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Chapter 2

Vision

CHAPTER 2 – THE VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR CAMBRIDGE TOWARDS 2031

- 2.1 It is important that we develop a vision that sets out our aspirations for the future of Cambridge. In setting the new vision for Cambridge towards 2031, it is helpful to look back at the vision contained within the 2006 Local Plan:

The Vision for Cambridge – 2006 Cambridge Local Plan

The vision for Cambridge is of a compact, dynamic City with a thriving historic core surrounded by attractive and accessible greenspaces. It will continue to develop as a centre of excellence and world leader in the fields of higher education and research and it will foster dynamism, prosperity and further expansion of the knowledge-based economy. It will also grow in importance as a sub-regional centre for a wide range of services. The Local Plan for Cambridge seeks to guide and facilitate growth in a sensitive and sustainable manner, ensuring that the high environmental quality of the city is protected and enhanced and that future developments offer a full range of opportunities to all its citizens.

- 2.2 While this vision has served us well over the last six years, it does not encompass all of the elements that should now act as key drivers for the growth and continued success of the city. While growth presents many challenges, it also presents an opportunity to support the development of Cambridge as a more sustainable low carbon city with a thriving economy, which embraces its past while also looking to the future. The achievement of such a vision will require innovation and the embedding of the principles of sustainable development and high quality design within all new development proposals.

Option 1 - Cambridge 2031 Vision

The following elements should be at the heart of the vision for Cambridge towards 2031:

- A world class city that is compact, dynamic and has a thriving city centre.
- A place where new development helps to support the city's transition to a more environmentally sustainable and successful low carbon economy.
- A city that builds on the city's reputation as a leader in higher education and research, recognising the importance of the University of Cambridge, the Colleges and Anglia Ruskin University.
- A city where there is enough good quality housing of different types and sizes with balanced and integrated communities of all household types
- A city that encourages innovation and design excellence, and which embraces design that contributes positively to Cambridge's distinctive

identity.

- A city where green spaces, trees, the River Cam and other water features are protected and enhanced and where new green spaces and trees are established for the benefit of residents and the environment.
- A city that protects its heritage while also reusing its historic buildings in a positive and appropriate manner.
- An uncongested and clean city, where travelling primarily by foot, bicycle or public transport is the norm.
- A city that enjoys an enviable quality of life, where residents feel a part of a community in which they have a voice.
- A city that is inclusive for all, combining prosperity, affordability, health, safety and a good social mix.
- A city served by successful and easily accessible local centres with shopping, offering a choice of shopping services and community facilities for all needs and households.

Question

2.1 What are your views about the proposed vision for Cambridge? Does the vision presented above cover all the right elements or have we missed anything out?

Strategic Objectives

2.3 It is also important that the new Local Plan sets out strategic objectives for the place we want Cambridge to be in 2031. More detailed objectives relating to specific topic areas are set out within subsequent chapters of this report. Proposed strategic objectives are set out below, which we would like your comments on:

1. To ensure that all new development contributes to the vision of Cambridge as an environmentally sustainable city, where it is easy for people to make the transition to lifestyles that result in lower carbon dioxide emissions.
2. To ensure that all new developments have a neutral impact on water, contribute to an overall flood risk reduction and help improve the quality of the River Cam and other water features in the city.
3. To ensure that all building development is of the highest quality standard, both in terms of its design and any impact upon its surroundings.
4. To ensure that all new development contributes to the positive management of change in the historic environment, protecting, enhancing and maintaining the unique qualities and character of the city for the future.

5. To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character and quality of the appearance of the Cambridge skyline.
6. To protect and enhance the landscape setting of the city and the green corridors penetrating the urban area.
7. To protect and enhance the network of green spaces in the city.
8. To provide new housing to meet the needs of the city and contribute to meeting the needs of the Cambridge Sub-region.
9. To provide an appropriate mix of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet existing and future needs.
10. To assist the creation and maintenance of environmentally sustainable communities, where everyone feels included.
11. To promote and support economic growth in environmentally sustainable and accessible locations.
12. To recognise innovation and enable Cambridge's role as a world leader in higher education, research, and knowledge-based industries.
13. To ensure that Cambridge is a vibrant and thriving city with a varied range of shopping facilities in accessible locations to meet the needs of people living, working and studying in, or visiting, the city.
14. To maintain a high quality of life by maintaining and enhancing provision for open space, sports and recreation as well as ensuring that the city has a broad range of community facilities and leisure activities, including arts and cultural venues that serve Cambridge and the Sub-region.
15. To minimise the distance people need to travel, and to make walking and cycling the first choices of travel.
16. To make it easy for everyone to move around the city, particularly to be able to access jobs and essential services.
17. To ensure adequate provision of environmentally sustainable forms of infrastructure to support the demands of the city.
18. To promote a safe and healthy environment, minimising the impacts of development.

Strategic Priorities

- 2.4 The NPPF requires that local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for the area covered by the Local Plan. It explains that these are strategic policies to deliver things such as homes, jobs, retail, leisure, infrastructure, and environmental conservation and enhancement¹.
- 2.5 Within this Issues and Options Report, those options that may be developed to create strategic policies in the Local Plan, have been identified as strategic priorities.

¹ NPPF (2012) paragraph 156