

REPORT TITLE: Authority Monitoring Report, 2023-2024

To:

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure

Planning & Transportation Scrutiny Committee (14 January 2025)

Report by:

Stephen Kelly, Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

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Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Director Stephen Kelly confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Executive Councillor for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2023-2024 (included as Appendix A) for publication on the Councils' websites. 2. Delegate any further minor editing changes to the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2023-2024 to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report

2.1	<p>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 Plan Timetable (previously known as 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.</p>
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	<p>To not publish the Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge 2023-2024.</p> <p>Reason for Rejection: Government and best practice requires that local planning authorities publish an Authority Monitoring Report on an annual basis.</p>
4.	Background and key issues
4.1	<p>4.1.1 Local planning authorities are required to publish information monitoring progress of the implementation of their Local Plan Timetable 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.</p> <p>4.1.2 The AMR for Greater Cambridge 2023-2024 covers the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. 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</p>

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.

4.1.3 Authority Monitoring Reports were formerly known as Annual Monitoring Reports. They were renamed by government.

4.1.4 The AMR for Greater Cambridge 2023-2024 accompanying this report has three chapters. Chapter 1 provides some background and context. Chapter 2 includes sections on the progress against the Local Plan Timetable, 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.

4.1.5 Key findings from the AMR for Greater Cambridge 2023-2024 include:

- An addendum was added to the Local Plan Timetable in November 2024. The Addendum highlights the external factors affecting the plan-making timetables of both the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan and North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (NECAAP). It sets out a draft revised Local Plan timetable, and notes that a decision regarding the progression of the NECAAP timetable will be taken next year following the conclusion of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant (CWWTP) relocation Development Consent Order (DCO) process.
- No new Neighbourhood Plans were formally made in Cambridge in 2023-2024. There is only one Neighbourhood Plan progressing in Cambridge which is South Newnham.
- Combined annual housing completions, reflecting the joint housing trajectory of the two adopted (2018) Local Plans, in 2023-2024 for Greater Cambridge was 1,582 dwellings. Of these, 249 were delivered in Cambridge City. 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 2024 is 1,683.
- There were 523 affordable dwellings completed in Greater Cambridge in 2023-2024. This is 33% of all completions which is above the plan period average of 31%. However, only 20 of these affordable dwellings were in Cambridge. This low

figure was due to demolitions reducing the net increase, a number of Cambridge Investment Partnership schemes completing in the previous year and 'edge of Cambridge' strategic sites building new homes predominantly in South Cambridgeshire.

- In the 2023-2024 monitoring year there was a net gain of 12,569 sqm of employment floorspace in Cambridge and a net gain of 3,540 sqm in South Cambridgeshire. The largest completions were 11,286 square metres of R&D space on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and a 6,866 square metres office development on the Sawston Trade Park.
- There remain considerable commitments for employment space. In Cambridge, there is 232,331 sqm of employment space either allocated or with permission at 31 March 2024, of which, 113,784 sqm has detailed planning permission.
- There was a small net increase in retail space in South Cambridgeshire (769 sqm) and an even smaller net increase in Cambridge (69 sqm).
- Planning policies in both Council areas continue to have a positive impact on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. For example, levels of all measured pollutants were below their respective national air quality objectives levels in 2023-2024.
- Both Councils have policies that seek to protect and enhance priority species and habitat. These policies continued to be effective throughout the monitoring year. Two new County Wildlife Sites and one new City Wildlife Site were selected in 2023-2024.
- There have been no significant changes to the number of listed buildings 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. Life expectancy exceeds the national average for men and women in both Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

4.1.6 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

	<p>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. However, dramatic 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 7,707 square metres. There were also a small number of amber flags. The majority of these were concerned with the progress of allocations such as West Cambridge and Clifton Road where schemes are still being progressed. Appendix 2 provides the detailed data behind the quantifiable indicators.</p>
	<p>Corporate plan</p>
5.1	<p>The AMR reports on the impact of our planning policies across a number of corporate plan priorities.</p> <p>The AMR supports 'Priority 1: Leading Cambridge's response to the climate change and biodiversity emergencies' by monitoring a range of indicators on carbon dioxide emissions, renewable energy, sustainable design and construction, flood risk, water quality and resources, and air quality.</p> <p>The AMR supports 'Priority 2: Tackling poverty and inequality and helping people in the greatest need' by monitoring a range of indicators on health, well-being and inclusive communities.</p> <p>The AMR supports 'Priority 3: Building a new generation of council and affordable homes and reducing homelessness' by monitoring a range of indicators on affordable housing.</p>
6.	<p>Consultation, engagement and communication</p>
6.1	<p>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.</p>
7.	<p>Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact</p>

7.1	<p>The publication of the AMR will meet a legal requirement.</p> <p>The AMR 2023-2024 demonstrates planning policies continue to have a positive impact on the sustainable development of Greater Cambridge and the quality of life of its residents.</p> <p>The findings will also feed into the development of the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan.</p>
8.	Implications
8.1	Relevant risks
	There are no potential risks in publishing this report. It is a monitoring report assessing the impact of planning policies in development plan documents and progress against the Local Plan Timetable.
	Financial Implications
8.2	There are no direct financial implications.
	Legal Implications
8.3	There are no legal implications (assuming the report is published).
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.4	There are no direct equality and socio-economic implications. However, the AMR does provide some data on the impacts on equality and socio-economics of our adopted planning policies.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications

8.5	There are no direct environmental implications. However, the AMR does provide some data on the impacts on the environment of our adopted planning policies.
	Procurement Implications
8.6	There are no direct procurement implications.
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	There are no direct community safety implications.
9.	Background documents
9.1	<p>Background papers used in the preparation of this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website: <p>Current plans and guidance</p>
10.	Appendices
10.1	Appendix A: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Greater Cambridge Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) 2023-2024 (including Appendices)
	<p>To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact</p> <p>Mark Deas, Senior Policy Planner, telephone 01954 713284, email: mark.deas@greatercambridgeplanning.org</p>