

# The Planning Charter

Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council are working together to support the delivery of growth agreed as part of the City Deal through the planning system.

Quality decision making is guided and supported by the following principles:

- Timely Delivery
- Proactive project management
- Collaboration
- Community engagement
- Continuous improvement.

## What you can expect from us

A Lead Officer who will:

- Work with the applicant and community from pre-application stage through to delivery on the ground
- Be a single point of contact, providing a coordinated approach across council services e.g. environmental health, housing, building control and between the council and other key stakeholders e.g. health.
- Agree a timetable for each application with key milestones to deliver decisions in the shortest time practicable.
- Work with the applicant and the community to understand and address their views and concerns
- Ensure any requests for information are proportionate, timely and provide value for money.
- Work pro-actively to resolve key issues and objections, where possible and identify opportunities to improve proposals.
- Maintain a regular dialogue between all parties.
- Carry out reviews at appropriate stages to monitor progress and capture lessons learnt.

## And in turn we will require applicants to

- Enter into pre-application discussions for all aspects of the planning process, give us timely, detailed and robust responses identifying issues and constraints.
- Agree a project plan with key milestones and attend project meetings with relevant team members.
- Work with us and our communities to understand and address their views and concerns.
- Submit complete applications with appropriate information as agreed with the lead officer and a Heads of Term for a legal agreement, where appropriate.

## Supporting Delivery: Our Infrastructure



### Examples of how we work

#### **Timely Delivery**

The community at Trumpington Meadows is now taking shape with a range of homes, play areas and a primary school all in place and a country park and allotments due to open shortly. It recently won the Evening Standard's New Homes Award 2014 For 'Best Large Development'.

#### **Proactive project management**

An agreed programme of work and dedicated resources are in place at North West Cambridge, supported by a Planning Performance Agreement, to ensure an ambitious delivery programme is maintained. This project is the single largest capital development that the University has undertaken in its 800 year history, and will help meet its long term needs.

#### **Collaboration**

A joint multi-disciplinary team has been established by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to oversee the planning and delivery of Northstowe, providing expertise, consistency and continuity to support this new town, which is likely to be one of the UK's largest developments.

#### **Community engagement**

Regular community forums are held for all our major development sites: North West Cambridge, Cambridge Southern Fringe, Wing and Northstowe to listen to and address the views and concerns of local communities. Community development workers will be in place to support first residents before they move in e.g. at Trumpington Meadows.

#### **Continuous improvement.**

Lessons learnt from early phases of developments are recorded and built upon e.g. Recent site visits with officers and members around Cambridge Southern Fringe.