

**Cambridge City Council
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Final DRAFT 14

**Planning and Sustainable Transport
Portfolio Plan 2012-13**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Tim Ward

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Introduction

The planning and sustainable transport portfolio impacts on all parts of the high level 'people, place and planet' objectives of the Council. This portfolio supports the development of the council's future vision for the sub-region and the city as well as protecting the built and natural assets that contribute to the high quality of life that is enjoyed by our local communities. It supports the delivery of already planned new neighbourhoods and planning for the future shape and functions of the City to 2031. This portfolio looks to deliver well-designed, sustainable and accessible new development and to positively influence carbon reduction through the planning process, through building construction and through council promoted and sponsored transport initiatives.

Context:

This portfolio plan is being developed at a time of major change in local government and particularly the planning system. The Coalition Government is developing its new policy programme with a fresh emphasis on growth and localism and budget deficit reduction measures arising from the Comprehensive Spending Review. This will present a number of important opportunities as well as challenges during 2012 - 13, which is set to be a year of transition and consolidation:

- The planning authorities across the county are developing a co-operative approach to planning for the Cambridge sub-region following the abolition of regional spatial strategies and the winding-up of Cambridgeshire Horizons.
- Locally, the joint review of the Cambridge Local Plan and the South Cambridgeshire Core strategy is being carried out in parallel and with support from the County Council as the strategic transport authority. The development of a new spatial vision for the City and its fringes to 2031 will be a key priority for the planning service.

- The introduction of neighbourhood planning and Community Infrastructure Levy will mean changes to the way that planning policy is developed and new development delivered in the city. Engagement and involvement of communities in the review of the local plan will be fundamental.
- The establishment of the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership has taken place and the focus on economic development and promotion of infrastructure investment will be key in planning for the sub-region and locally in supporting the special role and contribution of Cambridge to the region's economy.
- The ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the planning service restructure will ensure continuous improvement in the way that the planning service responds to the needs of customers and users;

The following service areas will contribute to the achievement of this Plan's Objectives:

- Planning Services;
- Streets and Open Spaces; and
- Specialist Services

This portfolio also includes the development, implementation and monitoring of the Council's plans, policies and strategies relating to: strategic planning, land use planning, conservation and urban design; sustainability; transport; economic development and employment opportunities and parking.

Vision Statements applicable to this portfolio

Council Vision

The Council's eight corporate vision statements were reiterated as part of the [2011 Annual Statement](#) and provide the context for the Council's work.

The first and fifth vision statements have recently been revised to emphasise the Council's intention to support disadvantaged residents, and to recognise the broad base of Cambridge's economic growth.

So, "A city which is diverse and tolerant, values activities which bring people together and where everyone feels they have a stake in the community" becomes "**A city which celebrates its diversity, unites in its priority for the disadvantaged and strives for shared community wellbeing**"; and "a city with a thriving knowledge-based economy that benefits the whole community and builds on its reputation as a global hub of ideas and learning" becomes "**A city with a thriving local economy that benefits the whole community and builds on its global pre-eminence in learning and discovery**".

The planning and sustainable transport portfolio impacts on all parts of the high level 'people, place and planet' objectives of the Council.

Cambridge – where people matter

A city which celebrates its diversity, unites in its priority for the disadvantaged and strives for shared community wellbeing

A city whose citizens feel they can influence public decision making and are equally keen to pursue individual and community initiatives

A city where people behave with consideration for others and where harm and nuisance are confronted wherever possible without constraining the lives of all

Cambridge – a good place to live, learn and work

A city which recognises and meets needs for housing of all kinds – close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities

A city which draws inspiration from its iconic historic centre and achieves a sense of place in all of its parts with generous urban open spaces and well- designed buildings

A city with a thriving local economy that benefits the whole community and builds on its global pre-eminence in learning and discovery

A city where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot

Cambridge – caring for the planet

A city in the forefront of low carbon living and minimising its impact on the environment from waste and pollution

Strategic Objectives 2012-2013

Vision Statement:	All vision statements apply
Strategic Objective PST1:	To have made progress on developing a new spatial vision for Cambridge to 2031 specifically by progressing the formal review of the Cambridge Local Plan 2031 through the exploration of Issues and Options and to have a new draft local plan ready for consultation
By March 2013 we will have:	<p>PST1.1 Consulted on the issues and options stages of the new local plan review and have developed the submission version plan consistent with current legislation and national planning policy and guidance. The new plan to develop policies that protect the character of the city and make provision for housing and jobs with all necessary infrastructure.</p> <p>PST 1.2 Taken a lead role under the duty to co-operate in the delivery of the emerging strategic planning function at the sub-regional level and in the ongoing working arrangements with the Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>PST1.3 Worked jointly with the County and South Cambridgeshire on the review of the local plan and review of their LDF Core Strategy</p> <p>PST1.4 Delivered ongoing the statutory planning function and growth commitments in accordance with the existing local plan (2006), to agreed time and quality of outcome (e.g. by application and use of relevant charters, design codes and standards). Ensured ongoing review of quality outcomes and emphasis on design quality through involvement of Cambridgeshire Quality Panel, Design and Conservation Panel and annual post-hoc development review by the Planning,</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Area and Joint Committees</p> <p>PST1.5 Implemented principles of the Localism agenda relating to community engagement in the development plan process and the neighbourhood planning responsibilities</p> <p>PST1.6 Built upon the earlier review and restructure of the planning service, further improving performance and efficiency.</p>
Lead Officer:	Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Services.
Performance Measures:	<p>Whether the local plan review is carried out in accordance with agreed milestones and timetable, as covered in the council's 'Annual Monitoring Report' (AMR) every December.</p> <p>That the quality of new development meets with the council's expectations. This is reviewed by post hoc assessment by the planning committees (Main Planning Committee and Joint Development Control) on an annual inspection of new development.</p>
Delivery Risks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Availability of resources 2. Uncertainty around legislative changes

Vision Statements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A city which recognises and meets needs for housing of all kinds – close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities • A city which draws inspiration from its iconic historic centre and achieves a sense of place in all of its parts with generous urban open spaces and well-designed buildings • A city with a thriving local economy that benefits the whole community and builds on its global pre-eminence in learning and discovery • A city where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot
Strategic Objective PST2:	To protect and enhance the unique character of the city and to safeguard the quality of green spaces and trees through the planning and delivery of high quality and sustainable new developments.
By March 2013 we will have:	<p>PST2.1 Worked closely with developers and other stakeholders to ensure that new development is of a high design quality and environmental sustainability and contributes positively to the character of the built and green space of the city.</p> <p>PST2.2 Completed a range of public art projects across the City. Approved the Public Art Commissioning Strategy and devolved some decision making for public art projects down to area committees.</p> <p>PST2.3 Developed and adopted a tree strategy, in consultation with key stakeholders, that sets out the council's overarching policy for trees within the city and how they will be preserved for future generations.</p>

	PST2.4 Ensured that the planning enforcement function is more responsive (meeting reasonable expectations of those making complaints), more visible and that enforcement activities are given a higher priority by the planning service.
Lead Officer:	Patsy Dell, Head of Planning (PST2.1 and 2.4) Toni Ainley, Head of Streets and Open Spaces (PST 2.2, 2.3)
Performance Measures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whether or not physical changes to the built environment and open spaces within and on the edge of the city will protect and enhance the character of the city by being in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High quality design of new neighbourhoods in accordance with best practice and agreed design standards. - Tree Strategy developed and adopted following best practice in consultation with stakeholders. - Further development and delivery of a proactive Conservation Area Programme. 2. Approval of Public Art Commissioning Strategy and agreement to a process whereby scheme oversight, commissioning and funding is devolved to the Area Committees. 3. Planning Enforcement team fully staffed, planning enforcement policy updated and approved, planning enforcement performance measures introduced and regular monitoring/reporting of these implemented.
Delivery Risks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Availability of funding; 2. Support of other partners, including County & District councils.

Vision Statement:	A city at the forefront of low carbon living and minimising its impact on the environment from waste and pollution.
Strategic Objective PST3:	To deliver new low carbon, high quality and sustainable neighbourhoods
By March 2013 we will have:	PST3.1 Worked with developers to ensure that new developments allow local communities to achieve high standards of sustainability and minimise their carbon emissions. New homes on the fringe sites will be built at code level 4 and above of the code for sustainable homes.
Lead Officer:	Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Service (3.1)
Performance Measures:	1. Maximise the number of new dwellings being built to level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.
Delivery Risks:	1. Viability constraints in delivering new development 2. Complexity / constraints of Government climate change funding regimes and initiatives.

Strategic Objective PST4:	<p>To work with partners, businesses and transport operators to improve accessibility within the city, including the new neighbourhoods, to promote and support convenient and safe movement by foot, cycle and public transport by taking advantage of opportunities such as Local Sustainable Transport fund. To secure the implementation of new 20mph zones in residential areas and local centres across the city.</p>
By March 2013 we will have:	<p>PST4.1 Delivered new transport measures and actions to improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users, including in the new developments through (for instance) provision of guidance and advice to developers on cycling.</p> <p>PST4.2 Contributed to the review of area transport plans and proposed projects for investment, supporting the local process of bidding to relevant funding sources including the Regional Growth Fund and Local Sustainable Transport Fund.</p> <p>PST4.3 Promoted the options of devolving decision making on local transport and improvement schemes to area committees. Using this approach where it is within the City's remit to determine.</p> <p>PST4.4 Promoted the delivery of additional new 20mph zones across the City with partners or by commissioning them directly in order to reduce traffic speeds, increasing road safety for all users and facilitating increased use of alternative modes of travel.</p>

	PST 4.5 Undertaken a review of Community and Public Transport support and operations in order to deliver value for money and support access to and use of public transport for users where this might not otherwise be available.
Lead Officer:	Patsy Dell, Head of Planning Service (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5) Toni Ainley, Head of Streets and Open Spaces (4.1)
Performance Measures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of completed transport related schemes delivered by the City Council. 2. Increased number of bus passengers against base figure through the subsidies we provide. 3. Supported increased number of people cycling or walking to work in the City against base figure (From Travel to Work Survey 2011) through measures in new development 4. Increased the coverage of 20mph zones across the City from the 2011 base.
Delivery Risks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk of lack of agreement with partners 2. Lack of funding to deliver schemes.