

Strategic Policies for Neighbourhood Planning **Cambridge Local Plan (October 2018)**

Neighbourhood Plans may be prepared by local groups, and in locations that are not Parished such as Cambridge, this is by Neighbourhood Forums. Neighbourhood Plans must, amongst other requirements, be in general conformity with the Strategic Policies contained within Local Plans. A Neighbourhood Plan can include policies that differ from non-strategic Local Plan policies or introduce new policies, but any such policies must still be in general conformity with the identified strategic policies, and national planning policies. Groups preparing a Neighbourhood Plan can continue to use non-strategic policies as a basis for preparing policies within the Neighbourhood Plan if they consider it is appropriate for their area.

In order to set the context for Neighbourhood Plans, the Council must identify the policies which are considered strategic in the recently adopted Cambridge Local Plan 2018, in order to provide an overarching planning policy framework to groups that are preparing Neighbourhood Plans.

There is broad guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018 and the associated Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), which helps to determine which policies may be considered strategic.

The NPPF (paragraph 20) states:

20. *Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for:*
- a) *housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;*
 - b) *infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, waste water, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);*
 - c) *community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and*
 - d) *conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.*

Paragraph 076 (Reference ID 41-076-20140306) of the PPG identifies a number of useful considerations in identifying strategic policies:

1. *whether the policy sets out an overarching direction or objective*
2. *whether the policy seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development*
3. *the scale at which the policy is intended to operate*
4. *whether the policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced*
5. *whether the policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision and aspirations in the Local Plan*
6. *in the case of site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the Local Plan*
7. *whether the Local Plan identifies the policy as being strategic*

These criteria have been used to identify why a policy is considered to be strategic – for NPPF criteria from a)-d) and for NPPG from 1-7. The following table identifies the strategic policies in the Cambridge Local Plan (2018).

Cambridge Local Plan (2018) Policy	NPPF Guidance (para 20)	NPPG Identifying Strategic Policies	Strategic Policy	Comments
Section One: About Cambridge (does not contain policies)				
Section Two: The Spatial Strategy				
1: The presumption in favour of sustainable development	a), b), c), d)	1,2,5	Yes	Overall presumption in favour of sustainable development, a key tenet of the plan-led system
2: Spatial strategy for the location of employment development	a)	1,2,3,7	Yes	Sets the strategy for the provision of employment development across Cambridge
3: Spatial strategy for the location of residential development	a)	1,2,3,7	Yes	Sets the strategy for the provision of residential development across Cambridge
4: The Cambridge Green Belt	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Overall approach to the Cambridge Green Belt
5: Strategic transport infrastructure	b)	1,2,3,5,7	Yes	Identifies that development proposals must be consistent with and contribute to the existing transport strategies
6: Hierarchy of centres and retail capacity	a)	1,2,3,4,5	Yes	Identifies the retail hierarchy and demand for new retail floorspace over the lifetime of the Plan
7: The River Cam	d)	1,2,3	Yes	Key defining characteristic of Cambridge and guides development along the River Cam corridor
8: Setting of the city	a), b), d)	1,2,3,4,5	Yes	Protects the distinct and unique character of Cambridge, setting broad parameters within which development must be accommodated
9: Review of the Local Plan	-	-	No	Sets out the commitment to, and broad timetable of, the review of the Cambridge Local Plan. This policy is strategic in nature, but does not prescribe a strategic context for NP preparation.
Section Three: City Centre, Areas of Major Change, Opportunity Areas and Site Specific Proposals				

10: City Centre	a)	1,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies the key role of the city centre, including key site/area policies
11: Development in the City Centre Primary Shopping Area	a)	1,2,3,4,5	Yes	Sets the broad parameters for retail development in the City Centre, including uses that may be appropriate above ground floor level and the need to cater for a range of unit sizes.
12: Fitzroy/Burleigh Street/Grafton Area of Major Change	a)	1,2,3,4,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
13: Cambridge East	a)	1,2,3,4,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
14: Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – general principles	a), b), c), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Sets out how AoMC and Opportunity Areas should be delivered to achieve the overall objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan
15: Cambridge Northern Fringe East and new railway Station Area of Major Change	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
16: South of Coldham's Lane Area of Major Change	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
17: Cambridge Biomedical Campus (including Addenbrooke's Hospital) Area of Major Change	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
18: Southern Fringe Areas of Major Change	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
19: West Cambridge Area of Major Change	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
20: Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road Area of Major Change	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
21: Station Areas West and Clifton Road Area of Major Change	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
22: Mitcham's Corner Opportunity Area	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development

23: Eastern Gate Opportunity Area	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
24: Mill Road Opportunity Area	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
25: Cambridge Railway Station, Hills Road Corridor to the Cite Centre Opportunity Area	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
26: Old Press/Mill Lane Opportunity Area	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
27: Site Specific development opportunities	a), b), d)	1,2,3,5,6	Yes	Identifies broad parameters for the delivery of change and development
Section Four: Responding to climate change and managing resources				
28: Carbon Reduction, community energy networks, sustainable design and construction, and water use	d)	1,3,5	Yes	Policy applies across Cambridge, to all development, seeking meet high environmental standards to address climate change concerns
29: Renewable and low carbon energy generation	b)	5	Yes	Identifies the broad strategy to delivering renewable and low carbon energy generation, which is essential to achieving the vision of Cambridge being a low carbon city.
30: Energy-efficiency improvements in existing dwellings	b)	5	Yes?	Identifies the broad strategy to improving energy efficiency in existing dwellings, which is essential to achieving the vision of Cambridge being a low carbon city.
31: Integrated water management and the water cycle	b)	3,5	Yes?	Identifies the approach to water management to assist in managing water resources and associated risk. Applies to all development proposals.
32:Flood risk	b)	3,5	Yes?	Identifies the approach to the management of flood risk. Applies to all development proposals.
33: Contaminated Land	a)	2	Yes	Policy shapes the broad characteristics of development

34: Light pollution control	a)	2	Yes	Policy shapes the broad characteristics of development
35: Protection of human health and quality of life from noise and vibration	a)	2	Yes	Policy shapes the broad characteristics of development
36: Air quality, odour and dust	a)	2	Yes	Policy shapes the broad characteristics of development
37: Cambridge Airport Public Safety Zone and Air Safeguarding Zones	a)	2	Yes	Important safety considerations for potential new development within the airport safeguarding zones that must be considered strategic in this context. Airport safeguarding is addressed in detail by Aviation Policy Framework 2013, providing additional planning policy to the NPPF.
38: Hazardous installations	a)	2	Yes	Policy shapes the broad characteristics of development
39: Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory, Lord's Bridge	a)	2	Yes	It is vital to the operation of the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory that the requirements of Policy 39 are met. This must be considered a strategic policy in the context of Neighbourhood Plan preparation.
Section Five: Supporting the Cambridge Economy				
40: Development and expansion of business space	a)	1,5,6	Yes	Policy 40 identifies the broad approach to the delivery of new offices, research and development and research facilities, In support of Policy 2 and a number of site allocations.
41: Protection of business space	a)	1,5	Yes	Provides an overall principle for the protection of business space, in support of the Policy 2.
42: Connecting new development in digital infrastructure	a), b)	2, 5	Yes	Policy seeks digital infrastructure connectivity as part of new development, contributing to successful development.

43: University development	c)	1,5	Yes	Supporting objective 10 of the Cambridge Local Plan to continue managing university development that is a key characteristic of Cambridge
44: Specialist colleges and language schools	c)	1,5	Yes	Supporting objective 10 of the Cambridge Local Plan to continue managing university development that is a key characteristic of Cambridge
Section Six: Maintaining a balanced supply of housing				
45: Affordable housing and dwelling mix	a)	1,2,3,4,5	Yes	In support of objective 8 of the Cambridge Local Plan, identifying the overall strategy to the delivering of affordable housing
46: Development of student housing	a)	1,2,5	Yes	Supporting objective 10 of the Cambridge Local Plan to continue managing student housing in connection with university development that is a key characteristic of Cambridge
47: Specialist housing	a)	1	Yes	Objective 8 of the Cambridge Local Plan identifies that all new development must meet the housing needs of the city..., delivering an appropriate mix of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet existing and future needs,...
48: Housing in multiple occupation	a)	1	Yes	Objective 8 of the Cambridge Local Plan identifies that all new development must meet the housing needs of the city..., delivering an appropriate mix of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet existing and future needs,...
49: Provision for Gypsies and Travellers	a)	1	Yes	Objective 8 of the Cambridge Local Plan identifies that all new development must meet the housing needs of the city..., delivering an appropriate mix of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet existing and future needs,...

50: Residential Space Standards	a), d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Ensuring good quality housing in terms of size is a key objective of the Cambridge Local Plan
51: Accessible Homes	a)	1,2,3,5	Yes	All new development should be designed to meet the requirements of Building Regulations M4(2) and M4(3), which will dictate particular characteristics
52: Protecting garden land and the subdivision of existing dwelling plots	a)	-	No	National policy provides guidance. NPs could provide additional guidance specific to the neighbourhood.
53: Flat conversions	a)	-	No	National policy provides guidance. NPs could provide additional guidance specific to the neighbourhood.
54: Residential moorings	a)	-	No	National policy provides guidance. NPs could provide additional guidance specific to the neighbourhood.
Section Seven: Protecting and enhancing the character of Cambridge				
55: Responding to context	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Sets the overall approach to creating successful new development in Cambridge
56: Creating successful places	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Sets the overall approach to creating successful new development in Cambridge
57: Designing new buildings	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Sets the overall approach to creating successful new development in Cambridge
58: Altering and extending existing buildings	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Sets the overall approach to creating successful new development in Cambridge
59: Designing landscape and the public realm	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Sets the overall approach to creating successful new development in Cambridge
60: Tall buildings and the skyline in Cambridge	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Sets the overall approach to creating successful new development in Cambridge
61: Conservation and enhancement of Cambridge's historic environment	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Sets the overall approach to creating successful new development in Cambridge
62: Local heritage assets	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Sets the overall approach to creating successful new development in Cambridge
63: Works to a heritage asset to address climate change	d)	1,2,3,5	Yes	Sets the overall approach to creating successful new development in Cambridge

64: Shopfronts, signage and shop security measures	-	-	No	Detailed issue, not considered a strategic matter. NPs could provide additional guidance on this area.
65: Visual pollution	-	-	No	Detailed issue, not considered a strategic matter. NPs could provide additional guidance on this area.
66: Paving over front gardens	-	-	No	Detailed issue, not considered a strategic matter. NPs could provide additional guidance on this area.
67: Protection of open space	a), b), c), d)	2, 5	Yes	The protection of open spaces, where appropriate, contributes to a range of overarching objectives.
68: Open space and recreation provision through new development	a), b), c), d)	2, 5	Yes	The provision of new open spaces, where appropriate, contributes to a range of overarching objectives.
69: Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance	a), b), c), d)	2, 4, 5	Yes	Protection of biodiversity or geodiversity helps to shape the broad characteristics of development
70: Protection of priority species and habitats	a), b), c), d)	2, 4, 5	Yes	Protection of priority species and habitats helps to shape the broad characteristics of development
71: Trees	a), b), c), d)	2, 4, 5	Yes	Protection of trees, and the planting of new trees, within development proposals shapes the broad characteristics of development
Section Eight: Services and local facilities				
72: Development and change of use in district, local and neighbourhood centres	a)	1, 2, 3, 4	Yes	Policy sets the parameters for use within district, local and neighbourhood centres.
73: Community, sports and leisure facilities	c)	1, 2, 3, 5	Yes	Policy sets the requirements for the provision of new facilities, including as part of new development, meeting in particular objective 12 on the Cambridge Local Plan 2018
74: Education facilities	c)	2, 3, 5	Yes	District wide policy seeking guiding the provision of new education facilities

75: Healthcare facilities	c)	2, 3, 5	Yes	District wide policy seeking guiding the provision of new healthcare facilities
76: Protection of public houses	a), c)	2, 4	Yes	In instances where the loss of a public house is proposed, this policy sets the considerations to be taken into account, shaping the broad characteristics of this type of development and allowing a balance of competing matters to be achieved.
77: Development and expansion of visitor accommodation	a)	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	Yes	Sets the approach to visitor accommodation across Cambridge, including within site allocations.
78: Redevelopment or loss of visitor accommodation	a)	3, 4	Yes	Provides the parameters for considering the potential loss of visitor accommodation
79: Visitor attractions	c)	5	Yes	Identifies how visitor attractions may be provided. Contributing to meeting objective 11 of the Cambridge Local Plan
Section Nine: Providing the infrastructure to support development				
80: Supporting sustainable access to development	a), b)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Yes	Policy sets the approach to the provision of sustainable access across Cambridge, including consideration of competing modes of access
81: Mitigating the transport impact of development	a), b)	1, 3, 5	Yes	Sets the approach to ensuring the impacts of development in transport terms are appropriately mitigated
82: Parking management	a), b)	2, 3, 5	Yes	Provision of car parking contributes to the shaping of the characteristics of development. Cambridge seeks to reduce the number of new parking spaces in appropriate locations, contributing to a number of objectives
83: Aviation development	a), b)	4	Yes	Sets the framework for managing development at Cambridge Airport
84: Telecommunications	b)	4	Yes	Sets the framework for managing telecommunications developments

85: Infrastructure delivery, planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy	a), b), c), d)	3, 5	Yes	Policy sets the approach to infrastructure delivery, planning obligations and CIL which are all key to delivering the overall vision and objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2018.
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