



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT FOR GREATER CAMBRIDGE 2022-2023

To:

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Infrastructure

Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee, 16/01/2024

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 2022-2023 demonstrates 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 2022-2023 (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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. 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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 include:

- The Greater Cambridge Local Plan Development Strategy Update was agreed by both Councils in early 2023. This was informed by comments made to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals (Preferred Options) consultation held in late 2021 and comprised decisions confirming: an updated need for jobs and homes; three key sites - North East Cambridge, Cambridge East, and Cambridge Biomedical Campus - as central building blocks for any development strategy; and the use of the First Proposals development strategy principles to inform identification of further sites in a full development strategy to be confirmed at a later date. However, uncertainty regarding water supply, as well as delay to the submission of the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Development Consent Order, has prevented progression of the emerging plan to the timings set out in the Local Development Scheme. A revision to the Local Development Scheme will be published in 2024.
- Three new Neighbourhood Plans were formally made in 2022-2023: West Wickham, Gamlingay and Fulbourn.
- The annual housing completions in 2022-2023 for Greater Cambridge was 2,339 dwellings. The average annual delivery rate required over the plan period 2011 to 2031 is 1,675 dwellings a year. The average annual delivery rate between 2011 and 2023 is 1,690.
- There were 794 affordable dwellings completed in Greater Cambridge in 2022-2023. This is 34% of all completions which is above the plan period average of 31%.
- In the 2022-2023 monitoring year there was a net loss of 5,698 sqm of employment floorspace in Cambridge and a net gain of 27,036 sqm in South Cambridgeshire. The largest completions were 10,974 sqm of new office and technology research facilities at land north of Melbourn Science Park and a 9,723 sqm office building at land adjacent to Cambridge North Station.
- There was a small net increase in retail space in South Cambridgeshire and an even smaller net decrease in Cambridge. The losses in Cambridge were largely due to planning permissions for a change of use from Class A1 (shops) to Class E (Commercial, Business and Service) where planning permission was required.

- Planning policies in both Council areas continue to have a positive impact on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The percentage of permissions including water efficiency and carbon reduction conditions increased significantly in 2022-2023.
 - Levels of all measured pollutants were below their respective national air quality objectives levels in 2022-2023.
 - Both Councils have policies that seek to protect and enhance priority species and habitat. These policies continued to be effective throughout the monitoring year.
 - 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 reflecting the adopted Cambridge Local Plan. 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 and Clifton Road 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 Northwest Cambridge, and their accompanying Sustainability Appraisals are published on the Councils websites:

www.cambridge.gov.uk/development-plan-for-cambridge

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) 2022-2023 (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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