

Public Question:

First asked at the meeting at the Performance, Assets, Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, November meeting, 4/11/25, 5:30pm.

Please could the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service consider commissioning an academic who has researched neuroarchitecture at the University of Cambridge and how building facades impact the physical and mental health of people who live and work in the built environments of such places. (See <https://www.ribaj.com/products/facade-design-psychology-neuroscience> as an example).

Please also invite Humanise at <https://humanise.org/> (working in a similar field) to submit evidence on their research and how it might apply to a growing Cambridge.

Given the pioneering research they are doing in the growing sphere of neuroarchitecture, I believe having evidence bases them would have a positive impact on the development of the emerging Local Plan and result in new buildings, developments, and urban spaces that were less mentally harmful than the ones constructed in recent years.

Supplementary Question

The question basically picks up on a whole series of new research that was coming out of the pioneering field of neuroarchitecture.

Concerned that the documentation contains little reference to recent findings on the mental and visual distress caused by contemporary architecture in Cambridge. Research now demonstrates that scientists can measure changes in brain activity and chemistry in response to these environments, highlighting their impact on well-being.

A recent presentation given in Seoul at the end of September highlighted the following:

1. People with neurodiverse dispositions were visually more likely to be mentally and visually distressed by being in these sorts of built environments.
2. There were now case studies where architectural firms were getting complaints from their clients because the staff of the clients were refusing to work in these new spaces, as they were causing migraines, headaches and quite dangerous for people with epilepsy.

The risk for Cambridge is that we start building all these new buildings, homes and offices and end up again creating extra cost and extra work for the Council and for industry because buildings were being designed and built that were making people ill.

Given the research, especially that some of the research had come from the University based in our city, this should be looked at.