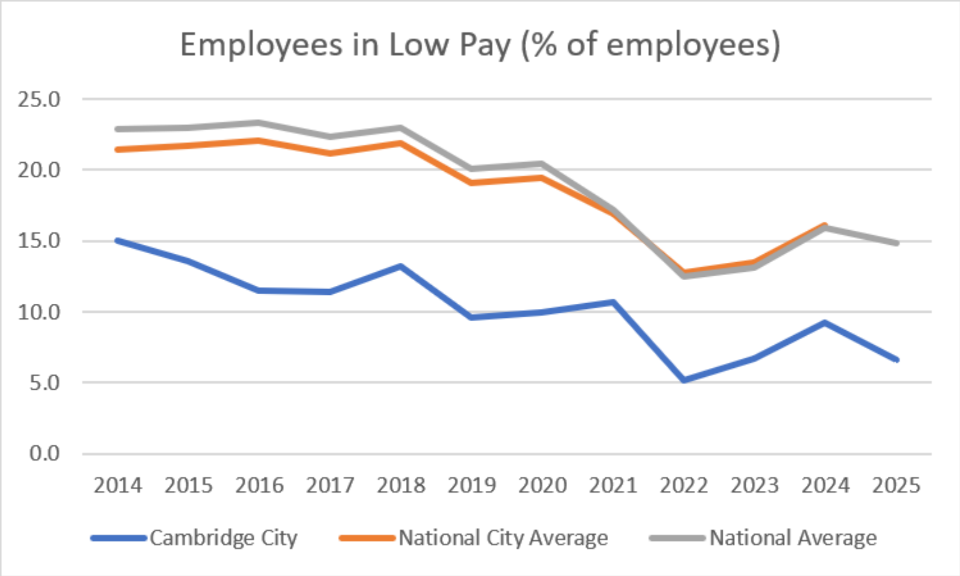


The **median full-time pay** in real terms increased by £9 per week from £625.50 per week in 2024 to £634.90 per week in 2025. This was significantly above the national city average (£532.70) and national average (£555.50) in 2025. The **median part-time pay** in real terms increased also, by £7.61 per week from £223.60 per week in 2024 to £231.2 per week in 2025.

The overall trends show that full-time earnings in Cambridge have consistently been significantly above national averages since 2008, while part-time earnings have remained closer to comparators.



After a steady reduction from 2014-2022, the proportion of **employees in low pay** in Cambridge has fluctuated over the past four years. Having been above 9% in 2023 and 2024, 6.6% of employees in Cambridge were in low pay in 2025. This is less than half the overall national rate (14.8%).



Pay inequality has also reduced from 2024 to 2025. Workers at the 80^{th} percentile of pay earned 2.1 times what workers at the 20^{th} percentile earned in 2025, compared to 2.3 in 2024. This is above the national city average, of 1.99, but below the overall national average of 2.09.

Non-Updated Measures

- Job vacancies (online)
- Workforce in insecure employment
- Workforce receiving in-work universal credit
- Total employees

Appendix 1: Headline Data

Environment

Indicator	Measure Units	Date of most recent Measure	Change from previous measure	Cambridge City	National average	National City Av.	Previous Measure
Air pollution (PM2.5 concentrations)	Average annual population-weighted concentrations (ugm-3)	2024	0%	7.4%	7.1%	6.9%	7.4%
Air pollution mortality	As a proportion of mortality (%)	2024	-0.1%	5.5%	5.3%	5.2%	5.6%
Energy consumption	Per 1,000 residents (ktoe)	2023	-1%	1.36	1.68	1.45	1.37
EPC registrations C+	Proportion of domestic and non-domestic EPC registrations (%)	2025	3%	70%	64%	65%	67%
Killed or seriously injured road traffic casualties	Per 10,000 residents	2023	0.00	4.3	4.3		4.3
Renewables (Solar PV) capacity	Installed capacity (MW per 100 sq km)	2024	4.18	44.7	14.0	23.46	40.5
Waste footprint	**Local authority collected waste per 1,000 residents (tonnes)**	2025	-3.00	357	429.09		360
Waste recycling rate	Proportion of local authority collected waste recycled (%)	2025	0%	48	41		48.0
EV charging points	Per 100 licensed EVs	2025	0.90	10	3	4.43	9.3
Greenhouse gas emissions	tCO2e per resident	2024	0.00	3.6	5.1	4.0	3.6

Indicator	Type	Measure Units	Date of most recent Measure	Change from previous measure	Measure	Previous Measure
Water pollution (storm overflows)		Duration of discharged storm overflows (hours)	2025	202.43	516.43	314
Water levels	Summer Average	Annual average level (m)	2025	-0.03	0.66	0.68
	Rest of Year			0.03	0.71	0.68
	Typical High			0	0.74	0.74
	Typical Low			0	0.64	0.64
Greenhouse gas emissions by source	Agriculture	tCO2e per resident	2024	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Commercial			-0.1	0.7	0.8
	Domestic			0.0	0.9	0.9
	Industry			0.1	0.3	0.2
	Public Sector			0.1	0.6	0.5
	Transport			0.0	0.6	0.6
	Waste Management			0.0	0.4	0.4
Trips into the City	Buses, Pedestrians & Pedal Cycles	Daily trips (through Cambridge radial cordon)	2024	-75	13997	14072
	Cars and Motorcycles			3878	161490	157612
	HGVs and LGVs			-700	27960	28660

Society

Indicator	Measure Units	Date of most recent Measure	Change from previous measure	Cambridge City	National average	National City Average	Previous Measure
Life expectancy at birth (Females)			0.5	84.5	83.5	82.8	84
Life expectancy at birth (Males)	Years (3-year average)	2025	0.7	81.3	79.7	78.8	80.6
Life expectancy inequality (Females)	Years difference, at birth (2-year average)		-1.1	9.2	8.0	10.5	10.3
Life expectancy inequality (Males)		2024	0.2	9.7	10.4	10.0	9.5
Residents educated to NVQ3+	As a proportion of working age residents (%)	2025	-3.9%	75.9%	68.6%	65.2%	79.8%
Participation rates post-18	Percentage of pupils entering a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination (%)	2022	3.6%	87.8%	82.0%	82.6%	84.2%
Gender pay gap	Difference, full-time pay (%)	2025	-7.2%	10.8%	13.4%	13.0%	18.0%
Physical activity rates	As a proportion of residents (aged 19+, %)	2025	-6.8%	73.5%	68.0%	66.1%	80.3%
Disability employment rate	As a proportion of working age residents with a long-term health problem or disability (%)		28.9%	78.2%	56.4%	55.9%	49.3%
Non-Disability Average		2025		75.0%			77.1%
Ethnic group employment rate		2025	-3.4%	65.4%	70.2%	71.2%	68.8%

Page 342

Non-Ethnic Group Average	As a proportion of working age residents (%)			77.9%			70.7%

Indicator	Measure Units	Date of most recent Measure	Change from previous measure	Cambridge City	National average	National City Average	Previous Measure
Crime rate	Police-recorded offences (per 1,000 residents)	2024	-6.0	101.6		95.6	107.6
Re-offending rates	As a proportion of offenders (%)	2024	4.6	37.3	28.1	29.8	32.7
Economic activity rate	As a proportion of working age residents (%)	2025	2.0%	76.8%	79.0%	78.7%	74.8%
Economically inactive not wanting a job	As a proportion of working age economically inactive (%)	2025	6.2%	84.4%	79.7%	78.6%	78.2%
Employment rate	As a proportion of working age residents (%)	2025	4.6%	74.8%	0.0%	75.4%	70.2%
Gross disposable household income	Per resident, real terms (£, 2020 prices)	2023	£271	£25,834	£25,150	£21,722	£25,563
Unemployment rate	Including hidden unemployed, as a proportion of working age economically active (%)	2025	-5.4%	9.2%	9.7%	0.0%	14.5%
Child poverty	As a proportion of child residents (%)	2025	0.1%	11.6%	19.3%	22.0%	11.5%
Homeless or threatened with homelessness	Assessed households, per 1,000 households	2025	14.1	17.5	13.6	15.6	14.1 (2022)
Rough sleeping	Individuals verified as sleeping rough in Cambridge	2026	-3.0	259.0			262
Housing delivery	Delivery per 1,000 existing dwellings	2025	4.8	9.1	8.1	7.5	4.3
Housing affordability	Annual median house price - pay ratio	2025	-0.5	10.8	7.6	7.0	11.3

Housing affordability (low-earners)	Annual lower quartile (LQ) house price - pay ratio	2025	-0.86	11.2	6.8	7.1	12.1
Affordable housing delivery	Delivery per 10,000 residents	2025	-50.9	123.2			174.1
Citizens Advice crisis support	Support provided per 1,000 residents	2025	-1.3	4.8			6.1

Indicator	Type	Measure Units	Date of most recent Measure	Change from previous measure	Measure	Previous Measure	Other
VCS organisations	Micro-sized (0 to 9 employees)	Non-profit and mutual association businesses	2025	-10	380	390	
	Small (10 to 49)			5	155	150	
	Medium-sized (50 to 249)			0	100	100	
	Large (250+)			0	20	20	
Housing by tenure	Owned Outright	Homes, 000s	2024	0.2	14.4	14.2	
	Owned with Mortgage or Loan			0.1	12.4	12.3	
	Private Rent			0.0	18.3	18.3	
	Social Rent			0.1	13.0	12.93035714	
Deprivation domain ranking	Overall	Measure: Relative to other cities in England **(1 = least deprived, out of 55 Cities)**	2025	0	3	3 (2019)	255
	Income			-2	2	4 (2019)	260
	Employment			-3	1	4 (2019)	279
	Education, Skills and Training			0	1	1 (2019)	270
	Health and Disability			0	3	3 (2019)	237
	Crime			-8	15	23 (2019)	126
	Housing and Services	Other: Relative to other Local Authorities in England		-39	6	45 (2019)	263
	Living Environment	**(1 = most deprived,**		-4	42	46 (2019)	97

Page 344

		out of 296 Local Authorites)					
Attainment and attainment gaps at ages 16 and 19	FSM eligible (at 16, GCSE)	Proportion achieving grades 4 or above in English and maths at GCSE / Level 3 qualifications	2025	-5%	43%	38%	
	Not FSM eligible (at 16, GCSE)			-2%	78%	80%	
	FSM eligible (at 19, Level 3			2%	32%	30%	
	Not FSM eligible (at 19, Level 3)			2%	66%	64%	

Page 345

Page 346

Economy

Indicator	Measure Units	Date of most recent Measure	Change from previous measure	Cambridge City	National average	National City Average	Previous Measure
Workforce receiving job-related training	In the last 13 weeks, as a proportion of workforce (%)	2025	7.5%	20.2%	19.3%	19.1%	12.7%
Apprenticeship starts	Per 100,000 adult residents	2025	-195	320	615	859	515
Workforce working long working (>45) hours	As a proportion of workforce (%)	2025	-4.3%	11.3%	18.7%	16.3%	15.6%
Workforce in 'high-skill' occupations	As a proportion of workforce (%)	2025	-14.6%	70.1%	61.9%	57.0%	84.7%
Employees in 'low-pay'	As a proportion of employees (%)	2025	-2.6%	6.6%	14.8%		9.2%
Pay inequality	20th-80th percentile pay ratio (full-time workers)	2025	-0.21	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.289547
Median worker pay (full-time)	Weekly pay, real terms (£, 2015 prices)	2025	9.35	634.9	555.5	532.7	625.5079
Median worker pay (part-time)	Weekly pay, real terms (£, 2015 prices)	2025	7.61	231.2	202.1	205.9	223.62679

Indicator	Measure Units	Date of most recent Measure	Change from previous measure	Cambridge City	National average	National City Average	Previous Measure
Business start-up rate	As a proportion of businesses (%)	2024	0.1%	10.3%	11.2%	10.6%	10.2%
Business closure rate	As a proportion of businesses (%)	2024	-1.0%	10.3%	9.9%	9.6%	11.3%
High-growth businesses	As a proportion of businesses (%)	2024	0.18%	0.93%	0.53%	0.51%	0.75%
High-turnover businesses	As a proportion of businesses (%)	2025	0.7%	12.3%	11.5%	11.9%	11.6%
Independent businesses	As a proportion of businesses (%)	2025	0.9%	75.4%	86.5%	82.7%	74.5%
Start-up survival rate	Proportion of start-ups still active after 3-years (%)	2024	-7.9%	54.3%	53.2%	53.8%	62.2%
Employees in R&D-intensive industries	As a proportion of employees (%)	2024	2.6%	14.1%	7.5%	7.7%	11.5%
Employees in tourism industries	As a proportion of employees (%)	2024	-0.6%	9.8%	0.0%	9.5%	10.5%
Gigabit broadband coverage	Proportion of premises covered by gigabit broadband (%)	2025	0.1%	94.1%	85.9%		94.0%
Overnight visitors - International	Overnight visitors to Cambridge (000s, three year average)	2024	35	479			444
Relative Commercial property costs	% relative to national average benchmark	2025	0.0%	1.3%			1.4%

Indicator	Type	Measure Units	Date of most recent Measure	Change from previous measure (SECOND ORDER CHANGE)	Measure	Previous Measure
Contributions to GVA growth	Education, health and public admin	Annual change, real teams (£ millions, 2019 prices)	2023	3.7	18.4	14.7
	Knowledge industries			-22	-6.9	15.1
	Other industries			393.8	155.3	-238.5
Contributions to growth in employees	Education, health and public admin	Annual change in headcount in these industry types	2024	1,100	3,100	2,000
	Knowledge industries			-205	1,600	1805
	Other industries			-2410	-820	1590