

Section 2. The Spatial Strategy

Appendix C Section

The Spatial Vision

2-1. The plan has a high level vision developed from a range of existing strategy visions and following discussions with key stakeholders. It needs to be a spatial planning vision - that reflective of how the City should be shaped over the lifetime of the plan. This high level vision is designed as a galvanising idea of how Cambridge sees itself and where the city wants to be. Cambridge is undoubtedly a world class smart city, which has used to lead in the knowledge economy to maintain its competitiveness and evolve innovative solutions to its problems. Allied to this is the concept of smart growth, growth not for its own sake but which enhances the quality of life, securing sustainable development, and is designed to that effect. The Spatial Strategy section explains the concept of smart growth in more detail.

2-2. Below this high level vision are strategic aims which flesh out what it will mean in spatial planning terms. The plan is divided into a number of sections, between the first which sets out the spatial strategy, to the last which deals with delivery, there are sections which deal with cross cutting issues that effect the strategic priorities of the plan. Each section (bar delivery) also has a series of strategic objectives which are specific in terms of what policy should deliver. The sections then go on to set out a delivery strategy to bring about the outcomes set out in the strategic objectives.

2-3. The concept of a 'Smart City' is usually defined as one where a city increases its competitiveness through use of advanced technology and supporting social infrastructure, including education. *'A city can be defined as 'smart' when investments in human and social capital and traditional (transport) and modern (ICT) communication infrastructure fuel sustainable economic development and a high quality of life, with a wise management of natural resources, through participatory action and engagement.'* (Caragliu et al. 2009, Smart Cities in Europe).

The Vision for Cambridge to 2031

Cambridge is England's Smart City, protecting its outstanding heritage and delivering a knowledge based future with sustainable Smart Growth solutions.

What is Smart Growth?

Smart Growth is an internationally used term to refer to the growth of towns and cities which is planned to be sustainable and enhance the quality of life rather than growth for growth sake. Smart Growth is the spatial manifestation of sustainable development.

Specifically it refers to form of the growth of places to achieve sustainable development, that minimise land take of the countryside, encourages urban regeneration and intensification of suitable sites, and which maximises the use of sustainable transport by focussing development around public transport nodes and corridors in compact walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods that provide a good range of local shops and services. This is not just about the design and layout of buildings but also about the design of streets, creating complete streets designed for all users rather than to maximise car traffic.

Section Two The Spatial Strategy

Cambridge maintained as a world class University City, compact, pedestrian and cycle friendly with a thriving City Centre, surrounded by open spaces which link to the countryside beyond.

A successful City and City Region that is vibrant, socially mixed, safe, convenient, and enjoyable. Cambridge's growth requirements will be met primarily by urban regeneration, sustainable urban extensions and new settlements using the principles of Smart Growth, linked through green corridors/cycleways and fast, frequent public transport to the City Centre, the Station and main employment centres.

Sufficient housing, land for jobs and education/research and supporting land uses to meet objectively assessed needs is allocated at locations in line with this strategy.

A permanent Green Belt around Cambridge will be secured with special attention given to protecting views of the historic skyline and the setting of the historic city.

A network of centres is defined to meet retail and services needs and securing the diversity, vitality and viability of the city centre and district and local centres.

Section Three Responding to Climate Change and Managing Resources

Cambridge will be a pioneer in its approach to sustainable development and climate change, and transitioning to a low and eventually zero carbon economy. Development will contribute to making Cambridge a water sensitive city, capable of adapting to our changing climate, making best use of energy, water and other natural resources, securing radical reductions in carbon emissions and minimising environmental impact.

Section Four Supporting the Knowledge Economy & Managing Visitors

The role of the Cambridge Cluster of knowledge based industries and institutions will be supported, and facilitated as well as a diverse range of employment, and world class communications infrastructure, to maintain competitiveness and achieve sustainable economic growth.

The growth of Cambridge's world class universities, colleges, research and biomedical facilities will be supported.

Cambridge's role as a national and international tourism destination will be supported whilst successfully managing pressures arising from the visitor economy.

Section Five Maintaining a Balanced Supply of Housing

A balanced mix of high quality housing types meeting the needs of all sections of the community will be secured at a level to meet objectively assessed need from household growth, including the maximum reasonable proportion of affordable housing.

Sufficient housing for Cambridge's students will be provided to avoid putting stress on housing for permanent residents.

Section Six Protecting and Improving the Character of Cambridge

A city that maintains and improves on an enviable quality of life, where residents feel they are part of an inclusive community in which they have a voice.

A city where green spaces, trees, the River Cam and other water features and wildlife habitats are protected and new green spaces are provided in areas of deficiency and in new communities.

A city that protects its internationally nationally important heritage: buildings, open spaces and their setting.

A city that expects and achieves an outstanding quality of innovative design, which integrates the old and new to enhance Cambridge's distinctive identity.

Section Seven Maintaining and Improving Local Facilities

A city that protects its valued community facilities and expands them where needed for growth.

Space for the strategic facilities lacking and needed in the City is secured.

Section Eight Providing the Infrastructure to Support Development

Public transport links of sufficient quality, frequency and capacity will be secured to mitigate the impact of growth and to maintain and improve on the City's achievement as one where sustainable transport: cycling, walking and public transport is the norm rather than the exception.

Infrastructure including education, local retail and local health facilities will be secured in a timely way to support development, in particular serving new communities.

Section Nine Cambridge's Localities and New Communities

The City Centre will be maintained as the focus for retail, higher education and administration, as well as major facilities for all of Cambridgeshire. Development will be carefully managed to conserve the character of the City Centre conservation areas and protect its listed buildings, including the setting of heritage assets.

New communities will be carefully masterplanned to ensure that they integrate with the city, public transport and open spaces and achieve the qualities of successful planned new communities.

A variety of smaller sites are allocated for developed to help meet the city's needs.

The Strategic Objectives

Section Two The Spatial Strategy

- Ensure that new developments are wherever possible located in areas with high quality public transport, to minimise the length and number of journeys by the car.
- Maximise regeneration and the reuse of previously developed land (where this is not of high environmental value) and make full and efficient use of all land, whilst protecting and enhancing the skyline and views of the historic city.
- Provide the development required to meet the key land use requirements of the city, meeting the targets set out in the plan.
- Maintain and strengthen the regional role of Cambridge City centre as a primary focus for shopping, administrative, leisure and cultural activities, with district centres and centres serving neighbourhood's needs.

Section Three Responding to Climate Change and Managing Resources

- To ensure that a water sensitive urban design approach is taken in all development proposals so that they are appropriate in terms of flood risk and water body quality, see water as a valuable resource and have a positive impact on the River Cam and other water features.
- That Cambridge contributes fully to carbon reduction targets including; by design the principles of sustainable design and construction are integrated into development proposals, and through supporting community energy projects.
- A city that operates sustainable waste management and minimises pollution and noise.

Section Four Supporting the Knowledge Economy & Managing Visitors

- To enable Cambridge's leadership role in world class higher education, research, biomedical and knowledge based industries.
- To strengthen and diversify the local economy to provide a range of employment opportunities.
- To maintain Cambridge's role as a national and international tourism destination whilst successfully managing pressures arising from the visitor economy.

Section Five Maintaining a Balanced Supply of Housing

- To provide a balanced mix of housing of different sizes, meeting the needs arising from household growth, and meeting the full spectrum of need for affordable housing as far as resources and viability allows.

Section Six Protecting and Improving the Character of Cambridge

- To ensure that Cambridge is an exemplar in urban design, with outstanding buildings and new communities that add to the character and connectivity of the city.
- To preserve, enhance and positively manage change in Cambridge's exceptional heritage legacy of archaeology, buildings, historic areas and open spaces, important views, skyline and green corridors, landscape features and setting of the city.
- To protect the network of open spaces in the City and protect and enhance playing, fields sport, arts, cultural and leisure facilities.

Section Seven Maintaining and Improving Local Facilities

- Ensuring the full range of local community facilities (including pubs) are provided.

Section Eight**Providing the Infrastructure to Support Development**

- To ensure the uses sustainable modes of transport, walking, cycling grows and continues to be the predominant form of transport in the City.
- To provide sufficient expansion in school places, primary care and other community facilities to match the growth of the city without detriment to existing residents.

Section Nine**Cambridge's Localities and New Communities**

- To ensure that the new communities and major sites in the plan are delivered successfully.
- To maintain and enhance the multiple functions and unique character of the City Centre.