

**CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSAL D  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

**The Sustainable Communities Act proposal form**

**Using this form**

This form should be used to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act to the LGA for short listing. Please complete all sections and then email a copy to [selector@lga.gov.uk](mailto:selector@lga.gov.uk) . These must be received by July 31st 2009, and you will receive confirmation that the form has been received. Please note that mail administrators may have restrictions on the size of email able to be sent and received. We are unable to accept anything over and above 10mb in size. Please also use this email address to request copies of this form in a different format

Once submitted, information within this form may be made publicly available, unless you request for it to be kept private. We will treat information submitted sensitively.

We are able to accept information in addition to the form if it directly relates to the proposal, however we would encourage information to be included where possible within the confines of the form. If you wish to attach any relevant presentations or graphs etc. please attach them separately to the email - noting the 10mb size restriction we have on receiving emails.

For questions regarding the act or the role of the Selector, please see our [FAQs](#) . Any further questions can be directed to [selector@lga.gov.uk](mailto:selector@lga.gov.uk) .

**Section 1: Proposal Summary**

**Proposing Authority**

Under the terms of the Sustainable Communities Act, all proposals must be submitted by a local authority, or group of authorities, in England. Any group, organisation or individual may originate or develop a proposal. However all proposals will require Local Authority endorsement and submission to the Selector.

Parish councils and other organisations and agencies must seek support and formal endorsement from a proposing local authority (defined in the Act as county councils, district councils (including metropolitan, non metropolitan and unitary authorities), the common council of the city of London or the Council of the Isles of Scilly).

**1.1 Lead Authority name**

**Cambridge City Council**

**1.2 Is this proposal submitted by this authority alone, or is it a joint proposal with other local authorities? (If joint please list authorities)**

**This is a Cambridge City Council proposal**

**1.3 Who is the lead contact (s) in the authority for this proposal? Please provide email address and telephone number - The LGA will direct any enquiries to this contact.**

**Trevor Woollams, Head of Strategy and Partnerships. [Trevor.woollams@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Trevor.woollams@cambridge.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01223 457061**

## Supporting Organisations

Whilst proposals may only be submitted by a local authority, we acknowledge that local partners and outside organisations may wish to register support for the proposal. This is entirely voluntary.

**1.4 Please provide details below of supporting organisations to your proposal.** Please explain if the organisation is a charity, company, unincorporated association or other body. If a charity or company please provide registration numbers. If a local partnership please explain the relationship to the Local Strategic Partnership for the area.

- \* Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership
- \* Community groups and local organisations who were represented on our Panel and who recommended the proposal to our Council. These are listed at 3.1 below. They are a selection of local unincorporated associations and local groups, some aligned to national charities and lobby groups.

## Summary of your proposal

Please summarise your proposal. You may wish to include:

- The main elements of your proposal
- What issues your proposal is addressing and how it will promote the sustainability of the local community
- Who is affected by this proposal and how?
- Which public bodies might be affected?
- What are the main actions needed from Government?
- What do you expect this proposal to achieve?

**1.5 Please enter your summary below** (*word limit 1000 words*)

### **PROPOSAL D. Energy Efficiency**

The City Council urges government to act quickly to:

- a) Make it much easier to introduce renewable energy schemes.
- b) Legislate to require high energy efficiency standards for ALL new buildings before 2016.

The City Council wants government to remove or relax existing barriers to the introduction of renewable energy schemes. Such measures may include:

- \* changes to taxation to make renewable energy schemes more viable
- \* a more pro-active approach to national planning guidance to give potential investors more certainty about the implementation of renewable energy schemes.

The Panel of Representatives of Local Persons did not want this proposal to be prescriptive. They have set a clear objective and ask government to use their judgement as to the most effective way of achieving it. The City Council endorse this approach.

\* The Panel and the City Council note that new Building Regulations are anticipated in 2016 which will require new housing to be carbon neutral (equivalent in terms of energy requirement to Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes). However, we want to see such regulations introduced nationally without further delay, requiring ALL new buildings to be built to Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. We consider the impact of climate change to be very serious and we consider that any delay in implementing these regulations will have a detrimental affect on the sustainability of our City and our country.

## Section 2: About your proposal

The form asks a set of questions to gather as much information as possible to allow for assessment and short-listing by the Selector. A word-limit is stated for each part of the form.

We appreciate that SCA proposals will vary in range and scope, and some questions will be more relevant than others for any one proposal. Please do not feel that answers are required for every question or that the full word limit need be used in respect of each and every question box. If you are submitting a joint proposal, please include evidence for all areas.

### **Impact on sustainability** *(word limit 2000 words)*

#### **2.1 Please explain how your proposal promotes sustainability as defined locally (for example in your Sustainable Communities Strategy or LAA)**

The Cambridge Sustainable Community Strategy was developed with partners through consultation with our residents. It has 3 priority areas:

- \* Tackling Climate Change
- \* Building Sustainable Communities
- \* Ensuring Strong and Inclusive Communities

This proposal, if fully implemented, will have a major positive impact in terms of taking forward all 3 priorities set out in the strategy for the reasons set out in 1.5 above.

The Cambridgeshire Vision, which informed our Local Area Agreement, has 5 key goals:

- \* Economic prosperity
- \* Environmental sustainability
- \* Safer and stronger communities
- \* Accommodating growth
- \* Equality and inclusion

This proposal, if fully implemented, will have a positive impact on all 5 goals. Unless we move to more sustainable forms of construction as soon as possible growth will not be sustainable.

**2.2 Over which geographic area will your proposal impact? (e.g. neighbourhood, town, city, sub-region)?**

This proposal will promote and improve sustainability at a national level.

**2.3 Who would benefit from your proposal?**

There would be significant benefits for all residents within England

**2.4 What steps will you take to mitigate any adverse affects on sustainability from your proposal (if relevant)?**

The City Council does not consider there are any adverse affects on sustainability from this proposal. Any increased costs in terms of construction should be outweighed by longer term gains in energy costs such as heating and lighting.

**2.5 What project, activities and changes would take place in your area if your proposal was successful?**

Cambridge City Council would be able to ensure that the planned 40% growth within Cambridge over the next 15 years is sustainable and that the effects of climate change are minimised.

**2.6 Does your proposal involve transfers of responsibilities between public bodies in the area? If so what are these? What budgetary implications might be involved?**

No

Local authorities are required to 'have regard' to a set of specific issues when deciding whether to support SCA proposals. These are matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act, as passed by Parliament<sup>1</sup>. It is worth noting that the issues listed in the Act are not supposed to be exhaustive and that ideas can cover anything that promotes the sustainability of the local area.

Many of these matters may not be relevant to any one proposal. If you are submitting a joint proposal please include evidence for all areas.

**2.7 Please identify which, if any, of the issues authorities are required to have regard to, are relevant to this proposal and include any data and information which you feel would be helpful in the assessment process.**

- a) the provision of local services
- b) the extent to which the volume and value of goods and services that are- i) offered for sale, ii) procured by public bodies, and are produced within 30 miles (or any lesser distance as may be specified by a local authority in respect of its area) of their place of sale of the boundary of the public body.

<sup>1</sup> The Sustainable Communities Act is available here :  
[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga\\_20070023\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga_20070023_en_1)

More sustainable building will facilitate growth and sustain local jobs

c) the rate of increase in the growth and marketing of organic forms of food production and the local economy

as above

d) measures to promote reasonable access by all local people to a supply of food is adequate in terms of both amount and nutritional value

e) the number of local jobs

More sustainable building options will facilitate growth and sustain local jobs

f) measures to conserve energy and increase the quantity of energy supplies which are produced from sustainable sources within a 30 mile radius of the region in which they are consumed

New legislation to promote renewable energy production will increase the quantity of local energy supplies which are produced from sustainable energy sources.

Sustainable building options will conserve energy in the short, medium and longer term.

g) measures taken to reduce the level of road traffic including, but not restricted to, local public transport provision, measures to promote walking and cycling and measures to decrease the amount of product miles

h) the increase in social inclusion, including an increase in involvement in local democracy

i) measures to increase mutual aid and other community projects

j) measures designed to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases

This proposal will significantly reduce greenhouse gases.

k) measures designed to increase community health and wellbeing

Sustainable building to Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes will result in lower fuel bills.

l) planning policies which would assist with the purposes of this Act, including new arrangements for the provision of affordable housing

New Building Regulations are required to require all new buildings to be built to the equivalent standards of the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 6

- m) measures to increase the use of local waste materials for the benefit of the community

### Existing Barriers

*(Please do not write more than 1000 words for 2.8 and 2.9)*

#### 2.8 What are the existing barriers to implementing your proposal?

Cambridge City Council does not have powers to relax national policy or guidance to make it much easier to introduce renewable energy schemes and the Council can not require all new buildings to be built to the equivalent of Code Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

#### 2.9 What actions are needed by Government to make your proposal possible?

The government needs to:

- a) Relax national policy or guidance to make it much easier to introduce renewable energy schemes
- b) Immediately introduce new Building Regulations requiring ALL new buildings to be built to the equivalent of Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

## Part 3: Local Authority Endorsement

This section should be completed by the proposing local authority. (Under the terms of the act this means a county council in England, a district council (including metropolitan, non metropolitan and unitary authorities), a London borough council, the Common Council of the City of London or the Council of the isles of Scilly)

#### 3.1 Have consultation requirements been met? (500 words max)

Please confirm that your authority has met the statutory requirements for consultation on this proposal, via one or more panels of local representatives and persons from under-represented groups constituted in accordance with the Act and statutory guidance as set out in [Strong Safe and Prosperous Communities](#).

You may wish to describe who has been involved in discussions and development of the proposal *(e.g. council, local community organisations and residents groups, parish or town councils, local partnership bodies, local or national organisations, political parties, church and faith organisations, local businesses or chambers of commerce and others.*

If you have not done so already please give brief details of relevant panel meetings.

Please note if you are submitting a joint application please provide details of consultation and local support across all areas.

The process we used was agreed by the Cambridge LSP in January 2009. The process was very much 'bottom up' with all the ideas and eventual proposals coming from the communities themselves.

The City Council held a community consultation event on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009 where community groups were invited to present ideas that would help to improve the sustainability of Cambridge. This event was well publicised through the LSP, Council for Voluntary Services, community groups grant aided by the City Council and tenants and residents groups.

Around 40 people attended the event which was chaired by the Council's Leader, Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith. A short presentation was given to outline the aims of the Sustainable Communities Act but more emphasis was put on encouraging ideas. 3 big posters were placed on the walls, each on having a theme from the City's Sustainable Community Strategy:

- \* Tackling Climate Change
- \* Building Sustainable Communities
- \* Ensuring Strong and Inclusive Communities

Participants wrote their ideas on coloured post-it notes and stuck these on the most appropriate poster. Similar ideas were grouped together. Participants were then given 10 sticky 'voting' dots and they stuck these against their favourite ideas. They were able to stick all 10 against their top favourite or spread them over a number of ideas.

Before they left the event, people were asked to register their interest in becoming a member of our 'Panel of Representatives of Local Persons'

The outcome of this event was reported to the City Council's Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Councillors agreed that 4 of the ideas should be considered by our Panel but that the Panel should be given the freedom to consider some of the other ideas if they wished.

Our main panel comprised 15 members from the following groups:

Cambridge Campaign for Better Transport  
Cambridge Carbon Footprint  
Cambridge Cycling Campaign  
Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum  
Cambridge Federation of Tenants, leaseholders and Residents  
Cambridge Older Persons Enterprise  
Cambridge Transition Town  
Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age  
Camsight  
Cambridge Polish Community  
Living Streets  
Hawkins Road and Campkin Road Residents Association  
Trumpington Residents Association

Our main Panel met twice in late April. Because we did not manage to recruit a 'Business Representative' we undertook to consult LSP members (including the Chamber of

Commerce), Love Cambridge (our City Centre Management Company) and Cambridge Independent Traders on the Panel's recommendations.

We ran a Young People's Panel in May with a group of 9 young people aged 11 to 18 who considered the recommendations from the main Panel. We kept the local County and District Councils informed of progress throughout the process. We also formally consulted the County Council about the Panel's recommendations. The County Council Cabinet considered them on 7<sup>th</sup> July. The report and Cabinet decision can be seen at: <http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/db/council2.nsf/af8076762df199c580256b14003ef043/55b20edc800a6668802575e10046470f?OpenDocument>

The Panel recommended 4 proposals to the Council including this one. The proposals were considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> June alongside written submissions from Love Cambridge members and the County Council. 2 members of the Panel attended the meeting to support the recommendations.

The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the recommendations and the Leader of the Council formally agreed that the 4 proposals should be submitted.

The scrutiny committee reports explain the process in more detail and describe the many groups involved in this process. They can be viewed at:

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/agenda/2009/0316sr/00.pdf> see item 14

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/agenda/2009/0629sr/00.pdf> see item 14

The minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> June meeting containing the formal decision of the Leader of the Council can be viewed here:

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/minutes/2009/0629SR.pdf> see page 13

**3.2 What are the views from this consultation? You may wish to provide evidence of local support for your proposal?** This might include petitions or letters of support from the public, local councillors, Members of Parliament, businesses, public bodies and agencies? Please describe this evidence below. *(The local authority submitting the proposal is likely to wish to review such material and to summarise its content. Onward submission to the Selector of all original documentation will not normally be required).*

Detailed information from our consultations can be viewed at the above links.

#### Community Event attended by 40 people

- \* 150 initial ideas generated at the start of the process.
- \* Strong support for the process – some wanted to join our panel

#### Main Panel

- \* Recommended 4 proposals to the Council
- \* 2 panel members attended the Council's scrutiny committee to lend support

#### Young People's Panel

- \* Fully supported all 4 proposals

#### Cambridgeshire County Council

Fully supports this proposal

#### Love Cambridge

\* Concerned that there was no business representation on the panel but appreciated being given the opportunity to comment on the Panel's recommendations.

Stagecoach Cambridgeshire

\* Did not comment on this proposal

John Lewis Cambridge

\* Has concerns with the balance of local versus corporate responsibility in the context of the Act.

\* need to understand how local authorities across the country can support this broad agenda without derailing elements that are common to a national organisation.

\* It would be extremely difficult if a retailer trading in many cities and counties was faced with disparate proposals driven by local authorities.

\* No specific comments on this proposal.

Proposals may include a change/transfer of functions from one person to another. If this is relevant to your proposal please confirm that the duties under clause 2, subsection 3 of the act (consulting with organisations affected by a change in location of a function) have been carried out.

**3.3 Please give brief details of consultation with any affected organisations**

Not relevant

**3.4 Confirmation of council support**

The process for formal endorsement is a matter for local discretion; however we anticipate that authorities will wish to gain political endorsement and clearance for the proposal through the relevant processes at local level. Please give details of how formal approval has been attained.

By the Leader of the City Council in his role as Executive Councillor for Strategy, following scrutiny by the Council's Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/minutes/2009/0629SR.pdf> see page 13 for formal minute of decision.

**3.5 General comments**

This is an opportunity for the local authority to express any additional comments or views on the proposal: This may include: (1500 words max)

- the council's view of levels of local support for the proposal
- any local opposition or objections that the Selector should be aware of
- relevance of the proposal to the area's Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
- outcome of any local authority discussions with agencies or public bodies affected
- potential regional/national significance of the proposal, if replicated elsewhere
- any major resource implications for the council or its local partners
- any other factors influencing viability and achievability of the proposal

This proposal received unanimous support from our Panels, the County Council's Cabinet and City Council Members

#### **Part 4: Assessment by the Selector**

SCA proposals will be assessed by the LGA as Selector. This will include consideration, short listing and negotiation with the Secretary of State via the LGA Selector panel made up of councillors from the four parties represented on the LGA

The LGA Selector Panel is committed to undertaking the role in a transparent manner; as such reasons for decisions on proposals will be made available.

There will be no appeals process in relation to decisions of the Selector Panel.

##### **4.1 Do you confirm your agreement to abide by the outcome of the Selector's assessment and decision-making processes?**

Yes

##### **4.2 Would your council, accompanied by the originators of the proposal, wish to make a short verbal presentation to the Selector Panel, should this opportunity be available?**

Yes

**Thank you for completing this form.**

**Please email it to [selector@lga.gov.uk](mailto:selector@lga.gov.uk) by 31 July 2009.**