



Item 6

Making Space for People: Vision and Principles

To:

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces and Councillor Nicky Massey, Executive Councillor for Transport and Community Safety

Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee [12/01/2021]

Report by:

Stephen Kelly, Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

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Wards affected:

Market, West Chesterton, Abbey, Petersfield, Romsey, Trumpington, Newnham, Castle, Arbury

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Making Space for People Vision and Principles document has been prepared to act as a co-ordination tool to align thinking on future street, public space and movement projects between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership.
- 1.2 The draft document was made available for public consultation between 2 September and 14 October 2019. During the consultation a total of 344 representations were received, of which 94 were in support and 40 were in objection.
- 1.3 This report provides responses to the representations received along with other relevant considerations, including the impact of COVID and recent social distancing

and walking and cycling measures which have been introduced since the conclusion of the public consultation. This report also sets out a number of recommendations for amendments to the document.

- 1.4 The Executive Councillors are asked to note the summary of representations made on the draft document during the public consultation and the officers' responses to these, resolve to agree the document with a number of consequential proposed changes and invite Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to endorse the document to inform future scheme development.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Executive Councillors are recommended to:

1. Note the Consultation Report which includes the representations from the 2019 consultation.
2. Resolve to agree the updated Vision, Aims, Objectives and Strategies document.
3. Invite Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to endorse the Making Space for People document and to use it to inform future scheme development within Central Cambridge.
4. Agree that the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development is granted delegated authority, in liaison with the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport, the Executive Councillor for Transport and Community Safety and the Chair and Spokes for the Planning Policy and Transport Scrutiny Committee, to make any editing changes prior to finalisation and publication of the document.

3. Background

- 3.1 The draft Vision, Aims and Objectives and Strategies document (2019) had been developed with input from officers from Cambridge City Council, including Streets and Open Spaces and the Built and Natural Environment Team, the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) and Cambridgeshire County Council (Highways). The Making Space for People project aligns with the Cambridge Local Plan (2018)

adopted by Cambridge City Council on 18 October 2018. The document should be read in conjunction with adopted policies in the Local Plan and other relevant material considerations. The document will also support the aims of the local transport bodies (led by the CPCA) who have made a commitment to reducing congestion through a significant shift to sustainable transport modes.

- 3.2 In preparing the draft document, comprehensive informal stakeholder engagement was undertaken between June and October 2018 with a series of meetings, workshops, online public engagement, desktop review, analysis and site visits. This is set out in further detail in the Consultation Statement (attached at Appendix B). The results and findings of the public engagement had shaped the draft document which was formally consulted on between September and October 2019.
- 3.3 The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board has met in February, June and December 2020 and have considered technical work on options to improve public transport and tackle congestion and emissions as well as agree short term interventions in the context of COVID recovery. This included a package of road space reallocation scheme delivered as part of Cambridgeshire County Council's emergency active travel programme. The GCP Executive Board has also considered packages of measures and agreed further action on air quality and road space reallocation. This will be considered further at a future Executive Board in March 2021.
- 3.4 The draft Making Space for People: Vision, Aims and Objectives and Strategies document was approved for public consultation by the Planning Policy and Transport Scrutiny Committee on 16 July 2019. The Council consulted on the draft document for a period of six weeks, between Monday 2 September and 14 October 2019.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 Originally, the purpose of the Making Space for People project was to produce a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide planning guidance for the streets and public spaces that form the public realm in Central Cambridge and to

align with relevant public realm and movement planning policies in the Cambridge Local Plan (2018), by providing more specific and detailed guidance on how to interpret and implement these policies. It was also anticipated that it would support the aims of the local transport authorities who have made a commitment to achieving a substantial reduction in traffic and a significant shift to sustainable transport modes.

- 4.2 Since these original aims were defined, the COVID pandemic has brought into sharp focus the need to achieve a shared 'buy in' to a vision for the city centre. The process in preparing a supplementary planning document is not agile enough to respond to changing demands and priorities, so an overall higher-level document is needed to guide and inform decision makers. The role of Making Space for People has therefore changed in response to this need.
- 4.3 A total of 344 representations were received during the public consultation, with 94 in support and 40 objecting. A significant number of the objections related to the closure of Mill Road which occurred at the time of the consultation.
- 4.4 Comments were made highlighting the need to think beyond the study area as part of movement planning, bus routing and the role of both the GCP and specifically the City Access Programme. Overall, there was significant support for the Vision identified, the User Hierarchy and the Strategies within the document. The following amendments are proposed to the document to reflect the representations received:
- Placing greater emphasis on inclusive design and meeting the needs of all public space users;
 - Making the role of cycling within Central Cambridge more clearly understood including the role of cycle based last mile delivery;
 - Further emphasis on the role of the green network;
 - Considering the extent and timing of the pedestrian priority areas in Central Cambridge;
 - Emphasising the role of bus stops as mini modal interchanges and linking into e-bikes and e-scooter infrastructure; and

- Making clearer the role of public spaces in terms of creating a more sociable city and supporting well-being.

- 4.5 The document has also been updated to reflect the recent and on-going impact of COVID on Central Cambridge and the subsequent City Centre Recovery work including social distancing measures that have been introduced. It also has been amended to make clearer the role of cycling as a key mode to support the creation of a walkable city centre and respond to guidance in Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design.
- 4.6 These have resulted in additional wording within the supporting text as well as changes to the aims and objectives. The changes have not significantly altered the intent of the document but have provided a greater level of clarity.
- 4.7 Delivering the vision within the document involves a number of different partners. The document seeks to coordinate this whilst ensuring that good place making and the needs of people are considered in the preparation of transport and public realm projects. It is anticipated that the document will inform future projects, including GCP City Centre Access, within Central Cambridge and will be the catalyst for delivering the vision. It is worth noting that the draft document consulted on last year has already been used to inform the emergency COVID response measures in the city centre including those implemented by Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. There is therefore an urgent need to agree and align future activities around a collective vision in order to ensure short term measures support the long-term objectives of the document and feed into these projects.
- 4.8 The purpose of the Making Space for People project is to set out key principles to underpin a high quality and functional public realm within Central Cambridge which will inform the City Centre Access transport projects that are being progressed by the GCP. This includes implementation of the response to the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly which took place in 2019. The Making Space for People document will help shape the developing programme of work within GCP by establishing the vision and supporting principles that will underpin decisions about

the public realm in Central Cambridge. It is expected that the objectives for all partner projects and schemes within Central Cambridge will be consistent with this document.

- 4.9 The Making Space for People Vision and Principles document is recommended to be endorsed by the City Council, and subsequently supported by Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership. It will act as a co-ordination tool to align thinking and ensure the user hierarchy is informing future scheme objectives for both short- and longer-term projects. To this aim, it is recommended that the Council invites Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to endorse the Making Space for People document and to use it to guide future scheme development within Central Cambridge. Longer term it will provide the basis for co-ordinating and informing more detailed strategies and work programmes to delivery further meaningful change in Central Cambridge.
- 4.10 Longer term decisions around spaces and movement within Central Cambridge is a crucial consideration and the document will provide a sound basis to move forward at a later date with a more spatially specific strategy. This will be done so in partnership with the external partners including the Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, as well as internally with colleagues in Streets & Open Spaces and Built and Natural Environment, to ensure a coordinated and consistent longer term approach.
- 4.11 The document will be a material planning consideration in the determination of future planning applications that may impact on the streets and spaces located within the study area and the transition areas adjoining it. Similarly, it will also need to be considered by partners with responsibilities beyond those of Cambridge City Council when preparing schemes and projects which fall within the study area.

4.12 It is intended that subject to the agreement of the Executive Councillors the document (attached in Appendix 1) will be desktop published to improve presentation and readability.

5. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The preparation of the document is within the existing funding and resources provided to the Shared Planning Service.

(b) Staffing Implications

The finalisation of the document has been carried out through the resources of the Planning Service, GCP and Cambridgeshire County Council. Staff within Streets and Open Spaces and Built and Natural Environment have also been engaged.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

The document, including within the Vision, outlines that Central Cambridge should be accessible to residents and visitors alike, in order to ensure that future public realm and transport projects are designed to be inclusive. Additionally, consultation on planning matters will be undertaken in accordance with Equality legislation as appropriate.

(d) Environmental Implications

Implementation of the vision, through both Cambridge City Council and key partner projects, could result in an overall improvement to environmental conditions within Central Cambridge.

(e) Procurement Implications

None

(f) Community Safety Implications

None

6. Consultation and communication considerations

None

7. Background papers

- Consultation Statement (January 2021)
- Equalities Impact Assessment (January 2021)

8. Appendices

Appendix A: Making Space for People: Vision, Aims, Objectives and Strategies document (2021)

Appendix B: Consultation Statement (2021)

Appendix C: Equalities Impact Assessment (2021)

9. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact

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