

Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This tool helps the Council ensure that we fulfil legal obligations of the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) to have due regard to the need to –

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Guidance on how to complete this tool can be found on the Cambridge City Council intranet. For specific questions on the tool email Helen Crowther, Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk or phone 01223 457046.

Once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to equalities@cambridge.gov.uk for checking. For advice on consulting on equality impacts, please contact Graham Saint, Strategy Officer, (graham.saint@cambridge.gov.uk or 01223 457044).

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service
Making Space for People: Central Cambridge Vision, Aims & Objectives and Strategies

2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)
www.democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=475&MId=3791&Ver=4

3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?
The document identifies a high-level vision for Central Cambridge as well as a series of strategies that set out the strategic approaches and thinking required to help deliver a more attractive and accessible city centre. The document is a co-ordination tool that will inform upcoming proposals and work programmes within Central Cambridge. It is anticipated that the vision within the document will be used by the various organisations/partners including Cambridge City Council, Greater Cambridge Partnership, The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council. The document seeks to improve streets and spaces in the City Centre by encouraging more sustainable transport options, protecting and enhancing the character of existing spaces, identifying opportunities for new uses and delivering a high-quality public realm.

4. Responsible service

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

5. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?**(Please tick all that apply)**

- Residents
 Visitors
 Staff

Please state any specific client group or groups (e.g. City Council tenants, tourists, people who work in the city but do not live here):

No specific client groups. The policy guidance will affect all individuals and groups that live, work, study in the City, as well as tourists and visitors to Central Cambridge.

6. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this?

- New
 Major change
 Minor change

7. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick)

- Yes
 No

If 'Yes' please provide details below:

The Making Space for People: Central Cambridge Vision, Aims & Objectives and Strategies document has been prepared by Cambridge City Council working in partnership with the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Authority and other service areas within Cambridge City Council.

8. Has the report on your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service gone to Committee? If so, which one?

The document will be considered at Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee on 12 January 2021.

9. What research methods/ evidence have you used in order to identify equality impacts of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

Following a series of early public engagement events and stakeholder workshops held during Summer 2018, the 'Making Space for People: Vision, Principles and Strategies'

document was published for public consultation for a period of six weeks between 2 September 2019 and 14 October 2019. The consultation exercise included a public notice in the Cambridge News, information on the Council's website, posts on the Council's social media platforms and a series of staffed public exhibitions at a number of venues across the City. Statutory consultees, interest groups and local disability groups, including Disability Cambridgeshire, Cam Sight and COPE, were directly notified of the consultation.

A total of 344 representations were received from a range of local groups and businesses, statutory consultees and members of the public. Overall, there was significant support for the proposed vision, including for many of the key strategies identified and a User Hierarchy for streets and spaces within Central Cambridge. Following consideration of all representations, changes have been made which provide greater clarity in the following areas of the document:

- 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.

10. Potential impacts

For each category below, please explain if the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could have a positive/ negative impact or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is. Consider impacts on service users, visitors and staff members separately.

(a) Age - Please also consider any safeguarding issues for children and adults at risk

The guidance document seeks to assist with the delivery of a more attractive and accessible City centre, which, if applied to work programmes and development proposals within the study area, will have a **positive impact** on all people living, working, studying or visiting, regardless of age. For example, the guidance promotes a high-quality public realm that is inclusive to meet the needs of all users, including the creation of comfortable places for people to sit, relax and enjoy the City. The enhancement of existing and the creation of new public spaces for groups and individuals to use will benefit all age groups from families with

children, young adults, those of working age and elderly residents or visitors to the City centre.

By seeking to make public spaces more accessible the guidance is likely to have a disproportionately positive impact on older people who may be more likely to have disabilities and long-term health conditions.

Residents of Cambridge City have a younger age profile compared to other districts in the County and also nationally. As a consequence, the guidance will play an important role in ensuring proposals within Central Cambridge consider how different age groups use public spaces differently, supporting the aim of creating a more sociable and inclusive City.

(b) Disability

Data from the 2011 Census shows that 22.2% of households in Cambridge contained at least one person with a long-term illness, health problem or disability which limited their daily activities.

The 'Making Space for People: Vision, Principles and Strategies' document was available, on request, in alternative formats such as in large print or braille. All future iterations of the guidance will be made available in these formats.

The guidance document seeks to assist with the delivery of a more attractive and accessible City centre, which, if applied to work programmes and development proposals within the study area, will have a **positive impact** on all users, regardless of disability. For example, the guidance seeks to ensure that the streets and spaces in Central Cambridge are designed to be inclusive, positively 'designing in' facilities or reasonable adjustments for disabled people and for safeguarding vulnerable individuals. A key objective of the guidance is for the area to be effectively managed to ensure it is clean, well-maintained, and uncluttered potentially reducing accessibility issues and trip hazards for those with reduced mobility. The guidance provides a framework for other opportunities to improve access for less mobile users of public spaces including the provision of benches of people needing to rest, tactile pavements, improvements to the Shopmobility service and the provision of wide pavements to accommodate mobility scooters.

Long term health conditions, including mental health, can be caused or exacerbated by poor environmental conditions. The Making Space for People guidance seeks to support the health and well-being of all those who live in, work in, study in and visit Cambridge by reducing congestion, improving air quality, enhancing nature conservation, and supporting healthy, active and sustainable lifestyles. The guidance also seeks to create opportunities for a more sociable City which may reduce social isolation, leading to a positive impact on the well-being of local communities.

The guidance seeks to encourage proposals that reduce conflict between pedestrians in Central Cambridge and those using other modes of transport. The vision set out in the

document encourages the extension of pedestrian areas, in congested areas, which will have a positive impact on less mobile groups and individuals as they move around the City.

(c) Gender reassignment

No equality impacts have been identified that are specific to this equality group – **neutral impact**.

(d) Marriage and civil partnership

No equality impacts have been identified that are specific to this equality group – **neutral impact**.

(e) Pregnancy and maternity

The Making Space for People document seeks to ensure future proposals affecting streets and public spaces in Central Cambridge are more accessible for all users including those who are pregnant, parents and their children. The guidance will have a **positive impact** on this category through the provision of thoroughfares and spaces that are welcoming and accessible to pedestrians carrying babies or using prams or strollers to transport young children. The guidance also seeks to improve the cycling network in Central Cambridge, including for those cyclists using a range of child seats and trailers.

(f) Race – Note that the protected characteristic ‘race’ refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

The ‘Making Space for People: Vision, Principles and Strategies’ document was available, on request in different languages and groups and individuals were able to feed back their responses through the Councils’ translation/interpretation service providers. All future iterations of the guidance will be translated on request into languages other than English.

Data from the 2011 Census shows 17.5% of Cambridge residents identified themselves as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British. The City also attracts many overseas tourists and visitors. However, no specific equality impacts have been identified specific to this category – **neutral impact**.

(g) Religion or belief

No equality impacts have been identified that are specific to this equality group – **neutral impact.**

(h) Sex

No equality impacts have been identified that are specific to this equality group – **neutral impact.**

(i) Sexual orientation

No equality impacts have been identified that are specific to this equality group – **neutral impact.**

(j) Other factors that may lead to inequality – in particular, please consider the impact of any changes on low income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty

Currently Cambridge is the most unequal city in the UK for income and is in the lowest 20% of local authority areas for social mobility. There is a life expectancy gap of around 10 years for men and women between the most and least deprived areas of the City. The Making Space for People guidance will have a **positive impact** upon low income groups by seeking a significant shift to sustainable transport modes within the City, including improving public transport. Low income groups tend to rely heavily on public transport to access services and employment across Central Cambridge. A more reliable and attractive public transport system, along with improvements for walking and cycling, and the creation of spaces for people to congregate comfortably free of charge, will be particularly beneficial for this equality group.

11. Action plan – New equality impacts will be identified in different stages throughout the planning and implementation stages of changes to your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service. How will you monitor these going forward? Also, how will you ensure that any potential negative impacts of the changes will be mitigated? (Please include dates where possible for when you will update this EqlA accordingly.)

The Making Space for People: Central Cambridge Vision, Aims & Objectives and Strategies document will be agreed at Cambridge City Council Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee. The third recommendation in the covering report is to also invite Cambridgeshire County Council 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.

The guidance will be made available to all prospective landowners and developers of sites within Central Cambridge when seeking pre-application advice from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service will have regard to the guidance when determining planning applications that may impact upon the public realm of Central Cambridge.

Any revised or updated version of the Making Space for People guidance will be subject to a further EqlA to ensure all potential equality impacts are identified.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

N/A

13. Sign off

Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Paul Frainer, Assistant Director (Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service)

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Date of EqlA sign off: December 2020

Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: N/A

Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: January 2021

All EqIAs need to be sent to Helen Crowther, Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer. Ctrl + click on the button below to send this (you will need to attach the form to the email):

Send form