

Response from Cllr Katie Thornburrow to question raised at Cambridge City Residents Forum, 14 October 2020

The original question can be heard on the Zoom recording of the Forum published on the Cambridge City Council website.

We will create very liveable spaces that are sustainable and desirable, and nobody is going to be squeezed anywhere. The draft Area Action Plan proposed housing that is generally between four and eight storeys, with one or two buildings being up to thirteen. Height and density are not the same thing and this is not high density even if it is higher than we normally see in Cambridge. We need to be mindful of the need to reduce our climate impacts and how higher densities can really help us with that in locations where that is appropriate.

We are, of course, fully considering the comments we have received on development densities and the relationship of jobs to homes as part of the Area Action Plan consultation. We are also going to be reviewing evidence with regard to Covid, currently it is too soon to know what the real longer term impacts may be. We will be reporting back fully on the consultation responses received and how we propose to take them into account in the next version of the Area Action Plan, once we have been able to fully read and digest the many thousands of comments we have had.

I am personally committed to ensuring that we achieve the most sustainable approach to development which addresses the climate crisis, and our team is putting a huge amount of work into understanding what that means over the next twenty years, which is the timescale we are planning for in the AAP and the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning and Open Spaces.