



Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council

Policy Review of the Adopted Local Plans for Greater Cambridge

January 2025 update



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Cambridge Local Plan 2018 and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 Policy Review of the Adopted Local Plans for Greater Cambridge

Executive Summary

Local plans must be reviewed at least every five years from the date of a plan's adoption. A review of the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans has been undertaken and was published in June 2023. Work began on the joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP) in 2019, as set out in the adopted plans, and, consequently, a process for the replacement of both plans is underway.

The key purpose of the review undertaken in 2023 was to assess whether there were any relevant changes in national policy that might have a bearing on the weight accorded to adopted policies in determining development proposals. A revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in December 2024. It is necessary, therefore, to update the original review to take account of any changes in the latest NPPF version that might have a bearing on the weight accorded to the adopted plans' policies.

The outcome of the updated review is that the vast majority of policies in both adopted plans remain consistent with national policy and, therefore, can be given full weight until replaced by policies in the GCLP. The small number of exceptions principally relate to subsequent changes to national policy, with a limited number of these arising from the most recent changes to the NPPF.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 It is a statutory requirement for all local plans to be reviewed at least every five years from the date of a plan's adoption¹.

¹ In accordance with Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended in 2018.

The NPPF says in this regard that *‘policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary’*².

- 1.2 The current Cambridge Local Plan was adopted in October 2018, while the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was adopted a month earlier in September 2018. As it was five years in autumn 2023 since the plans were adopted, a review of both plans’ policies was undertaken and published in June 2023 to meet the requirement to do so within this time period. A revised NPPF was published in December 2024. It is necessary, therefore, to update the original review to take account of any changes in the latest NPPF version that might have a bearing on the weight accorded to the adopted plans’ policies.
- 1.3 This report is amended only with regard to changes to the 2024 version of the NPPF. For this reason, it retains the original explanation to the background to the review, recognising the particular context of the preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to replace the two adopted plans. The review of policies is included in the form of a table for each plan, appended to this report. All NPPF paragraph references are to the latest version, published in December 2024.

2.0 Background to the Local Plans Policy Review

- 2.1 The NPPF provides further details for a local plan review, stating that it *‘should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy. Relevant strategic policies will need updating at least once every five years if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly; and they are likely to require earlier review if local housing need is expected to change significantly in the near future’*³. The National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) adds that the review process is a method to ensure that a plan and its policies remain effective⁴.

² NPPF 2024, paragraph 34.

³ Ibid.

⁴ PPG, Plan-Making, paragraph 063.

- 2.2 Through the Greater Cambridge City Deal the Councils committed to an early review of their local plans. This was in order to establish what impact the anticipated changed infrastructure situation and economic growth in the area might have on housing need and other aspects of spatial and transport planning. In addition, during the public examination hearings into the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, a number of issues were highlighted for specific attention in the next review of the local plans. These relate to the assessment of housing needs, progress in delivering the development strategy and provision to meet the requirements of caravan dwellers. Policies in both adopted plans require that the next full review of each plan should start in 2019 and this is now well underway in the form of a single joint local plan, covering the whole of Greater Cambridge. Once adopted, the new joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan will replace the current adopted plans.
- 2.3 For these reasons, the principal purpose of undertaking a review of the adopted plans – to assess whether they need updating – has already been met. However, while it has been decided that the adopted plan policies will be replaced, until the new joint plan is adopted their statutory status in determining development proposals remains unchanged. The policy requirement contained within both Local Plans to undertake a review of the plan to commence before the end of 2019, does not mean that after 2019 or on the fifth year anniversary of the adoption of the plans the policies contained in them will cease to be part of the development plan or automatically be rendered out of date⁵.

3.0 Approach to the Policy Review

- 3.1 Given the work already underway on the new joint plan, a key purpose of this exercise is to assess whether there are any relevant changes in national policy that need to be taken into account. The NPPF says that planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material

⁵ Policy 9 in the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 and Policy S/13 in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018.

considerations indicate otherwise. The NPPF itself is a material consideration in planning decisions⁶.

- 3.2 The NPPF also states that existing plan policies should not be considered out- of-date simply because they were adopted prior to the publication of the Framework. Due weight should be given to them according to their degree of consistency with the Framework⁷. This assessment is important because the NPPF includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which requires consideration of whether the most important policies for determining an application are out-of-date⁸. A policy may become out of date by reason of it being no longer consistent with more recently published national planning policy.
- 3.3 The current version of the NPPF was published in December 2024. Therefore, the adopted plans were prepared and examined against an earlier version. However, the principal changes between versions of the NPPF are focused on particular policy areas and, for this reason, it is to be expected that the majority of the adopted policies remain consistent with national policy.
- 3.4 Appendix A and B to this report provide a proportionate assessment for the adopted Cambridge Local Plan 2018 and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 respectively. For each policy the assessment considers in turn:
- Consistency with National Policy: whether the policy is consistent with national policy.
 - Evidence/change in local circumstances: recent evidence or changed local circumstances concerning the policy topic, in particular how this might inform policies in the new joint local plan.
 - Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP): which, if any, replacement policies will address the same policy topic in the new plan.

⁶ NPPF 2024, paragraph 2.

⁷ NPPF 2024, paragraph 232.

⁸ NPPF 2024, paragraph 11.

- Conclusion/RAG: Overall 'RAG' rating of the adopted policy's consistency with national policy.

The RAG rating categories are explained below:

- Green: Policy **remains consistent** with national policy and can be given full weight until replaced by policies in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP).
- Amber: Policy is **generally but not wholly consistent** with national policy. This might result in reduced weight being given in planning decisions to a policy or parts of a policy that do not remain consistent with national policy, depending on circumstances.
- Red: Policy, or part of the policy, is **inconsistent** with national policy, which is likely to result in reduced weight until replaced by policies in the GCLP.

- 3.5 The outcome of the updated review is that the majority of policies in both adopted plans remain consistent with national policy (scoring green) and, therefore, can be given full weight until replaced by policies in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. There are a small number of policies that are generally consistent with national policy (scoring amber), but parts of the policy are not considered to fully reflect more recent changes to national planning policy or legislation since the adoption of the Local Plans. The weight given to those parts of the policies may be reduced as a result, depending upon the circumstances of the individual planning decision under consideration.
- 3.6 The most recent changes to the NPPF, published in December 2024, focus principally on a limited number of policy areas as well as issues concerning plan preparation. The policy areas that are likely to have the greatest bearing on the weight to be given to the adopted policies concern housing need and supply, particularly relating to affordable housing; economic policies, with a particular focus on addressing specific sectors in the context of the needs of a modern economy; and Green

Belt policy, notably the introduction of the concept of 'grey belt'. Other main changes relate to planning for climate change.

- 3.7 In practical terms, these changes have a limited impact on the original assessment of the weight to be given to the adopted policies against national policy. This is because the plan policies defer directly to national policy, as in the case of Green Belt policies; are already assessed as not being fully consistent, such as affordable housing policies, and the most recent changes do not alter this overall assessment; or the relevant plan policies remain fully consistent with national policy, despite the most recent changes, as is the case with policies concerning climate change.
- 3.8 The 2024 changes to national policy will have an effect on the preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, both in terms of ensuring policy compliance with individual topics and with regard to the process of preparing the plan. An update to the local plan timetable was published in January 2025, and the latest timetable can be found on the [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service website](#),
- 3.9 A particular point of focus for a policy review, as set out in national policy and guidance, is whether local housing need has changed or is expected to change and the consequences of it. As noted in paragraph 2.2 of this report, this is one of the reasons for an early review of the plans.
- 3.10 Both Council's Local Plans are more than five years old and the Councils recognise the need to update their housing requirements through preparation of the new joint Local Plan. The approach contained in national planning policy and guidance means that the five year supply calculation will no longer be based on the housing requirement in the adopted plans, but instead on the standard method⁹. The latest Housing land supply position statement can be found on the '[Monitoring delivery in Greater Cambridge](#)' section of the Greater Cambridge shared planning service website.
- 3.11 Through preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan objectively assessed needs for homes and jobs will be

⁹ NPPF 2024, paragraph 78 and footnote 39.

considered and the extent to which those need can be met consistent with delivery of sustainable development, in particular water supply and housing delivery. The emerging plan and evidence have very limited weight in decision making and do not supersede national policy in respect of the figure of housing need that should be used for calculating five year supply in the period before the new Local Plan is adopted.

Conclusion

- 4.0 The Councils met the statutory requirement to review their adopted local plans at least every five years from their adoption with publication of a policy review in June 2023. The outcome of this updated review is that the majority of policies in both adopted plans remain consistent with national policy and, therefore, these policies can be given full weight until replaced by the joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Appendix A: Cambridge Local Plan 2018 – Five Yearly Policy Review

Appendix B: South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 - Five Yearly Policy Review

Appendix A

Cambridge Local Plan 2018 – Five Yearly Policy Review

The Spatial Strategy

Policy 1 - The presumption in favour of sustainable development

Consistency with National Policy

Policy 1 remains generally consistent with national policy, although it does not fully reflect the wording of the current NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11), in particular 11a which adds that in promoting sustainable patterns of development all plans should align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) indicates that there is no need for a plan to replicate directly the wording in the NPPF in a policy (*Plan Making*, paragraph 36).

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

No policy necessary in light of current guidance.

Conclusion/RAG - Amber

The wording of the policy is not wholly consistent with current national policy, but in any case, the most recent version of the NPPF can be relied on. Local policies are not required to replicate the NPPF.

Policy 2 - Spatial strategy for the location of employment development

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires strategic plan policies to make sufficient provision for housing and employment needs (paragraph 20). It also says that planning policies should set out a clear economic vision and strategy, which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to the national industrial strategy and local strategies; and set criteria, and identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period (paragraph 86). Policy 2 provides a vision for economic growth and allocates sufficient land to meet this. While the policy has not specifically taken account of the national industrial strategy, published after the local plan was adopted, it does nonetheless focus on the importance of 'knowledge-based' activities as key to the economic growth of the area. This sector is recognised as being of particular significance for policies to address in the updated NPPF (paragraph 87) Policy 2 is, therefore, consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The development strategy needs to be updated to take account of new housing and jobs forecasts to 2041 and beyond.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/JH: New jobs and homes

S/DS: Development strategy

Conclusion/RAG - Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 3 - Spatial strategy for the location of residential development

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires strategic plan policies to make sufficient provision for housing and employment needs (paragraph 20) and prepare plans with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraph 16a). Strategic policy-making authorities should establish a housing requirement figure for their whole area and should identify sufficient sites to meet this requirement (section 5). Policy 3 is consistent with national policy in this regard as it identifies the housing requirement for the plan period, allocates sufficient sites to meet this, and seeks to direct development to the most sustainable locations. However, the five-year housing land supply calculation will, from October 2023 until adoption of the new joint plan, be based on the standard method in accordance with the more recent requirement of national policy (paragraph 78 and footnote 39).

Paragraph 78 and footnote 40 of the NPPF (published in December 2024) provides guidance regarding the application of a housing land supply buffer which supersedes Policy 3.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Through preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan objectively assessed needs for homes and jobs will be considered and the extent to which those need can be met consistent with delivery of sustainable development, in particular water supply and housing delivery.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/JH: New jobs and homes

S/DS: Development strategy

Conclusion/RAG - Amber

The policy is generally consistent with national policy. All aspects of the policy remain green with the exception of:

- from October 2023 until the new plan is adopted, the five-year housing supply requirement will be based on the standard method reflecting the NPPF and the recognition that the housing requirement requires updating.
- The updated NPPF also sets the buffer according to performance against the housing delivery test. These two specific aspects of the policy are Amber.

Policy 4 - The Cambridge Green Belt

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires Green Belt boundaries only to be altered in exceptional circumstances and provides detailed policy for assessing development proposals (section 13). Changes to the NPPF in 2024 introduce new provisions concerning exceptional circumstances for altering Green Belt boundaries, and amends some of the criteria relating to the exceptions to inappropriate development. The changes also introduce the new designation of 'grey belt' and the 'Golden Rules' concerning the development of land released from the Green Belt. Policy 4 simply states that new development in the Green Belt will only be approved in line with Green Belt policy in the NPPF. Therefore, despite these changes to the NPPF, Policy 4 is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Green Belt Assessment* (2021) considered that the purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt were still relevant and they were used to assess the potential harm of new development. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will require that new development in the Green Belt will only be approved in accordance with Green Belt policy in the National Planning Policy Framework.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

GP/GB: Protection and enhancement of the Cambridge Green Belt

[Conclusion/RAG - Green](#)

Policy 4 states that new development will only be approved in accordance with Green Belt policy in the NPPF and, therefore, is consistent with it.

Policy 5 - Sustainable transport and infrastructure

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The NPPF expects plan policies to promote sustainable transport (section 9). Changes in the 2024 NPPF expect a vision-led approach to identify transport solutions that deliver well-designed, sustainable and popular places (paragraph 109). Policy 5 is consistent with this approach.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

An update of the adopted policy will reflect the aims of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport & Connectivity Plan and national policy, whilst addressing the specific challenges and local opportunities within Greater Cambridge.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

I/ST: Sustainable transport and connectivity.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 6 - Hierarchy of centres and retail capacity

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The NPPF says that plan policies should define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability (paragraph 90a). Policy 6 defines the hierarchy for Cambridge and identifies the need for additional floorspace during the plan period. It is, therefore, consistent with national policy.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

A Greater Cambridge *Retail and Leisure Study* will review and assess the retail hierarchy across the whole of Greater Cambridge. This will be reflected in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

J/RC: Retail and centres.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 7 - The River Cam

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The NPPF expects strategic policies to make provision for conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including green infrastructure (paragraph 20d). Policy 7 is consistent with national policy with regard to the importance of the River Cam.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Recommendations Report* (2021) and *Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment* (2021) identify key features to protect and opportunities for enhancement of river corridors, including the River Cam and its tributaries. This will be reflected in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/RC: River corridors.

Conclusion/RAG - Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 8 - Setting of the city

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF expects strategic policies to make provision for conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure (paragraph 20d). Policy 8 responds positively to this requirement in national policy in the particular context of Cambridge's setting.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Local Plans need to ensure the varied character of different parts of the area is properly considered in planning decisions. The *Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment* (2021) has identified 33 different Landscape Character Areas with a distinct local identity and sense of place. This will be reflected in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

BG/GI: Green infrastructure

GP/LC: Protection and enhancement of landscape character J/AL: Protecting the best agricultural land.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 9 - Review of the Local Plan

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The policy specifies the need for an early plan review and, therefore, takes a proactive approach to the NPPF requirement for plans to be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years (paragraph 34).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

No change; review of adopted plan through the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is underway.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

No policy necessary in light of current plan review.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

City Centre, Areas of Major Change, Opportunity Areas and Site-Specific Proposals Policy 10 - The City Centre

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF expects planning policies to support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation (paragraph 90). Policy 10 sets out the future role of the city centre in accordance with national policy and by identifying strategic development locations and opportunity areas and therefore it is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that a plan should allocate sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (paragraph 23).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

In terms of future policy direction, while Cambridge city centre remains a thriving regional centre providing a wide range of uses including shopping, leisure and tourist related activities, it is important that the centre can evolve in a way that supports changing consumer, retail and leisure habits while retaining its vibrancy and appeal, by continuing to provide for the needs of those living, working and studying in the city. This will be considered in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/RC: Retail and centres

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 11 - Development in the City Centre Primary Shopping Area

Consistency with National Policy

This policy meets the NPPF's requirement that policies should define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas, and

makes clear the range of uses permitted in such locations, as part of a positive strategy for the future of each centre (paragraph 90b). While the policy is consistent with this requirement, the controls over ground floor uses has been impacted by changes to the Use Classes Order, particularly the new, broad Class E, which includes shops and offices amongst other uses.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The introduction of Use Class E – Commercial, Business and Service - means that some use changes can be made potentially without planning permission, such as shops becoming financial services, offices, or even light industrial uses. In some circumstances changes to residential uses is possible through permitted development rights. Policies in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will need to respond to these changes, with the aim of protecting the vibrancy of existing centres.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/RC: Retail and centres.

Conclusion/RAG – Amber

The policy is generally consistent with national policy.

However, the restriction on ground floor uses included in Table 3.1 has been impacted by changes to the Use Classes Order for uses that currently fall within Class E.

Policy 12 - Fitzroy/Burleigh Street/Grafton Area of Major Change

Consistency with National Policy

This policy involves an area of major change within the city centre, including for new or expanded retail and leisure development. As such, it is consistent with national policy, which expects plan policies to allocate a range of suitable sites in town centres to meet

the scale and type of development likely to be needed (paragraph 90d).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to provide continued policy guidance for existing Areas of Major Change in the urban area of Cambridge identified in the adopted Local Plan, with any appropriate amendments to reflect current circumstances. This will ensure that development opportunities in these locations are progressed in a comprehensive manner, including ensuring careful integration with existing nearby communities.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/AMC: Areas of Major Change

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy

Policy 13 - Cambridge East

Consistency with National Policy

The policy concerns a strategic development site comprising areas allocated for development and also safeguarded land for longer term development through plan review. It is consistent with the NPPF requirement that a plan should allocate sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (paragraph 23) and to identify safeguarded land between the urban area and the Green Belt, in order to meet longer-term development needs stretching well beyond the plan period (paragraph 149c).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Several developments allocated by this policy are under construction.

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to allocate land for a major new eastern quarter for Cambridge, enabling development of the airport site which was safeguarded for longer term development in the 2018 adopted Local Plans, identified as approximately 7,000 homes and 9,000 jobs in the First Proposals 2021. Marshall has advised the Councils of its commitment to relocate the Airport related uses and seeks to demonstrate the availability and deliverability of the site and has secured resolution to grant permission for an alternative site for the Airport in a nearby authority.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/CE: Cambridge East

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 14 - Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – general principles

Consistency with National Policy

As above, but relating to strategic locations as a whole, which are identified as Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to provide continued policy guidance for existing Areas of Major Change in the urban area of Cambridge identified in the adopted Local Plan, with any appropriate amendments to reflect current circumstances. This will

ensure that development opportunities in these locations are progressed in a comprehensive manner, including ensuring careful integration with existing nearby communities.

Two new Opportunity Areas are proposed that are currently areas of low density, large-scale retail uses with extensive surface car parking. This does not make very good use of an expansive area of land in the heart of Cambridge (Newmarket Road Retail Park and Beehive Centre).

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/NEC: Northeast Cambridge

S/AMC: Areas of Major Change

S/OA: Opportunity Areas in Cambridge

S/CBC: Cambridge Biomedical Campus (including Addenbrooke's Hospital) S/WC: West Cambridge

S/EOC: Other site allocations on the edge of Cambridge

Policy 15 - Cambridge Northern Fringe East and new railway Station Area of Major Change

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The policy concerns a strategic development site and, therefore, is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that a plan should allocate sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (paragraph 23).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The allocation of Cambridge Northern Fringe East is proposed to be incorporated into a wider Northeast Cambridge allocation. The emerging Northeast Cambridge Area Action Plan responds to the adopted policy reference to preparation of an AAP and the site is also proposed to be included in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan for a mix of employment and residential development, predicated on the relocation of the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/NEC: Northeast Cambridge.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 16 - South of Coldham's Lane Area of Major Change Consistency with National Policy

As above, with regard to this Area of Major Change.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to provide continued policy guidance for existing Areas of Major Change in the urban area of Cambridge identified in the adopted Local Plan, with any appropriate amendments to reflect current circumstances. This will ensure that development opportunities in these locations are progressed in a comprehensive manner, including ensuring careful integration with existing nearby communities. The Cambridge Biomedical Campus is subject to continued development, and revisions to the masterplan are needed to improve the overall experience of the site for workers and visitors. Work is underway to inform a policy in the new local plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/AMC: Areas of Major Change

S/C/SCL Land South of Coldham's Lane, Cambridge.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 17 - Cambridge Biomedical Campus (including Addenbrooke's Hospital) Area of Major Change

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, with regard to this Area of Major Change.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The Cambridge Biomedical Campus is subject to continued development, and revisions to the masterplan are needed to improve the overall experience of the site for workers and visitors. Work is underway to inform a policy in the new local plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/CBC: Cambridge Biomedical Campus (including Addenbrooke's Hospital).

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 18 - Southern Fringe Areas of Major Change

Consistency with National Policy

As above, with regard to this Area of Major Change.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Existing allocations at Cambridge Southern Fringe, including Clay Farm, Glebe Farm, and Trumpington Meadows, are likely to be built out by the time the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is adopted, therefore the existing plan policies will no longer be required. The new homes on the existing allocation at Bell School have been completed; however, the new student accommodation also included within this allocation has not yet been started. The need for the allocation at Bell School will be kept under review.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/EOC: Other site allocations on the edge of Cambridge.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 19 - West Cambridge Area of Major Change

Consistency with National Policy

As above, with regard to this Area of Major Change.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Outline planning permission was approved in July 2021 providing a long-term vision and strategy for the comprehensive development of the site, and creation of the West Cambridge Innovation District. This provides significant opportunities for academic and commercial research, along with a range of other supporting facilities. A policy will be needed in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to

set out what will be expected of future development proposals as the site evolves during the plan period.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/WC: West Cambridge.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 20 - Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road Area of Major Change

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, with regard to this Area of Major Change.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The adopted Local Plans allocate developments on the northwest edge of Cambridge, referred to as Darwin Green. The part of the site in Cambridge has outline planning permission, and some parcels have detailed planning permission or are under construction. The land in South Cambridgeshire has yet to gain planning permission. Given that the site will still be coming forward when the new plan is adopted it is proposed to carry forward the allocations into the emerging plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/EOC: Other site allocations on the edge of Cambridge.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 21 - Station Areas West and Clifton Road Area of Major Change

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, with regard to this Area of Major Change.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to provide continued policy guidance for existing Areas of Major Change in the urban area of Cambridge identified in the adopted Local Plan, with any appropriate amendments to reflect current circumstances. This will ensure that development opportunities in these locations are progressed in a comprehensive manner, including ensuring careful integration with existing nearby communities.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/AMC: Areas of Major Change.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 22 - Mitcham's Corner Opportunity Area

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The policy concerns a strategic area with regard to development and redevelopment opportunities. It is, therefore, consistent with the NPPF requirement that a plan should allocate sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (paragraph 23), as well as national policy regarding sustainable transport (section 9) and achieving well-designed places (section 12).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to continue to provide planning guidance in this and other areas proposed to be

carried forward from the adopted Plan, with any appropriate amendments to reflect current circumstances; although the site boundaries will be considered in preparing the draft plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/OA: Opportunity Areas in Cambridge.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 23 - Eastern Gate Opportunity Area

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

As above.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/OA: Opportunity Areas in Cambridge

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 24 - Mill Road Opportunity Area

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/OA: Opportunity Areas in Cambridge.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy

Policy 25 - Cambridge Railway Station, Hills Road Corridor to the City Centre Opportunity Area

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/OA: Opportunity Areas in Cambridge.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 26 - Old Press/Mill Lane Opportunity Area

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/OA: Opportunity Areas in Cambridge.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy

Policy 27 - Site specific development opportunities

Consistency with National Policy

The policy concerns allocation of development sites and, therefore, is consistent with the NPPF requirement that a plan should allocate sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (paragraph 23).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

For the emerging joint local plan, specific development opportunities have been considered in addition to those already extant from the adopted plan. These have been informed by the *Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment* (2021). Two new sites have been identified in the Cambridge urban area – one for new homes and one for new employment uses. There are some existing allocations which are no longer anticipated to come forward for the use allocated. They are therefore proposed to be removed from

the plan unless additional evidence to continue to include them comes forward during the plan making process.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

Policy S/NEC: Northeast Cambridge

Policy S/LAC: Other site allocations in Cambridge Policy S/CE: Cambridge East

Policy S/NWC: Northwest Cambridge

Policy S/CBC: Cambridge Biomedical Campus (including Addenbrooke's Hospital) Policy S/WC: West Cambridge

Policy S/EOC: Other site allocations on the edge of Cambridge.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Responding to Climate Change and Managing Resources

Policy 28 - Carbon reduction, community energy networks, sustainable design and construction, and water use

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The NPPF requires that plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change (paragraph 162).

2024 changes to the NPPF emphasise the importance of planning's role in the transition to net zero by 2050, and includes requirements relating to low carbon energy generation, energy efficiency, and sustainable design and implementation (paragraphs 162 – 169). By requiring applicants to provide a Sustainability Statement, Policy 28 is consistent with this approach. The Planning

Practice Guidance (PPG) indicates that where there is a clear local need, local planning authorities can set out policies requiring new dwellings to meet the tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres/person/day (Housing: optional technical standards, paragraph 14). Policy 28 reflects this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Net Zero Carbon Study* (2021) advises that new buildings need to be built to net zero carbon as soon as possible to enable Greater Cambridge to play its part in meeting the UK's carbon budgets. In order to support the transition to net zero carbon and keep

Greater Cambridge within its carbon budget, the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan will need to facilitate both community and commercial scale renewable energy generation, with a blend of both wind and solar based energy. The *Greater Cambridge Integrated Water Management Study* (IWMS, 2021) has shown that the current level of water abstraction from the chalk aquifer is widely believed to be unsustainable. The IWMS has shown that 80 litres/person/day is achievable by making full use of water efficient fixtures and fittings, and also water re-use measures on site.

Draft regional and water company resource management plans highlight the importance of delivering high levels of water efficiency.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

CC/NZ: Net zero carbon new buildings

CC/WE: Water efficiency in new developments CC/DC: Designing for a changing climate

CC/CE: Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy WS/HD: Creating healthy new developments.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 29 - Renewable and low carbon energy generation

Consistency with National Policy

By supporting development involving the provision of renewable and/or low carbon energy generation, the policy reflects the approach to addressing this issue included in the NPPF (paragraphs 165 – 166).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

In order to support the transition to net zero carbon and keep

Greater Cambridge within its carbon budget, updated policies in the emerging local plan will need to facilitate both community and commercial scale renewable energy generation, with a blend of both wind and solar based energy.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

CC/RE: Renewable energy projects and infrastructure.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 30 - Energy-efficiency improvements in existing dwellings

Consistency with National Policy

The requirement in this policy for extensions to or conversions of buildings to be energy efficient reflects the purpose of the planning system to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (NPPF, paragraph 7).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

This policy approach is not proposed to be carried forward into the new Local Plan as it has proved to be ineffective as planning

conditions can only be applied to the works for which planning permission has been sought.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

None.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 31 - Integrated water management and the water cycle

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

2024 changes to the NPPF refer to the significance of sustainable drainage systems in new development (paragraph 182). The policy is consistent with national policy.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

An updated policy, integrating existing policies in the adopted Local Plan, is proposed for the emerging plan to supplement national policy with local considerations, and to ensure that water is managed sustainably.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

CC/FM: Flooding and integrated water management.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 32 - Flood risk

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires that strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment and should manage flood risk from all sources (paragraph 171). Policy 32 meets these requirements and requires flood risk assessments and application of the sequential test in accordance with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A Greater Cambridge Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA, 2021) has been prepared which identifies areas that may flood from all sources, including rivers, surface water, groundwater, sewers and reservoirs.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

CC/FM: Flooding and integrated water management.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 33 - Contaminated land

Consistency with National Policy

This policy responds to the requirement in the NPPF that policies should ensure that a site is suitable for its proposed use, taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination (paragraph 196a).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Plan policies respond to the requirement in national policy in a local context.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 34 - Light pollution control

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The NPPF requires that policies ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects.

This includes limiting the impact of pollution from artificial light, including on local amenity and nature conservation (paragraph 198c).

Policy 34 seeks to control any harmful effects of external lighting and, therefore, is consistent with national policy.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

As above.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 35 - Protection of human health and quality of life from noise and vibration.

Consistency with National Policy

As above, but with regard to the effects of noise from development.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 36 - Air quality, odour and dust.

Consistency with National Policy

Policy 36 reflects the requirement in the NPPF that policies should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones; and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas (paragraph 199).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A particular issue is to ensure there is no adverse effect on air quality in air quality management areas (AQMA), which are currently in effect in the city centre.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 37 - Cambridge Airport Public Safety Zone and Air Safeguarding Zones

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF takes a broad approach to this issue, indicating that plans should recognise the importance of maintaining a national network of general aviation airfields and have regard to the Government's General Aviation Strategy (paragraph 111f). Policy 37 is appropriate in the specific context of the need for safeguarding around Cambridge Airport.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

In addition to Cambridge Airport there are a number of established aerodromes and smaller airfields in Greater Cambridge, including Imperial War Museum Duxford. Policies are needed to ensure aviation development does not negatively impact environment and human health, and that impacts of proposals are fully considered, and the continuation of this approach is proposed for the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/AD: Aviation development.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 38 - Hazardous installations

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

This policy reflects the broad provisions in national policy concerning hazardous installations and substances (paragraph 46).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Plan policies respond to the requirement in national policy in a local context.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy

Policy 39 - Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory, Lord's Bridge.

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

This policy reflects the broad principles of the NPPF with regard to safeguarding important strategic and local infrastructure.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Policy in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will continue to safeguard important infrastructure from any adverse effects of new development.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

I/SI: Safeguarding important infrastructure.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Supporting the Cambridge Economy

Policy 40 - Development and expansion of business space.

Consistency with National Policy

This policy concerns strategic development locations and, therefore, is consistent with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should set criteria, and identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period (paragraph 86b).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A range of key employment locations are proposed to be identified in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to support the Cambridge economy.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/NE: New employment and development proposals

J/EP: Supporting a range of facilities in employment parks.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 41 - Protection of business space.

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

By protecting existing employment uses, this policy is consistent with the NPPF's expectation that policies should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt (paragraph 85).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Less local employment opportunities can reduce the vibrancy of communities and mean people have to travel further for work, or to access local services. It would be unreasonable to protect employment sites in perpetuity, but policies can seek to ensure that alternative employment opportunities have been explored before sites are lost. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to continue to protect employment land from loss to other uses.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\).](#)

MS/MU: Meanwhile uses during long term redevelopments

J/PB: Protecting existing business space.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 42 - Connecting new developments to digital infrastructure.

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's expectation that plan policies should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including full fibre broadband connections (paragraph 119).

Evidence/change in local circumstances.

The Greater Cambridge economy is driven by businesses in knowledge-based sectors with businesses that rely on the use of cutting-edge digital technology. An updated policy proposal has been included in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to ensure that adequate and appropriate digital infrastructure is provided in new development.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/DI: Digital infrastructure.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 43 - University development

Consistency with National Policy

By supporting university-related development in general and including specific development sites, this policy is consistent with the NPPF's requirement to address education provision and strategic priorities (paragraph 20).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The University of Cambridge continues to be a world leader in higher education and research. It is also a vital driver of the Cambridge economy and is the reason why so many high technology and knowledge-based employers decide to locate in the city. It contributes to, and is dependent upon, the quality of life in the city and city centre. ARU has made significant investment in its East Road sites which remain the most sustainable location for future investment.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/FD: Faculty development and specialist/language schools.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 44 - Specialist colleges and language schools

Consistency with National Policy

This policy seeks to manage the development of existing and new specialist colleges and language schools. As such, it is a policy tailored to a specific issue arising in a local context but is otherwise consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

There are a growing number of specialist colleges in Cambridge, which is an important centre for the study of English as a foreign language. These institutions can have significant economic benefit, but it is important that the impacts of their growth are properly managed, including the additional burdens on the housing market. It is therefore important to support the growth of higher education institutions, language schools and specialist colleges while minimising the potential impact of their new development.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/FD: Faculty development and specialist/language schools.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Maintaining a Balanced Supply of Housing

Policy 45 - Affordable housing and dwelling mix

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires the tenure of homes needed for different groups in the community, including those requiring affordable homes, to be assessed and that the results of that assessment be reflected in planning policies (paragraphs 63 – 68). Policy 45 is largely consistent with national policy in this regard. However, the current NPPF says that where a need for affordable housing is identified planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required, including the minimum proportion of Social Rent homes. Policy 45 does not specifically reflect this more recent requirement, although is flexible enough to accommodate it.

Policy 45 requires that affordable housing is provided on sites of 11 dwellings or more, whereas the NPPF (paragraph 65-4) sets the threshold as major developments (10 dwellings or more). This difference between national and local policy was identified soon after plan adoption, and a decision was taken by planning committee in November 2018 to apply the policy to 10 or more dwellings reflecting national planning policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A Housing Needs of Specific Groups study for Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk (2021) and Addendum for Greater Cambridge (2021) will be used to inform the preparation of new policies.

Plan policies set out how the Council will secure affordable homes and a mix of sizes and types of homes on new developments to address the identified need and create balanced and mixed communities.

A replacement policy in the emerging Local Plan will continue to set out how the Council will secure affordable homes on new developments to address the identified need, and respond to the latest national planning policy and guidance.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/AH: Affordable housing

H/HM: Housing mix.

Conclusion/RAG – Amber

The policy is generally consistent with national policy. However, whilst the policy is flexible regarding the affordable housing tenure mix, it does not specifically reflect the more recent requirement in national policy that local policies should specify the type of affordable housing, including the minimum proportion of Social Rent homes required.

For consistency with national planning policy and as set out in a decision taken by planning committee in November 2018, the Council is already applying the national policy requirement set out in NPPF paragraph 65 and the definition of major development, of seeking affordable housing on sites of 10 or more dwellings, rather than the threshold of 11 or more dwellings set out in Policy 45.

Policy 46 - Development of student housing.

Consistency with National Policy

National policy requires the housing needs for different groups in the community to be assessed and reflected in planning policies, including students (paragraph 63). Policy 46 is consistent with this requirement.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Students make up a significant proportion of the population of Cambridge and if adequate provision is not made for their needs in suitable locations this would lead to significant pressures on the local housing market. The existing plan policy for Cambridge, setting out policy requirements for student housing, is proposed to provide the basis for the replacement policy in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/SA: Student accommodation.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 47 - Specialist housing

Consistency with National Policy

National planning policy requires the size, type and tenure of homes needed for different groups in the community to be assessed and that the results of that assessment be reflected in planning policies (paragraph 63). Policy 47 responds to this requirement with regard to specialist housing, which is designed so that support can be provided to its occupants where required (and often to others in the wider community) while promoting independent living.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Providing specialist accommodation can help people to live independently whilst staying within their local community. Plan policies therefore need to set out how the Council will deliver sufficient specialist housing to meet the identified need and how proposals for new specialist housing will be considered.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/SH: Specialist housing and homes for older people.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 48 - Housing in multiple occupation

Consistency with National Policy

As above, but with regard to houses in multiple occupation (which is not specifically referenced in national policy).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) form an important part of the housing market in Cambridge, with a significant number occupied by students. HMOs can change the nature of an area, and can be seen to be associated with negative impacts. Policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to set out the specifications that should be met so that HMOs provide a standard of accommodation equivalent to that provided in other new residential developments.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/MO: Houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 49 - Provision for Gypsies and Travellers

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community, including travellers, to be assessed and reflected in planning policies (paragraph 63). More details are set out in the separate policy document, *Planning Policy for Traveller Sites*. Policy 49 seeks to address this requirement, although no additional need for traveller pitches is identified.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A new accommodation needs assessment has been commissioned. The needs assessment will seek to identify the needs of Gypsies and Travellers meeting different definitions, including those that no longer travel, as part of the requirement under the Housing Act to consider the needs of people living on sites on which caravans can be stationed. This potential need was one of the issues highlighted by the Inspector examining the 2018 Local Plans to be addressed through this Local Plan review, and the plan will need to identify how this need will be addressed.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/GT: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 50 - Residential space standards

Consistency with National Policy

National planning policy states that planning policies should ensure that developments create places with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users. It allows local authorities to include planning policies that make use of the nationally described residential space standard (paragraph 135f and footnote 51), which Policy 50 does.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan suggests gross internal floor areas for all new homes should continue to be required to meet or exceed the nationally described residential space standards.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/SS: Residential space standards and accessible homes.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 51 - Accessible homes

Consistency with National Policy

As above. The NPPF also says that planning policies for housing should make use of the Government's optional technical standards for accessible and adaptable housing, where this would address an identified need for such properties (footnote 51), which Policy 51 does.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes requiring all new homes to be Building Regulations M4(2) 'accessible and adaptable' dwellings, which allows for dwellings to be adapted over time, including to accommodate a wheelchair user(s), or to take account of other disability or mobility issues.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/SS: Residential space standards and accessible homes.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 52 - Protecting garden land and the subdivision of existing dwelling plots

Consistency with National Policy

National policy indicates that plans should consider the case for setting out policies to resist inappropriate development of residential gardens, for example where development would cause harm to the local area (paragraph 75). Policy 52 is consistent with this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to continue the approach of the adopted plan by resisting inappropriate development of residential gardens and the subdivision of existing plots. This will be done by reference to a range of factors including potential harm to local character, adequacy of remaining amenity space, trees, heritage and biodiversity.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/GL: Garden land and subdivision of existing plots.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 53 - Flat conversions

Consistency with National Policy

National planning policy states that planning policies should ensure that developments create places with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users (paragraph 135f). In this regard, Policy 53 is responding to a specific issue arising in a local context, concerning the effects of conversion of single dwellings into flats. As such, it is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Evidence related to the adopted policy is included in the supporting text.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

None. Issues addressed in the current policy will be addressed across a number of new policies.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 54 - Residential moorings

Consistency with National Policy

National policy requires that the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (paragraph 63). Policy 54 is consistent with this requirement.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

An update of the accommodation needs assessment is being carried out which will assess the needs of houseboat dwellers. The adopted policy for considering proposals for new residential moorings is proposed to be carried forward to apply to the whole of Greater Cambridge.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/RM: Residential moorings.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Protecting and Enhancing the Character of Cambridge.

Policy 55 - Responding to context

Consistency with National Policy

By requiring development to respond to local context and character, the policy is consistent with a central objective of the NPPF, to achieve well-designed places (section 12).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

National planning policy emphasises the need to create a robust policy framework to achieve high quality design. Since the Local Plan was adopted the NPPF has been updated to reference the role of the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code (paragraph 133).

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/PP: People and place responsive design

GP/QD: Achieving high quality development.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 56 - Creating successful places

Consistency with National Policy

As above, with regard to high quality design.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/PP: People and place responsive design.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 57 - Designing new buildings

Consistency with National Policy

As above, with regard to the design of new buildings.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

CC/CE: Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy

GP/QD: Achieving high quality development.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 58 - Altering and extending existing buildings

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, with regard to proposals to alter or extend existing buildings.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

As above.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

GP/QD: Achieving high quality development.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 59 - Designing landscape and the public realm

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, with regard to design quality as it relates to landscaping and the public realm.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The spaces between, around and within buildings, streets, squares, parks and open spaces all play a key role in supporting public life and fostering social interaction.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/QP: Establishing high quality landscape and public realm.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 60 - Tall buildings and the skyline in Cambridge

Consistency with National Policy

This policy responds to the need to ensure development is sensitive to Cambridge's historic centre and its setting. As such, it is consistent with national policy as it relates to conserving and enhancing the historic environment (section 16) and good design (section 12).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Greater Cambridge's historic and natural environments define the character and setting of the city and rural areas, contributing significantly to quality of life and forming a very significant part of the backdrop to a successful and growing area.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/QD: Achieving high quality development.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 61 - Conservation and enhancement of Cambridge's historic environment

Consistency with National Policy

The policy is consistent with the NPPF's provisions for conserving and enhancing the historic environment (section 16).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/HA: Conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 62 - Local heritage assets

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/HA: Conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.

Conclusion/RAG - Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 63 - Works to a heritage asset to address climate change

Consistency with National Policy

This policy recognises a specific issue concerning the need to enable adaptation of historic buildings to address climate change, as long as there is adequate safeguarding of the heritage asset. As such, the policy accords with national policy as it relates to these issues.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Net Zero Carbon Study* (2021) shows that existing buildings account for one third of all greenhouse gas emissions. The emerging Local Plan will therefore provide clarity to owners of heritage assets on how to undertake sensitive works to address the performance of their buildings, in line with best practice guidance for heritage assets.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/CC: Adapting heritage assets to climate change.

Conclusion/RAG - Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 64 - Shopfronts, signage and shop security measures

Consistency with National Policy

This policy concerns shopfront and related design issues, including historic shopfronts. As such, it is consistent with the NPPF's

objectives to achieve well-designed places (section 12) and to conserve and enhance the historic environment (section 16).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

National planning policy emphasises the need to create a robust policy framework to achieve high quality design and this is supported by the National Design Guide.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/QD: Achieving high quality development

GP/HA: Conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 65 - Visual pollution

Consistency with National Policy

As above, with regard to preventing visual pollution arising from advertising, street furniture and other infrastructure.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/QP: Establishing high quality landscape and public realm.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 66 - Paving over front gardens

Consistency with National Policy

This policy seeks to manage the paving over of front gardens in the interests of avoiding surface water flooding, the character and appearance of the area, and biodiversity. It is, therefore, consistent with the NPPF's objectives relating to these matters.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The policy supports both good design and sustainable development principles.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/QD: Achieving high quality development.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 67 - Protection of open space

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless a number of criteria are met (paragraph 104). Policy 67 reflects the provisions of national policy in this regard.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Settlements contain a wide variety of open spaces that make significant contributions to the character of places, but also provide important local amenities. It is important that these are protected from development that could have an adverse impact on these qualities.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/GI: Green infrastructure

BG/PO: Protecting open spaces.

Conclusion/RAG - Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 68 - Open space and recreation provision through new development

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces and community facilities, including open space (paragraph 98a); and that this can be secured through developer contributions (paragraph 35).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Open spaces not only help support the health, social and cultural well-being of local communities, but also help support strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. The varied nature of the area means that tailored solutions will be required for provision of open space in new development.

Updated evidence regarding the need for sports and open space will be prepared to inform the local plan review.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/EO: Providing and enhancing open spaces.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 69 - Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires the protection and enhancement of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance, with the level of protection being appropriate to its international, national or local significance (paragraph 192). Policy 69 is consistent with this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will continue protection of important sites. Designated biodiversity sites within and close to Greater Cambridge are being impacted by increasing numbers of visitors – an issue that needs to be addressed to protect these vulnerable habitats and the species they support.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/BG: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 70 - Protection of priority species and habitats

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

This policy is consistent with the requirement in national policy that plans should protect and enhance biodiversity, including priority habitats and species, and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity (paragraph 192).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

There is a continued need to protect priority species and habitats in accordance with legislation and national policy.

Under the Environment Act 2021, most development will be required to deliver a minimum biodiversity net gain of 10% from November 2023.

At an Oxford-Cambridge Partnership level the authorities have agreed a set of Environmental Principles which include the aims of doubling the area of land managed primarily for nature, and also to deliver a minimum 20% biodiversity net gain on development sites. These ambitions, together with the relatively low level of designated sites and priority habitats in Greater Cambridge, highlight the need for development to bring further net gains beyond the 10% proposed nationally. This will be addressed in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

BG/BG: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 71 - Trees

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF says that trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments, and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change; and plan policies should ensure that existing trees are retained wherever possible (paragraph 136). Policy 71 is consistent with national policy in this regard.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Locally, low tree and tree canopy cover is recognised as a weakness within the ecological network of Greater Cambridge. The Cambridge City Council Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-26 Canopy Cover Project seeks to support Cambridge City Council's aim of achieving 19% tree cover by the 2050s; South Cambridgeshire also has identified a priority of increasing tree canopy cover in its Doubling Nature Strategy.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/TC: Improving tree canopy cover and the tree population.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Services and Local Facilities

Policy 72 - Development and change of use in district, local and neighbourhood centres.

Consistency with National Policy

This policy meets the NPPF's requirement that policies should define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas, and

make clear the range of uses permitted in such locations, as part of a positive strategy for the future of each centre (paragraph 90b). While the policy is consistent with this requirement as it relates to other centres, the controls over ground floor uses has been impacted by changes to the Use Classes Order, particularly the new, broad Class E, which includes shops and offices amongst other uses.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The introduction of Use Class E – Commercial, Business and Service - means that some use changes can be made potentially without planning permission, such as shops becoming financial services, offices, or even light industrial uses. In some circumstances changes to residential uses is possible through permitted development rights. Policies in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan will need to adapt to these changes, with the aim of protecting the vibrancy of existing centres.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

J/RC: Retail and centres.

[Conclusion/RAG – Amber](#)

The policy is generally consistent with national policy. However, the restriction on some ground floor uses have been impacted by changes to the Use Classes Order, particularly Class E.

Policy 73 - Community, sports and leisure facilities

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments (paragraph 98a).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Community, cultural, education, sports and leisure services and facilities play an important role in making places vibrant, healthy and sustainable. These are important in both new and established settlements. Policies are needed to ensure these facilities and services are delivered to support new development. Appropriate care is also needed to ensure new facilities do not undermine existing facilities. It is also equally important to ensure these are protected from loss to alternative uses, to support established settlements.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 74 - Education facilities

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the objective in national policy that development should be supported by sufficient infrastructure, including making provision for education, and that this can be secured through developer contributions (paragraphs 20b and c, and 35).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 75 - Healthcare facilities

Consistency with National Policy

National policy says that plan policies should address the provision of community facilities, including for health (paragraphs 20c and 29). By supporting the provision of such facilities within sustainable locations Policy 75 is consistent with the NPPF.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 76 - Protection of public houses

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces and community facilities, including public houses, to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments (paragraph 98a).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Public houses are an important part of local communities. They help to foster social interaction and local community life in both urban and rural areas. Their protection from demolition or re-use is, therefore, an important policy consideration.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/PH: Protection of public houses.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 77 - Development and expansion of visitor accommodation.

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF defines tourist-related development as a main town centre use (Annex 2: Glossary). As this policy identifies locations for visitor accommodation it accords with the requirement in national policy to promote the long-term vitality and viability of town centres (paragraph 90a).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will consider how visitor accommodation should be addressed.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/VA: Visitor accommodation, attractions and facilities.

Conclusion/RAG - Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 78 - Redevelopment or loss of visitor accommodation.

Consistency with National Policy

As above, but with regard to the loss of visitor accommodation.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

See above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/VA: Visitor accommodation, attractions and facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 79 - Visitor attractions

Consistency with National Policy

This policy supports the provision of visitor attractions within the city centre. As such, it accords with the requirement in national policy to promote the long-term vitality and viability of town centres (paragraph 90a) by taking a positive approach to tourist and other visitor-related development, which national policy defines as a main town centre use (Annex 2: Glossary).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

None.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/VA: Visitor accommodation, attractions and facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Providing the Infrastructure to Support Development

Policy 80 - Supporting sustainable access to development

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF expects plan policies to promote sustainable transport (section 9); Policy 80 is consistent with this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will reflect the aims of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan and national policy, whilst addressing the specific challenges and local opportunities within Greater Cambridge.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/ST: Sustainable transport and connectivity.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 81 - Mitigating the transport impact of development.

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the approach to sustainable transport in national policy, including that all developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a transport statement or transport assessment (section 9). It is also consistent with the requirement that development should be supported by sufficient infrastructure and that this can be secured through developer contributions (paragraphs 20b and c, and 35).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

This policy will be updated in the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan to ensure development will not have an unacceptable transport impact; increasing vehicular trips on already congested roads or generating more trips using public transport or the existing walking and cycling network than there is currently capacity to safely accommodate. Wider impacts on health and the environment, including cumulative impacts, will also be taken into consideration.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/ST: Sustainable transport and connectivity

I/FD: Freight and delivery consolidation.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 82 - Parking management

Consistency with National Policy

This policy sets local parking standards for new development and in doing so reflects the principles set out in national policy

(paragraph 112).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The adopted policy currently includes a set of maximum car parking standards, which restrict parking particularly in the central areas. A replacement policy is proposed in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan to move to a more design-led approach, supported by indicative standards tailored to reflect different circumstances.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/EV: Parking and electric vehicles

I/FD: Freight and delivery consolidation.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 83 - Aviation development

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF takes a broad approach to this issue, indicating that plans should recognise the importance of maintaining a national network of general aviation airfields and have regard to the Government's General Aviation Strategy (paragraph 111f). Policy 83 is focused on the effects of aviation-related development at Cambridge Airport, but is not otherwise inconsistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

In addition to Cambridge Airport there are a number of established aerodromes and smaller airfields in Greater Cambridge, including Imperial War Museum Duxford. Policies are needed to ensure aviation development does not negatively impact environment and human health, and that impacts of proposals are fully considered, and the continuation of this approach is proposed for the Greater

Cambridge Local Plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

I/AD: Aviation development.

[Conclusion/RAG - Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 84 - Telecommunications

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

This policy responds positively to development proposals for telecommunications infrastructure and, therefore, is consistent with national policy on planning for such development (paragraph 20b) and supporting high quality communications (section 10).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The Greater Cambridge economy is driven by businesses in knowledge-based sectors with businesses that rely on the use of cutting-edge digital technology. An updated policy is required to ensure that adequate and appropriate digital infrastructure is provided in new development.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

I/DI: Digital infrastructure.

[Conclusion/RAG - Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy 85 - Infrastructure delivery, planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the objective in national policy that development should be supported by sufficient infrastructure and that this can be secured through developer contributions (paragraphs 20b and c, and 35).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will be supported by work to assess electricity infrastructure capacity at a strategic level. A new policy will seek to ensure that this approach is integrated at a very early stage, via the development of energy masterplans for strategic developments.

An Infrastructure Delivery Plan is being prepared to accompany the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This will identify the infrastructure that is needed, when it is needed, and how much it costs.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/GI: Green infrastructure

I/EI: Energy infrastructure masterplanning I/ID: Infrastructure and delivery.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Appendix B

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 – Five Yearly Policy Review

Spatial Strategy

Policy S/1 - Vision

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF expects plans to ‘provide a positive vision for the future of each area’ (paragraph 15). The current Vision fulfils this purpose for the adopted plan.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Vision is proposed to be updated in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, in particular to emphasise the importance of reducing climate impacts, which reflects the declaration of a climate emergency by the Councils.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

Updated draft Vision, covering the plan period to 2041, included in the GCLP First Proposals.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy S/2 - Objectives of the Local Plan

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF expects plans to provide ‘a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities’ (paragraph 15). The objectives provide the framework for addressing these requirements.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The objectives are proposed to be updated in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan with a more succinct approach through seven Aims, based on the Plan's Big Themes. These are broadly similar to the Objectives in the adopted plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

Updated Objectives in the form of more succinct Aims included in the GCLP First Proposals.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy S/3 - Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

Consistency with National Policy

Policy S/3 remains generally consistent with national policy, although it does not fully reflect the wording of the current NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11), in particular 11a which adds that in promoting sustainable patterns of development all plans should align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) indicates that there is no need for a plan to directly replicate the wording in the NPPF in a policy (*Plan Making*, paragraph 36).

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

No policy necessary in light of current guidance.

Conclusion/RAG – Amber

The wording of the policy is not wholly consistent with current national policy, but in any case the most recent version of the NPPF can be relied upon as local policies are not required to replicate the NPPF.

Policy S/4 - Cambridge Green Belt

Consistency with National Policy

Evidence/change in local circumstances.

The NPPF requires Green Belt boundaries only to be altered in exceptional circumstances and provides detailed policy for assessing development proposals (section 13). Changes to the NPPF in 2024 introduce new provisions concerning exceptional circumstances for altering Green Belt boundaries, and amends some of the criteria relating to the exceptions to inappropriate development. The changes also introduce the new designation of 'grey belt' and the 'Golden Rules' concerning the development of land released from the Green Belt. Policy S/4 simply states that new development in the Green Belt will only be approved in line with Green Belt policy in the NPPF. Therefore, despite these changes to the NPPF, Policy S/4 is consistent with national policy.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/GB: Protection and enhancement of the Cambridge Green Belt.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

Policy S/4 states that new development will only be approved in accordance with Green Belt policy in the NPPF and, therefore, is consistent with it.

Policy S/5 - Provision of New Jobs and Homes

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires strategic plan policies to make sufficient provision for housing and employment needs (paragraph 20). Policy S/5 is fully consistent with this approach to 2031.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Through preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan objectively assessed needs for homes and jobs will be considered and the extent to which those need can be met consistent with delivery of sustainable development, in particular water supply and housing delivery.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/JH: New jobs and homes.

Conclusion/RAG - Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy S/6 - The Development Strategy to 2031

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF states that strategic plan policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places

(paragraph 20). Policy S/6 sets out a clear strategy for the pattern and scale of development to 2031 and, therefore is consistent with the NPPF.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The development strategy needs to be updated to take account of new housing and jobs forecasts to 2041 and beyond. This will be considered through the local plan review.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/DS: Development strategy.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy S/7 - Development Frameworks

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF says that decision-makers should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible (paragraph 39). Policy S/7 supports the growth promoted through the development strategy by seeking to direct development to the most sustainable locations. While it places limitations on the type of development permissible outside defined development frameworks, this is part of an holistic approach to promoting a district-wide sustainable development strategy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan is proposed to include boundaries around settlements, identifying areas that are considered to be part of the settlement for planning purposes. As such, subject to any changes in boundaries from the adopted plan, the approach continues to promote growth in the most sustainable locations, in accordance with the development strategy.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/SB: Settlement boundaries.

[Conclusion/RAG - Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy S/8 - Rural Centres

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The designation of a hierarchy of rural settlements in Policy S/8, together with appropriate levels of development, is an important part of establishing an overall strategy for sustainable development, as required by the NPPF.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

An updated assessment of settlements has been carried out, informed by the level of services and facilities, education, public transport and employment available at each settlement. This showed that the positioning of settlements within the hierarchy remains appropriate, with the exception of three proposed changes: Cambourne is a growing centre, with a growing level of services, facilities and transport opportunities and should be classified as a Town; Cottenham should be classified as a Minor Rural Centre; and Babraham should be classified as a Group village. These changes are proposed for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/SH: Settlement hierarchy.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy S/9 - Minor Rural Centres Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/SH: Settlement hierarchy.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy S/10 - Group Villages

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/SH: Settlement hierarchy.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy S/11 - Infill Villages

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/SH: Settlement hierarchy.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy S/12 - Phasing, Delivery and Monitoring

Consistency with National Policy

This policy informs the requirement to produce an Authority Monitoring Report annually, as well as maintaining a five year housing land supply and keeping the effectiveness of plan policies as a whole under review. It is, therefore, consistent with the NPPF in this regard. However, as noted above in respect of Policy S/5, the five year housing land supply calculation will, from September 2023 until adoption of the new joint plan, be based on the standard method.

Paragraph 78 and footnote 40 of the NPPF (published in December 2024) provides guidance regarding the application of a housing land supply buffer which supersedes policy S/12.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The NPPF requires a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years' worth of housing against the housing requirement set out in adopted strategic policies; or against the local housing need (calculated using the standard method set out in national planning guidance) where the strategic policies are more than five years old (paragraph 78). Therefore, from September 2023, when the adopted plan was be five years old and until the new plan is adopted, the five year housing supply requirement will be based on the standard method rather than the housing requirement in the adopted plan.

The Housing land supply position statements are published on the [Monitoring delivery in Greater Cambridge](#) section of the Greater Cambridge shared planning service website.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

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Conclusion/RAG – Amber

The policy is generally consistent with national policy.

All aspects of the policy remain green with the exception of:

From September 2023 until the new plan is adopted, the five-year housing supply requirement will be based on the standard method reflecting national guidance.

The updated NPPF also sets the buffer according to performance against the housing delivery test. These two specific aspects of the policy are Amber.

Policy S/13 - Review of the Local Plan

Consistency with National Policy

The policy specifies the need for an early plan review and, therefore, takes a proactive approach to the NPPF requirement for plans to be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years (paragraph 34).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

No change; review of adopted plan through the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is underway.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

No policy necessary in light of current plan review.

Conclusion/RAG - Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Strategic Sites

Policy SS/1 - Orchard Park

Consistency with National Policy

The policy concerns a strategic development site and, therefore, is consistent with the NPPF requirement that a plan should allocate sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (paragraph 23).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Allocated development is largely completed, however the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes that the allocation is carried forward until all parcels are under construction or completed.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/LAC: Other site allocations in Cambridge.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy

Policy SS/2 - Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The adopted Local Plans allocate developments on the northwest edge of Cambridge, referred to as Darwin Green. The land in South Cambridgeshire has yet to gain planning permission. The part of the site in Cambridge has outline planning permission, and some parcels have detailed planning permission or are under construction. Given the site will still be coming forward when the new plan is adopted it is proposed to carry forward the allocations into the new plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/EOC: Other site allocations on the edge of Cambridge.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SS/3 - Cambridge East

Consistency with National Policy

The policy concerns a strategic development site comprising areas allocated for development and also safeguarded land for longer term development through plan review. It is consistent with the NPPF requirement that a plan should allocate sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (paragraph 23) and to identify safeguarded land between the urban area and the Green Belt, in order to meet longer-term development needs stretching well beyond the plan period (paragraph 149c).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Several developments allocated by this policy are under construction. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to allocate land for a major new eastern quarter for Cambridge, enabling development of the airport site which was safeguarded for longer term development in the 2018 adopted Local Plans, identified as approximately 7,000 homes and 9,000 jobs in the First Proposals 2021. Marshall has advised the Councils of its commitment to relocate the Airport related uses and seeks to demonstrate the availability and deliverability of the site and has secured resolution to grant permission for an alternative site for the Airport in a nearby authority.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/CE: Cambridge East.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SS/4 - Cambridge Northern Fringe East and Cambridge North railway station

Consistency with National Policy

The policy concerns a strategic development site and, therefore, is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that a plan should

allocate sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (paragraph 23).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The allocation of Cambridge Northern Fringe East is proposed to be incorporated into a wider Northeast Cambridge allocation. The emerging North East Cambridge Area Action Plan responds to the adopted policy reference to preparation of an AAP and the site is also proposed to be included in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan for a mix of employment and residential development, predicated on the relocation of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/NEC: Northeast Cambridge.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SS/5 - Northstowe Extension

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The allocation is proposed to be carried forward into the new Local Plan. The detailed policy wording will be reviewed as may be appropriate for the new Local Plan, including amending capacity assumptions where necessary to reflect planning permissions.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/NS: Existing new settlements.

Conclusion/RAG - Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SS/6 - Waterbeach New Town

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The allocation is proposed to be carried forward into the new Local Plan. The detailed policy wording will be reviewed as may be appropriate for the new Local Plan, including amending capacity assumptions where necessary to reflect planning permissions. A Supplementary Planning Document for Land north of Waterbeach has been adopted.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/NS: Existing new settlements.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SS/7 - New Village at Bourn Airfield

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The allocation is proposed to be carried forward into the new Local Plan. The detailed policy wording will be reviewed as may be

appropriate for the new Local Plan, including amending capacity assumptions where necessary to reflect planning permissions. A Supplementary Planning Document for Bourn Airfield has been adopted.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/NS: Existing new settlements.

[Conclusion/RAG - Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SS/8 - Cambourne West

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The land northwest of Lower Cambourne has outline planning permission and some parcels are under construction. The land within the Business Park does not yet have planning permission. The existing allocation for a new mixed use development at Cambourne West is proposed to be carried forward into the new Local Plan, but to be expanded to include the full extent of the planning permission for land north west of Lower Cambourne.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/CB: Cambourne.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Climate Change

Policy CC/1 - Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires that plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change (paragraph 162). 2024 changes to the NPPF emphasise the importance of planning's role in the transition to net zero by 2050, and includes requirements relating to low carbon energy generation, energy efficiency, and sustainable design and implementation (paragraphs 162 – 169). By requiring applicants to provide a Sustainability Statement showing how the proposal addresses climate change, the plan policy is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Planning Act requires Local Plans to have policies related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Overheating, particularly in new residential buildings is becoming an increasing problem with climate change, with potentially serious consequences to health and life. Overheating risks can and should be mitigated through consideration of various factors at early design stages at low or no cost.

The new Local Plan is proposed to include a more focused approach to addressing climate change.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

CC/DC: Designing for a changing climate; and CC/NZ: Net zero carbon new buildings.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The existing policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy CC/2 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation

Consistency with National Policy

The policy largely reflects the approach to addressing renewable and low carbon energy generation included in the NPPF (paragraphs 165).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

In order to support the transition to net zero carbon and keep Greater Cambridge within its carbon budget, the emerging Local Plan will need to facilitate both community and commercial scale renewable energy generation, with a blend of both wind and solar based energy.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

CC/RE: Renewable energy projects and infrastructure.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The existing policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy CC/3 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments

Consistency with National Policy

By requiring a proportion of carbon emissions to be reduced by on-site technologies, this policy is broadly consistent with the NPPF's requirement for plans to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy (paragraph 165).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The UK has a legally binding requirement of net zero carbon by 2050. *The Net Zero Carbon Study* (2021) advises that new buildings need to be built to net zero carbon as soon as possible for Greater Cambridge to play its part in meeting the UK's carbon budgets. The evidence base makes it very clear that to achieve net zero carbon by 2050, then new development will need to go further than the requirements set out in current and future Building Regulations.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

CC/NZ: Net zero carbon new buildings.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The existing policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy CC/4 - Water Efficiency

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF states that plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply, amongst other matters (paragraph 162). The PPG indicates that where there is a clear local need, local planning authorities can set out policies requiring new dwellings to meet the tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres/person/day (*Housing: optional technical standards*, paragraph 14). Policy CC/4 is consistent with this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Integrated Water Management Study (IWMS, 2021) has shown that the current level of water abstraction from the chalk aquifer is widely believed to be unsustainable. The IWMS has shown that 80 litres/person/day is achievable by making

full use of water efficient fixtures and fittings, and also water re-use measures on site including surface water and rainwater harvesting, and grey water recycling.

Draft regional and water company resource management plans highlight the importance of delivering high levels of water efficiency.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

CC/WE: Water efficiency in new developments.

[Conclusion/RAG - Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy CC/5 - Sustainable Show Homes

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The provision of sustainable show homes in new developments, required by this policy, reflects the purpose of the planning system to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (NPPF, paragraph 7).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

See comments in relation to Policy CC/3, above. Given the high standards proposed, the sustainable show home policy which is currently part of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan will no longer be required.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

CC/NZ: Net zero carbon new buildings.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy CC/6 - Construction Methods.

Consistency with National Policy

The policy concerns managing the impacts of construction on local amenity. As such, there are no specific provisions for this in national policy, but the approach is broadly consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Government's Resources and Waste Strategy (2018) aims to eliminate avoidable wastes of all types by 2050 in England. This includes waste from all sectors, including construction.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

CC/CE: Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy CC/7 - Water Quality

Consistency with National Policy

The policy is consistent with the requirement in the NPPF that development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as water quality (paragraph 187e); and with the provisions of the PPG: *Water supply, wastewater and water quality*.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

An updated policy, integrating existing policies in the adopted Local Plan, is needed to supplement national policy with local

considerations, and to ensure that water is managed sustainably.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

CC/FM: Flooding and integrated water management.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy CC/8 - Sustainable Drainage Systems

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

2024 changes to the NPPF refer to the significance of sustainable drainage systems in new development (paragraph 182). The policy is consistent with this approach.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

A Greater Cambridge Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA, 2021) has been prepared which identifies areas that may flood from all sources including rivers, surface water, groundwater, sewers and reservoirs. A key component of managing surface water are sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

CC/FM: Flooding and integrated water management.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy CC/9 - Managing Flood Risk

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires that strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment and should manage flood risk from all sources (paragraph 171). Policy CC/9 meets these requirements and requires flood risk assessments and application of the sequential test in accordance with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above, the latest SFRA (2021) identifies areas that may flood from all sources including rivers, surface water, groundwater, sewers and reservoirs.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

CC/FM: Flooding and integrated water management.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Delivering High Quality Places

Policy HQ/1- Design Principles

Consistency with National Policy

By requiring high quality design in new development, the policy is consistent with a central objective of the NPPF, to achieve well-designed places (section 12).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

National planning policy emphasises the need to create a robust policy framework to achieve high quality design.

Since the Local Plan was adopted the NPPF has been updated to reference the role of the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code (paragraph 133).

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/QD: Achieving high quality development

GP/PP: People and place responsive design

GP/QP: Establishing high quality landscape and public realm.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy HQ/2 - Public Art and New Development

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/QD: Achieving high quality development.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Protecting and Enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment

Policy NH/1 - Conservation Area and Green Separation at Longstanton

Consistency with National Policy

The policy concerns areas of countryside within the conservation area at Longstanton, which will form part of the green separation between Longstanton and Northstowe. As such, it is consistent with the NPPF's promotion of good design which is sympathetic to local character, including the built environment and landscape setting (paragraph 135).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

None.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/LC: Protection and enhancement of landscape character.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/2 - Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF expects strategic policies to make provision for conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including

landscapes (paragraph 20d) and to protect and enhance valued landscapes (paragraph 187), which Policy NH/2 does.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment* (2021) has identified 33 different Landscape Character Areas with a distinct local identity and sense of place. The proposed replacement policy in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will reflect the purpose of the adopted policy.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/LC: Protection and enhancement of landscape character.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/3 - Protecting Agricultural Land

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF indicates that policies should recognise the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land (paragraph 187). The policy is consistent with this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

South Cambridgeshire has a significant resource of good quality agricultural land, and this is a valuable resource that needs to be protected. Land also plays a significant role in climate objectives, acting as both a source of greenhouse gas emissions and a carbon sink.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

CC/CS: Supporting land-based carbon sequestration

J/AL: Protecting the best agricultural land.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/4 - Biodiversity

Consistency with National Policy

National policy requires plans to protect and enhance biodiversity, including priority habitats and species, and to pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity (paragraph 192). Policy NH/4 is consistent with this requirement.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Under the Environment Act 2021, most development will be required to deliver a minimum biodiversity net gain of 10% from November 2023. At an Oxford-Cambridge Partnership level the authorities have agreed a set of Environmental Principles which include the aims of doubling the area of land managed primarily for nature, and also to deliver a minimum 20% biodiversity net gains beyond the 10% proposed nationally.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/BG: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/5 - Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that policies should protect and enhance sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance, with the level of protection being appropriate to its international, national or local significance (paragraph 192).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan is proposed to continue protection of important sites. Designated biodiversity sites within and close to Greater Cambridge are being impacted by increasing numbers of visitors – an issue that needs to be addressed to protect these vulnerable habitats and the species they support.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/BG: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/6 - Green Infrastructure

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF expects strategic policies to make provision for conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including green infrastructure (paragraph 20d) and to enable and support healthy lifestyles, including through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure (paragraph 96c). Policy NH/6 is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Green infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Baseline Report (2020)* identified the existing green infrastructure network and the

opportunities and challenges the network faces. *The Greater Cambridge Opportunity Mapping Final Report* (2021) has identified a number of strategic green infrastructure initiatives which have the potential to enhance the existing network.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

BG/GI: Green infrastructure.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/7 - Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The NPPF says that policies should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of trees and woodland (paragraph 187b). By recognising the most significant woodlands and trees, the policy is consistent with the NPPF.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Locally, low tree and tree canopy cover is recognised as a weakness within the ecological network of Greater Cambridge. The Cambridge City Council Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-26 Canopy Cover Project seeks to support Cambridge City Council's aim of achieving 19% tree cover by the 2050s; South Cambridgeshire also has identified a priority of increasing tree canopy cover in its Doubling Nature Strategy.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

BG/TC: Improving tree canopy cover and the tree population.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/8 - Mitigating the Impact of Development in and adjoining the Green Belt

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF provides detailed policy for assessing development proposals in the Green Belt (section 13). Policy NH/8 is consistent with this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

New development in the Green Belt will only be approved in accordance with Green Belt policy in the NPPF.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/GB: Protection and enhancement of the Cambridge Green Belt.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/9 - Redevelopment of Previously Developed Sites and Infilling in the Green Belt

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

GP/GB: Protection and enhancement of the Cambridge Green Belt.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/10 - Facilities for Recreation in the Green Belt

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

As above.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

GP/GB: Protection and enhancement of the Cambridge Green Belt.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/11 - Protected Village Amenity Areas

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The NPPF expects development to be sympathetic to local character and to provide a high standard of amenity (paragraph 135).

Policy NH/11 is consistent with this.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Settlements contain a wide variety of open spaces that make significant contributions to the character of places, but also provide important local amenities. It is important that these are protected from development that could have an adverse impact on these qualities.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/PO: Protecting open spaces.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/12 - Local Green Space

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF indicates that the designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them (paragraph 106). This is the approach followed in Policy NH/12.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Local Green Space is a designation which applies a Green Belt style of protection. A number of these were identified in the adopted plan and will be carried forward into the new plan. They are required to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular local significance.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/PO: Protecting open spaces.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/13 - Important Countryside Frontage

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's objective that policies should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside (paragraph 187b).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

In many South Cambridgeshire villages there are locations where a strong countryside character penetrates into the village, or separates two parts of a village. These Important Countryside Frontages, identified in the adopted Plan, are part of village character, and warrant continued protection.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/LC: Protection and enhancement of landscape character.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/14 - Heritage Assets

Consistency with National Policy

The policy is consistent with the NPPF's provisions for conserving and enhancing the historic environment (section 16).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Greater Cambridge's historic and natural environments define the character and setting of the City and rural areas, contributing significantly to quality of life and forming a very significant part of the backdrop to a successful and growing area. These need continued protection and enhancement in accordance with legislation and national policy.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/HA: Conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy NH/15 - Heritage Assets and Adapting to Climate Change

Consistency with National Policy

This policy recognises a specific issue concerning the need to enable adaptation of historic buildings to address climate change, as long as there is adequate safeguarding of the heritage asset. As such, the policy accords with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Net Zero Carbon Study* (2021) shows that existing buildings account for one third of all greenhouse gas emissions. Policy is therefore needed in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to support owners of heritage assets to undertake sensitive works to address the performance of their buildings, in line with best practice guidance for heritage assets.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/CC: Adapting heritage assets to climate change.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Delivering High Quality Homes

Policy H/1 - Allocations for Residential Development at Villages

Consistency with National Policy

The policy concerns allocation of development sites and, therefore, is consistent with the NPPF requirements that a plan should allocate sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (paragraph 23); and that planning policies should identify a sufficient supply and mix of sites, taking into account their availability, suitability and likely economic viability (paragraph 72).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A number of the sites are now complete. Site by site information is available in the Authority Monitoring Report.

In addition to sites allocated in the adopted plan, the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will consider if further allocations are needed to meet needs for the period to 2045.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/RRA: Site allocations in rest of the rural area

S/RSC: Other site allocations in the Rural Southern Cluster.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/2 - Bayer CropScience Site, Hauxton

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The residential element of the site has been built out. The site is proposed to be carried forward into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan with an amended boundary to include only the area for employment uses.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/RRA: Site allocations in rest of the rural area.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/3 - Fulbourn and Ida Darwin Hospitals

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The policy is proposed to be carried forward into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan for mixed-use development.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/RRA: Site allocations in rest of the rural area.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/4 - Papworth Everard West Central

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A number of developments have taken place or are planned in the policy area. Further details can be found in the Authority Monitoring Report.

The policy area is proposed to be carried forward into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Rather than piecemeal development, there is an opportunity for considerable environmental improvement, and benefit to the functioning of the village, if a coordinated approach is taken to its development.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/RRP: Policy areas in the rest of the rural area.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

Policy H/5 - Fen Drayton Former Land Settlement Association Estate

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Since adoption of the Fen Drayton former Land Settlement Association (LSA) estate Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) a number of dwellings have come forward in the area reflecting the terms of the policy.

The policy area is proposed to be carried forward into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The Land Settlement Association (LSA) was created in the 1930s, the legacy of which is a network of smallholdings with dwellings along the road frontages and large areas of unused land. A policy is needed to provide a context for use of this area.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/RRP: Policy areas in the rest of the rural area.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/6 - South of A1307, Linton

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The policy area is proposed to be carried forward into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, as it is considered that the case for restricting residential development in this area remains.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/SCP: Policy areas in the rural southern cluster.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/7 - Residential Moorings

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The policy concerns allocation of a site for residential boat mooring. It is, therefore, consistent with the NPPF's requirement that the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (paragraph 63).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The allocation has yet to be developed. The accommodation needs assessment is being updated which will assess the needs of houseboat dwellers. The adopted policy for considering proposals for new residential moorings in Cambridge is proposed to be carried forward to apply to the whole of Greater Cambridge.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/LAC: Other site allocations in Cambridge.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/8 - Housing Density

Consistency with National Policy

National planning policy requires plans to support making efficient use of land. It also highlights that city and town centres and other locations that are well served by public transport provide opportunities for higher densities, promoting sustainable travel modes that limit future car use (section 11). By setting expected densities in urban and rural areas, Policy H/8 is consistent with this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A design led approach, supported by site or area specific design codes provides the best opportunity to achieve the requirements of national planning policy.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/HD: Housing density.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/9 - Housing Mix

Consistency with National Policy

National planning policy requires the size and type of homes needed for different groups in the community to be assessed and that the results of that assessment be reflected in planning policies (paragraph 63). By requiring a mix of size of homes in major developments, the policy meets the NPPF's requirement.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

A Housing Needs of Specific Groups study for Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk (2021) and Addendum for Greater Cambridge (2021) will be used to inform the preparation of a new policy.

Policies in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will also need to set out how the Councils will secure a mix of sizes and types of homes on new developments to address the identified need and create balanced and mixed communities. This includes self and custom-build homes.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

H/HM: Housing mix

H/SS: Residential space standards and accessible homes H/CB: Self and custom build homes

H/BR: Build to rent homes.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/10 - Affordable Housing

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The NPPF requires the tenure of homes needed for different groups in the community, including those requiring affordable homes, to be assessed and that the results of that assessment be reflected in planning policies (paragraphs 63 – 68). Policy H/10 is largely consistent with national policy in this regard. However, the current NPPF says that where a need for affordable housing is identified

planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required, including the minimum proportion of Social Rent homes. Policy H/10 does not specifically reflect this more recent requirement, although is flexible enough to accommodate it.

Policy H/10 requires that affordable housing is provided on sites of 11 dwellings or more, whereas the NPPF (paragraph 65) sets the threshold as major developments (10 dwellings or more). This difference between national and local policy was identified soon after plan adoption, and a decision was taken by planning committee in November 2018 to apply the policy to 10 or more dwellings reflecting national planning policy.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

A Housing Needs of Specific Groups study for Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk (2021) and Addendum for Greater Cambridge (2021) will be used to inform the preparation of a new policy.

A replacement plan policy will continue to set out how the Council will secure affordable homes on new developments to address the identified need and respond to the latest national planning policy and guidance.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

H/AH: Affordable housing.

[Conclusion/RAG – Amber](#)

The policy is generally consistent with national policy. However, whilst the policy is flexible regarding the affordable housing tenure mix, it does not specifically reflect the more recent requirement in national policy that local policies should specify the type of affordable housing, including the minimum proportion of Social Rent homes required.

For consistency with national planning policy and as set out in a decision taken by planning committee in November 2018, the Council is already applying the national policy requirement set out in NPPF paragraph 65 and the definition of major development, of seeking affordable housing on sites of 10 or more dwellings, rather than the threshold of 11 or more dwellings set out in Policy H/10.

Policy H/11 - Rural Exception Site Affordable Housing

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF states that local planning authorities should support opportunities to bring forward rural exception sites that will provide affordable housing to meet identified local needs and consider whether allowing some market housing on these sites would help to facilitate this (paragraph 82). Policy H/11 seeks to do this and, therefore, is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Rural exception sites support local communities by prioritising people with a local connection to the village concerned. This policy approach will support the delivery of affordable housing, particularly in rural communities where current levels are low and new delivery is otherwise restricted by affordable housing only being required on sites of more than 10 dwellings.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/ES: Exception sites for affordable housing.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/12 - Residential Space Standards

Consistency with National Policy

National planning policy states that planning policies should ensure that developments create places with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users. It allows local authorities to include planning policies that make use of the nationally described residential space standard and the optional technical standards for accessible and adaptable housing (paragraph 135f and footnote 51), which Policy H/12 does.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals suggests gross internal floor areas for all new homes should continue to be required to meet or exceed the nationally described residential space standards. It also proposes requiring all new homes to be Building Regulations M4(2) 'accessible and adaptable' dwellings which allows for dwellings to be adapted over time, including to accommodate a wheelchair user(s), or to take account of other disability or mobility issues. New self or custom build dwellings can also be designed specifically to meet the requirements of the occupant(s) and therefore take account of any disability or mobility issues.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/SS: Residential space standards and accessible homes.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/13 - Extensions to Dwellings in the Countryside

Consistency with National Policy

Key objectives of the NPPF are the achievement of sustainable development (paragraph 8) and good design (section 12). This policy reflects these objectives with regard to extensions to dwellings outside village framework boundaries and, therefore, is consistent with the NPPF.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

South Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district with an attractive and much valued open environment. As a result, the area is prone to speculative proposals that could constitute unsustainable development. An updated policy is proposed which would replace a number of policies in the adopted plan dealing with this issue. The policy will use a range of criteria to control development in a way

that supports rural communities, reduces unsustainable living patterns and minimises the carbon impacts of new housing.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

H/DC: Dwellings in the countryside.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/14 - Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, but for replacement dwellings outside village framework boundaries.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

As above.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

H/DC: Dwellings in the countryside.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/15 - Countryside Dwellings of Exceptional Quality

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

The NPPF states that policies should avoid the development of isolated homes in the countryside unless one or more criteria apply,

including that the dwelling's design is of exceptional quality (paragraph 84e). The Local Plan as a whole restricts development of new dwellings outside of development frameworks, except for in particular circumstances such as where they are to support.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/DC: Dwellings in the countryside.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/16 - Development of Residential Gardens

Consistency with National Policy

National policy indicates that plans should consider the case for setting out policies to resist inappropriate development of residential gardens, for example where development would cause harm to the local area (paragraph 75). Policy H/16 is consistent with this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposes to continue the approach of the adopted plan by resisting inappropriate development of residential gardens and the subdivision of existing plots. This will be done by reference to a range of factors, including potential harm to local character, adequacy of remaining amenity space, trees, heritage and biodiversity.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/GL: Garden land and subdivision of existing plots.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/17 - Re-use of Buildings in the Countryside for Residential Use

Consistency with National Policy

By allowing re-use of buildings subject to a number of criteria, the policy is consistent with the NPPF's provisions to meet housing need and ensuring that new development does not harm local character (paragraph 84).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

See Policy H/13.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/DC: Dwellings in the countryside.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/18 - Working at Home

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's objectives to achieve sustainable development (paragraph 8) and to promote a strong, competitive economy (section 6).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The COVID-19 Pandemic has dramatically accelerated the shift towards homeworking. The post-pandemic future remains uncertain; however, surveys suggest that many companies' workers will look to continue some level of home working. A similar policy approach is proposed for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan alongside support for the creation of local employment hubs.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/RW: Enabling remote working.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/19 - Dwellings to Support a Rural-based Enterprise

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF states that planning policies should avoid the development of isolated homes in the countryside unless, amongst other criteria, there is an essential need for a rural worker, including those taking majority control of a farm business, to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside (paragraph 84a). Policy H/19 includes more detailed requirements with regard to such dwellings but overall is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

See Policy H/13.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/DC: Dwellings in the countryside.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/20 - Provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show People

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community, including travellers, to be assessed and reflected in planning policies (paragraph 63). More details are set out in the separate policy document, *Planning Policy for Traveller Sites*. Policy H/20 seeks to address this requirement, although no additional need for traveller pitches is identified. A need for additional plots for Travelling Show people's needs is included in the policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A new accommodation needs assessment has been commissioned. The needs assessment will seek to identify the needs of Gypsies and Travellers meeting different definitions, including those that no longer travel, as part of the requirement under the Housing Act to consider the needs of people living on sites on which caravans can be stationed. This potential need was one of the issues highlighted by the Inspector examining the 2018 Local Plans to be addressed through this Local Plan review, and the plan will need to identify how this need will be addressed. A new policy in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is proposed to address issues currently covered by several adopted policies.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/GT: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show people sites.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/21 - Gypsy and Traveller Provision at New Communities

Consistency with National Policy

As above. Policy H/21 recognises that if need is identified, major developments provide an opportunity to deliver pitches as part of mainstream development, ensuring they meet the needs of all sectors of the community, in sustainable locations close to services and facilities, where sites can be planned into the developments from the outset. As such, it is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/GT: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show people sites.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/22 - Proposals for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People Sites on Unallocated Land Outside Development Frameworks

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF says that decision-makers should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible (paragraph 39). This policy reflects the provisions of the NPPF and Policy S/7 by seeking to direct development to the most sustainable locations. While it places limitations on the type of development permissible outside defined development frameworks, this is part of a holistic approach to promoting a district-wide sustainable development strategy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/GT: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show people sites.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy H/23 - Design of Gypsy and Traveller Sites, and Travelling Show People Sites

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF promotes good design in new development (section 12) and this policy is consistent with this in respect of traveller and travelling show people sites.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

H/GT: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show people sites.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Building a Strong and Competitive Economy

Policy E/1 - New Employment Provision near Cambridge – Cambridge Science Park

Consistency with National Policy

The policy concerns a strategic development site and, therefore, is consistent with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should set criteria, and identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period (paragraph 86b).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The allocation covered by this policy is proposed to be incorporated within the Northeast Cambridge area, and therefore, is not proposed to be carried forward as a separate policy as it will be superseded by the new policy and the emerging Area Action Plan, although it will continue to support the employment role of Cambridge Science Park.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/NEC: Northeast Cambridge.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/2 - Cambridge Biomedical Campus Extension

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Cambridge Biomedical Campus is subject to continued development, and revisions to the masterplan are needed to improve the overall experience of the site for workers and visitors. Work is underway to inform a policy in the new local plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/CBC: Cambridge Biomedical Campus (including Addenbrooke's Hospital).

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/3 - Fulbourn Road East (Fulbourn) 6.9 hectares

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Land is allocated for business uses at Fulbourn Road on the eastern edge of Cambridge in both adopted plans. This is partly under construction. The need for the allocations to be carried forward will be kept under review.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/EOC: Other site allocations on the edge of Cambridge.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/4 - Allocations for Class B1 Employment Uses

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, although B1 employment uses now fall within the broader Use Class E.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Relevant sites not started or completed are proposed to be carried forward into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/RRA: Site allocations in rest of the rural area.

S/RSC: Other site allocations in the Rural Southern Cluster.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/5 - Allocations for Class B1, B2 and B8 Employment Uses

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Relevant sites not started or completed are proposed to be carried forward into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

S/RRA: Site allocations in rest of the rural area.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/6 - Papworth Hospital

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF says that strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, and make sufficient provision for community facilities, such as healthcare (paragraph 20c). The policy identifies that healthcare is the preferred use for the site following the relocation of Papworth Hospital and, therefore, the policy is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Papworth Hospital has relocated to a new building on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus at Addenbrooke's, and therefore the former hospital site in Papworth Everard is now vacant. A continuation of the existing policy approach is proposed in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to ensure appropriate future use.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/RRP: Policy areas in the rest of the rural area.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/7 - Imperial War Museum at Duxford

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF does not directly address how policies should address major visitor attractions outside town centres.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The museum is of national importance. A continuation of the approach of Policy E/7 is proposed in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan which will provide an appropriate policy framework to enable its continued evolution.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/RRP: Policy areas in the rest of the rural area.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/8 - Mixed-use development in Histon & Impington Station Area

Consistency with National Policy

See Policy E/1 above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

It is proposed that the policy area designation will be maintained in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. It is necessary to encourage sensitive redevelopment of this area and stimulate commercial activity and local employment. This approach was supported in the Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/RRP: Policy areas in the rest of the rural area.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/9 - Promotion of Clusters

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with national policy's requirement that planning policies should recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors, including making provision for clusters or networks of knowledge and data-driven, creative or high technology industries (paragraph 87).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study* (2020) explores the presence of clusters in the area, including their needs and opportunities, involving consultation with key stakeholders. The proposed Greater Cambridge Local Plan will continue to support the needs of clusters, updated as necessary to reflect the findings of the above Study.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

S/DS: Development Strategy

J/NE: New employment and development proposals.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/10 - Shared Social Spaces in Employment Areas

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's expectation that planning policies should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt (paragraph 85).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The success of many of the campuses and business parks are supported by a mix of other services and facilities which make it possible for workers to meet and share ideas. With the implementation of the Planning Use Class E, which provides greater flexibility between uses, such a policy is less necessary, but making employment parks high quality environments for workers and visitors is an important issue and a similar policy is proposed for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/EP: Supporting a range of facilities in employment parks.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/11 - Large Scale Warehousing and Distribution Centres

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF says that planning policies should recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors, including for storage and distribution operations at a variety of scales and in suitably accessible locations (paragraph 87). Policy E/11 restricts large scale warehousing and distribution, but specifically because of the importance of other high-tech sectors within Greater Cambridge, and the need for careful management and protection of employment land. Therefore, local justification is provided.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A need for additional space for warehousing and distribution was identified in the *Greater Cambridge Employment Land and Economic Development Evidence Study* (2020). The Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals put forward allocations, and proposed policy which continued to focus on meeting local needs.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

J/NE: New employment and development proposals.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/12 - New Employment Development in Villages

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

By enabling business development and expansion within village development frameworks, this policy is consistent with the NPPF's expectation that policies should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt (paragraph 85).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Sensitive small-scale employment development can help sustain rural economies and provide a wider range of employment opportunities for local residents. A similar policy is proposed to be included in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

J/NE: New employment and development proposals.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/13 - New Employment Development on the Edges of Villages

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, but with regard to development on the edges of villages.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/NE: New employment and development proposals.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/14 - Loss of Employment Land to Non-Employment Uses

Consistency with National Policy

As above, but with regard to resisting the loss of employment uses.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Less local employment opportunities can reduce the vibrancy of communities, and mean people have to travel further for work, or to access local services. It would be unreasonable to protect employment sites in perpetuity, but policies can seek to ensure that alternative employment opportunities have been explored before sites are lost.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/PB: Protecting existing business space.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/15 - Established Employment Areas

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

By enabling business development and expansion within these established areas, this policy is consistent with the NPPF's expectation that policies should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt (paragraph 85).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

A range of key employment locations have been identified to support the Cambridge economy, and the approach is proposed to be continued in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

J/NE: New employment and development proposals.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/16 - Expansion of Existing Businesses in the Countryside

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, but with regard to existing businesses in the countryside, with appropriate controls included in the policy.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Whilst in general new development in the countryside is restricted, there are circumstances (outside the Green Belt) where the expansion of firms would be acceptable.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/NE: New employment and development proposals.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/17 - Conversion or Replacement of Rural Buildings for Employment

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF states that policies should enable the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings. Outside settlements, it will be important to ensure that development is sensitive to its surroundings, does not have an unacceptable impact on local roads and exploits any opportunities to make a location more sustainable (paragraphs 88 and 89). Policy E/17 is consistent with national policy in this regard.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

It is important that policies restrict the scale of development in the countryside where large scale development would be unsustainable. Rural buildings, such as farm buildings no longer needed for agriculture, provide opportunities for conversion for employment uses in the district, thereby supporting the rural economy. A similar policy approach is proposed to be included in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/RE: Supporting the rural economy.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/18 - Farm Diversification

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the requirement in national policy that plan policies should enable the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses (paragraph 88b).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Policies need to support land-based businesses and farms to continue to thrive, including through diversifying into other business areas. A similar policy approach is proposed to be included in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/RE: Supporting the rural economy.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/19 - Tourist Facilities and Visitor Attractions

Consistency with National Policy

This policy concerns facilities and attractions in the countryside and includes a number of criteria to ensure that appropriate and sustainable development occurs. As such, the policy is consistent with national policy, which expects policies to enable sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside (paragraph 88c).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

None.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/VA: Visitor accommodation, attractions and facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/20 - Tourist Accommodation

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF indicates that tourism development is a main town centre use and that policies should enable sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside (glossary and paragraph 88c). The policy permits tourist accommodation within and outside development frameworks, subject to appropriate controls and, therefore, is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will consider how visitor accommodation should be addressed.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

GP/PH: Protection of public houses.

J/VA: Visitor accommodation, attractions and facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/21 - Retail Hierarchy

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF says that plan policies should define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability (paragraph 90a). Policy E/21 defines the hierarchy for the district and, therefore, is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Greater Cambridge Retail and Leisure Study (2023)* will review and assess the retail hierarchy across the whole of Greater Cambridge. This will be reflected in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/RC: Retail and centres.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/22 - Applications for New Retail Development

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF indicates that when assessing applications for retail and leisure development outside town centres, which are not in accordance with an up-to-date plan, local planning authorities should require an impact assessment if the development is over a proportionate, locally set floorspace threshold (paragraph 94). Policy E/22 includes locally set thresholds, reflecting the rural nature of

the district and the scale of development that would be appropriate. As such, the policy is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

To sustain the vibrancy and vitality of centres, new retail should be directed towards new and existing centres. This means out of town development proposals - development outside a new or planned centre – will need to consider their impact on these centres, to ensure they do not undermine their ability to serve their local community.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

J/RC: Retail and centres.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy E/23 - Retailing in the Countryside

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires the achievement of sustainable development and the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops (paragraph 88d). Policy E/23 responds to these provisions as it seeks to control sporadic development for retail uses in the countryside, which could result in unsustainable patterns of development and could harm the vitality and viability of village centres.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The *Greater Cambridge Retail and Leisure study* (2021) demonstrated the important role of smaller local convenience stores throughout the network of village settlements. It is therefore important that these village/ rural/ local centres provide people with

continued access to a range of shops and services which help them to meet their day-to-day needs, while avoiding unsustainable development in the countryside outside settlements.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

J/RC: Retail and centres.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Promoting Successful Communities

Policy SC/1 - Allocation for Open Space

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

By allocating new and extended areas of public open space, this policy is consistent with national policy, which states that to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces and community facilities, including open space (paragraph 98a).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Open spaces not only help support the health, social and cultural well-being of local communities but also help support strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. The varied nature of the area means that tailored solutions will be required for provision of open space in new development.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

BG/EO: Providing and enhancing open spaces.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/2 - Health Impact Assessment

Consistency with National Policy

A key element of the social objective of sustainable development, as outlined in the NPPF, is to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities (paragraph 8b). While national policy does not refer specifically to Health Impact Assessments (HIAs), the requirement in Policy SC/2 to submit them for relevant development supports the achievement of sustainable development.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Place and space have a significant impact on health and wellbeing. The ability of individuals to lead healthy lifestyles is deeply influenced by the environment in which they live. The adopted Local Plan includes a requirement for HIAs to be submitted with planning applications subject to the size of the development. It is proposed to extend this policy across Greater Cambridge at a level of detail appropriate to the scale and nature of an application.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/HD: Creating healthy new developments.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/3 - Protection of Village Services and Facilities

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

This policy directly addresses the NPPF's expectation that policies should enable the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities in rural areas (paragraph 88d).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

Community, cultural, education, sports and leisure services and facilities play an important role in making places vibrant, healthy and sustainable. These are important in both new and established settlements. Policies are needed to ensure these facilities and services are delivered to support new development. Appropriate care is also needed to ensure new facilities do not undermine existing facilities. It is also equally important to ensure these are protected from loss to alternative uses, to support established settlements.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities GP/PH: Protection of public houses.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/4 - Meeting Community Needs

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments (paragraph 98a).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities

MS/MU: Meanwhile uses during long term redevelopments GP/PH: Protection of public houses.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/5 - Community Healthcare Provision

Consistency with National Policy

National policy says that plan policies should address the provision of community facilities, including for health (paragraphs 20c and 29). By supporting the provision of such facilities within sustainable locations Policy SC/5 is consistent with the NPPF.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/6 - Indoor Community Facilities

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces and community facilities (paragraph 98a).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/7 - Outdoor Play Space, Informal Open Space and New Developments

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's requirement that policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces and community facilities, including open space (paragraph 98a); and should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision (paragraph 103).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Open spaces not only help support the health, social and cultural well-being of local communities but also help support strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. The varied nature of the area means that tailored solutions will be required for provision of open space in new development.

Updated evidence regarding the need for sports and open space will be prepared to inform the local plan review.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/EO: Providing and enhancing open spaces

WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/8 - Protection of Existing Recreation Areas, Allotments and Community Orchards

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless a number of criteria are met (paragraph 104). Policy SC/8 reflects the provisions of national policy in this regard.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Settlements contain a wide variety of open spaces that make significant contributions to the character of places but also provide important local amenities. It is important that these are protected from development that could have an adverse impact on these qualities.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

BG/PO: Protecting open spaces.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/9 - Lighting Proposals

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF requires that policies ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects, including limiting the impact of light pollution from artificial light (paragraph 198c). Policy SC/9 seeks to control any harmful effects of external lighting and, therefore, is consistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Plan policies should respond to the requirement in national policy in a local context.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/10 - Noise Pollution

Consistency with National Policy

As above, but with regard to the effects of noise from development.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/11 - Contaminated Land

Consistency with National Policy

This policy responds to the requirement in the NPPF that policies should ensure that a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination (paragraph 196a).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/12 - Air Quality

Consistency with National Policy

Policy SC/12 reflects the requirement in the NPPF that policies should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas (paragraph 199).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

An ongoing issue is to ensure there is no adverse effect on air quality in air quality management areas (AQMA), which are currently in effect in the city centre.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/13 - Hazardous Installations

Consistency with National Policy

This policy reflects the broad provisions in national policy concerning hazardous installations and substances (paragraph 46).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Plan policies should respond to the requirement in national policy in a local context.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy SC/14 - Odour and Other Fugitive Emissions to Air

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As for Policies SC/9 and SC/10, but with regard to the effects of odour from development.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

As above.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Promoting and Delivering Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure

Policy TI/1 - Chesterton Rail Station and Interchange

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF, with regard to policies identifying and protecting, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice (paragraph 111c).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Policy in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will continue to safeguard important infrastructure from any adverse effects of new development.

Cambridge North station has now been completed and is operational.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/FD: Freight and delivery consolidation

I/SI: Safeguarding important infrastructure.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy TI/2 - Planning for Sustainable Travel

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF expects plan policies to promote sustainable transport (section 9); Policy TI/2 is consistent with this approach.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

An update of the adopted policy will reflect the aims of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan and national policy, whilst addressing the specific challenges and local opportunities within Greater Cambridge.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

I/ST: Sustainable transport and connectivity

I/FD: Freight and delivery consolidation.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy TI/3 - Parking Provision

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

This policy sets local parking standards for new development and in doing so reflects the principles set out in national policy (paragraph 112).

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The adopted policy includes indicative parking standards that respond to the rural nature of the area.

A replacement policy is proposed that moves to a more design-led approach, supported by indicative standards tailored to reflect different circumstances. This would allow flexibility to adapt to changing patterns of car ownership and use through the plan period.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

I/EV: Parking and electric vehicles

I/FD: Freight and delivery consolidation.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy TI/4 - Rail Freight and Interchanges

Consistency with National Policy

This policy takes a positive approach to proposals for rail freight interchanges and seeks to protect existing infrastructure. As such, it is consistent with the NPPF provisions referred to with regard to Policy TI/1.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

A replacement policy proposal is to explore how local delivery hubs might be supported. These could provide opportunities for deliveries to be consolidated to reduce the number of trips or transferred to other delivery modes such as electric bikes.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/FD: Freight and delivery consolidation

I/SI: Safeguarding important infrastructure.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy TI/5 - Aviation-Related Development Proposals

Consistency with National Policy

The NPPF takes a broad approach to this issue, indicating that plans should recognise the importance of maintaining a national network of general aviation airfields and have regard to the Government's General Aviation Strategy (paragraph 111f). Policy TI/5 is more focused on the effects of aviation-related development but is not otherwise inconsistent with national policy.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

In addition to Cambridge Airport there are a number of established aerodromes and smaller airfields in Greater Cambridge, including Imperial War Museum Duxford. Policies are needed to ensure aviation development does not negatively impact environment and human health, and that impacts of proposals are fully considered.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/AD: Aviation development.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy TI/6 - Cambridge Airport Public Safety Zone

Consistency with National Policy

As above.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

As above.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/AD: Aviation development.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy TI/7 - Lord's Bridge Radio Telescope

Consistency with National Policy

This policy reflects the broad principles of the NPPF with regard to safeguarding important strategic and local infrastructure.

Evidence/change in local circumstances

Policy in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will continue to safeguard important infrastructure from any adverse effects of new development.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/SI: Safeguarding important infrastructure.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy TI/8 - Infrastructure and New Developments

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the objective in national policy that development should be supported by sufficient infrastructure and that this can be secured through developer contributions (paragraphs 20b and c, and 35).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will be supported by work to assess electricity infrastructure capacity at a strategic level. A new policy seeks to ensure that this approach is integrated at a very early stage, via the development of energy masterplans for strategic developments.

An Infrastructure Delivery Plan is being prepared to accompany the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This will identify the infrastructure that is needed, when it is needed, and how much it costs.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

/EI: Energy infrastructure master planning. I/ID: Infrastructure and delivery.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy TI/9 - Education Facilities

[Consistency with National Policy](#)

As above, but specifically with regard to education facilities.

[Evidence/change in local circumstances](#)

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will accompany the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which will identify what facilities are needed and how they will be funded. This will include provision for schools and health and be prepared in consultation with service providers.

[Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(GCLP\)](#)

WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities.

[Conclusion/RAG – Green](#)

The policy is consistent with national policy.

Policy TI/10 - Broadband

Consistency with National Policy

This policy is consistent with the NPPF's expectation that plan policies should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including full fibre broadband connections (paragraph 119).

Evidence/change in local circumstances

The Greater Cambridge economy is driven by businesses in knowledge-based sectors with businesses that rely on the use of cutting-edge digital technology. An updated policy is required to ensure that adequate and appropriate digital infrastructure is provided in new development.

Linked policy in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP)

I/DI: Digital infrastructure.

Conclusion/RAG – Green

The policy is consistent with national policy.