



# Homes for Our Future Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2024-2029

## Annex 8: Key Achievements 2019-2023

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## 1. Introduction

1.1. Since the publication of the Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy in 2019, both councils have made good progress in meeting its key priorities and actions. This Annex looks to celebrate some of its successes as described below.

## 2. New Homes

### Both councils have:

- Supported and contributed to delivery of 2,209 affordable homes across Greater Cambridge between April 2019 and March 2023.
- Introduced a set of policy annexes to this Strategy detailing our requirements around: Build to Rent; the delivery and clustering & distribution of new affordable housing; and the setting of Affordable Rents.
- Published our interim position on implementing the government's First Homes policy.

### Cambridge City Council has:

- Built over 500 new high quality, energy efficient council homes as part of mixed tenure developments on council land, with funding from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority; and established a longer term programme through a range of land options and funding streams.
- Earmarked 16 new council homes, and purchased 17 additional market homes with government grant, for refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- Worked with partners on delivery of 22 specially designed, system-build accommodation pods for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping, with four more in the pipeline for 2024.

### South Cambridgeshire has:

- Piloted one of the First Homes schemes in the country at Great Abington.
- Implemented a bespoke Northstowe discounted market scheme
- Supported the delivery of 6 Solohaus pods to support those in the Emmaus community in transitioning to independent living.
- Supported delivery of two Rent to Buy schemes
- Supported outline planning permission for the expansion of the Wellcome Genome Campus at Hinxton, which will provide a range of homes for its workers.



### 3. Existing Homes

#### Both councils have:

- Worked with partners in securing grant funding, providing tailored advice to residents, and delivering improvement interventions and projects to make homes warmer and more energy and water efficient across all tenures.
- Carried out focused work across a range of areas, targeting help at people particularly affected by the cost of living crisis.
- Worked with residents to understand the implications of the government's [Social Housing White Paper](#) and prepare for implementation of the new [Social Housing \(Regulation\) Act](#) to help improve housing management and maintenance, home and fire safety, and resident engagement.
- Improved our approaches to dealing with damp and mould, including setting up dedicated pathways for reporting issues in council homes, and using data collected to help target investment.
- Developed plans for service improvement following our most recent STAR resident satisfaction surveys.

#### South Cambridgeshire District Council has:

- Introduced a new [Asset Management Strategy](#) for its own stock, as well as publishing its Damp, Mould & Condensation Policy for council tenants and its Council Tenants Disabled Adaptations Policy.
- Procured a new long-term repairs contract for council homes enabling tenants to report and track repairs online.
- Set up resident involvement groups to help monitor contractor performance and shape tenant services; as well as involving tenant reps in the recruitment of key housing roles.
- Launched a survey to get a better understanding of the condition of the council's own housing stock.
- Raising awareness of tenancy fraud by way of a key amnesty campaign that gave the opportunity to voluntarily hand in keys with no further action taken where residents were illegally occupying or subletting council properties.
- Improved its approach to bringing empty homes back into use, including employing a dedicated Empty Homes Officer.
- Employed a dedicated support worker to support those struggling with their mental health & wellbeing who may struggle to maintain their tenancy.



### Cambridge City Council has:

- Published detailed advice for owners and landlords on retrofitting their homes. ([CC, Retrofitting Your Home, 2022](#)).
- Carried out a programme of energy efficiency improvements to council homes with poor energy ratings, including external wall insulation and solar PV panels. Additional grant funding has been secured to help fund further retrofitting of council homes with solid walls.
- Introduced [targeted enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards](#) in the private rented sector, to ensure that properties with the lowest energy efficiency ratings are brought up to the required minimum 'level E' rating where feasible.
- Started a programme of [tenancy audits](#), aimed at visiting all council tenant households to identify and address issues arising and help target resources where they are most needed.

## 4. Settled Homes

### Both councils have:

- Introduced a new [Repairs and Adaptations Policy](#), being delivered through the Home Improvement Agency.
- Increased support to people with mental health issues or who are experiencing financial hardship.

### Cambridge City Council has

- Published a revised Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Introduced a pilot Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) to help identify households most in need of support.

### South Cambridgeshire District Council has:

- Published a Cost of Living Support Programme
- Run a pilot 'Through the Door social prescribing project' through one of the local GP practices, which has now been established nationally.