



# **CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT FOR GREATER CAMBRIDGE 2020-2021**

**To:**

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor, Planning Policy and Transport  
Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee, 11/01/2022

**Report by:**

Stephen Kelly, Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development,  
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service  
Tel: 07711 918993, Email: [Stephen.Kelly@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:Stephen.Kelly@greatercambridgeplanning.org)

**Wards affected:**

All

Not a Key Decision

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1. All Local Authorities are obliged to publish an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) each year (note: these were previously referred to as Annual Monitoring Reports). They describe progress against the Local Development Scheme and monitor the impact of planning policies included in development plan documents. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council produce a joint AMR to monitor their development plans and policies collectively.
- 1.2. The AMR 2020-2021 demonstrates that the authorities are making good progress in implementing their Local Development Scheme to update plans, and that planning policies continue to have a positive impact on the sustainable

development of Greater Cambridge and the quality of life of its residents. The AMR includes a wide-ranging commentary supported by a detailed set of data tables.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

- 2.1. Agree the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 (included as Appendix A) for publication on the Councils' websites.
- 2.2. Delegate any further minor editing changes to the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport, and the Chair and Spokes for the Planning Policy and Transport Scrutiny Committee, including the final designed version of Appendix 3.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1. Local planning authorities are required to publish information monitoring progress of the implementation of their Local Development Scheme and planning policies included in their development plan documents at least on an annual basis in an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR is also required to give details of what action the Council has taken relating to the duty to co-operate, details of any neighbourhood development orders or neighbourhood development plans made, and once the Council has an adopted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule, information relating to the collection and spending of CIL monies.
- 3.2. The AMR for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The AMR includes indicators to measure the performance of the Councils' adopted planning policies as set out in the Cambridge Local Plan 2018, the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018, and the four adopted Area Action Plans for Northstowe, Cambridge East, Cambridge Southern Fringe, and North West Cambridge. It also includes indicators to measure change in the area against the objectives set out in the Sustainability Appraisals that accompany each of the adopted plans and to look at the wider effects of its planning policies on the district. The AMR also includes details on the action the Councils have taken relating to the Duty to Co-operate and of any neighbourhood plans made.
- 3.3. Authority Monitoring Reports were formerly known as Annual Monitoring Reports. They were renamed by government.
- 3.4. The AMR for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 accompanying this report has three chapters. Chapter 1 provides some background and context. Chapter 2 includes

sections on the progress against the Local Development Scheme, what actions the Councils have taken relating to the duty to co-operate and the current status of Neighbourhood Plans. Chapter 3 sets out a topic by topic analysis of the Greater Cambridge area including the impact of various policies.

3.5. Key findings from the AMR for Greater Cambridge 2020-2021 include:

- The Greater Cambridge Local Plan has made good progress against the Local Development Scheme timetable. During the monitoring year the Councils published their initial evidence base findings and development strategy options assessments. They also undertook a series of workshops with parish councils, residents' associations, statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders to explore the evidence and options assessments, and to hear what strategy and policies they thought the Councils should be developing. Progress has continued beyond the monitoring year. The First Proposals were published on 1 November 2021 starting a six week public consultation process ending on 13 December 2021. The North East Cambridge Area Action Plan has also progressed to the committee stages at the proposed submission stage in November 2021.
- We have continued to meet our duty to co-operate requirements across governance (for example the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group), consultation (for example strategic cross-boundary matters) and evidence gathering (for example transport and environmental data) issues.
- Although no new Neighbourhood Plans were formally made in 2020-2021, particularly due to delays resulting from the Covid19 pandemic, a number did make significant progress such that three were formally made post March 2021: Cottenham; Histon & Impington; and Foxton.
- The combined annual completions in 2020-2021 for Greater Cambridge (1,752 dwellings) is slightly higher than the average annual delivery rate required of 1,675 dwellings a year. This means that delivery has exceeded the required rate in four of the last five years. Completions were apportioned 1,335 in South Cambridgeshire and 417 in Cambridge.
- There were 362 affordable dwellings completed in Greater Cambridge. This is a lower percentage than last year at 21%. Permissions granted this year secured 33% as a percentage of eligible schemes.
- In the 2020-2021 monitoring year, business completions (net) were 23,739 sqm/0.15 hectares in Cambridge and 16,796 sqm/7.58 hectares in South Cambridgeshire.
- Retail space continues to fall in Cambridge due to multiple schemes converting retail space to residential or leisure uses. Growth was minimal in South Cambridgeshire although there remain commitments of 51,723 sqm (net) including permissions and allocations within the new settlements. There was no

significant change in the hotel stock in Cambridge in 2020-2021. However, there remain substantial commitments including new permissions in the current monitoring year.

- In 2020-2021 no applications were permitted without suitable mitigation where the environment agency objected on flood or water quality grounds across Greater Cambridge.
  - In terms of air quality, the objectives for nitrogen dioxide and the particulate PM10 were met at all the monitoring locations in 2020-2021.
  - There was one development granted permission within the Green Belt that was considered to be inappropriate, relating to redevelopment of the Former Wastewater Treatment Facility at Hauxton. However, because of the benefits of the scheme in terms of the remediation of the pollution on site and landscaping and ecological enhancements provided by the redevelopment, it was concluded that very special circumstances exist to grant permission in this case.
  - There were also low levels of permissions within or adjacent to Important Countryside Frontages, Protected Village Amenity Areas and Local Green Spaces. All were assessed as acceptable or insignificant in terms of their impact.
  - There have been no significant changes to the number of listed building or entries on the Historic England Buildings at Risk register in either Cambridge or South Cambridgeshire.
  - Quality of life indicators continue to be generally favourable for the Greater Cambridge area. For example, life expectancy rates and the percentage of adults who are physically active are above the national average in both Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Crime rates fell in both districts in 2020-2021.
  - All the above impacts, trends and changes need to be considered in the context of Coronavirus. Social distancing requirements have changed at various times throughout the monitoring year but it is clear that considerable development activity has continued.
- 3.6. The report is supplemented by three appendices. Appendix 1 lists all of the indicators across the plans and provides data where it is available. A traffic light system is used for target based indicators to quickly illustrate whether the target is being met. Appendix 2 provides the detailed data behind the indicators.
- 3.7. In addition, it has now been decided to incorporate information regarding infrastructure delivery into the AMR. Infrastructure Funding Statements were previously published separately as technical statements, but in order to provide a more comprehensive overview of infrastructure delivery supporting new developments a new section has been created within the AMR providing an

overview of the infrastructure funding process, funding that has been secured and infrastructure that has been delivered. Appendix 3 of the AMR therefore provides an Infrastructure Funding Statement for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, supplementing the technical statements that we are required to publish for each district. This is consistent with Planning Advisory Service guidance which sets out that these statements provide an opportunity to demonstrate how we are developing and delivering an infrastructure strategy. The version of Appendix 3 included for your consideration within Appendix A of this report provides the words for this document. Officers are working on gathering photographs or images to support each of the case studies included, and the final document will be designed and presented as a short leaflet / brochure.

## **4. Implications**

### **a) Financial Implications**

4.1. There are no direct financial implications.

### **b) Staffing Implications**

4.2. There are no direct staffing implications.

### **c) Equality and Poverty Implications**

4.3. There are no direct equality and poverty implications. However, the AMR does provide some data on the impacts on equality and poverty of our adopted planning policies.

### **d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

4.4. There are no direct environmental implications. However, the AMR does provide some data on the impacts on the environment of our adopted planning policies.

### **e) Procurement Implications**

4.5. There are no direct procurement implications.

### **f) Community Safety Implications**

4.6. There are no direct community safety implications.

## **5. Consultation and communication considerations**

5.1. Council officers and external organisations have provided information and data for the indicators included in the AMR. The final report will be published on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service website.

## **6. Background papers**

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

- 6.1. The adopted Cambridge Local Plan 2018, the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018, and the four adopted Area Action Plans for Northstowe, Cambridge East, Cambridge Southern Fringe, and North West Cambridge, and their accompanying Sustainability Appraisals are published on the Councils websites:

[www.cambridge.gov.uk/development-plan-for-cambridge](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/development-plan-for-cambridge)

[www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/)

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix A: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Greater Cambridge Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) 2020-2021 (including Appendices)

## **8. Inspection of papers**

Mark Deas, Senior Policy Planner, telephone: 07857 665001, email:

[mark.deas@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:mark.deas@greatercambridgeplanning.org)

Jenny Nuttycombe, Principal Planning Policy Officer, telephone: 07563 421032, email:

[jenny.nuttycombe@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:jenny.nuttycombe@greatercambridgeplanning.org)