



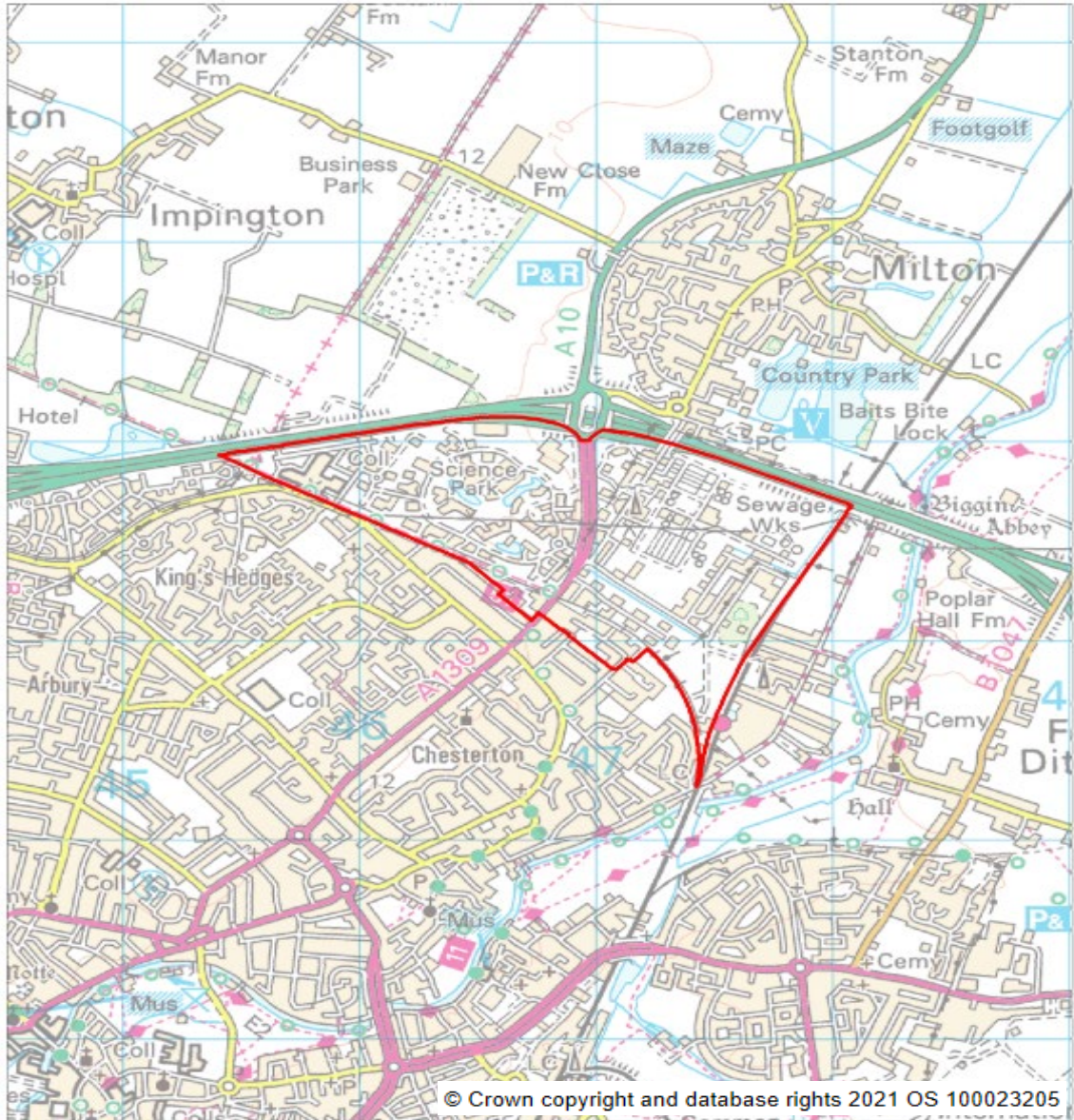
# North East Cambridge Area Action Plan Proposed Submission

## Topic Paper: Community Safety

Greater Cambridge Planning Service  
November 2021

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## Introduction

According to the Local Government Association<sup>1</sup> 'community safety is best described as 'an aspect of our quality of life in which individuals and communities are protected from, equipped to cope with, and have increased capacity to resist, crime and anti-social behaviour'. Community safety can have impact on all those who live, work or study in an area as well as a number of groups including young and old, men and women, protected characteristic groups, victims of crime and offenders.

The aim of this paper is to explore issues of community safety in and around North East Cambridge (NEC) to inform the Area Action Plan (AAP) and the broader corporate initiatives of both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. It discusses how to make the new development feel physically safe and socially inclusive while promoting community resilience in the area, and with the neighbouring communities.

Whilst evidence set out in this paper shows that crime levels in Cambridgeshire are generally low, it is important to provide context and discuss the key themes surrounding community safety such as designing out crime, county lines, governance and safeguarding issues so they may be addressed appropriately.

The paper includes the national and local planning policy and sets out Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridge City Council's, and South Cambridgeshire District Council's approach to addressing community safety.

## Key Documents

- Local Government Association: Community safety (2021)
- National Planning Policy Framework (2021)
- National Design Guide; Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places (2019) MHCLG
- Building for Life 12 (2015)
- Secured by Design Guidance (2019)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/community-safety-1e2.pdf>

- Cambridge Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Plan 2020-2021
- South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Plan 2019-2021
- Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: Police and Crime Plan 2017-2120 – Community Safety and Criminal Justice
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Mission, Vision and Values
- Think Communities August 2018
- Cambridge Local Plan 2018
- South Cambridge District Council Local Plan 2018
- South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2020
- Cambridge City Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2019

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

The National Planning Policy Framework<sup>2</sup> (NPPF) discusses several issues relating to community safety and community resilience. Chapter five promotes the need to deliver sufficient supply of homes to support different groups within the community. Paragraph 73 further states that in order to support a sustainable community, new developments should be of appropriate size and location, with access to services and employment opportunities. Chapter 8 highlights the promotion of healthy and safe communities. Paragraph 92 (part a) discusses the need for mixed-use developments to create strong neighbourhood centres, high quality public spaces and legible street layouts that promote social interaction and easy pedestrian and cycle access. It emphasises the need for new developments to be ‘places that are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion’.

Paragraph 93 discusses the need to provide social, recreational and cultural facilities and services to support community needs. It promotes the need to plan positively for communities through an integrated approach that considers location of services and

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<sup>2</sup> [National Planning Policy Framework](#)

community facilities alongside housing and other uses in order to improve social and cultural well-being.

Paragraph 130 (part f) establishes the need to create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible. It further emphasises that developments should promote health and well-being where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

Paragraph 132 discusses the importance of design quality and the need to consider the local community needs and involvement in the early stages of emerging development plans. Further, Paragraph 130 (part f) highlights the need for implementation of safe, inclusive and accessible new developments through planning policy and decision making.

### **National Design Guide; Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places (2019)**

In 2019, MHCLG published the National Design Guide<sup>3</sup> (NDG); Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places. It provides guidance that supports the NPPF requirements to create well designed, high quality buildings and places by identifying ‘ten characteristics of a well-designed place’ (these are: context; identity; built form; movement; mature; public spaces; uses; homes and buildings; resources; and lifespan). Community safety aspects are all encompassing and can be influenced by many different factors and what follows are the key influences contained in the above identified NDG characteristics.

In Community Safety terms, ‘context’ will mean that development is well integrated into its surroundings and relates well to them. ‘Identity’ means that development will have a positive and coherent identity that everyone can identify with, including local residents and communities, and so contribute to inclusion and well-being. ‘Built form’ will be designed to create recognisable streets and spaces whose edges are well defined by buildings to make places that are easy to navigate and promote safety and accessibility. Memorable and active places help to promote inclusion and cohesion. ‘Movement’ requires clear networks to be established to create safe and accessible streets and spaces that promote activity and positive social

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<sup>3</sup> [MHCLG National Design Guide](#)



interaction. 'Nature' needs to be well integrated into developments that is attractive and easy to access. With the right mix of activities, well-being and social inclusion can be promoted that lead to a sense of ownership. The creation of high quality 'public spaces' is crucial to achieving places that feel safe, secure and attractive for all to use and which promote activity, surveillance and positive social interaction. The right mix of 'uses' will support the function and vitality of a new place. The right mix of uses, in the right locations, need to be well integrated with housing and other facilities that are tenure neutral and socially inclusive. 'Homes & buildings' have a role to play in community safety by being well designed and able to meet the needs of residents now and into the future. Crucially they need to relate positively to private and public spaces and help contribute to social interaction and inclusion. Even 'resources' or the materials used in the design and construction of a development have role to play in community safety. Materials that are robust and enduring and well detailed, will ensure that buildings and spaces remain attractive and well maintained and so foster a sense of community ownership, as well as easy to maintain. 'Resources' also links to 'lifespan' considerations which links to effective management by all those involved in the upkeep of buildings and spaces.

### **Building for Life 12 (2015)**

Building for Life 12<sup>4</sup> (BfL12) is a government-endorsed industry standard produced by the Design Council in order to help achieve well designed homes and neighbourhoods. It poses a series of key questions to be considered and answered to help understand the key components that structure places and to ultimately help to achieve well-designed, high-quality places.

The way BfL12 works is to use a simple traffic light system to award schemes a score that reflects how well it performs against a series of set questions. However, it can also be used to help structure discussions and evaluate design decisions as schemes are being planned. In the context of the AAP, it is the latter that is considered useful when considering Community Safety aspects.

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<sup>4</sup> [Building for Life 12 - Third edition | Design Council](#)



BfL12 is organised around three themes; 1. Integrating into the neighbourhood; 2. Creating a place; and 3. Street & home.

1. Integrating into the neighbourhood:

Considers how well the new place connects to and into the surrounding neighbourhood.

2. Creating a place:

Considers how buildings and landscape are designed to define streets and spaces.

3. Street & home:

Considers how streets will be low speed, how well parking will be integrated and crucially whether public spaces are clearly defined, well-managed and safe.

### **Secured by Design (2019)**

Secured by Design<sup>5</sup> (SBD) standards also ensure safety of residents on new developments Building to SBD standards ensures homes and surrounding community areas are safe and secure, with good site planning and the careful design of buildings and spaces. As well as being inherently safer, such developments will have a sense of public ownership and meet the need of communities, well-managed and feel safer. Research conservatively estimates the carbon cost of crime within the UK to be in the region of 6,000,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum, roughly equivalent to the total carbon dioxide output of 6 million UK homes. The environmental benefits of SBD are supported by independent academic research consistently proving that SBD housing developments experience up to 87% less burglary, 25% less vehicle crime and 25% less criminal damage. It also has a significant impact on reducing antisocial behaviour.

In practice this means that Secured by Design status for new housing developments can be achieved through careful design ensuring routes through are well used, effectively lit and overlooked, thereby creating a safe and secure atmosphere. Developers should also, at an early stage, incorporate Secured by Design principles

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<sup>5</sup> [Secured by Design 2019](#)

within new developments and may need to seek advice from the Police Designing out Crime Officers at Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters on designing out crime who work extensively at Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

## **Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)**

Community Safety Partnerships (CSP - formerly Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships) were established following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (The Act) to reduce crime, disorder, re-offending and substance misuse.

CSPs are statutory partnerships. There is one covering each district authority area across Cambridgeshire, including one for Cambridge City and another for South Cambridgeshire. Each Local Authority is one of a number of named 'responsible authorities', the others being Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service (CFRS), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (C&P CCG), and the National Probation Service.

In brief, the statutory requirements are:

- set up a strategic group to direct the work of the partnership
- regularly engage and consult with the community about their priorities and progress achieving them
- set up protocols and systems for sharing information
- analyse a wide range of data, including recorded crime levels and patterns, in order to identify priorities in an annual strategic assessment
- set out a partnership plan and monitor progress
- produce a strategy/ies to reduce reoffending and substance misuse
- commission domestic violence homicide reviews

The Police and Crime Commissioner must have regard to the CSP priorities within their police and crime plan. A few topic-based countywide delivery partnerships exist to support the work of the local CSPs in meeting their statutory duties. These were set up with the agreement of local CSPs and cover issues that can be tackled more appropriately on a larger scale (e.g. reoffending, substance misuse).

In addition to the statutory partnerships, responsible authorities are also required, under s.17 of The Act, to consider the implication on crime and disorder of all their day to day activities.

### **Cambridge Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Plan (2020-2021)**

The Community Safety Plan provides priorities from the strategic statement assuring community safety is achieved in Cambridge. These priorities are:

Priorities for 2020-2021 are:

- Safeguarding young people against violence and exploitation
- Listening to community needs and responding together to reduce harm

### **South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Plan (2021-22)**

The Community Safety Partnership is responsible for improving community safety, including reducing crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending in South Cambridgeshire. The current priorities of the Community Safety Partnership are to:

- improve resilience in communities
- support evidence-based priority areas

### **Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: Police and Crime Plan 2017-2020: Community Safety and Criminal Justice**

The Police and Crime Plan vision is to work together to keep Cambridgeshire safe. Whilst the new Police and Crime Commissioner is consulting on the next plan, the current plan highlights a number of strategic themes, aim and shared outcomes:

- Victims – Deliver a victim first approach - Victims and witnesses are placed at the heart of the criminal justice system and have access to clear pathways of support

- Offenders – Reduce re-offending - Offenders are brought to justice and are less likely to reoffend

Communities – Support safe and stronger communities - Communities have confidence in how we respond to their needs

- Transformation – Ensure value for money for taxpayers now and in the future - We deliver improved outcomes and savings through innovation and collaboration

Drawn from these Strategic Themes some of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Priorities for Actions which are most applicable to the North East Cambridge development and the wider community include:

- use a partnership approach to tackle crimes which are of greatest concern to the public such as violent, drink and drug related crime, burglary and rural crime.
- improve partnership working to ensure resilience of services and effective and efficient action to address long-term causes of offending such as health issues, housing, drug and alcohol misuse, education, employment and training.
- hold the responsible authorities to account for meeting their duties to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.
- Jointly engage with all communities to understand and respond to local concerns.
- ensure the public have easy and effective ways to contact the appropriate service provider to get the information they need.
- Bring together services and systems to respond to community issues in a sustained and co-ordinated way e.g. co-location, aligned activity and information sharing.
- Build relationships with communities to gather information and intelligence to prevent crime: high levels of witnesses, low levels of crime.
- Promote public involvement through active participation and support initiatives aimed at building community understanding and resilience.

- educate and support local people to recognise vulnerable members of their community and know how to help them.

## **Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Mission, Operational Priorities and Partnerships**

Mission - Cambridgeshire continues to be one of the fastest growing areas with an expected population growth of a further 25 percent by 2031. Despite this, Cambridgeshire remains one of the safest counties in the country due to our focus on safeguarding the most vulnerable, supporting victims of crime and robustly investigating and bringing offenders to justice. We continue to look at new and better ways to deliver a policing service, which includes making the best use of new technology and working to better understand and manage demand to allow us to respond and adapt to the needs of the public and help keep people safe.

Operational priorities - Although every crime is important to us, we have five operational priorities:

- safeguard the vulnerable, with a focus on: Domestic abuse (repeat victims and offenders), Child sexual abuse and exploitation, Modern slavery and human trafficking, Fraud (repeat victims and emerging trends), Serious sex offences
- combat acquisitive crime, with a focus on targeting those responsible for committing: Burglary, Vehicle crime
- reduce harm to communities, focusing on targeting high harm offenders and locations, in relation to: Youth gangs, Knife crime, Drugs (disrupting county lines and street dealers), Hate crime (repeat offenders)
- tackle serious and organised crime and disrupt their gangs as their impact is felt across a wide range of criminal activity and causes harm to our communities
- increase public satisfaction by responding appropriately and improving communication, focusing on improving public confidence, maintaining call handling times, the timeliness of our initial response, improving communication with victims

Partnerships - The force will improve partnerships with:

- Criminal Justice partners
- Local Resilience Forum partners
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Police alliances
- Academic partners and the College of Policing

## **Think Communities**

Think Communities<sup>6</sup> is Cambridgeshire County Councils approach to ensure communities are well served throughout the system by allocating resources where and when they are needed the most. Their approach is about:

“Think Communities is all about putting people and Community first. Placing their needs and aspirations for their Community at the heart of our collective commitment to work in partnership to support the people we serve and the communities we support.

We know that often the best support comes from the Community or is provided at a very local level. We want to listen to what is important to our residents, what works well where they live and what they want to do to make it even better. We will help our communities to do the things that are important to the people who live there.

Together, we are a storehouse of amenities, spaces, skills, networks, information, influence, funding and inspiration ... resources that communities sometimes desperately need, but often find hard to access.

Think Communities is about ensuring that our public services and our communities can work better together and make the best use of all our assets.

When working together local authorities, parish councils, town councils, health, education and police services, local businesses .... our combined efforts can change lives. They can prevent a difficulty turning into a crisis. And that’s crucial, because getting the right help to people early enough is not only much more beneficial to them personally, it avoids the disruptive emergency response that puts such a strain on public resources.

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<sup>6</sup> [Cambridgeshire County Council – Think Communities](#)

Think Communities is a call to all of us who provide these services to come together and find long-term solutions that work - for the most vulnerable people in our area and the Community at large.

Through a shared commitment and willingness to come together, we can:

- Build community capacity
- Encourage people to participate in, and contribute to, their local Community
- Gain an understanding of the services needed in that Community
- Move away from a 'council-centric' approach, to one where the Council is part of a team of service providers, including public, private and community groups, with the shared aim of making Cambridgeshire people feel safe, healthy, connected and empowered.
- Give residents the knowledge and tools they need to give, and get, support for themselves and their Community”.

Place-based Coordinators and Connectors: our frontline advocates:

To achieve these goals, we need to develop our understanding of our Community's needs, aspirations, and desire to get involved. To do this, the County Councils locally place-based teams will be listening to communities, finding out where support is needed in our neighbourhoods, who's trying to help – and how we can bring like-minded people and groups together to support them. The Place Teams will bring together.....Patch Leads, Development Officers, PCSO, Social Prescribers, Community Wardens, Community Navigators, Community Development Workers, Librarians. Where needed, they will form more formal place-based support partnerships to collaborate the development of community-led solutions. In other locations, the relationships will be much more informal. Place Teams will be the familiar faces of Think Communities: the go-to people for community engagement and support.



## **Cambridge Local Plan (2018)**

The Cambridge Local Plan<sup>7</sup> includes objectives aiming to create and maintain inclusive communities and promoting social cohesion through provision of sports, recreation, community and leisure facilities. The Plan also promotes accessible and innovative economic areas whilst ensuring centres and shopping facilities are within reach for people living, working and studying in the city.

Policy 56: Creating successful places promotes ‘development that is designed to be attractive, high quality, accessible, inclusive and safe’. This policy highlights the need to ensure that developments provide natural surveillance, create active edges and spaces that are inclusive, useable, safe and enjoyable. Policy 56 also states that ‘open space and landscaped areas’ are an integral part of developments in order to ‘remove the threat or perceived threat of crime and improve community safety’.

Policy 57: Designing new buildings provides guidance relevant to community safety. It states that high quality new buildings will be promoted when they can demonstrate that they are ‘convenient, safe and accessible for all users’. This maximises opportunities to ensure the safety and inclusivity of residents on new developments.

Other areas where community safety is relevant include: Policy 68: Open space and recreation provision through new development, Policy 73: Community, sports and leisure facilities, Policy 74: Education facilities, Policy 75: Healthcare facilities and Policy 80: Supporting sustainable access to development.

## **South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018)**

South Cambridgeshire District Council’s Local Plan<sup>8</sup> sets out a number of policies relevant to community safety. Policy HQ/1: Design Principles in Chapter 5: ‘Delivering High Quality Places’ states that developments should have ‘user friendly and conveniently accessible streets’ that focus on delivering ‘safe opportunities for walking, cycling, public transport’. Policy HQ/1 promotes integration of mixed-uses ‘that contribute to the creation of inclusive communities providing the facilities and services to meet the needs of the community’. Furthermore, the policy outlines the

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<sup>7</sup>[Cambridge Local Plan: 2018](#)

<sup>8</sup> [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan](#)

need to 'design-out crime and create environment that is created for people that is and feels safe and has a strong community focus'.

Policy SC/4: 'Meeting Community Needs' highlights the need for housing developments to contribute to community services and facilities on site. It states that 'sites with 200 or more dwellings should provide a range of services including 'primary and secondary schools, meeting places, health facilities, libraries, sports facilities, childcare nurseries, local shops, restaurants, cafes and provision for faith groups. Policy SC/5: 'Community Healthcare Facility Provision' and Policy SC/6: 'Indoor Community Facilities' also support the provision of these facilities in new developments.

## **Background and Key Data**

### **Crime Data Sources**

The Cambridgeshire Research Group routinely receives police recorded crime data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary for analysis and is the primary source of data for this Topic Paper. Due to COVID-19, data presented in this paper has been limited to 2019 as the pandemic has impacted on the levels of crime, and data collection and would thus not present realistic or normal numbers of crime for Cambridgeshire. This data also informs the Community Safety Strategic Assessments for both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire and is used by the Community Safety Partnerships and Councils community safety teams in planning for new developments in the area and reducing crime. The Cambridge Research Group/Cambridgeshire Constabulary data is available at Appendix A.

### **Cambridge City Community Safety Strategic Assessment (2019)**

The strategic assessment<sup>9</sup> for Cambridge City explores the issues surrounding community safety, presenting priorities and recommendations. In more recent years, the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership has moved to prioritising those things that cause the most harm, have impacted the most vulnerable or pose the highest risk. These complex issues have required some investigation in order to further understand the complex issues, some exploration of options within new legal powers and for creating opportunity for innovative practice. The review of the assessment focused on a number of issues including city centre issues, case management of complex cases including antisocial behaviour through the Problem Solving Group, and Street Community.

### **Crime and Community Safety key findings for Cambridge City**

Cambridge remains a relatively safe place to live compared to other towns and cities of the same size. There were a total of 15,439 recorded crimes in Cambridge for the

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<sup>9</sup> [Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2018-19](#)

period May 2019 to April 2020<sup>10</sup> in the categories of crime relevant to considerations of community safety in a new development.

### Types of crime in Cambridge City

These include, arson and criminal damage, burglary, drug offences, public order offences, theft, vehicle offences and violence against the person.

**Table 1: Recorded Crimes for Cambridge City (May 2019-2020)**

(includes approximately six weeks in which England was under 'lockdown' measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Home Office crime types	Cambridge City
Arson and Criminal damage	1417
Burglary	791
Drug Offences	369
Miscellaneous crimes against society	200
Possession of weapons	138
Public order offences	1346
Robbery	164
Sexual Offences	363
Theft	5802
Vehicle offences	1021
Violence against a person	3828
Grand Total	15,439

The table provides a breakdown of the data for the higher volumes of crimes in Cambridge. For example, violence against the person can be broken down further

<sup>10</sup> [North Area Community Development Profile](#)

with 2,117 of the total incidents being violence without injury and 910 incidents of violence with injury.

Of the total number of theft incidents in the city, 2,727 were bicycle thefts.

The total number of criminal damage incidents in the city was 1417, and there was 52 were incidents of arson.

Public order offences total 1,346 and cover a number of issues such as ‘public fear, alarm or distress and race and religious aggravated public fear.

### Data for Cambridge City wards

The crime data for Cambridge City is broken down by ward in Table 2. This data shows that the wards closest to North East Cambridge (Abbey, Kings Hedges, East Chesterton, West Chesterton and Arbury) are mostly in the upper half in terms of number of crimes within the city, but the highest is within central Cambridge.

**Table 2: Number of crimes in Cambridge City Wards (May 2019-April 2020)**

District	Ward	Crime data for May 2019 - April 2020
Cambridge	Market Ward	3811
Cambridge	Petersfield Ward	1813
Cambridge	Trumpington Ward	1488
Cambridge	Abbey Ward	1263
Cambridge	Kings Hedges Ward	977
Cambridge	East Chesterton Ward	941
Cambridge	West Chesterton Ward	902
Cambridge	Arbury Ward	780
Cambridge	Romsey Ward	729
Cambridge	Queen Ediths Ward	713
Cambridge	Coleridge Ward	705
Cambridge	Cherry Hinton Ward	458
Cambridge	Castle Ward	463
Cambridge	Newnham Ward	396

### Anti-social Behaviour in Cambridge City

Making Cambridge safer and more inclusive is part of the City Council’s vision.

Responding to anti-social behaviour, racial harassment and hate crime is therefore a

key issue for the City Council and its partners in the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership.

It is recognised through the work of the Community Safety Team and the Neighbourhood Policing Team and other partners that the impact of anti-social behaviour on a community can be significant. In the three months period March 2020 to May 2020, the Council received 161 reports of antisocial behaviour covering issues from neighbour nuisance, noise, vandalism, drug dealing and use, victimisation and harassment.

Drug dealing and drug use connected to County Lines activity (a drug dealing approach which exploits young and other vulnerable people to deal and deliver drugs using mobile phone lines) is an increasingly emerging issue across the city. In cities like Cambridge, and specifically areas like North East Cambridge, where there are good rail and bus networks to other major cities, localised hotspots of crime and drug distribution close to the station can arise and should be considered and addressed at an early stage, and through the planning process where new development is proposed.

### **South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment (2020/21)**

The strategic assessment<sup>11</sup> of community safety issues for South Cambridgeshire was commissioned by the South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The aim of this strategic assessment is to support the CSP to understand local community safety issues and to develop priorities that will help to guide Partnership activity through 2021/22. These priorities are guided by local issues and needs; however, the Partnership should also continue to work to support broader priorities across the County. The recommendations are broken down into two categories; ways of working and priorities. This allows the partners to understand the impact of their joined-up working, and how to adapt their way of working to extend current practice and enhance the 'Think Communities' approach.

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<sup>11</sup>[Community Safety Partnership: South Cambridgeshire](#)

## Crime and Community Safety key findings for South Cambridgeshire

South Cambridgeshire remains an area of low crime, this is within the context of national stability in overall crime and continued growth for the district in terms of housing and population. This makes working in a place-based way a more effective approach.

### Types of crime in South Cambridgeshire

Whilst total police recorded crime has increased slightly, the rate remains fairly constant (2% increase from last year). However, this masks the changes that have been taking place in individual crime types and does not highlight where some groups of people are more vulnerable to crime.

**Table 3: Recorded Crimes for South Cambridgeshire (May 2019-April 2020)**

<b>Home Office crime types</b>	<b>South Cambridgeshire</b>
Arson and Criminal damage	963
Burglary	973
Drug Offences	184
Miscellaneous crimes against society	140
Possession of weapons	48
Public order offences	544
Robbery	29
Sexual Offences	204
Theft	1328
Vehicle offences	782
Violence against a person	2232
Grand Total	7427



Locally, the data shows a mixed picture with both increases in subgroups of police recorded crime and decreases in others. Given the low numbers for the district, caution must be taken when interpreting these changes. Crime types such as stalking and harassment, residential burglary and violence against the person are reported to have increased. Antisocial behaviour, total vehicle crime and total fires were reported to have decreased.

### **Detailed Analysis of Crime Type in South Cambridgeshire**

Within Cambridgeshire work has been ongoing looking at responding to the serious violence strategy and tackling County Lines. A key theme has been about designing and delivering a clear, consistent message across the County particularly in the work developed for delivery into schools through the Healthy Schools programme of work.

Police recorded vehicle crime in South Cambridgeshire is predominantly theft from a vehicle. However, the subcategory of vehicle taking has increased in volume by 20.5% since the year ending November 2017.

Residential burglary appears to be the main subcategory of burglary offences for South Cambridgeshire since the recent recording rules were applied to this crime type. The rate of residential burglaries per household in South Cambridgeshire stands at 11.2 per 1,000 households in the year ending November 2019, up 9% from the year ending November 2017.

Since December 2016, 26% of fires attended by the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service were recorded as deliberate and 12% had an unknown cause.

The volume of police recorded incidents of criminal damage and arson have remained relatively stable in South Cambridgeshire since November 2016 with of 4.3% of crimes committed as Arson and 95.7% criminal damage. (November 2016-October 2019).

While the rate of police recorded Violence Against the Person (VAP) has marginally risen in South Cambridgeshire since the year ending November 2017, it remains an area with a consistently low rate relative to the surrounding districts. In the year ending November 2019, South Cambridgeshire had the lowest rate of VAP per 1,000

population across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (13.03 crimes per 1,000 population).

It is important to understand the makeup of the VAP category, which includes a relatively diverse mix of offence types. Violence without injury accounts for most of the crimes recorded in the VAP category for South Cambridgeshire across all years included in this analysis. There has been a 63% volume increase in the subcategory of stalking and harassment when comparing the year ending November 2019 to the previous year. While improvements to how the data is recorded may have increased this figure, the underlying details of crimes within this category would need to be analysed to understand this increase.

Police recorded substance use crimes are recognised as predominantly being driven by police activity rather than the level of crime occurring as a whole.

The most recent annual public health report for Cambridgeshire describes hospital admission rates for alcohol related conditions in South Cambridgeshire as currently similar to the national average.

Data gaps regarding drug and alcohol related crimes or misuse exist locally. However, there is a countywide delivery group tackling this issue. This issue also overlaps with the health agenda and the CSP would be advised to seek input from health partners to have a clearer understanding of local issues around drug and alcohol misuse going forward.

Overall the data does not indicate a substantial drug or alcohol issue for the district. However, it should be noted that where mental health and substance misuse overlaps within cases these can sometimes be more resource intensive in managing.

South Cambridgeshire district has maintained a relatively low rate of police recorded hate crime (per 1,000 population) when compared to other districts in Cambridgeshire since the year ending November 2016.

The prevalence rate for police recorded domestic abuse in the Cambridgeshire Force area is 7.6 crimes per 1,000 population. In the most recent complete financial year South Cambridgeshire remained in line with the previous year. The data for

2019/20 to date (April to November) indicates that a slight increase in the year total is likely.

### Data for South Cambridgeshire wards

The crime data for South Cambridgeshire (source Cambridgeshire Research Group – Appendix A) is broken down by ward in the table below. This analysis highlights the three closest wards (Milton & Waterbeach, Fen Ditton & Fulbourn, and Histon & Impington) to North East Cambridge as having the highest number of offences. This may be a result of their size in terms of population, their relatively more urban context and proximity to the city.

**Table 4: Number of crimes in South Cambridgeshire wards (May 2019-April 2020)**

District	Ward	Crime data for May 2019 - April 2020
South Cambridgeshire	Milton and Waterbeach	743
South Cambridgeshire	Fen Ditton and Fulbourn	650
South Cambridgeshire	Histon and Impington	618
South Cambridgeshire	Cambourne	539
South Cambridgeshire	Caxton and Papworth	405
South Cambridgeshire	Melbourn	399
South Cambridgeshire	Harston and Comberton	362
South Cambridgeshire	Cottenham	336
South Cambridgeshire	Longstanton	283
South Cambridgeshire	Bassingbourn	294
South Cambridgeshire	Shelford	279
South Cambridgeshire	Over and Willingham	289
South Cambridgeshire	Bar Hill	242
South Cambridgeshire	Sawston	244
South Cambridgeshire	Linton	254
South Cambridgeshire	Duxford	183
South Cambridgeshire	Swavesey	176
South Cambridgeshire	The Mordens	164
South Cambridgeshire	Girton	173
South Cambridgeshire	Caldecote	147
South Cambridgeshire	Whittlesford	125
South Cambridgeshire	Gamlingay	129
South Cambridgeshire	Foxton	104
South Cambridgeshire	Balsham	103
South Cambridgeshire	Barrington	95
South Cambridgeshire	Hardwick	91

## Key Data for North East Cambridge

Polygon data was provided to the Cambridgeshire Research Group for the North East Cambridge area shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Polygon Map of North East Cambridge Area



Data was gathered between the period of May 2019 to April 2020 and includes approximately 6 weeks in which England was under 'lockdown' measures due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The data presents 22 counts of ASB Incidents in the NEC area between May 2019-April 2020. The highest count of offences was for theft accounting for 48 of 129 total crime offences between May 2019 and April 2020. Other counts by crime type are listed in Table 5 below. It is important to note that the site is predominantly made up of employment land with very little number of residential properties, emphasising the current difficulty in measuring crime in the NEC area that is yet to be used for high numbers of housing. The polygon area borders a number of residential communities that have been previously explored in data above.

**Table 5: Number of crimes in North East Cambridge polygon area (May 2019-April 2020)**

<b>Home Office Crime Types</b>	<b>Count of offences in the NEC area from May 2019-April 2020</b>
Arson and Criminal Damage	9
Burglary	7
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	<5
Possession of Weapons	<5
Public Order Offences	14
Sexual Offences	<5
Theft	48
Vehicle Offences	15
Violence Against the Person	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>

### **County Lines**

Because of the presence of the Cambridge North Station in the North East Cambridge area it is important to consider its implications for County Lines drug operations. It is understood that County Lines have used the new Cambridge North Station and tend to ‘cuckoo’ in premises which are close to stations (often within 200 metres). Cuckooing is a form of crime, termed by the police, in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for county lines drug trafficking. The crime is named for the cuckoo’s practice of taking over



other birds' nests for its young. It is therefore important that new development and in particular the housing mix is given careful consideration in these areas, including limiting short-term lets. A mix of tenures is recommended.

## **Key Issues**

### **Community Resilience**

The Community Safety Partnerships stress the importance of developing strong Community Resilience to give the community a voice and the strength to report issues of antisocial behaviour, domestic violence, scams etc. Key to this is community development and supporting social integration both within NEC and with the wider communities. This will give the place a sense of community of cohesion and 'ownership' of space where there is pride in their area. Such areas are less susceptible to crime.

This should involve a partnership between the community and the public, private and voluntary sectors who can all play an important role in the management of the area. Forming a strong stakeholder partnership at an early stage to include developers and management companies to oversee the development for the benefit of all. Furthermore, a focus on establishing community engagement at the very early stages and consulting on the development and use of public realm and green spaces should result in the space benefitting all the community.

Key Stakeholders are on already on a North East Cambridge Community Forums, and further engagement can continue to be explored. These initiatives can be enhanced by digital and other forms of communication.

These initiatives are supported by proposals in other NEC AAP evidence documents, including the Cultural Placemaking Strategy, Anti-Poverty and Inequalities Topic Paper, the Health and Wellbeing Topic Paper, and the Skills, Training and Local Employment Opportunities Topic Paper.

## Physical Considerations

The draft NEC AAP, including the spatial framework, has been developed in collaboration with the Police Community Safety Unit through a design-led approach where 'Designing out Crime' is an integral part of the approach. This includes promoting activity, incorporating natural surveillance of public/semi-private spaces, and providing clearly defined and protected buildings and spaces. Much of this will be consistent with the principles of Secured by Design and as such should minimise the opportunities for crime. The spatial framework also provides suitable access for the emergency services.

There will nevertheless be some more detailed design issues which will require closer scrutiny from a community safety perspective, including;

- Key pedestrian/cycle routes such as bridges and underpasses and Guided Busway where natural surveillance can be limited and can be quiet particularly during night times. Consideration should be given to adding activities/active spaces where possible, orientating buildings to provide natural surveillance, avoiding hiding areas, maximising visibility lines, providing appropriate lighting, and providing alternative routes where practical.
- Defensible and robust open space will be an important asset for the community, providing it is overlooked, well-managed, and consistent action is taken to prevent antisocial behaviour which discourages its use.
- The provision of community facilities and meeting places within buildings to give the community somewhere to go and have something to do. This will mitigate against people gathering outside their buildings and creating noise and litter issues.
- It is important that car and cycle parking is secure to encourage usage, and especially when it is situated away from the homes in car barns. Similarly, any storage and other facilities should be designed to be secure including public and communal bike parking.
- Appropriate landscaping and planting to avoid potential hiding places and dark or secluded areas.



- The use of additional external lights and manned CCTV should be kept to a minimum, but there will be places like the bridges and underpasses where they should be considered.

### **Housing and Community Mix**

With the creation of a new, 8,350 homes, high density development the demographics and range of tenures are important for the future community mix. This includes private housing, 40% affordable housing and other new forms of housing such as build-to-rent. The mix of housing types and tenures should complement each, as well as associated requirements, other locally and across the development as a whole.

### **Development Phasing**

The NEC development is expected to take over 20 years to be completed. It means the community will take several years to be established and will go through a series of transitional periods before it matures. This means the issues and risks are likely to change over time as will the relationship with the wider community and the nature of the crime.

In the early days, there will be few people on-site and this limits opportunities for natural surveillance. Also, evidence from other new settlements has also shown some people will have feelings of isolation and loneliness which requires support. The use of community development workers could assist with addressing some of these support issues.

### **Vulnerable Groups**

The Community Safety Partnerships also emphasise the importance of looking after the Vulnerable Groups in society. These groups can be subjected to antisocial behaviour, abuse, prejudice, hate and violence which can be in many forms. Whilst these issues go beyond the remit of the planning process, the community resilience and housing/community mix can play an important part in addressing these concerns. The Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the NEC AAP highlights some of the key disadvantaged groups in the area, but vulnerable groups can be much broader and include;

- Addiction (Drugs, alcohol, Gambling etc.)
- Dementia
- People with Disabilities
- Domestic Abuse
- Women
- Older People
- Gypsies and Travellers (there are two neighbouring communities to the east and north of the NEC)
- Hate
- Isolation/Loneliness, especially in early phases
- Mental Health issues
- People in Multiple Deprivation (Cambridge has a stark differences in income levels among its population)
- Many people may be in more than one vulnerable groups

## **Preferred Approach**

### **Community Resilience**

The North East Cambridge should be firmly integrated with surrounding communities to create a place that fosters community wellbeing and social cohesiveness. The development will provide social and cultural facilities for existing residents living in the surrounding areas, as well as new residents and community development workers will be required to encourage further social interaction and a safe, inclusive community. Engagement processes should be also encouraged to support the community and explore the collaborative implementation of the ‘think communities’ approach.

### **Key Physical bridges and underpasses**

The development should be planned around walking, cycling and public transport to make the area accessible to all. Key connections, whether in the form of a bridge or an underpass, should be well designed with active routes with good natural surveillance, incorporating Secured by Design principles as part of new development proposals coordinated with nearby uses. Lighting, quality of materials and an overall inclusive design approach will ensure that the safety and usability of either bridge or underpass links is maximised.

### **Supporting Vulnerable Groups and Mental Health**

The North East Cambridge must be a healthy district where wellbeing, recreation and community safety are provided for through appropriate services and facilities. The development should accommodate for community services including education, health provision and green open spaces for recreation and sport. Streets and spaces should be designed to prioritise pedestrians, cycle movement, and meet the specific needs of disabled people and vulnerable groups.

### **Governance**

Different governance structures for NEC should be explored to support the implementation and future management of community initiatives.

## Appendix A: North East Cambridge Area Data

### Data Notes:

1. The polygon was provided to the Cambridgeshire Research Group for the Cambridge North East Area Action Plan area.
2. The data is pulled from the police system Athena and is not published audited data and is therefore subject to corrections.
3. Data covers the period May 2019 to April 2020 and includes approximately 6 weeks in which England was under 'lockdown' measures due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
4. Counts less than 5 have been suppressed and are expressed as <5.
5. The data is supplied by Cambridgeshire Research Group for the use by the safer communities team in planning developments in the city and reducing crime.

**Police recorded Crime for the period May 2019 - April 2020, by Home Office group and subgroup for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire City (Source Cambridgeshire Constabulary/Cambridgeshire Research Group)**

<b>Home Office Crime Types</b>	<b>Cambridge City</b>	<b>South Cambridgeshire</b>
Arson and Criminal Damage	1417	963
Burglary	791	973
Drug Offences	369	184
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	200	140
Possession of Weapons	138	48
Public Order Offences	1346	544
Robbery	164	29
Sexual Offences	363	204
Theft	5802	1328
Vehicle Offences	1021	782
Violence Against the Person	3828	2232
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15439</b>	<b>7427</b>
<b>Home Office Crime Types &amp; Sub-Types</b>	<b>Cambridge City</b>	<b>South Cambridgeshire</b>
<b>ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>963</b>
ARSON	52	33
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1365	930
<b>BURGLARY</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>973</b>
BURGLARY - BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY	254	328
BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL	537	645
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>184</b>
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	204	138
TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS	165	46
<b>MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>140</b>
MISC CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	200	140
<b>POSSESSION OF WEAPONS</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>48</b>
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	138	48
<b>PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES</b>	<b>1346</b>	<b>544</b>
OTHER OFFENCES PUBLIC ORDER	282	66
PUBLIC FEAR, ALARM OR DISTRESS	935	434
RACE OR RELIGIOUS AGG PUBLIC FEAR	128	44
VIOLENT DISORDER	<5	<5
<b>ROBBERY</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>29</b>
ROBBERY OF BUSINESS PROPERTY	12	6

ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY	152	23
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>204</b>
OTHER SEXUAL OFFENCES	226	130
RAPE	137	74
<b>THEFT</b>	<b>5802</b>	<b>1328</b>
BICYCLE THEFT	2727	199
OTHER THEFT	1336	848
SHOPLIFTING	1356	248
THEFT FROM THE PERSON	383	33
<b>VEHICLE OFFENCES</b>	<b>1021</b>	<b>782</b>
AGGRAVATED VEHICLE TAKING	8	9
INTERFERING WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE	110	102
THEFT FROM A VEHICLE	706	550
THEFT OR UNAUTH TAKING OF A MOTOR VEH	197	121
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>	<b>3828</b>	<b>2232</b>
HOMICIDE	<5	<5
STALKING AND HARASSMENT	800	650
VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	910	509
VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	2117	1072
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15439</b>	<b>7427</b>

**Crime counts per district ward (Source Cambridgeshire Constabulary/Cambridgeshire Research Group)**

<b>District</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Count of offences May 2019-April 2020</b>
Cambridge City	Abbey	1263
Cambridge City	Arbury	780
Cambridge City	Castle	463
Cambridge City	Cherry Hinton	458
Cambridge City	Coleridge	705
Cambridge City	East Chesterton	941
Cambridge City	King's Hedges	977
Cambridge City	Market	3811
Cambridge City	Newnham	396
Cambridge City	Petersfield	1813
Cambridge City	Queen Edith's	713
Cambridge City	Romsey	729
Cambridge City	Trumpington	1488
Cambridge City	West Chesterton	902
South Cambridgeshire	Balsham	103
South Cambridgeshire	Bar Hill	242
South Cambridgeshire	Barrington	95
South Cambridgeshire	Bassingbourn	294
South Cambridgeshire	Caldecote	147
South Cambridgeshire	Cambourne	539
South Cambridgeshire	Caxton & Papworth	405
South Cambridgeshire	Cottenham	336
South Cambridgeshire	Duxford	183
South Cambridgeshire	Fen Ditton & Fulbourn	650
South Cambridgeshire	Foxton	104
South Cambridgeshire	Gamlingay	129
South Cambridgeshire	Girton	173
South Cambridgeshire	Hardwick	91
South Cambridgeshire	Harston & Comberton	362
South Cambridgeshire	Histon & Impington	618
South Cambridgeshire	Linton	254
South Cambridgeshire	Longstanton	283
South Cambridgeshire	Melbourn	399
South Cambridgeshire	Milton & Waterbeach	743
South Cambridgeshire	Over & Willingham	289
South Cambridgeshire	Sawston	244
South Cambridgeshire	Shelford	279
South Cambridgeshire	Swavesey	176
South Cambridgeshire	The Mordens	164
South Cambridgeshire	Whittlesford	125