North Cambridge Framework for Change

Your voice matters — help shape the future of north Cambridge

Planning together for the future

We're creating a new plan to improve parts of north Cambridge — including homes, streets, green spaces, and local businesses and community facilities. This is your chance to help shape what happens next.

This plan is called the Framework for Change. It builds on previous work — like the recently adopted North Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code — which established principles for the area based on the community's priorities. This time we're looking at a slightly different area and going further, seeking to understand how these principles may apply to your neighbourhood.
We're focusing on what matters most to people living here — and we want your ideas and views to help guide us.

Why this matters

North Cambridge is changing. Some council buildings are getting old. Green spaces are hugely valued but some aren't easy to use or feel neglected. Local places like Arbury Court and the surrounding community facilities could be better, more safely connected, and accessible for all.

At the same time, new developments are being built nearby, and we want to make sure the local area gets the attention and support it needs too – the Framework for Change will act as one plan to bring all of this together. There will be another chance to give your views on the framework later in the year, and if adopted, planning permission will still be required for proposals covered by the framework.

What we're doing

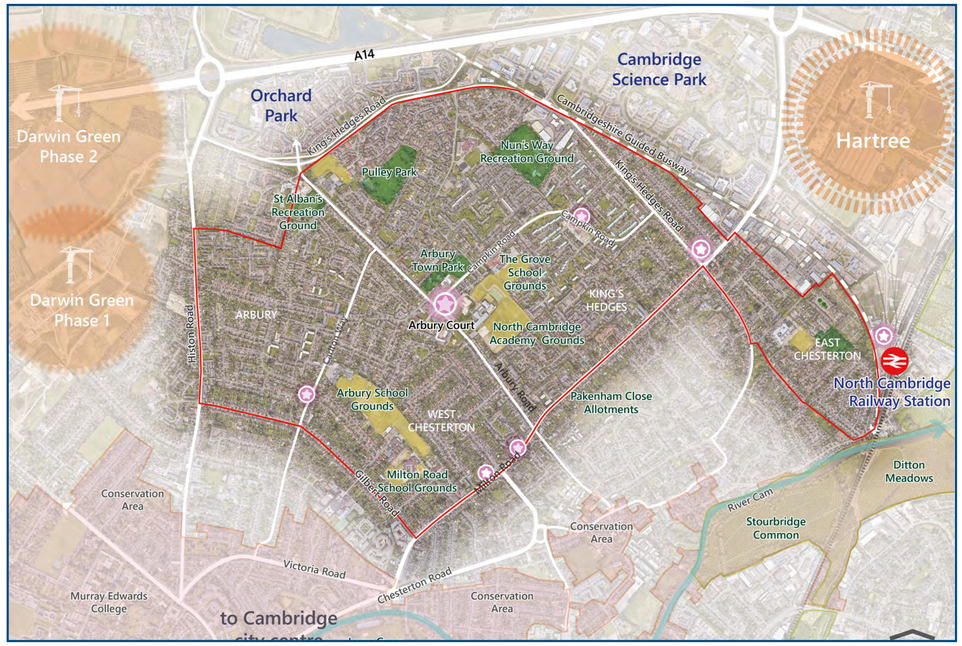
We're putting together a Framework for Change. That's a shared plan which will guide improvements to:

- Older council housing estates
- Parks and green spaces
- Arbury Court and the surrounding community facilities
- Streets and travel

How to get involved

- Attend workshops or drop-in events
- Take part in an online webinar
- Fill in our survey on the project website
- Email your thoughts
- Call to give feedback

Look out for some more focused events and please refer to the last information board for more information.



Key:

- North Cambridge Framework Study Area
- Emerging big developments
- Local centres
- Major green spaces
- Schools
- Conservation Areas
- Green belt
- Railway station

northcambridge@engagecf.co.uk

01223 650 550

cambridge.gov.uk/shaping-north-cambridge

Get involved! Scan me to find out more

Working with Cambridge Investment Partnership

North Cambridge Framework for Change

Background and context

Why now?

We're looking at areas in:
- Arbury
- King's Hedges
- Chesterton

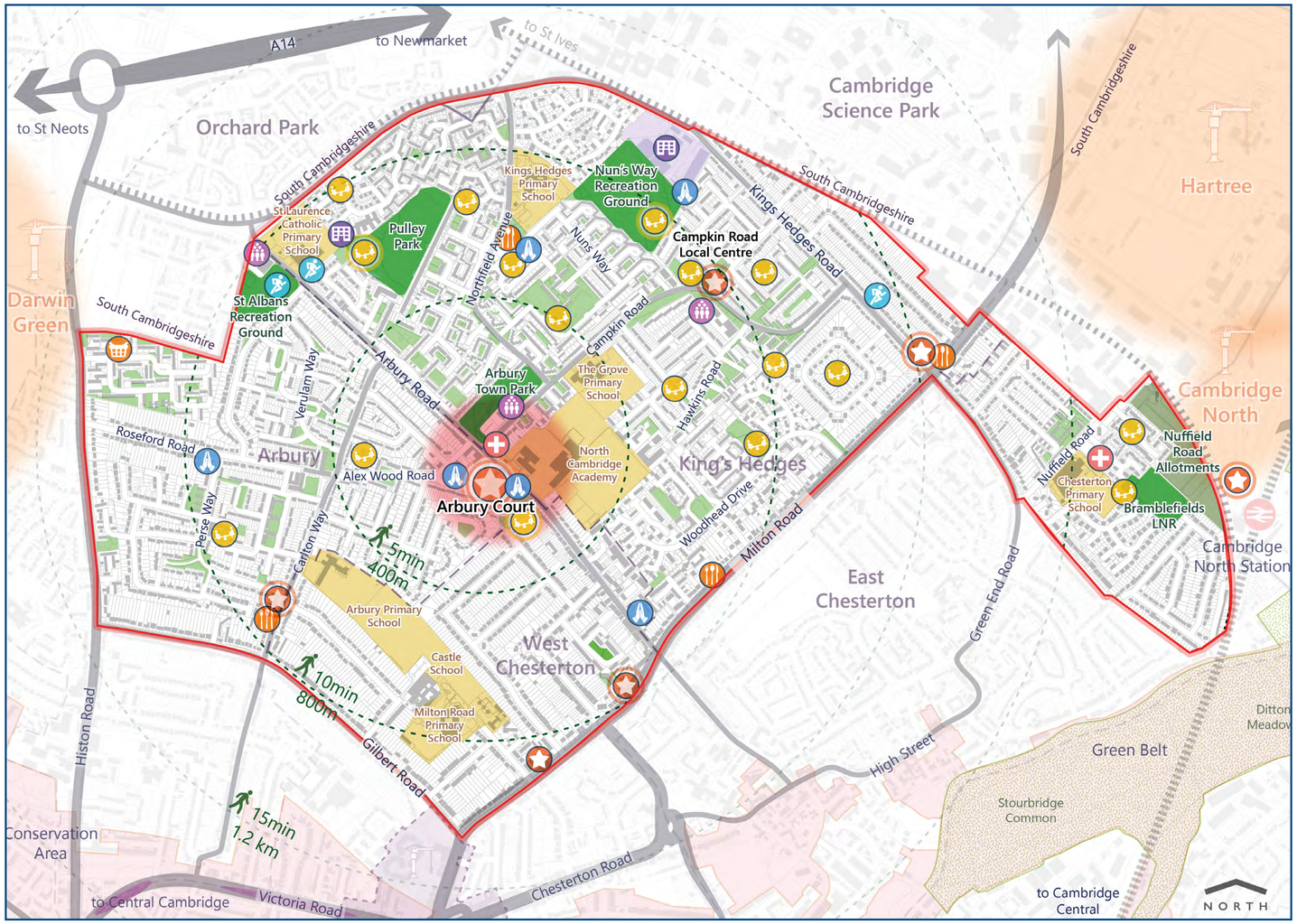
You told us in previous consultations that this part of the city has much-valued homes, schools, shops and green spaces — but some areas feel left behind. There are council estates which are getting old and there are green areas that feel unsafe or are hard to access. Not all streets are easy to walk, cycle or get a bus through.

There has been a lot of investment and growth in surrounding areas. New developments are emerging nearby, including at Darwin Green, Hartree, and around the North Cambridge Station. But within the existing neighbourhoods in north Cambridge, many buildings are ageing and under pressure.

What this framework will do

The Framework for Change will help us:

- Understand what's working — and what's not
- Decide where and how to invest
- Make sure local voices are heard
- Bring better housing, safer streets and greener spaces



Key:

- North Cambridge Framework Study Area
- Town/local/neighbourhood centre (includes range of community facilities)
- Major green space
- School
- Commercial area
- Conservation area (Cambridge Local Plan 2018)
- Green belt (Cambridge Local Plan 2018)
- Opportunity area (potential regeneration site identified in Cambridge Local Plan 2018)
- Community centre/education centre
- Play area
- Places of worship
- Healthcare/GP practice
- Sports facility
- Pub/restaurant
- Grocery store
- Commercial block

northcambridge@engagecf.co.uk

01223 650 550

cambridge.gov.uk/shaping-north-cambridge

Get involved! Scan me to find out more

Working with Cambridge Investment Partnership

North Cambridge Framework for Change

From Design Code to Framework

Building on what's already been done

In 2024, a group of local people helped create a Design Code — which covers a large part of the area we're looking at. This is a guide for what good changes should look like. It focused on five principles:

1. Make space for nature
2. Prioritise walking and cycling
3. Thriving public spaces
4. Enhance character
5. Increase sustainability

This sets out the principles within which we have to work.

While the design code sets out the principles for any future developments, the Framework for Change will focus on four specific areas:

1. Older council housing estates
Some flats and houses are cold, hard to get around, or feel unsafe. We want to understand what needs fixing or replacing — and how to do that fairly.

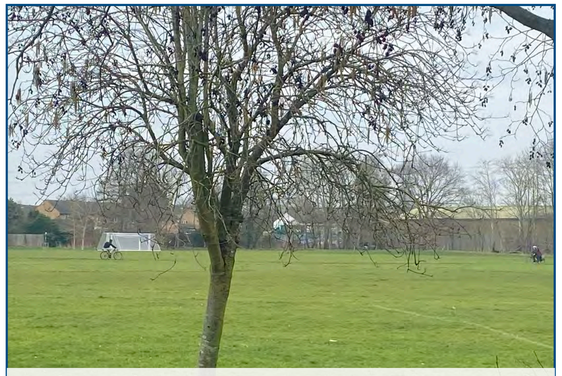
2. Parks and green spaces
Some are great. Others feel unsafe or underused. We want to know how people use these spaces — and how to make them better for everyone.

3. Arbury Court and the surrounding community facilities
This is a local shopping and meeting place, but it's disconnected and could be more vibrant. We're asking how it can become a better centre for the area.

4. Streets and travel
Are streets safe for walking and cycling? Are there enough crossings and bus stops? We're looking at how people move around — and how we can make it easier and safer.



Older Housing Estates:
Kingsway



Parks and Green Spaces:
Nun's Way Recreation ground



Arbury Court/Town Centre:
Arbury Road



Streets and Travel:
Campkin Road

Images are for illustrative purposes only

northcambridge@engagecf.co.uk
01223 650 550

cambridge.gov.uk/shaping-north-cambridge

Get involved! Scan me to find out more

Working with Cambridge Investment Partnership

North Cambridge Framework for Change

What we want to learn from you

Help us to understand what matters to you

We will work with you to shape the North Cambridge Framework for Change, and your feedback will help us get it right. If you have time to fill out a survey, we'd love to hear about your area. Specifically, we want to know more about:

- Which places feel neglected or need attention?
- Which green spaces do you use? Which ones feel unsafe or underused?
- What would make Arbury Court and other local facilities more useful or welcoming to you?
- Are the streets easy to get around — on foot, bike, or by bus?
- Which areas don't currently feel safe and welcoming, and how could this be improved?

And finally, how do you think north Cambridge as a whole can improve? And how can this plan achieve that?

Within the survey, we are asking you for your postcode so we know what area is most important to you.



Lawrence Way play area



Harris Road Estate and play area



Hawkins Road Estate and green space



Brackley Close



Legate Walk and Northfield Avenue underpass



Pulley Park



Garages within Estates



Edgecombe and the green space



Nun's Way Estate



Internal pedestrian routes



Mortlock and Maitland estates



Approach to Arbury Court

Images are for illustrative purposes only

northcambridge@engagecf.co.uk

01223 650 550

cambridge.gov.uk/shaping-north-cambridge

Get involved! Scan me to find out more

Working with

Cambridge Investment Partnership

North Cambridge Framework for Change

How to get involved

Help shape the plan

We'll be running events and activities across north Cambridge from 13 May to 14 June. There are lots of ways to take part — whether you've got five minutes or 45.

Why it matters

The plan will help decide:

- Where homes are built or improved
- How green spaces are looked after
- How to make streets safer and more accessible
- Where to invest money for real local benefit

We can't get this right without you. Tell us what you think. Help shape your neighbourhood's future.

Next steps

Following this consultation, a report will be developed which will:

- consider public responses to the consultation
- consider relevant planning objectives and constraints
- identify key issues, challenges and opportunities
- set out high level priorities and options for potential development
- consider opportunities within the context of the financial constraints faced by the council and the need for schemes to be financially viable

This report - the draft Framework for Change - will then be published for a second consultation which will run in autumn 2025, and conclude by January 2026.

What's on

Workshops and community conversations

Commercial unit engagement

Drop-in events:

- Meadows Community Centre – Tuesday 13 May, 5.30 to 7pm
- Arbury Community Centre – Wednesday 28 May, 5.30 to 7pm
- Brown's Field Community Centre – Tuesday 10 June, 5.30 to 7pm
- Arbury Carnival – Saturday 14 June, 11am to 5pm

Take part in an online webinar on Tuesday, 27 May from 6 to 7.30pm

Fill in our survey. Hardcopy surveys are available at Arbury Court Library, Meadows Community Centre and at all drop-in events.

Email your thoughts to northcambridge@engagecf.co.uk

Call to give feedback on 01223 650 550

Materials are also available in other languages.
Please contact northcambridge@cambridge.gov.uk

Scan to fill survey and register for the webinar

northcambridge@engagecf.co.uk

01223 650 550

cambridge.gov.uk/shaping-north-cambridge

Get involved! Scan me to find out more

Working with

Cambridge Investment Partnership