



## **CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT FOR GREATER CAMBRIDGE 2021-2022**

**To:**

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Infrastructure  
Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee, 17/01/2023

**Report by:**

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**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 2021-2022 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**

2.1 The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

- a) Agree the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2021-2022 (included as Appendix A) for publication on the Councils' websites.
- b) Delegate any further minor editing changes to the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2021-2022 to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport.

## **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 2021-2022 covers the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. 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 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 include:
- The Greater Cambridge Local Plan has made good progress against the Local Development Scheme timetable. The '[First Proposals](#)' were subject to six weeks of public consultation from 1 November 2021 to 13 December 2021. A report on the consultation responses was published in June 2022. The consultation responses are being shared with councillors and discussed at a series of meetings of the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group. The North East Cambridge Area Action Plan has also progressed during the monitoring year. The [Proposed Submission NECAAP](#) was considered by councillors through a series of meetings at both Councils between November 2021 and January 2022.
  - 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.
  - Four new Neighbourhood Plans were formally made in 2021-2022: Cottenham, Histon & Impington, Foxton and Waterbeach. A further two have been made after the monitoring year (West Wickham and Gamlingay).
  - The combined annual completions in 2021-2022 for Greater Cambridge (1,828 dwellings) is higher than the average annual delivery rate required of 1,675 dwellings a year.
  - There were 506 affordable dwellings completed in Greater Cambridge. This is 28% of all completions which is similar to the plan period average of 30%. Permissions granted this year secured 40% affordable housing on eligible schemes meeting the policy requirement for both local authorities.

- In the 2021-2022 monitoring year there was a net loss of 2,119 sqm of employment floorspace in Cambridge and a net gain of 10,152 sqm in South Cambridgeshire. The largest completion was a 7,106 sqm six storey office block on Station Road, Cambridge.
  - Overall, there was a small net increase in retail space in both Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire although the city did lose some smaller units to restaurant and café uses.
  - Levels of all measured pollutants were below their respective national air quality objectives levels in 2021-2022.
  - Both Councils have policies that seek to protect and enhance priority species and habitat. These policies continued to be effective throughout the monitoring year and were strengthened by the adoption of the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document in early 2022.
  - 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.
- 3.6 The report is supplemented by two 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 and where potential issues may be arising. The appendix identifies only one red flag. This relates to policy 6 which seeks to increase retail floorspace by 14,141 square metres over the period 2011 to 2022. Changes in shopping trends mean that although there was a gross increase in retail floorspace in Cambridge, in net terms, there was a decrease of 7,642 square metres. There were also a small number of amber flags. The majority of these were concerned with allocations such as West Cambridge, Clifton Road and Mitchams Corner where schemes are still being progressed. Appendix 2 provides the detailed data behind the quantifiable indicators.

## **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) 2021-2022 (including Appendices)

## **8. Inspection of papers**

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

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