

Cambridge City Council

**Planning and Climate Change
Portfolio Plan 2013-2014**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Tim Ward

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Introduction

The planning and climate change portfolio impacts on all parts of the high level 'people, place and planet' objectives of the Council. This portfolio supports the development of the council's future vision for the sub-region and the city as well as protecting the built and natural assets that contribute to the high quality of life that is enjoyed by our local communities. It supports the delivery of already planned new neighbourhoods and planning for the future shape and functions of the City to 2031. This portfolio looks to deliver well-designed, sustainable and accessible new development and to positively influence carbon reduction through the planning process, through building construction and through national and council promoted and sponsored initiatives.

Context:

This portfolio plan is being developed at a time of major change in local government and particularly the planning system. The Government's reform agenda for the planning system has introduced changes to the layers of plan making in the development plan system with the revocation of the East of England Plan on 3/1/13. The form and content of national planning policy has changed with the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework and across many other areas with implementation of the Localism Act. Further change is heralded through the Growth and Infrastructure Bill.

Planning

The planning authorities across the county have implemented a co-operative approach to planning for the Cambridge sub-region and the Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit has been set up to support this. Engagement in strategic planning activity across the sub-region is important as part of our duty to co-operate responsibilities under the Localism Act.

Locally, the joint review of the Cambridge and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plans is progressing in parallel and with support from the County Council as the strategic transport authority. The successful development of a new spatial vision for the City and its fringes to 2031 in the form of a new local plan, prepared in partnership is a key priority for the planning service and the council.

Climate Change and Sustainability

Cambridge City Council has a vision of a city at the forefront of low carbon living. In August 2012, the Council demonstrated this commitment by signing the Climate Local commitment, which has been developed by the Local Government Association as a successor to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. In October 2012 we agreed a revised Climate Change Strategy for 2012-16, which builds upon the work carried out over the past five years to deliver our first climate change strategy.

One of the key objectives of the revised strategy is to significantly reduce the Council's carbon footprint, which we will achieve through delivering over 60 projects identified in our Carbon Management Plan. As part of the Climate Change Strategy we will also set high standards for residents, businesses and other organisations to reduce their carbon emissions. Setting high sustainability standards for new developments in Cambridge through the developing Local Plan will be key to the achievement of this objective.

We will also work in partnership with other organisations in Cambridge to address the causes and effects of climate change. This will include progressing a number of complex projects with key local partners, including promoting the installation of energy efficiency measures through the Green Deal and the Cambridge Retrofit programme, and progressing plans for the development of a District Heating Scheme to provide a low-cost and sustainable source of energy for the Council and a number of public sector partners in the City.

The following service divisions will contribute to the achievement of this Plan's Objectives:
Planning; Corporate Strategy, Arts and Recreation, Streets and Open Spaces; Strategic Housing

Vision Statements applicable to this portfolio

Strategic Objectives 2013-2014

Vision Statement:	All vision statements apply
Strategic Objective PCC1:	To have made progress on developing a new spatial vision for Cambridge to 2031 specifically through the formal review of the Cambridge Local Plan 2031 to the submission and examination stages
By March 2014 we will have:	<p>PCC1.1 Consulted on the submission stages of the new local plan consistent with current legislation and national planning policy and guidance. Developed and consulted at key stages on the council's approach to the Community Infrastructure Levy. Submitted the new local plan for examination by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>PCC 1.2 Taken a lead role under the duty to co-operate in the delivery of the emerging strategic planning function at the sub-regional level and in the ongoing working arrangements with the Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>PCC1.3 Worked jointly with the County and South Cambridgeshire on the review of the local plans and County Transport Strategy</p> <p>PCC1.4 Delivered ongoing the statutory planning function and growth commitments in accordance with the existing local plan (2006), to agreed time and quality of outcome (e.g. by application and use of relevant charters, design codes and standards). Ensured ongoing review of quality outcomes and emphasis on design quality through involvement of Cambridgeshire Quality Panel, Design and</p>

	<p>Conservation Panel and annual post-hoc development review by the Planning, Area and Joint Committees</p> <p>PCC1.5 Implemented principles of the Localism agenda relating to community engagement in the development plan process and the neighbourhood planning responsibilities</p> <p>PCC1.6 Built upon the earlier review and restructure of the planning service, further improving performance and efficiency, especially in the area of planning application processing.</p>
Lead Officer:	Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Services.
Performance Measures:	<p>Whether the local plan review is carried out in accordance with agreed milestones and timetable, as covered in the council's 'Annual Monitoring Report' (AMR) every December.</p> <p>That the quality of new development meets with the council's expectations. This is reviewed by post hoc assessment by the planning committees (Main Planning Committee and Joint Development Control) on an annual inspection of new development. The achievement of design awards for new development such as the Stirling Prize or other commendations will also be used as an indicator of delivery of quality new development.</p> <p>Planning Application Performance will improve to meet set targets and to ensure that there is no adverse designation for the City Council under the Planning Performance Guarantee</p>
Delivery Risks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Availability of resources 2. Uncertainty around legislative changes

Vision Statements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A city which recognises and meets needs for housing of all kinds – close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities • A city which draws inspiration from its iconic historic centre and achieves a sense of place in all of its parts with generous urban open spaces and well-designed buildings • A city with a thriving local economy that benefits the whole community and builds on its global pre-eminence in learning and discovery • A city where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot
Strategic Objective PCC2:	To protect and enhance the unique character of the city and to safeguard the quality of green spaces and trees through the planning and delivery of high quality and sustainable new developments.
By March 2014 we will have:	<p>PCC2.1 Worked closely with developers and other stakeholders to ensure that new development is of a high design quality and environmental sustainability and contributes positively to the character of the built and green space of the city.</p> <p>PCC2.2 Continued to secure funding for a range of public art projects across the City. Approved the Public Art Commissioning Strategy and devolved some decision making for public art projects down to area committees.</p> <p>PCC2.3 Developed and adopted a tree strategy, in consultation with key stakeholders, that sets out the council’s overarching policy for trees within the city and how they will be preserved for future generations.</p>

	PCC2.4 Ensured that the planning enforcement function is more responsive (meeting reasonable expectations of those making complaints), more visible and that enforcement activities are given a higher priority by the planning service.
Lead Officer:	Patsy Dell, Head of Planning (PCC2.1 and 2.4) Toni Ainley, Head of Streets and Open Spaces (PCC 2.2, 2.3)
Performance Measures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whether or not physical changes to the built environment and open spaces within and on the edge of the city will protect and enhance the character of the city by being in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High quality design of new neighbourhoods in accordance with best practice and agreed design standards. - Tree Strategy developed and adopted following best practice in consultation with stakeholders. - Further development and delivery of a proactive Conservation Area Programme. 2. Approval of Public Art Commissioning Strategy and agreement to a process whereby scheme oversight, commissioning and funding is devolved to the Area Committees. 3. Planning Enforcement team fully staffed, planning enforcement policy updated and approved, planning enforcement performance measures introduced and regular monitoring/reporting of these implemented.
Delivery Risks:	1. Availability of funding; 2. Support of other partners, including County & District councils.
Vision Statement:	A city in the forefront of low carbon living and minimising its impact on the environment from waste and pollution.

Strategic Objective PCC 3:	To reduce carbon emissions from the Council's estate and operations and work with local partners to address the causes and effects of climate change
By March 2014 we will have:	<p>PCC3.1 Reduced carbon emissions from our estate and operations by delivering the second-year projects identified in our Carbon Management Plan</p> <p>PCC 3.2 Identified opportunities to set high sustainability standards for the design and construction of new developments through the Local Plan</p> <p>PCC 3.3 Taken forward a joint programme with partner local authorities to deliver a Green Deal model for Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>PCC 3.4 Worked with stakeholders in the Cambridge Retrofit project to explore a long-term model for financing and delivering energy efficiency improvements to existing properties in Cambridge.</p> <p>PCC 3.5 Worked with partner organisations including the University of Cambridge, Anglia Ruskin University and the private sector to develop options for a commercially viable district-heating scheme.</p>
Lead Officer:	Andrew Limb, Head of Corporate Strategy (3.1), Patsy Dell, Head of Planning (3.2), Jas Lally (3.3, 3.4) and Simon Payne (3.5)
Performance Measures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percentage reduction in CO2 emissions from City Council operations measured against the 2010/11 baseline set in the Carbon Management Plan 2. Whether the developing Local Plan sets high sustainability standards for the design and construction of new developments in Cambridge 3. Number of energy efficiency measures installed during 2013/14 in properties within Cambridge as a result of the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

	<p>funded measures</p> <p>4. Number of demonstration projects completed in 2013/14 as part of the Cambridge Retrofit programme</p> <p>5. Whether the district heating scheme meets its project milestones, including submission of a planning application for the energy centre and heat network</p>
Delivery Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complexity of partnership approaches required to deliver the Green Deal, Cambridge Retrofit, District Heating Scheme and similar initiatives • Encouraging residents and businesses to take up the finance arrangements for energy efficiency measures available through the Green Deal

Strategic Objective PCC4:	To work with partners, businesses and transport operators to improve accessibility within the city, including the new neighbourhoods, to promote and support convenient and safe movement by foot, cycle and public transport by taking advantage of opportunities such as Local Sustainable Transport fund. To secure the implementation of new 20mph zones in residential areas and local centres across the city (subject to the outcome of consultation).
By March 2014 we will have:	<p>PCC4.1 Delivered new transport measures and actions to improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users, including in the new developments through (for instance) provision of guidance and advice to developers on cycling.</p> <p>PCC4.2 Contributed to the review of area transport plans and proposed projects for investment, supporting the local process of bidding for new and implementing</p>

	<p>relevant funding sources including the Regional Growth Fund, Local Sustainable Transport and Better Bus Area Funds.</p> <p>PCC4.3 Subject to the outcome of consultation, the delivery of additional new 20mph zones across the City with partners, increasing road safety for all users and facilitating increased use of alternative modes of travel.</p> <p>PCC4.4 Undertaken a public consultation on the preferred options for the redevelopment of the Park Street car park site and determined a plan of action.</p> <p>PCC 4.5 Deliver the additional cycle parking spaces within timescales and as per the budget set out in the cycle parking project.</p>
Lead Officer:	<p>Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Service (4.2, 4.3)</p> <p>Toni Ainley, Head of Streets and Open Spaces (4.1, 4.3, 4.5)</p> <p>Paul Necus (4.4)</p>
Performance Measures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of completed transport related schemes delivered by the City Council. 2. Supported increased number of people cycling or walking to work in the City against base figure (From Travel to Work Survey 2011) through measures in new development 3. Subject to outcome of positive consultation, implementation of the first 20 mph phase and other phases on schedule. 4. Consultation report and Action Plan completed for the redevelopment of the Park Street car park site 5. Delivered against cycle parking project milestones
Delivery Risks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk of lack of agreement with partners 2. Lack of funding to deliver schemes.

	3. Delays due to complexity of project procurement and delivery
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