

Annual Report 2025/26 and State of the City Report 2025/26

To:

Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Leader of the Council

Cabinet, 23 September 2026

Report by:

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Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Chief Executive Robert Pollock 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 Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	It is recommended that Cabinet notes the Annual Report 2025/26 and the State of the City report 2025/26.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Report and State of the City Report to Cabinet for information.
3.	Background - Annual report 2025/26
3.1	In previous years the Council has published an annual report to provide an update on key achievements in relation to its strategic priorities. The most recent Annual Report covered the 2023/24 period and was organised around the 3 priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027.
3.2	The 2025/26 Annual Report provides a concise summary of key achievements and is organised around the 6 themes in the Council's vision. It is intended to be more succinct

	and accessible than previous reports. It highlights key achievements across a range of teams, but it does not provide an exhaustive list of services and projects delivered by the Council last year.
4.	Background - State of the City Report 2025/26
4.1	The State of the City report provides a data-led overview of what Cambridge is like economically, socially, and environmentally. It aims to provide an evidence base to enable the council, local communities, partners, and other stakeholders to have meaningful, data-informed discussions about key trends affecting the future of Cambridge.
4.2	The original State of the City report was produced for the Council in 2023 by Cambridge Econometrics with funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). Council officers have published an annual update on the State of the City metrics for 2023/24 and 2024/25 . This report provides an update for 2025/26.
4.3	The data in the State of the City report and subsequent updates is drawn from publicly available data sources and includes national averages and data for other cities in England and Wales for comparison with Cambridge data.
4.4	While the 2025/26 report provides an update on many of the State of the City metrics, it should be noted that it has not been possible to update some metrics because 2025/26 data has not been published yet by ONS and other data owners. These metrics are identified in the report.
5.	Corporate plan
5.1	The Annual Report provides an update on key achievements during 2025/26 in relation to the Council's strategic priorities. The information in the report is organised around the 6 themes in the Council's Vision rather than the Corporate Plan priorities.
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	Consultation has not been carried out in relation to the Annual Report or State of the City report. Both reports will be published on the Council website and the State of the City report will be shared with partner organisations.

7.	Implications
	Relevant risks
7.1	There are no risks associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report.
	Financial Implications
7.2	There are no direct financial implications associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report
	Legal Implications
7.3	There are no direct legal implications associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
7.4	There are no direct equalities or socio-economic implications from these reports. The Annual Report provides examples of activity that has contributed to the Council's vision, including thriving and empowered communities, shared prosperity and greater equality in health and educational outcomes. The State of the City report provides updated data for 2025/26 on a range of measures of wellbeing, prosperity and social equity.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
7.5	There are no direct net zero, climate change or environmental impacts from these reports. The Annual Report provides examples of activity that has contributed to the Council's vision, including decarbonisation, biodiversity and sustainable development. The State of the City report provides updated data for 2025/26 on a range of environmental measures, including greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, sustainable travel, air and water quality, recycling and waste.
	Procurement Implications
7.6	There are no direct procurement implications associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report.
	Community Safety Implications

7.7	There are no direct community safety implications associated with the Annual Report or State of the City report. The Annual Report refers to key achievements in relation to anti-social behaviour and public realm enforcement. The State of the City report includes updated data for 2025/26 on crime and reoffending rates.
9.	Background documents
9.1	- Cambridge City Portrait: State of the City 2023: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/12916/state-of-the-city-report-2023.pdf - State of the City Annual Report 2024: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/jdpempkq/state-of-the-city-2024-update.pdf - State of the City Annual Report 2025: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/be1ds2kz/state-of-the-city-2025-update.pdf
10.	Appendices
10.1	- Appendix 1 – Annual Report 2025/26 - Appendix 2 – State of the City report 2025/26
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact David Kidston, Head of Strategy and Policy, tel: 01223 457043, email: david.kidston@cambridge.gov.uk