



**CAMBRIDGE + SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE PLAN 2025 / 2040**  
7PLAN019W SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS  
COURSEWORK 2: URBAN PLAN / POLICY DESIGN FOR CAMBRIDGE  
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## INTRODUCTION + CONTEXT

The following plan introduces a framework for the sustainable development of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire through 2025, and developments through 2040. The plan includes an introduction to both areas and their relation to one another, a description of the constraints and challenges of each area, a clear vision of what Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire should strive to become followed by objectives identified through Social, Economic, and Environmental sustainability. The objectives within the three pillars of sustainability is combined into an implementation strategy that includes information on timelines of development and funding sources.

## CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge is a city in London with a world-class reputation for education, research, knowledge-based industries, and the historic environment. Cambridge is home to thriving biotech and hi-tech industries and has a wide influence on the surrounding areas and villages (South Cambridgeshire District). London is accessible by a 45-minute train, providing easy access to the largest city in England and capital of the United Kingdom.

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT

South Cambridgeshire forms a ring surrounding Cambridge and is a rural district made up of over 100 villages with a population of 146,800 people. It was voted one of the top places to live and work in England, centrally located with easy access to London and Stansted Airport, two thriving cities with much to offer. South Cambridgeshire is a fast-growing area with a thriving economy and good quality of life.

## GREEN BELT

The Green Belt is one of the most important areas between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, taking up about 25% of the district. The Cambridge Local Plan 2018 threatens the idea of development on the Green Belt site. The main focus on

preserving the green belt is to prevent urban sprawl and preserve the unique shape of the city and the villages within South Cambridgeshire. Some argue that it would not matter if only a small amount of the Green Belt is developed, but others believe that by taking away a small percentage (5%-10%) of the Green Belt, it will lead to even further development in the future. As an alternative to expansion and urban sprawl, it is important to consider the brownfield sites around the Green Belt to use for development, as those are not currently being preserved.

### EXISTING PLANS 2018

Existing Plans for Cambridge and the South Cambridgeshire District were adopted by the councils in 2018. The Cambridge Local Plan was reviewed between 2014 and 2018, with modifications addressed in August of 2018 and finally adopted on October of 2018. This plan focuses on new development within Cambridge. The Cambridge Local Plan included a number of stages of preparation for the development of the plan. This research and process was conducted from 2011 on to 2014.

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan released in September of 2018 addresses developments, policies, and transportation routes in all of the villages surrounding Cambridge. This plan outlines the balance between growth and conservation, focusing on development of the villages surrounding Cambridge as well as how to conserve the Green Belt. The Local Plan addressed how the government and council plan to meet and exceed the three pillars of sustainability: Economic, Environmental, and Social.

### CHALLENGES IN CAMBRIDGE + SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE (400)

The main challenges in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are transportation, Green Belt, land availability, and Historic preservation. The following highlights challenges and constraints in each area, discussing specifics.

In Cambridge, the main challenges and constraints that need to be addressed within the coming years are the importance of the Historic environment and preservation of historic sites and land, particularly focusing in on tourist sites and areas that contribute

to economic value for the community. There has been a growing population of students and young people in Cambridge and on the outskirts with a limited supply of available land for development, causing a potential housing crisis. With the Green Belt contributing to 25% of land, and South Cambridgeshire District having a strong connection to Cambridge city centre, there is a need for adequate transportation between the two places, and currently transportation and other infrastructures are under pressure. The Green Belt also prevents the city from merging with the ring of villages in South Cambridgeshire. There is much debate about whether the Green Belt should be preserved, or if some of it could be used for future land developments.

In the district of South Cambridgeshire, surrounding the city of Cambridge, a few of the main challenges and constraints are the high level of housing that is required within the district. With the growing population in Cambridge, people are moving outwards, creating a form of urban sprawl but within the villages and towns that surround the city, and which make up South Cambridgeshire. However, 25% of the district surrounding Cambridge is designated Green Belt, therefore it is difficult to develop on Green Belt sites. There is a varied local character throughout the settlements and villages, which causes constraints for development. In many of the villages, access to basic services and jobs can be inconvenient, especially if you do not have a vehicle. There is very limited public transportation around the district, as well as into Cambridge. 56% of the population of South Cambridgeshire lives in a village that does not have a doctor's surgery, primary school, or a food shop.

VISION + OBJECTIVES: A CAMBRIDGE FOR EVERYONE



The main vision behind the plan for Cambridge is A Cambridge for Everyone: A city that is accessible, inclusive, and green. The plan is for Cambridge to become an efficient, climate-smart city, prioritising transportation between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District. Within the next five years, the main goal is to make Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire a cohesive and resilient environment for everyone by focusing on accessibility, inclusivity, and sustainability.

#### *Accessible Cambridge*

A Cambridge that provides easy access between the centre and the outskirts of South Cambridgeshire, connecting people to opportunities and advancements, and connecting people to each other as well as the rest of England.

#### *Inclusive Cambridge*

A Cambridge that provides its people with affordable and accessible housing, access to community organisations, and opportunities for all in a time where Urbanisation is rapidly increasing.

#### *Green (Sustainable) Cambridge*

A Cambridge that acknowledges the need for green infrastructure, the importance of preserving the green belt, and incorporating sustainable policies into the everyday lives of the citizens in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

### SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

#### ***Accessibility***

The primary focus on accessibility is not only within the transportation sector. It is important to have a city that is accessible to all, and universal design makes the city accessible to everyone by creating adaptable spaces and public buildings accessible to people of all abilities and disabilities. Buildings, parks, offices, and all public spaces should be available for children, young people, and the elderly. It is important that every citizen has the opportunity to participate in all aspects of society. In Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, adequate signage and accessibility codes shall be implemented in order to increase easy access throughout the city and towns.

### ***Liveable Spaces***

Everyone should have the right to a liveable space; a space where they feel comfortable and safe. By offering community events by neighbourhood, city, village, or town for the public, Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire can create a community dynamic that will make the area more desirable to live in.

### ***Movement + Transportation***

An accessible and efficient transportation system throughout Cambridge and linking South Cambridgeshire to the city centre will help limit vehicular emissions and uses and create more of a flow between the two areas. In city centres, pedestrian and cycle paths can help with traffic flow and movement between places of shorter distances, and they must be safe, secure, free-flowing, and easily accessible. The goal is to improve transportation and travel without having any possible negative effects on people's health, the climate, the environment, or road and pedestrian safety and to make it easier for people who live in South Cambridgeshire to commute into Cambridge for work, leisure, or vice versa.

### ***Social Equality***

In South Cambridgeshire, 56% of citizens live in villages with no doctor's surgery, primary school, or food shop. The main focus of social sustainability in a city is the need for equal access to education, social activities, healthcare, leisure and recreation. Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire will focus primarily on opportunities and access for children, young people, and elderly people. City planning should also work to provide access to basic urban assets; public transport, public services, shopping, jobs, and recreation.

## **ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY GOALS**

### ***Accessible + Affordable Housing***

Since Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire have become a prime area in England for biotech and hi-tech industries, the demand for housing has increased. In order to create an inclusive city, the people must have access to affordable housing, especially

for young people (college students and those new to the work force), the elderly, and low-income families. Availability of various property types, such as one-family homes, multi-family homes, ability to own and rent, and space for further housing developments in the city centres and surrounding Cambridge. There is a shortage of housing that will require a generous housing development plan in the near future in order to accommodate for urbanisation and growth in Cambridge.

### ***Closing Gaps***

Decreasing the income gap and opportunity gap are important in creating an equal community within Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. The first step to creating equal opportunity and diminishing the gap is to provide all with equal access to education, so that they are given the tools and guidance to become more successful in the future. By having access to education, they are given more opportunities in the area. Known worldwide for its education and opportunities in tech, Cambridge has the facilities for educational success, and it is important that this is valued in the community from the beginning of a person's educational background. The next step to closing the gap is by implementing a circular economy, one that uses materials, products, and services in an eco-cycle system in order to minimise losses. With the world-class reputation for education, knowledge-based industries, history and research, Cambridge can build on its economy through tourism and opportunities.

### ***Employment + Economic Growth***

The "Cambridge Phenomenon" will help increase growth in technological industries within the area. Increasing jobs and employment opportunities is essential in Cambridge's economic growth. One step in increasing employment and economic growth is providing an adequate transportation system in order for employees to get to and from their jobs efficiently. It is also necessary to provide accessible and affordable office spaces to increase the opportunity for businesses to grow within the city. By investing money into the development of office spaces in Cambridge and around the outskirts, it will become easier to bridge the gap between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

### ***Local Centres***

In Cambridge city centre and town centres throughout South Cambridgeshire, there must be an increase in support for small and local businesses. With this increase, not only will the economy expand, but the community members and tourists will be able to support other community members and their businesses, creating an economic cycle within the community. Local centres can be developed to promote and support the needs of the cities inhabitants and can also be used to support tourists who come to visit the universities and Cambridge.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

### ***Climate Change***

One of the biggest issues facing the world and becoming a major threat more and more every day is Climate Change. When it comes to city planning, the environment is a significant focus. Environmental sustainability is affected by both social and economic sustainability through the economy and policies. Cambridge will implement a series of climate change policies with Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire that will focus on consumption of natural resources and reduction of CO2 emissions. The objectives discussed under both Economic and Social Sustainability work to create strategies and methods to better help Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire to become more sustainable and aware of climate change and its affects.

### ***Establishment of Green Infrastructure***

The Green Belt which covers about 25% of land surrounding Cambridge and into South Cambridgeshire is under threat by past city plans. It is important that this Green Belt is preserved in order to prevent and limit the opportunity for urban sprawl. Within the city of Cambridge, there must be adequate implementation of green spaces and infrastructure such as parks and landscapes. Current green spaces will be managed and improved to suit the needs of a “Greener Cambridge.” Recreational fields will be added to all parks to increase green space as well as recreational activities within the community.

### ***Waste Management***



The implementation of recycling programs, reduction of waste, reusing materials and waste regeneration will be implemented into communities with clear signage and explanation for all to understand. Landfill waste disposal will be the absolute last resort for waste removal.

### ***Water***

Reducing consumption of water, focusing on water pollution, and making clean water accessible for all throughout Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. By expanding the wastewater system and focusing on water usage and demand for the long term, Cambridge can offer the people clean, decent quality water. When it comes to water, it is important that the Cambridge Council takes into consideration key factors such as climate change, wastewater network leaks, and pollution caused by storms or rainwater runoff. These may become a threat in the future as climate change becomes more of a worry.

## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

### ***Social Sustainability Projects:***

Improving both bus and train transportation routes which surround South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge connected them to one another and making it easier for people to get around. Taking into consideration the access to jobs and services, the expansion of various lines outwards to South Cambridgeshire shall be implemented before 2025. This will create easier and equal access to schools, shopping, leisure activities, social activities, and recreation activities for all in the area.

In Cambridge city centre and town centres in South Cambridgeshire, where pedestrians and cyclists travel there shall be paths shown by signage and highlighted in the areas so that people have alternative ways to move around and travel safely.

Creating and implementing a community dynamic that is as small as a town and as big as the district or city as a whole. The council will work to incorporate community events that build up the community and make people want to live, work, and even raise a family there.

***Economic Sustainability Projects:***

On the brownfield's sites in South Cambridgeshire, housing developments will be created. This will not affect the previous proposed developments on Green Belt land. These developments will include social housing, affordable housing, and the availability of different property types ranging from different prices. By 2025, multiple housing units will begin development, finishing up most by 2040. These units will house individuals, students, and families in a variety of property types from flats to single-family homes and multi-family complexes.

The opportunity for business growth both economically and physically, with more access to affordable office spaces for businesses in and around the Cambridge area. With the increase of office space, the possibility of a decreasing income and opportunity gap will become more of a reality.

***Environmental Sustainability Projects:***

A climate change policy and brief will be created, published, and monitored by the council in order to address climate change and how citizens of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge can adapt their lifestyles in consideration of the environment.

With the extension of transportation lines and infrastructure, getting around will be much easier by 2025. The goal is to reduce vehicular emission in the city centre of Cambridge. By implementing an entrance fee into the main centre this will increase funds for transportation while decreasing the number of cars in the centre, making Cambridge a more pedestrian friendly city while decreasing emissions, bettering the air quality.

Creating recycling and waste removal policies that reduce waste in the city and the district by helping the people understand how it will affect their daily lives, making it a simple way to dispose of waste and recycle materials. In public parks, spaces and along the pavement, easy to use recycling programs will be added to reduce the amount of litter in public spaces in order to clean up the city.

In neighbourhoods, a more specific food waste recycling program will be added, that minimises waste sent to landfills. This program will sort food products and convert it into compost for city and district use.

A public parks management authority will be implemented to maintain current green spaces, recreation areas, and green infrastructure so that it is up to date and available for use at any time by members of the public. Green space will be increased on dense areas, whether its horizontal green space (parks, lawns, paths of grass, etc.) or vertical green space (trees, green walls, etc.). The Green Belt will continue to be preserved in order to prevent urban sprawl and keep the city of Cambridge separate from South Cambridgeshire's villages and settlements.

## FUNDING

In order to fund the implementation of policies, transportation management and infrastructure management, housing developments, office developments, and multiuse / commercial developments, the Cambridge Local Council has the opportunity to impose a small tax on the taxpayers and citizens of the city as well as those who live outside in South Cambridgeshire, which is a last resort and does not put the people of Cambridge in favour. The National Lottery in the United Kingdom which provides a community fund which helps develop and work with communities across the UK, distributing over £600 million a year. The lottery can help fund community events and opportunities for small scale development and implementation of policies throughout Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that has the opportunity to be levied by local authorities in order to help the community develop their infrastructure or support other developments that are necessary to community growth. The local authority must consult, approve, and create a schedule with certain rates that are published for the public to view. This funding option is most beneficial for housing developments, and there are very strict rules and regulations that are required to be met in order to be approved for the levy.

## CONCLUSION

In the first five years (through 2025), the councils will plan the implementation of strategies and policies throughout Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District in order to prepare for future developments planned through 2040. Focusing on the main challenges of transport, preservation of the Green Belt, land availability, and historic preservation, Cambridge Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have developed a plan that addresses the challenges and creates a Cambridge that is accessible, inclusive, and sustainable, and a Cambridge District for everyone.

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