

Making Space for People Statement of Consultation

Background

The City Council, alongside the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) and Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Authority, has begun to develop a draft Making Space for People Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in consultation with members of the City and County Councils, local community and voluntary groups, landowners, business organisations, transport operators and other local interest groups. The purpose of the document is to provide guidance that will support Policy 10 of the Cambridge Local Plan as well as supplement the policies in the Local Plan relating to the Opportunity Areas within and adjacent to the City Centre.

The Vision, Principles and Strategies document is structured into five sections:

1. Introduction and background
2. The Opportunity
3. A Vision for Central Cambridge
4. Principles and strategies
5. Engagement purpose and process

This Statement of Consultation summarises the approach and key consultation steps and events undertaken so far in the process of preparing the SPD. The Vision, Principles and Strategies document and comments made on it is part of the overall early engagement on the SPD, with further engagement to take place on a draft SPD next year.

Preparation of the Vision, Principles and Strategies document

The preparation of the Vision, Principles and Strategies document has been informed by the early engagement events detailed elsewhere in this statement of consultation. The Vision, Principles and Strategies document forms part of an interim step in the production of the SPD. It forms the basis of the public engagement on an emerging vision for Central Cambridge, and the principles and strategies which will underpin the future SPD.

A Baseline Report which also helped to define an extended study area for the SPD has been produced by consultants working for the project team and 12 key findings from it are summarised within the Vision, Principles and Strategies document. The Vision, Principles and Strategies document aims to address the key findings and through set out a clear path to help show how they can be resolved through the future SPD.

Stakeholder surgeries

Surgeries, to discuss opportunities and constraints, and what approach the document should take, were held with the Council and stakeholders, representing local communities and interest groups, including community groups, Councillors and service providers. The stakeholders identified a number of issues that the project team needed to consider when preparing the forthcoming workshops, including extending the invitation list to stakeholders beyond those already identified.

Public online survey

An online public engagement was carried out for a five-week period from in June and July 2018. Members of the public were asked to feedback on:

- Open spaces - how could they be improved and what is important to safeguard?
- Cycling and walking routes – what new routes would you like to see and how can existing routes be improved?
- Street improvements - where would you like to see new benches, play areas and street furniture?
- Are there opportunities for creating new spaces?

The engagement platform comprised of:

- Interactive map – allowing members of the public to pin exact locations where they identify issues and opportunities in Central Cambridge
- Survey – asking questions which allowed people to feedback on broad strategic issues and opportunities.

478 people engaged and provided feedback via the map and/or survey. The web page was visited 2,320 times. The interactive map provided a powerful tool in its ability to spatially plot public opinion. It was particularly useful in identifying small scale issues across the City, where individuals experience the most conflicts. Most of the 832 responses addressed transport challenges. As with the interactive map, the 346 people completed the survey tended to focus on movement conflicts along particular streets.

Public engagement events were held at key locations and events during the summer of 2018 in the City Centre to promote the Making Space for People project and to direct them to the online engagement platform:

- New Square
- Grand Arcade
- Guildhall
- Freshers Fair

Workshop 1

On 4th July 2018 32 stakeholders gathered at Anglia Ruskin University, for a half-day workshop to address movement and public realm proposals for the emerging Making Space for People SPD.

The workshop was the first in a series of three, providing a critical opportunity for local and regional representatives to hear each other's perspectives and collectively problem solve.

The intention of the first workshop was to review challenges and opportunities identified in the stakeholder surgeries, through roundtable discussions, whilst addressing barriers to change. Attendees were asked to discuss and present their ideas in small groups. These ideas, along with the wider engagement platforms, have informed the direction of the SPD, allowing the consultant team to generate a series of proposals to take forward to Stage 2: Vision and Strategy.

Through the discussions and presentations many ideas emerged, as potential priorities the City Council and GCP need to explore in order to deliver the brief, these include:

- Public transport improvement
- Enhancement of character and offer in areas outside of the historic core
- Creation of street hierarchy
- Review access restrictions
- Review of parking options

Those in attendance included:

Local Ward and County Councillors

University of Cambridge

Bursars' Committee

FeCRA

Cambridge Past, Present and Future

Cambridge Past, Present and Future

COPE

Smarter Cambridge Transport

Friends of Midsummer Common/Cambridge SoS

Cam Sight

Visit Cambridge
Cambridge Road Safety Advisory Council
Anglia Ruskin Student Union
Stagecoach
Cambridge Disability Panel
Cambridge Living Streets
Cambridge City Council Access Officer / Cambridge Disability Panel
Cambridge Living Streets
Cambridge City Council – Market
Cambridge BID
Anglia Ruskin University – Estates and Facilities

Workshop 2

On 17th August 2018 a similar group of stakeholders gathered at Anglia Ruskin University, for a second half-day workshop to review the challenges and opportunities within some of Central Cambridge's core streets.

The stakeholders were initially asked to review areas of the city centre based on best practice principles for quality streets. In the second half of the workshop the group analysed how the identified issues manifest on particular streets.

Those in attendance included:

Local Ward and County Councillors
University of Cambridge
Colleges' Bursars' Committee
Anglia Ruskin University – Estates and Facilities
Anglia Ruskin Student Union
Cambridge University Student Union
Smarter Cambridge Transport
Cambridge Road Safety Advisory Council
Stagecoach
Cam Cycle

Dial-a-Ride
Sustrans
FeCRA
Cambridge Past, Present and Future
Cambridge Living Streets
Cambridge SoS
Cambridge Ahead
Cambridge BID
Cambridge Market Traders Association
Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce
Visit Cambridge
Cambridge Disability Panel
Cambridge City Council Access Officer / Cambridge Disability Panel
Cam Sight
COPE
Disability Cambridgeshire
Cambridge Constabulary
Historic England

Workshop 3

On 22nd November 2018 a similar group of stakeholders gathered at Gonville and Caius College. This third half-day workshop aimed to assist the project team in developing a vision for the future of the city centre identified by interest groups who represent the local community. Reflecting on the challenges and opportunities, collected from earlier engagement, the workshop began by asking stakeholders to identify the city centre's future potential. The second half of the session asked participants to collectively develop a series of guiding principles and strategies for achieving the proposed vision.

Those in attendance included:

Local Ward and County Councillors
University of Cambridge
Colleges' Bursars' Committee
Anglia Ruskin University – Estates and Facilities

Anglia Ruskin Student Union
Cambridge University Student Union
Smarter Cambridge Transport
Cambridge Road Safety Advisory Council
Stagecoach
Cam Cycle
GCP City Access Cycling Team
Sustrans
FeCRA
Cambridge Past, Present and Future
Cambridge Living Streets
Cambridge SoS
Cambridge Ahead
Cambridge BID
Cambridge Market Traders Association
Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce
Visit Cambridge
Cambridge Disability Panel
Cambridge City Council Access Officer / Cambridge Disability Panel
Cam Sight
COPE
Cambridge Constabulary
Historic England

Urban Design Challenge

'Form the Future' who are a local organisation that help young people to experience and understand future career choices, worked with the Making Space for People Team to hold an event at The Guildhall on the 29th September 2018. Students from schools and colleges in and near to Cambridge were invited to work collaboratively to consider issues and solutions to moving in and around Cambridge City Centre. The outputs from the day were judged by experts and an overall winning team selected. A key understanding from the day was the need to make the City Centre relevant to young people and that they were keen to remain involved in decision

making about the future of Cambridge and not just limited to the scope of the Making space for People project.

Overall, the above workshop and the other ones held so far have been successful in identifying relevant themes and issues, generating a collaborative sense of ownership of the SPD amongst stakeholders, along with the desire for joint working to ensure delivery. As a result, the project team has become more informed of local opinion, needs and demands.

Consultation on the draft Vision, Principles and Strategies document

It is proposed that the Vision, Principles and Strategies document is published for public consultation for a period of six weeks between 2nd September 2019 and 14th October 2019.

Documents to be made available for consultation include:

- Consultation response forms;
- Public notice;
- Consultation notification letter;
- Statement of Consultation;
- Making Space for People: Vision, Principles and Strategies leaflet;
- Making Space for People: Vision, Principles and Strategies exhibition boards;
- Making Space for People Baseline Report (June 2019).

Consultees

A number of organisations will be directly notified of the consultation on the Making Space for People: Vision, Principles and Strategies document in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) via email, or post where no email address is available. The consultees directly notified will include those that were invited to the earlier workshop events as well as statutory consultees and individuals and organisations that have opted into the relevant Planning Policy notifications.

Other methods of notification will include:

- a public notice in the Cambridge News;
- information on the Council's webpages;
- information on the Council's social media platforms;
- staffed public exhibitions held in the local area.

Public Exhibitions

The Council intend to hold staffed public exhibitions for people wishing to talk to council officers on the consultation document. Dates and venues for these

exhibitions will be publicised through direct mailings, on the council's website and through the council's social media platforms.

Consultation Methodology

A six-week consultation period for the Making Space for People: Vision, Principles and Strategies document will take place between:

9am on 2 September 2019 to 5pm on 14 October 2019

The draft documents and supporting documentation will be made available for public inspection during the consultation period at the following locations:

Online on the council's website: www.cambridge.gov.uk

At the council's Customer Service Centre at Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY from 9am-5.15pm Monday to Friday.

Comments could be made using:

the online consultation system <http://cambridge.jdi-consult.net/localplan/> or; the printed response form which was made available from Customer Service Centre (details above) or could be downloaded and filled in electronically by visiting www.cambridge.gov.uk

Completed forms could be returned to:

Planning Policy, Cambridge City Council, PO Box 700, Cambridge, CB1 0JH

Or emailed to policysurveys@cambridge.gov.uk

Respondents could also request to be notified of the next stages of the preparation of the SPD.

Contact details for further information were also made available as follows:

Tel: 01223 457200

Email: policysurveys@cambridge.gov.uk

Next steps

A high-level feedback of the responses received to the Making Space for People: Vision, Principles and Strategies consultation will be presented to the council's Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee in late 2019/early 2020.

The representations received alongside those from any future GCP City Access public engagement will be used to inform the preparation of the draft Making Space for People SPD.

It is anticipated that the draft Making Space for People SPD will be presented to the council's Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee in Autumn 2020, seeking approval for public consultation.