

Cambridge City Council

**Planning and Climate Change
Portfolio Plan 2014 - 2015**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Tim Ward

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Introduction

The planning and climate change portfolio impacts on all parts of the council's high level 'people, place and planet' objectives. 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 support continued economic success and 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 reflects a time of major change in local government, particularly the planning system and associated legislation affecting much of what the council does. Cambridge is recognisably an internationally and nationally important place, contributing significantly to the economic success of the UK. The various high-tec and bio-medical clusters in and around Cambridge are there because of the human capital of the city and the symbiotic relationship between economic success and quality of life and place here. The announcement of a 'City Deal' for Cambridge will mean significant benefits and changes for the work under this portfolio in the next 12 months.

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. 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. In 2014 the councils look to have the strategies set out in the combined local plans and transport strategy considered at joint examination ready for adoption in early 2015. The relationship of planning functions and the changes necessary to secure City Deal implementation will be a key area of service development in 2014/5.

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. . The 'Action on Energy Scheme' was launched in November 2013 and includes targeting and maximising Green Deal The scheme and Energy Company Obligation funding opportunities for residents. We will be working closely in partnership with our procured contractor to deliver the three year contract. Cambridge City Council provides representation on the Cambridge Retrofit Programme Oversight Group to ensure objectives of the scheme are aligned with local authority objectives and partnership work.

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 2014-2015

Vision Statement:	All vision statements apply
Strategic Objective PCC1:	CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN 2014: 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 2015 we will have:	<p>PCC1.1 Submitted the new local plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy for examination by the Secretary of State, jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council. To have successfully defended the Local Plan through the joint examination in public, to put in place a spatial strategy to 2031 that meets expectations and protects the compact character of the city and ensures good quality development management with effective planning enforcement.</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 Continued to have worked jointly with the County and South Cambridgeshire on the review of the local plans and Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSC&SC) and in any activities supporting the implementation of the Cambridge City Deal</p> <p>PCC1.4 Built upon any changes to the planning service arising from City Deal and delivering further improvements to performance and efficiency, especially in the area of planning application processing to meet new government performance targets.</p>

	<p>PCC1.5 Ensured that the planning enforcement function is responsive (meeting reasonable expectations of those making complaints), more visible and that enforcement activities are given a higher priority by the planning service.</p>
<p>Lead Officer:</p>	<p>Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Services.</p>
<p>Performance Measures:</p>	<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 City Deal arrangements requiring changes to the delivery of the planning functions are implemented as necessary to time, budget and governance requirements.</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, National Housing Design Awards 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 new government targets and to ensure that there is no adverse designation for the City Council under the Planning Performance Guarantee. Planning Performance Agreements will be used to ensure effective work programming and resourcing is available to support the development management function.</p> <p>The Planning Enforcement team will have an updated planning enforcement policy, new IT system and with regular reporting of performance on enforcement matters to planning committee</p>

Delivery Risks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Availability of resources 2. Shared Service implementation changes arising from City Deal 3. 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

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 2:	To reduce carbon emissions and energy costs in the Council's estate and operations and work with local partners such as the LEP and Cambridge Retrofit to address the causes and effects of climate change
By March 2015 we will have:	<p>PCC2.1 Delivered the third-year carbon reduction and energy efficiency projects identified in our Carbon Management Plan, to reduce the City Council's carbon emissions and energy costs</p> <p>PCC 2.2 Identified opportunities to set high sustainability standards for the design and construction of new developments through the Local Plan</p> <p>PCC 2.3 Continued delivery of the "Action on Energy" scheme to provide a range of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions and opportunities for Cambridge residents, and</p>

	<p>promoted the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch to help residents reduce their fuel bills.</p> <p>PCC 2.4 Supported the work of the Cambridge Retrofit initiative, including liaising over potential funding sources to help implement a programme of large-scale energy efficiency measures in Cambridge</p>
Lead Officer:	Andrew Limb, Head of Corporate Strategy (2.1), Patsy Dell, Head of Planning (2.2), and Jas Lally (2.3, 2.4)
Performance Measures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of the projects identified in the Carbon Management Plan for 2014/15, subject to the establishment of a viable business case for each project 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 2014/15 in properties within Cambridge as a result of the Action on Energy scheme; no residents signing up to Cambridgeshire Energy Switch 4. Number / carbon impact of energy efficiency measures installed in 2014/15 within Cambridge as a result of the Cambridge Retrofit programme
Delivery Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complexity of partnership approaches required to deliver the Green Deal, Cambridge Retrofit and similar initiatives • Failure of procured contractor being able to provide all elements of the Action on Energy contract • Complexity of Green Deal/Energy Company Obligation journey presenting a barrier to uptake. • Reduced internal resource would reduce ability to manage the Action on Energy contract and target assistance to vulnerable residents effectively.

Vision Statement:	All vision statements apply
Strategic Objective PCC3:	CITY DEAL AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT: Drive the delivery of transport solutions needed to reduce congestion and enable growth, giving priority to safe movement by foot. To work with City Deal partners, businesses and transport operators to improve accessibility within and to and from Cambridge, including the new neighbourhoods. To take advantage of opportunities such as City Deal, LEP Local Growth Fund and Local Sustainable Transport fund and through securing the implementation of the Keep Cambridge Moving Fund.
By March 2015 we will have:	<p>PCC3.1 - Supported the successful conclusion of the City Deal Agreement and the establishment of the new joint body.</p> <p>PCC3.2 - Delivered further 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>PCC3.3 - Contributed to the development of the Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSC&SC) and associated action plan, any review of area transport plans and proposed projects for investment, supporting the local process of bidding for new and implementing relevant funding sources including the City Deal funding model, Keep Cambridge Moving Fund, Regional Growth Fund, Local Growth Fund, Local Sustainable Transport and Better Bus Area Funds.</p> <p>PCC3.4 - Achieved the implementation of the North Quadrant 20mph scheme and be preparing for the East Quadrant (subject to the outcome of consultation) 20mph zones across the City with partners, increasing road safety for all users and facilitating increased use of alternative modes of travel.</p> <p>PCC3.5 - Undertaken a public consultation on the preferred options for the redevelopment of the Park Street car park site and be implementing the agreed course of action.</p> <p>PCC3.6 - Deliver the additional cycle parking spaces within timescales and as per the budget set out in the cycle parking project.</p>

Lead Officer:	Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Service (3.1, 3.2, 3.3 3.4) Adrian Ash , Head of Streets and Open Spaces (3.2, 3.4, 3.6) Paul Necus (3.5)
Performance Measures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of City Deal funding agreement, 2. Number of completed transport related schemes delivered by the City Council. 3. 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 4. Subject to outcome of positive consultation, implementation of the 20 mph phase and other phases on schedule. 5. Consultation report and Action Plan completed and agreed for the redevelopment of the Park Street car park site 6. Delivered against cycle parking project milestones
Delivery Risks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk of lack of agreement with partners <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of funding to deliver schemes. 2. Delays due to complexity of project procurement and delivery
Performance Measures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of City Deal funding agreement, agreement on Keep Cambridge Moving Fund projects 2. Number of completed transport related schemes delivered by the City Council. 3. Supported increased number of people cycling or walking to work in the City against base figure (Travel to Work Survey 2011) through measures in new development 4. Subject to outcome of positive consultation, implementation of the first 20 mph phase and other phases on schedule. 5. Consultation report and Action Plan completed and agreed for the redevelopment of the Park Street car park site 6. 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

