

**Cambridge City Council**

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## **Climate Change and Growth**

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# Introduction

## Purpose:

The Climate Change and Growth portfolio is responsible for influencing national, regional, sub-regional growth and planning through to the delivery of sustainable communities and new homes on the ground. In operational terms it incorporates:

- Planning policy;
- Development management and building control services;
- Improving access within Cambridge (including better travel facilities) for people with disabilities;
- Public art and nature conservation
- Tree works;
- Bus services and bus shelters;
- Cycling promotion and provision;
- Traffic calming;
- Statutory (District level) responsibilities for drainage and sewerage;
- Off street parking services

This portfolio also includes the development, implementation and monitoring of the Council's plans, policies and strategies relating to: strategic planning, land use planning, conservation and urban design; sustainability; transport; highways; economic development and employment opportunities; and parking.

## **Context:**

This portfolio plan is being developed at a time of major change, as the Coalition Government introduces its new policy programme (including a fresh emphasis on localism) and budget deficit reduction measures arising from the Comprehensive Spending Review. This will present a number of important opportunities - as well as challenges - during 2011/12, which is set to be a year of transition and consolidation:

- The district planning authorities across the county are developing their approach to changes to the planning system following the abolition of regional strategies and the emergence of a more “localist” approach to planning;
- New partnership arrangements are likely to develop, including the emerging Local Enterprise Partnership with focus on economic development.
- A new Head of Planning Service (Patsy Dell) took up post with the Council in early 2011 and is focussed on implementing the outcomes of the planning service restructure;
- The outcomes of on-going services restructures of Planning and Streets & Open Spaces will be implemented from Spring 2011, helping to realise opportunities to optimise service delivery and value for money at a time of increasing budget/resource constraints.

## **Achieving efficiencies and savings**

We anticipate that in 2011-2012 the council will need to achieve about £2 million of the overall £6 million savings that we need to make over the next four years. We have put in place a programme of service reviews that goes across all portfolios, where we are looking very closely at what we do, how we do it, what the service costs and whether we could do things differently in the future. The programme of reviews is a rolling programme and early in 2011 all portfolios will be looking to identify further areas for review during 2011-2012 that will deliver savings from 2012-2013 onwards.

In looking to see where we might make savings we will seek to:

- Protect services for vulnerable individuals and communities
- Protect the basic services that keep our city looking good and working well
- Make sure that we get right the things that we only have one chance to get right – such as planning new communities.

The following services will contribute to the achievement of this Plan's objectives:

- Planning
- Specialist Services (covering car parks, including shop mobility)
- Streets & Open Spaces
- Strategy & Partnerships (covering sustainability)
- Urban Design (joint service with South Cambridgeshire District Council)

## **Vision Statements applicable to this portfolio**

The Council vision statements that are particularly relevant to this portfolio are:

- 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 in the forefront of low carbon living and minimising its impact on the environment from waste and pollution;
- A city where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot.
- A City, which recognises and meets the needs for housing of all kinds – close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities.

## Strategic Objectives 2011-2012

<b>Vision Statement:</b>	A City that recognises and meets the needs for housing of all kinds – close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities.
<b>Strategic Objective CCG1:</b>	<b>To prepare and implement a spatial strategy that delivers neighbourhoods with a wide mix of housing and a full range of community facilities and open space.</b>
<b>By March 2012 we will have:</b>	<p>CCG1.1 – Consulted on and agreed key elements of a new Local Development Framework (due for completion during 2012-13) consistent with current legislation and the principles in the new Localism Bill that protect the character of the city and make provision for housing and jobs with all of the necessary infrastructure. Taken a lead role within the emerging strategic planning function at the regional/sub-regional level with partners and as the LEP develops</p> <p>CCG1.2 – Delivered the statutory planning function in accordance with the existing local plan (2006), to agreed time and quality standards (e.g. relevant design codes and standards).</p> <p>CCG1.3 – Implemented the review and restructure of the planning service, improving performance and efficiency.</p>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Services.
<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<p>Whether new planning documents are approved in accordance with agreed milestones and timetable.</p> <p>Whether development happens in accordance with new planning policies.</p>
<b>Delivery Risks:</b>	1. Availability of resources

	2. Uncertainty around legislative changes
<b>Vision Statement:</b>	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.
<b>Strategic Objective CCG2:</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>By March 2012 we will have:</b>	<p>CCG2.1 – Worked closely with developers and other stakeholders to ensure that new development is of a high design quality and contributes positively to the character of the built and green space of the city.</p> <p>CCG2.2 - Completed a range of public art projects across the City. Approved the Public Art Commissioning Strategy and considered and decided on a way to devolve some decision making for public art projects down to area committees through a community commissioning scheme.</p> <p>CCG2.3 – Developed and adopted a tree strategy in consultation with key stakeholders.</p>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<p>Patsy Dell, Head of Planning (CCG2.1)</p> <p>Toni Ainley, Head of Streets and Open Spaces (CCG 2.2, 2.3)</p>
<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High quality design of new neighbourhoods in accordance with best practice and agreed design standards.</li> <li>- Tree Strategy developed and adopted following best practice in consultation with stakeholders.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further development and delivery of a proactive Conservation Area Programme.</li> </ul> <p>2. Approval of Public Art Commissioning Strategy and agreement to a process whereby scheme oversight, commissioning and funding is devolved to the Area Committees.</p>
<b>Delivery Risks:</b>	1. Availability of funding; 2. Support of other partners, including County & District councils.

<b>Vision Statement:</b>	A city at the forefront of low carbon living and minimising its impact on the environment from waste and pollution.
<b>Strategic Objective CCG3:</b>	<b>To deliver the City Council's role in achieving the Cambridge Climate Change Strategy through council management, service delivery, and partnership &amp; influencing.</b>
<b>By March 2012 we will have:</b>	<p>CCG3.1 Reduced the carbon footprint and increased the energy efficiency of a range of council-owned buildings and functions within the city, for instance through the installation of solar PV panels to council buildings under the FIT scheme, or through other energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting in car parks, the installation of mercury abatement and associated works at the Cambridge Crematorium and other schemes.</p> <p>CCG3.2 Worked with developers to ensure that new developments and communities meet high standards of sustainability by ensuring compliance with our low carbon policies.</p> <p>CCG3.3 Worked with partners in the academic, business and voluntary communities to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation to the wider community in the City. Taken opportunities to include appropriate climate change actions in the plans and strategies of key partners and partnerships; explored the potential of new Government schemes and policies to fund and/or promote renewable energy in the City.</p>

	CCCG3.4 Worked with partners to consult on and agree the Climate Change Strategy and action plan for Cambridge to build on the existing plan (expires 2012).
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Andrew Limb, Head of Corporate Strategy (3.1, 3.3) Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Service (3.2)
<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of homes and businesses where measures to reduce carbon emissions have been implemented.</li> <li>2. Target for Council's carbon reduction achieved (12% reduction from 2005/06 baseline)</li> <li>3. Target for increasing energy efficiency achieved</li> <li>4. Number of new dwellings being built to Code for Sustainable Homes level 4.</li> </ol>
<b>Delivery Risks:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sufficient funding to deliver new communities</li> <li>2. Lack of holistic approach between stakeholders.</li> <li>3. Complexity / constraints of Government climate change funding regimes and initiatives.</li> </ol>

<b>Vision Statement:</b>	A City where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot
<b>Strategic Objective CCG4:</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>By March 2012 we will have:</b>	CCG4.1 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. CCG4.2 Contributed to the review of area transport plans and proposed projects for



	<p>investment, supporting the local process of bidding to relevant funding sources including Regional Growth Fund and LSTF.</p> <p>CCG4.3 Promoted the options of devolving decision making on local transport and improvement schemes to area committees. Using this approach where it is within the City's remit to determine.</p>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<p>Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Service (4.2, 4.3)</p> <p>Toni Ainley, Head of Streets and Open Spaces (4.1)</p>
<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of completed transport schemes delivered by the City Council</li> <li>2. Increased number of bus passengers against base figure through the subsidies we provide</li> <li>3. Supported increased number of people cycling or walking to work in the City against base figure (From Travel to Work Survey) through measures in new development</li> </ol>
<b>Delivery Risks:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Risk of lack of agreement with partners</li> <li>2. Lack of funding to deliver schemes</li> </ol>