

Questions From Residents Association Forum

4 November 2021

Responses to questions not addressed during the meeting.

Further to our question at the last meeting, will you confirm that the only control on jobs growth is the market's ability to deliver on the "large supply" of land that is already available - 135 hectares - plus new land proposed in "First Proposals"? If so, what control do you intend to introduce given market driven growth could far exceed the 58,500 new jobs forecast between 2020 and 2040 so that even more new homes are required than the 44,400 planned by 2040?

This question was answered live.

If the government sets a minimum have they considered our water shortage? I know that the local planners are aware of it but can we, locally, set limits on the development in line with the water supply?

This question was answered live.

Why is this presented as providing more housing when the growth in jobs and extra people will be a lot more than the increase in housing? Why is there a "need" for this growth when the government wants to level up the north?

This question was answered live.

How many local residents are on the housing waiting list and does a " local plan " ensure that the housing being built will ensure that they have a home rather than keep using the term affordable homes.

This question was answered live.

Is there any hope at all of public transport run by local government rather than staying dependant on the private sector which doesn't profit from serving wide areas and late night service?

RESPONSE: These are issues for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, and the Local Transport Plan. They have recently published a Bus Service Improvement Plan for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough October 2021.

Do the two councils see a reasonable limit to Cambridge city edge development given the unsustainable damage to Cambridge's "special character" of significant incursions into the Green Belt already envisaged in First Proposals up to 2040 such as the surrounding of White Hill by Cambridge Biomedical Campus development, and beyond that after 2040? Does minimizing carbon emissions trump the Green Belt and its quality of life?

This question was answered live.

What consideration is being given to the disruption of communities when new developments are suddenly included. There is a risk of community disintegration

RESPONSE: The wellbeing and social inclusion section of the consultation explore these issues, including considering what meanwhile uses may be needed to help meet the needs generated by new developments in their early stages.

How do you define an increase in biodiversity?

RESPONSE: In technical terms, biodiversity net gain is measured using a specific metric, established by the government via DEFRA.

The claim is that all these new homes are needed for jobs, what is the current unemployment levels in Cambridge and S Cambs?

RESPONSE: The Sustainability Appraisal accompanying the plan (available in the document library) includes baseline information, and on unemployment it states, 'Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cambridge city had a low unemployment rate of 2.9% (compared to the national average of 3.4%). This has increased since March 2020, with unemployment standing at 4.1% (compared to the national average of 4.6%). In comparison, South Cambridgeshire has a higher unemployment rate of 3.4%, however as with Cambridge city, this is lower than the national average of 4.6%.'

Electric car charging points will be very difficult to install in the city centre particularly in Victorian House areas. Will the chargers be fast enough so that anyone living in those areas can actually run an electric car?

RESPONSE: Parking and electric vehicles is explored in the infrastructure theme of the consultation, where proposals would seek to ensure charging opportunities are included in the developments. Providing charging for existing areas will be an important issue, and there are innovative solutions available, such as including charging points in lamp posts.

Water supply is one issue -what plans have been made to deal with the sewage?

RESPONSE: Dealing with waste water is addressed by the Integrated Water Management Strategy, available in the document library. A significant part of the solution lies in the proposals for a new water treatment works north of Cambridge, which is planned to provide additional capacity.

How does our local plan fit in with the govts pledge to levelling up because it appears we will need to bring people down from the North to fill these jobs. Have we actually identified who will be providing these 58,000 jobs.

This question was answered live.

What can actually change as a result of the consultation? Clearly not the scale of growth or the development sites. What has changed as a result of the consultation so far?

This question was answered live.

Please also see the response provided to 'How does the consultation feedback influence the Plan?' in the existing [Local Plan FAQ](#).

Have you encouraged the Biomedical Campus to search the 135 hectares of land already available for employment growth for suitable sites? Some of this land is accessible to the Campus. As far as we know, the Campus has not done this yet?

This question was answered live.

Question about CPIER strategy and modelling please clarify where funding for this came from?

RESPONSE: Details of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER) can be found on their [website](#).

Can you clarify where the funding for the modelling for the local plan came from given the focus on jobs?

RESPONSE: The Councils commissioned the Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study, available in the document library, which draws on a range of modelling sources and data to inform its recommendations.

The evidenced case for co-location and agglomeration is not strong. It is strongly asserted but not evidenced. Has the evidence been tested?

RESPONSE: The Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study, available in the document library, includes a chapter exploring the prominent employment sectors of the Cambridge area, including the impacts of clustering and agglomeration.

Is there actually a legal method to limit the growth jobs or establishment of new businesses?

RESPONSE: In order to be found sound the plan must respond to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. This includes that significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth, meeting anticipated employment needs and addressing the requirements of specific sectors. Plans should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas, unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.

Where is the evidence that companies will re locate abroad? These questions about evidence were put to the Director of Planning by senior academics.

RESPONSE: The Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study, available in the document library, includes a chapter exploring the prominent employment sectors of the Cambridge area, highlights that Cambridge is competing on a global level. Issues were also explored in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review.

May we please see again Jon's slide about water supply issues. We can watch it during the Q&A?

RESPONSE: Slides for all our webinars are available on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan webpage

What is affordable because majority of these jobs will not be high skilled high salary?. We should know the actual cost of affordable homes on these proposed sites as we seem to have experts who know the number of jobs that are coming and the homes needed

RESPONSE: Affordable housing is established by a government definition. The First Proposals housing policies are supported by a detailed housing evidence base published in our [Document Library](#).

"affordable" housing at 80% market rents is not affordable for many. What measures are proposed to ensure much more housing at truly affordable rents?

RESPONSE: [First Proposals Policy H/AH: Affordable housing](#) states that:

“The plan will set out the proportion of the different affordable housing tenures for the remaining up to 75% of the affordable homes (after the at least 25% First Homes have been accounted for). This will take into account the issues of affordability experienced in Greater Cambridge and also viability, but should include an element of social rent homes in recognition that the Councils have been identified by the Government as areas of high affordability pressure.

Affordable rents should be set having regard to the [Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy Annex 11: Setting of Affordable Rents \(Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, June 2021\)](#) or a successor document.”

See Policy H/AH and our [Homes topic paper](#) for further context to this.