

Councillor Peter McDonald Duxford Division & Ward:
District Councillor for Parishes of Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford.
County Councillor also for Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow, Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills,
Whittlesford

Report for Parish Councils – October 2020.

South Cambs District Council

Again this month I've now included other major items as well as C19.

5Yr Housing Land Supply

The Planning Inspector dropped a bombshell after an appeal in Gt Abindgdon about the 5yrHLS, however they realised it was an error and issued an apology. We still have a 5 year land supply, and the position of 5.4 years is unchanged.

Call for Sites

The first issue of data & information on the call for sites was issued with c. 600 sites. As you know last time around there were c 450 sites and 33 developed. The first formal view on sites will be summer 2021 but with sessions between now and then with Parishes on the process and perspectives.

16,103 hectares of land was suggested for potential development, enough for around 170,000-200,000 homes. This is far more than the 5,000 to 30,000 extra homes that, under initial estimates, the new Plan may need to accommodate (on top of the development already allocated in the existing Local Plans). Planners carefully appraise the suggested sites to assess their suitability and there is no guarantee that any of the land suggested will be included in the Plan. Planners also look for other land that may be better able to meet the strategic aims of the Plan.

The Councils are still considering the amount of growth that should be planned, and how the Plan can address the 'big themes' from the First Conversation. Evidence has been commissioned from expert specialists, looking at topics such as how the Plan can respond to climate change, and at issues like water resource availability. The sites submitted under the Call for Green Sites are being assessed as part of green infrastructure evidence being prepared for the Local Plan.

What happens next?

The next public consultation stage will be the Preferred Options public consultation, planned for summer/autumn 2021. In the meantime, the Councils are working on evidence that will inform the plan, alongside reviewing the comments and testing the sites received through the consultation.

Later this autumn, the Councils are planning to publish a report on some initial findings of key evidence, including scenarios for the jobs and homes to be planned for, and for strategic spatial options. These will be tested against the overarching themes of climate change, biodiversity and green spaces, wellbeing and social inclusion, and great places. Planners will also be talking to community groups including Parish Councils and Residents Associations, stakeholder organisations, and other bodies about these initial findings.

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Investment Partnerships

Two investment partnerships have been formed that will see up to £340 million invested to support the local recovery, through regeneration and development.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has appointed the Top 20 housebuilder, Hill Group, in one investment partnership, and Balfour Beatty Investments, the international infrastructure investor, as a partner in another. This follows an extensive tender process that invited bids from suitably qualified and experienced partners with the resources, skills and competencies to jointly invest in opportunities.

Investment partnerships are part of the District Council's plans to manage the impact of reduced national funding by investing money to generate income. This income then supports the delivery of frontline Council services. They are one element of the Council's Investment Strategy which was approved at a Full Council meeting in February 2019.

The two partnerships will acquire land for new homes, including Council and social rented properties, along with commercial developments and supporting services which will help to secure the local economy as it recovers from the Coronavirus pandemic. Both partnerships aim to generate long-term income streams for the Council.

The partnerships allow each party to benefit from the other's skills, expertise and knowledge and open-up bigger opportunities that may not have been possible without the advantage of working as a team. They also mean that the risk associated with investment is equally shared, along with profits.

The Council expects to contribute up to £170 million between the two partnerships during the next four years.

The money the Council is putting into the partnerships will include a mix of cash and funds it is able to borrow at preferential rates, supported by grants and other funding.

Identifying suitable land opportunities will be a core element of work done by the partnerships. Target sites are located within South Cambridgeshire and the wider travel to work area, as determined by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER).

The South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership with Hill Group will build a range of high-quality, sustainable private sale and affordable housing and regeneration developments to support local communities and economies, as well as investment and income generating opportunities for the Council. The broad range of potential developments to be delivered by the South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership include Council and social rented homes, private sale homes, private rented sector (PRS) housing, senior and assisted living, estate regeneration and mixed-use developments.

The partnership with Balfour Beatty, called South Cambridgeshire Projects LLP, will see mixed-use developments be identified within South Cambridgeshire and neighbouring areas.

I am the Council's representative on the Investment Partnership

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Oxford to Cambridge Arc,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer described as a “key economic priority” for the country, has unveiled its bold vision in a [prospectus](#) that has been submitted to Government. The Arc’s ambition is to unlock the potential of its assets to create a world-leading innovation economy.

The Arc is already home to nearly four million people and two million jobs which together generate over £111bn of economic output each year. Based upon determined leadership and new financial backing, forecasts show that increased productivity resulting from intensifying the Arc’s global strengths in science, technology and high value manufacturing, could double the area’s economic output to over £200bn by 2050.

The prospectus asks for commitment from Government to long term investment in the area, enabling the Arc to fulfil its true potential to deliver transformational economic growth that will benefit the whole of the UK. That investment will be crucial to tackle connectivity and congestion constraints and to provide the skills that industry requires to enable the Arc to pursue its role as a leading global innovation region.

The Arc will pursue innovation-led growth to help solve major, urgent environmental, health and social challenges, and at the same time, drive UK competitiveness and local prosperity. The Arc’s vision specifically sets out a plan to make the UK a world-leader in new technology and industries in zero-carbon aviation, space, life sciences, future mobility and energy.

Making Appointments at South Cambs

No sooner had I published this it had to be cancelled again due to Government guidelines

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Cambridgeshire County Report

The Country is starting to look at the budget for 2021/22 and what savings may be necessary in the light of C19. It doesn't make great reading.

Draft Revenue Budget

In order to balance the budget in light of the cost increases and uncertain Government funding, savings, additional income or other sources amounting to at least £32.8m are required for 2021-22, and a total of £75.7m across the full five years of the Business Plan. This assumes a relatively swift recovery following the initial impacts of the pandemic on service delivery and is predicated on the following general assumptions:

- A low likelihood of a second peak requiring a further national lockdown
- Tracking and tracing is relatively successful in containing the spread of the virus
- A vaccine is available within 12 months
- A soft, open lockdown, with social distancing eased over summer 2020-21
- Demand does not return to pre-COVID levels due to economic and social impacts

I will update you as the budget discussion progresses.

Children in Care

There are currently 699 children in care in Cambridgeshire vs. a country target of not more than 600 so the service is still under pressure. Of the 699, 602 had pathway plans into adulthood but of course this is problematic with employment opportunities.

Climate Change Recognition

Cambridgeshire's work to respond to the climate change emergency has been recognised after it was highly commended for a prestigious national award.

The County Council's Climate Change and Environment strategy – underpinned by evidence from PhD students at Cambridge University – was highly commended at the *Leadership in responding to the Climate Emergency* category of the MJ Awards 2020.

The Council agreed in May 2019 to make a declaration of a Climate Emergency and through its collaboration policy research exchange programme with Cambridge University produced an evidence base of carbon emissions across the county.

Two carbon footprints were developed, one for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which included all greenhouse gas emissions that occur in the county (excluding peatland) broken down across key sectors such as transport, domestic buildings and commercial services; and the second for Cambridgeshire County Council alone.

The council used this evidence to develop its draft Climate Change and Environment Strategy - with cross party support, and a vision '*to deliver net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050 in partnership with all stakeholders, whilst supporting our*

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communities and Cambridgeshire's biodiversity and environmental assets to adapt and flourish as our climate changes'.

This vision has already started to be translated into real action. The council has added a specific priority into its Business Plan which concentrates on helping Cambridgeshire reach this net zero carbon target by 2050 and set up a £16million Environment Fund to take all the Council's offices it owns and occupies off fossil fuels by 2025 and cut its organisational carbon footprint by 50% by 2023. The Council procures £450million of services every year for Cambridgeshire communities and it will be working with its supply chain to reduce carbon emissions.

Cambridgeshire County Council has been leading the way in prioritising climate and environment issues for some time. Through its initial energy investments the Council has set up a self-financing unit to focus on energy project delivery. Initially this covered schools and a solar farm, but has now been extended to cover battery storage and smart-grid development. Since then the authority has invested £11m in schools to improve energy efficiency, resulting in energy bill savings of £910,000 a year.

C 19-Related Activities in October

Hardship funds – the County are supporting the set-up of the hardship fund for Peterborough and linking with all other City and district council on their schemes. Organising an awareness campaign to run across city, council and district areas and linking and supporting the Government £500 support fund which launches from mid October.

Halloween and events – planning a campaign to support our revised information about running events into the winter which will begin with advice around Halloween with information around trick or treating. Plan is to offer tips on alternative Halloween celebrations, which are COVID-safe. As part of this we are also liaising with radio stations across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire about how to run COVID-secure events more generally throughout the autumn and winter, how to do things differently and the support which the council can provide. All of this campaign work will link to a new guidance section on for our websites about events planning, including a checklist of things event organisers need to consider and a risk assessment.

Local contact tracing – working with the local media on a feature on the Peterborough system – and preparing support materials for when the wider roll out of the system is planned across Cambridgeshire.

Care homes – working with the CCG to increase comms for care homes. There will be renewed messages in newsletters to care home staff about the need to consider actions out of work.

Flu vaccination – From the 5 October, the national flu campaign will be starting – which is also an essential part of planning for this winter. We will sharing the national resources with both external and internal audiences. We will working with the CCG on their local and

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targeted approach to encourage uptake in vulnerable groups. So far there has been one clinic at IWM Duxford for front line staff.

Agriculture Bill

I hope you don't mind me posting what is a semi-political campaign on behalf of our farmers in S Cambs. We are supporting the 'Save British Farming' campaign not to accept imports with lower standards than our own UK farmers have to adhere to. It will be voted on October 12th and the Government has said they won't accept the Lords amendments to embed the UK standards in all imports. We have a meeting with Anthony Browne Oct 9th to lobby him to support the Lords amendments and vote against the Government !



Caption: Myself plus 2 SCDC Councillors and Paul from Cambridge for Europe

This campaign is supported by Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

<https://twitter.com/jamieoliver/status/1310116225213661184?s=20>

Peter McDonald

Oct 6th 2020.

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