

# Wellbeing and Social Inclusion

## Topic Paper



### Greater Cambridge Local Plan

Topic Paper published as part of the Proposed Submission  
Local Plan - Regulation 19 consultation (August 2026 -  
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# Topic Paper: Wellbeing and Social Inclusion

## 1. Introduction and purpose

1.1 This is one of nine topic papers produced to accompany the Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) consultation on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

The topic papers are:

- Development strategy (with appendices)
- Site allocations
- Climate change
- Biodiversity and green spaces
- Wellbeing and social inclusion
- Great places
- Jobs
- Homes
- Infrastructure

1.2 All of the papers can be found on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website as part of the document library for this stage. The topic papers set out how each policy under the relevant Local Plan 'theme' has been updated following on from the Draft Local Plan stage. As such, the topic papers support and complement the Proposed Submission consultation document as they provide a detailed explanation of the basis for each policy.

1.3 The topic paper has a section for each policy which sets out:

- Policy context update – Any national or local policy changes, or other context changes which impact on the policy approach.
- New or updated evidence – Highlighting where new evidence has been prepared since the draft plan stage.
- Additional alternative approaches considered – If any additional reasonable alternative approaches were identified to the policy.

- Proposed approach – changes that have been made to the approach in the Draft Local Plan, and why they have been made.

- 1.4 Representations received at previous stages, including to the Draft Local Plan consultation, are summarised in the Statement of Consultation. This also includes responses to the issues raised.
- 1.5 The topic papers at previous consultation stages including those which accompanied the Draft Local Plan as are still available to view in our document library.
- 1.6 The Local Plan is supported by a wide range of evidence which can be found in our document library. Key supporting documents to the plan include:
  - Statement of Consultation
  - Sustainability Appraisal
  - Habitats Regulations Assessment
  - Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA)
- 1.7 A draft NPPF was published for consultation on 16 December 2025 with comments required by 10 March 2026. The two Councils have submitted their response to this consultation. A final version of the NPPF has not yet been published at time of preparation of the Proposed Submission Local Plan. As a legacy plan, being prepared under the previous plan making system, transitional arrangements mean that the soundness of the Local Plan will be considered against the National Planning Policy Framework December 2024.

## 2. Wellbeing and Social Inclusion policies

1.1 The following proposed policies areas are addressed in this topic paper:

- WS/HD: Creating healthy new developments
- WS/NC: Meeting the needs of new and growing communities
- WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities
- WS/CH: Cultural and creative hubs
- WS/MU: Meanwhile uses
- WS/IO: Creating inclusive employment and business opportunities through new developments
- WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety
- WS/PH: Public houses

### 3. Proposed Submission Local Plan update to WS/HD: Creating healthy new developments

#### Policy context update

- 1.2 In October 2025 the Leadership Team at Cambridge City Council approved the exploration of a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach. The Council's Equalities Panel has subsequently approved the inclusion of HiAP wording in Equality Impact Assessments and the Equity Review.
- 1.3 Health in All Policies is about making sure decisions across areas like housing, transport, education and planning all share a common purpose to support better health and well-being. Different council teams and organisations work together, using tools like policies, strategies, projects and day-to-day practice, to understand how their decisions affect health and inequalities, and adapt their approach over time. A core aim is to improve equity by reducing health inequalities and recognising that people's health is shaped by factors like income, environment, and access to services. In practice, it means using tools like equality impact assessments, joined-up planning, shared data and collaboration to build health and wellbeing into everyday decisions across council services and partnerships.
- 1.4 The Adults, Health and Commissioning Strategy 2025-2028 supports how Cambridgeshire County Council will work to create a healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire. It outlines how they will continue to support adults with care and support needs, promote health and wellbeing, and deliver high-quality services that meet the needs of our residents. The Strategy's vision is for everyone in Cambridgeshire to:
  - live healthy, safe, and independent lives
  - access the right care and support, when and where they need it
  - feel included and supported in their community
- 1.5 The goals of the plan are to:
  1. Improve Access. The Council will make it easier for everyone to get help, working with others to give better information about our services.

2. Focus on Safety. The Council want to keep everyone safe. Their services and partners will follow rules to protect people. They will help people to stay living in their homes as much as we can.
3. Increased Place Based Support. The Council will bring more services to local areas. This means people can get the help they need close to home.
4. Be Innovative. The Council will use new technology and find new and different ways to make our services better. This will help people to live on their own for longer.
5. Reduce Inequalities. The Council want everyone to use our services. They will work to remove things that stop people from getting the help they need.
6. Provide Enhanced Carers Support. The Council will help carers more. They will give them breaks and things they need to care for others. They want carers to be healthy and happy too.

## New or updated evidence

*Greater Cambridge Retail and Leisure Study Reg19 Interim Study Findings (2026)*

1.6 **Greater Cambridge Retail and Leisure Study Reg19 Interim Study Findings** (2026) is an interim report compiled to inform future planning policy on town centre, retail and leisure matters in Greater Cambridge, together with a wider strategy for the future of the designated centres, up to 2045. A final version of the report will be issued later this year.

1.7 The report makes the following observations and recommendations regarding money lending/pay day loan shops, betting shops and hot food takeaways, as follows:

- The growth of money lending/pay day loan shops, betting shops and hot food takeaways has raised concerns amongst many local planning authorities and has resulted in a change to permitted development rights (PDR) to control the growth of these uses in town centres. These growth trends are not particularly evident in Cambridge, which only featured three betting shops, (para 3.44).
- There were 27 hot food takeaways in the city centre, 10.8% of all non-retail services, which is slightly below the UK national average of

15.0%. There was a slightly high proportion across the town and district centres surveyed (17.2%), with Mitcham's Corner in particular featured 8 units (26.7% of all non-retail services). This reflects the smaller number of units in the town and district centres and the local nature of hot food takeaways, (para 3.45).

- Non-Class E uses, including pubs, bars, hot food takeaways and other Sui Generis uses, can be controlled in the PSA, but could be encouraged to locate in other parts of the town centres where appropriate i.e. preventing breaks in active frontages, amenity issues (noise/smells), impact on the nature and character of the retail frontages, (para 7.23).
- Betting shops and hot food takeaways are Sui Generis uses that can still be controlled by planning policy and are not affected by changes to the Use Classes Order or Permitted Development Rights, (para 7.24).
- The perceived rise in proliferation of pay day loan shops, betting shops, hot food takeaways, and public houses, filling otherwise vacant spaces across town centres has raised concerns, with change to Permitted Development Rights enacted to control the growth of these uses in town centres. Paragraph 200 of the NPPF references the 'agent of change' principle, whereby a new development should not have a significant adverse effect on the operation of an existing business or community facility, (para 7.26).
- The qualitative audit of centres also allows for analysis of hot food takeaway uses within Greater Cambridge (56 units across the designated centres). This equates to 5.7% of all units, which is below the UK national average of 6.4%. There are, however, discrepancies across the centres and Cambridge City Centre shows a higher concentration of 10.8%. Whilst this is not a pressing concern at the current time, it does not indicate that there is a specific market need for such facilities, (para 7.29).
- Draft Policy WS/HD indicates that hot food takeaways should not be permitted where they are within 400 metres walking distance from the entrances/exits to primary and secondary schools. The objective of this

policy criterion relates to public health concerns rather than the appropriate mix of uses. However, the over-concentration of hot food takeaways could also be managed in town centres and other areas, with the agent of change and other amenity-based policies appropriate to control such uses, (para 7.30).

## **Hot Food Takeaways and fast food outlets**

A Policy Workshop on Integrating health and wellbeing into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan considered the scope for strengthening five health related policy areas relevant to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The Healthy Food Environment was one of the five policy areas.

Hot food takeaway development was highlighted as especially relevant for promoting better health through food systems. Discussion took place around:

- The need to be explicit in defining 'hot food takeaways' including clarity around whether healthy takeaways are included. How to define 'healthy takeaways'.
- Whether the policy could address fast food takeaways and other takeaway food sources such as street-food vendors, dark kitchens and bubble tea shops.
- What can be done about existing takeaways.
- The importance of establishing which population groups are most at risk from exposure to hot food takeaways and the need for a coordinated approach involving an obesity charter, health and wellbeing and planning.
- The promotion of healthier hot food takeaways rather than a blanket refusal of all hot food takeaways, for example, the approval of menus.
- Concern that demand will simply transfer to other unhealthy sources of food such as convenience stores.
- The adoption of 'Good Growth' frameworks as a mechanism for integrating sustainable and healthy food policies with economic growth.

- The integration of other metrics such as population density and vulnerability into the proposed buffer zone and extending the use of the zone to cover hospitals and nurseries.
- How planning policies could deal with the digital environment which can also contribute to social isolation.
- The vulnerability of Cambridge to fast food chains and the opportunities that changes of ownership and the closing of outlets could provide.
- Timed control of opening hours.
- The use of rates to manage the activities of food providers.

## Gambling

- 1.1 The Gambling Act defines gambling as, “betting, gaming or participating in a lottery.” Gambling comes in many forms, such as casino games and sports betting, but also includes bingo, lotteries, scratchcards and games machines etc. People can gamble in-person and online.
- 1.2 The Gambling Commission’s Gambling Survey for Great Britain Annual Report (2024) found that nearly half (48 percent) of adults aged 18 and over participated in any form of gambling in the previous four weeks. Gambling participation was 28 percent when those who only participated in lottery draws were excluded.
- 1.3 Gambling is a recognised public health problem. A 2023 evidence review by the Office for Improvement and Disparities and Public Health England estimated 0.5% of the adult population in England have a gambling problem i.e. gambling “with negative consequences and a possible loss of control”. It concluded that that harmful gambling should be considered a public health issue because it is associated with harms to individuals, their families, close associates and wider society.
- 1.4 On Britain’s high streets in-person gambling can take several forms. The most familiar is betting shops which can include counter betting, Self-service Betting Terminals and Fixed-Odds Betting Terminals. Amusement arcades

are captured in licensing definitions as Adult Gaming Centres and Family Entertainment Centres. The former are high-street outlets with gaming machines only available to over 18s including slots, casino-style games and fruit machines, the latter are larger arcades which cater for a range of ages.

- 1.5 Figures from the Gambling Commission [Industry Statistics](#) show that the number of betting shops in has fallen by over one third in 10 years from 8,995 in March 2015 to 5,825 in March 2025. Nationally, the number of adult gaming centres as fallen by 12% from 1,610 to 1,415. Family Entertainment Centres have fallen by 43% from 331 to 169.
- 1.6 The biggest changes in the gambling landscape over recent years have been a growth in the availability of remote gambling (particularly via the internet), the introduction of fixed odds betting terminals into most bookmakers, an increase in the number of casinos, an increase in the prominence of poker (both online and offline), and the introduction of online betting exchanges.
- 1.7 The [Gambling Commission](#) reports that the shift to online play has reflected changing lifestyles in general. Technology and globalisation have meant that gambling is no longer confined to opening hours and largely local events, but instead a 24/7 opportunity and global event-driven marketplace. However, retail remains a significant part of the sector. When lottery draws are excluded 18 percent of the participants in the Gambling Survey for Great Britain had gambled in person, compared with 15 percent online.
- 1.8 In terms of planning classifications, betting shops and amusement arcades are sui generis uses, which means they do not fall within a particular use class. This means that, if it is not already in that use, any new premise would require planning permission.

#### *Gambling premises in Greater Cambridge*

- 1.9 Using Licensing data from Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, Figure 1 and Table 1 below show the distribution of gambling premises across

Greater Cambridge and within Greater Cambridge's retail centres. The premises are split between the following categories:

- Betting Premises
- Family Entertainment Centres (often called amusement arcades – [B3, B4, C and D machine categories](#))
- Adult Gaming Centres (often called amusement arcades – [C and D machines categories](#))

1.10 In total, there are eleven betting shops in Cambridge and three amusement arcades. In South Cambridgeshire there are four betting shops and one amusement arcade. Using Census 2021 population data this is around 10,407 people per gambling premise in Cambridge and 32,424 people per gambling premise in South Cambridgeshire. Outside London the area with the highest population per betting shop is Glasgow (3,264). The highest in the East of England is Norwich (4,135).

1.11 In 2016, Cambridge City Council's licensing team ([Local Area Profile](#)) identified the presence of 16 betting shops and 2 adult gaming centres in the city. In the last 10 years there has therefore been a reduction in betting shops of approximately 31%, mirroring changes nationally. In contrast there has been an increase in the number of amusement arcades albeit this was just one new premise.

1.12 Figure 1 and Table 1 show the local of gambling premises across Greater Cambridge. Within Cambridge apart from an amusement centre at Cambridge Leisure Park and a betting shop on Chesterton High Street, all of the gambling premises are located within a designated retail centre, either Cambridge City Centre, a District and Town Centre or a Local Centre. There is a spatial concentration of premises within Cambridge city centre with more limited provision across smaller retail centres within the remainder of the city. The city centre Primary Shopping Area contains six gambling premises including two betting shops and one amusement arcade along Burleigh Street. A secondary cluster of betting premises is located along Cherry Hinton High Street (two betting shops).

1.13 In South Cambridgeshire gambling provision is dispersed and two of the five premises not located within a designated retail centre.

Figure 1: Gambling Premises in Greater Cambridge

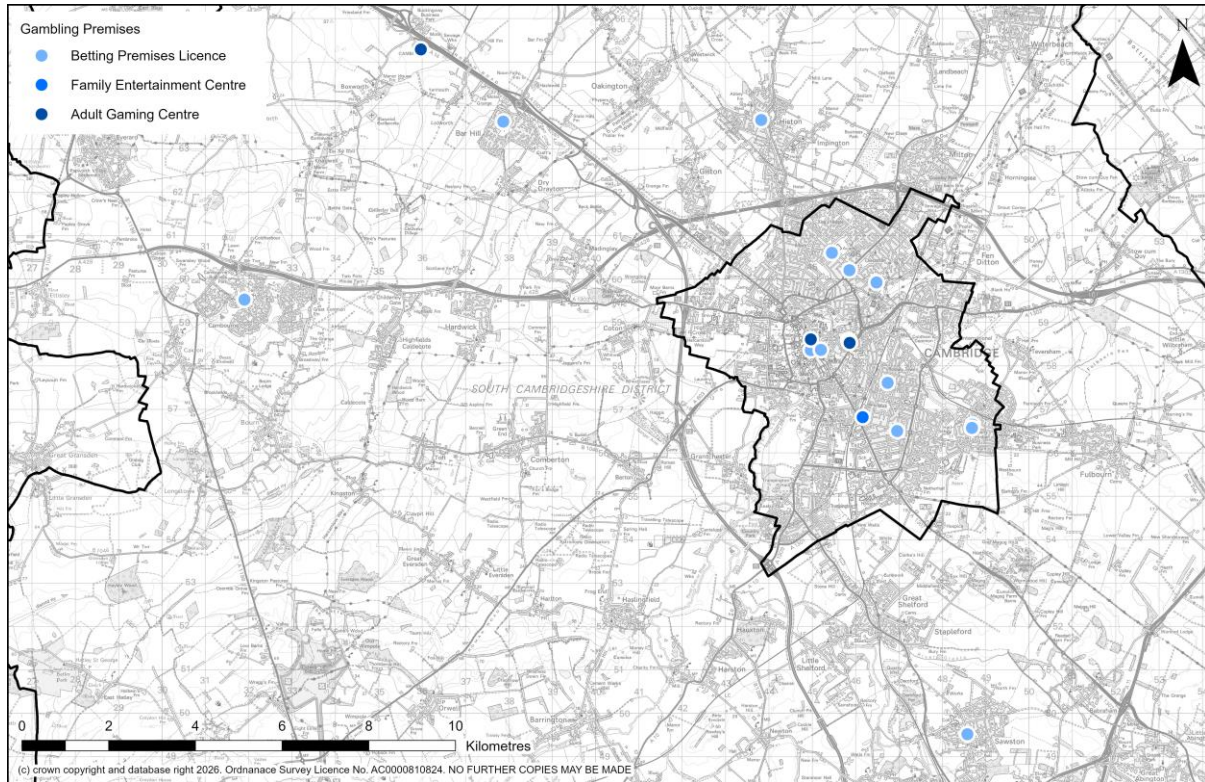


Table 1: Gambling premises in Greater Cambridge by retail centre, 2026

Retail Centre	No. betting shops	Number of amusement arcades
Arbury Court (District and Town Centre)	1	0
Cherry Hinton High Street (District and Town Centre)	2	0
Mill Road East (District and Town Centre)	1	0
Arbury Road/ Milton Road (Local Centre)	1	0
Cherry Hinton Road West (Local Centre)	1	0
Chesterton High Street,	1	0

East Chesterton (Neighbourhood Centre)		
Cambridge City Centre (Cambridge City Centre)	2	1
Fitzroy/Burleigh Street Area, inc The Grafton (Cambridge City Centre)	2	1
Cambridge Leisure Park	0	1
Cambourne (District and Town Centre)	1	0
Sawston (Local Centre)	1	0
Histon and Impington (Local Centre)	1	0
Bar Hill (Minor Rural Centre)	1	0
Cambridge Services A14	0	1

Source: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District councils  
February 2026

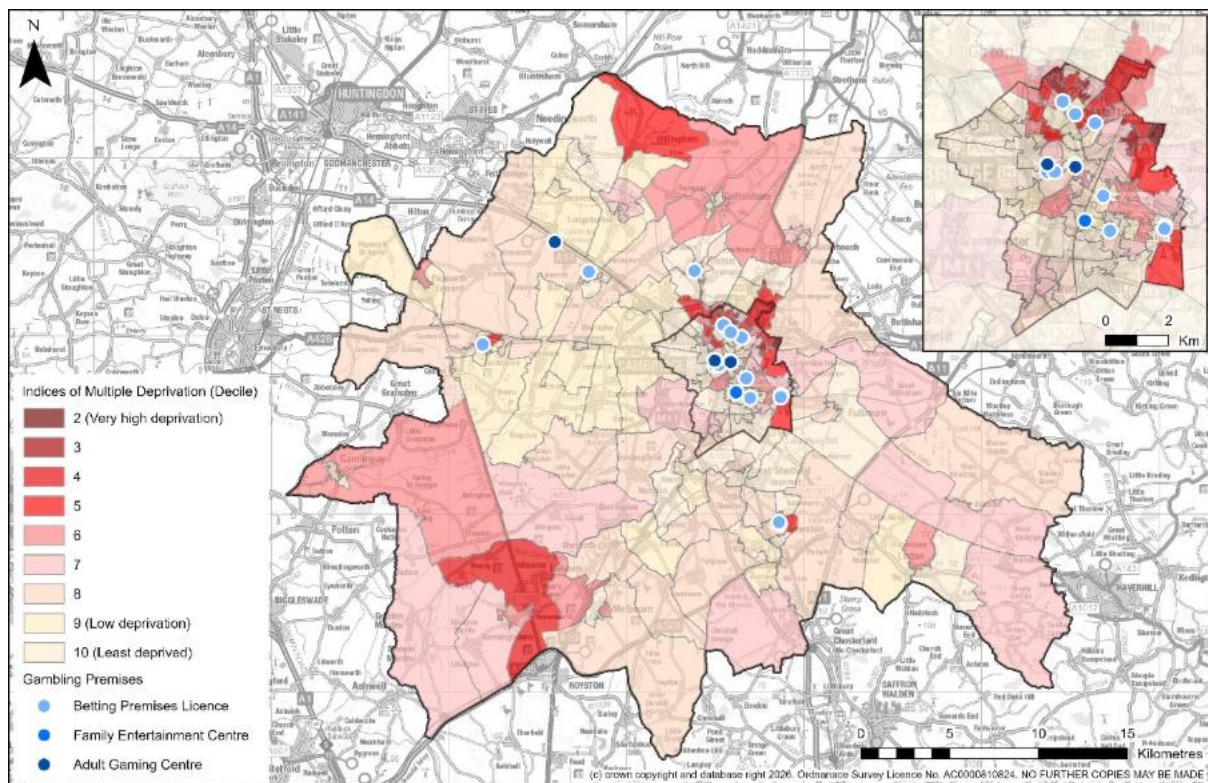
#### *Gambling premises and deprivation*

1.14 Figure 2 maps the location of gambling premises against the 2025 Indices of Deprivation by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) across Greater Cambridge. The [Indices of Deprivation](#) measure multiple dimensions of neighbourhood deprivation at a small area level. Each area is ranked by the decile which they fall under. The most deprived areas are ranked as 1 i.e. they fall in the 10% most deprived areas in England. The least deprived areas are ranked as 10 i.e. they lie in the 10% least deprived areas of England.

1.15 In Cambridge, outside of the main retail and entertainment centres in the city centre, around the Grafton Centre, Mill Road and Cambridge Leisure Park, the majority of gambling premises lie within or close to areas of higher deprivation. King's Hedges (5), Abbey (5), Arbury (6) and East Chesterton are the lowest scoring wards in the 2026 indices of Deprivation. Abbey includes one LSOA that scores 2. All other LSOAs in the top 30% most deprived areas are in Abbey or King's Hedges ward. Arbury and East Chesterton both include areas that score 4.

1.16 In South Cambridgeshire, Bassingbourn is the most deprived ward by Decile Average (6) whilst the most deprived Lower Super Output Areas are in Cambourne (5), Histon and Impington (4), Melbourn (4), Milton & Waterbeach (5), Over & Willingham (5) and Sawston (5). Betting shops are located in Cambourne, Sawston and Histon although in the case of Histon this is not close to the LSOA in the top 40% of deprived areas.

Figure 2: Licensed gambling premises (2026) and Indices of Deprivation by Lower Super Output Area (2025) in Greater Cambridge



1.17 A report on the [Geography of Gambling premises in Britain](#) by the University of Bristol (Evans, J. and Cross, K. The Geography of gambling premises in Britain. University of Bristol/Standard Life Foundation) in 2021 found that a long-running trend of gambling premises being more common in deprived areas persists in Britain. As of November 2020, it found that 21% of gambling premises were based within the most deprived decile of areas in the country, compared to just 2% in the least deprived decile. By way of comparison, just 10% of supermarkets were located in the most deprived

decile and 7% were in the least deprived decile.

1.18 The relationship with deprivation is stronger for ‘family entertainment centres’ (commonly called ‘amusement arcades’) – with 34% of such venues located in the most deprived decile. Bingo venues and adult gaming centres (AGCs) also have a strong relationship with deprivation, while it is slightly weaker (but still significant) for casinos and betting shops.

1.19 More recently, research by the BBC in December 2025 found that half of the UK’s adult gaming centres are situated in its most deprived neighbourhoods. Analysis of Gambling Commission data showed that 664 of about 1,400 such premises are in the top 20% of deprived areas.

#### *Gambling Harm*

1.20 Gambling-related harm is defined as the negative impacts of gambling on individuals’ resources, relationships, and health, affecting both people who gamble and those close to them (Wardle et al., 2018).

1.21 The harms associated with gambling identified in the Government’s

[Gambling-related harms evidence review: summary](#) (Jan 2023) can be:

- Financial harms to gamblers and their partners which can often be severe.
- Relationship harms including arguments, relationship strain or domestic abuse.
- Mental and physical health harms including a higher risk of dying including by suicide and higher incidents of self-harm.
- Employment and educational harms including Absenteeism, job turnover, withdrawal from education or reduced educational attainment.
- Criminal and anti-social behaviour harms with some studies identifying that crime that included theft and selling drugs were associated with gambling-related financial difficulties.
- Cultural harms with some studies showing that gambling-related harm is influenced by cultural norms, so some gamblers and their close associates experience additional harm like shame and isolation.

1.22 There are various ways to measure the prevalence of those experiencing problem gambling. The Gambling Survey for Great Britain (GSGB) uses the Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI), with the PGSI consisting of 9 items, with each being assessed on a four-point scale: ‘never’ to ‘almost

always'. When scores to each item are summed, a total range from 0 to 27 is possible<sup>1</sup>. Scores are grouped into the following categories:

- PGSI score 0: Representing a person who gambles (including heavily) but does not report experiencing any of the 9 symptoms or adverse consequences asked about.
- PGSI score 1 to 2: Representing low risk gambling by which a person is unlikely to have experienced any adverse consequences from gambling but may be at risk if they are heavily involved in gambling.
- PGSI score 3 to 7: Representing moderate risk gambling by which a person may or may not have experienced any adverse consequences from gambling but may be at risk if they are heavily involved in gambling.
- PGSI score 8 or more: Representing problem gambling by which a person will have experienced adverse consequences from gambling and may have lost control of their behaviour. Involvement in gambling can be at any level, but it is likely to be heavy.

The [Gambling Survey for Great Britain Annual report \(2024\)](#) found that among all participants in the survey, 8.8% had a PGSI score of 1 to 2, 3.1 % had a PGSI score of 3 to 7, and 2.7 percent had a PGSI score of 8 or more.

Of all adults who had gambled in the past 12 months, the most reported severe consequence was relationship breakdown due to own gambling (1.6%), whilst the most frequently reported potential adverse consequences (happening at least occasionally) were reducing spending on everyday items (6.7%), lying to family (6.0%) and using spendings or borrowing money (5.7%).

The Government's [Gambling-related harms evidence review: summary](#) (Jan 2023) found that the most socio-economically deprived and disadvantaged groups in England have the lowest gambling participation rates, but the highest levels of harmful gambling and they are also the most susceptible to harm. It concluded that if there are no interventions to improve this situation, harmful gambling is likely to make existing health inequalities worse.

In 2024, Gambleaware published gambling harm local area data profiles from analysis produced by the OCSI. These profiles explored the estimated levels of gambling harm in local authorities by bringing together data estimated from the Annual Treatment and Support Surveys 2022-2024

(carried out by YouGov) using Multilevel Regression and Post-stratification (MRP) modelling.

The diagrams and tables below are taken from the report. For Cambridge they show that whilst estimates of the levels of low-risk gambling are similar in Cambridge and Great Britain, estimates of the levels of moderate and problem gambling are higher than the Greater Britain average. The estimates of the levels of high risk gambling are almost double.

For South Cambridgeshire, all levels of problem gambling are below the Great Britain average.

Figure 3: People gambling with any negative consequences (PGSI 1-2, 3-7 and 8+) by PGSI score in Cambridge

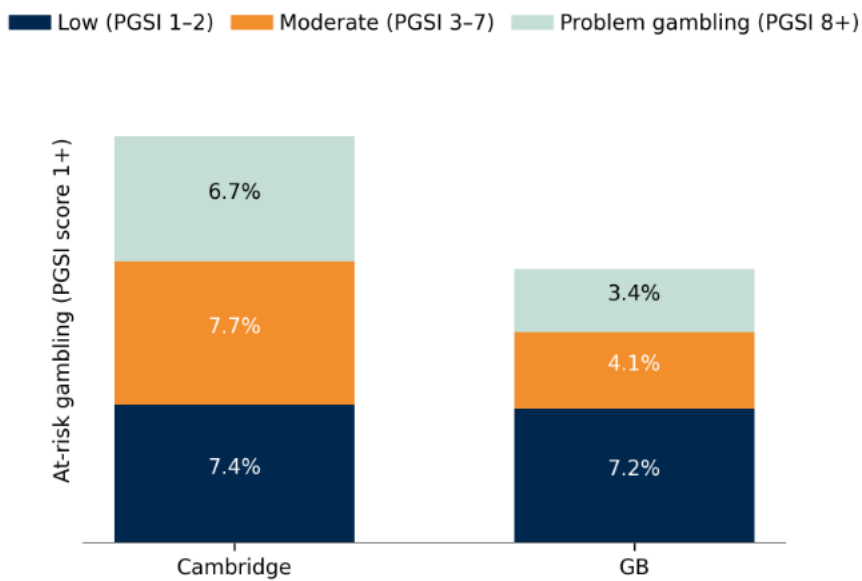
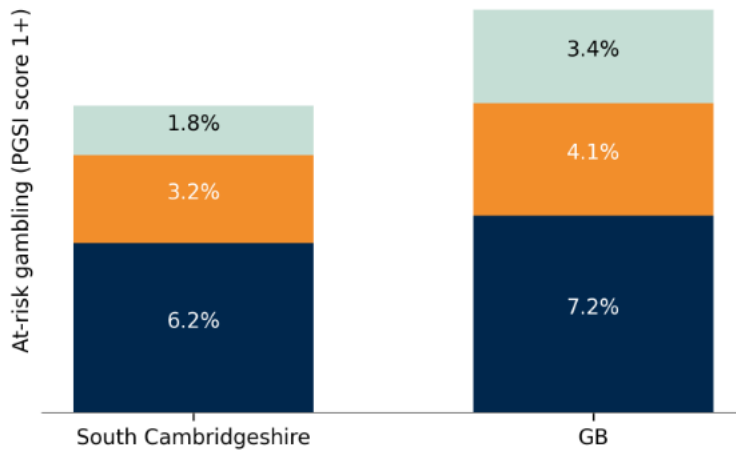


Figure 4: People gambling with any negative consequences (PGSI 1-2, 3-7 and 8+) by PGSI score in South Cambridgeshire

■ Low (PGSI 1-2) ■ Moderate (PGSI 3-7) ■ Problem gambling (PGSI 8+)



The OCSI data profile for Cambridge highlights the demographic characteristics of Cambridge that lead to the model of relatively higher levels of ‘problem gambling’ (i.e. a PGSI Score of 8+) in the area. Problem gambling is more prevalent in an area with these characteristics:

- Younger people (aged 18-34): 8.5%, compared with 3.9% across all age groups.
- People from Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups: 6.6%, compared with 3.4% for those of White ethnicity.
- People who are unemployed or economically inactive: 3.4%, compared with 3.9% across England.
- Full-time students (linked to the higher prevalence among young adults): 5.1%, compared with 3.9% across all adults in England.
- People not in a relationship: 4.3%, compared with 3.0% for those in a relationship.

The figures for Cambridge identified in the Gambleware local area estimates can be found in Table 2:

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of Cambridge compared to England

	Aged 18-34	Unemployed/Inactive	BAME Groups	Full-Time Student	Not In Relationship
Cambridge	39.7%	30.7%	25.5%	5.2%	67.1%
England	21.5%	20.2%	17.6%	2.2%	55.0%

Source: Gambleware

### Student Gambling

It could be posited that the demographic characteristics of Cambridge that suggest a population with a greater proportion of problem gamblers may be

as a result of the high proportion of students in the area. They are more likely to be 18-34, economically inactive, from different BAME groups, not in a relationship and, of course, a student.

Censuswide produce a Student Gambling Survey for YGam and GamStop2.

A sample of 2,000 students from UK universities participated in the survey, which asked students about their gambling activities, spending habits, influencers, consequences, funding sources, and help-seeking. Students also completed the short-form Problem Gambling Severity Index, a standardised tool for assessing at-risk behaviour in relation to gambling.

The finds indicate that:

- 60% of students gambled in the past 12 months; a decrease from 71% in 2022.
- 48% of students who gamble said they had gambled more than they could afford. Among students who gamble, the average weekly loss is £35.25, with 15% losing £50 or more per week to gambling.
- 46% of students who gamble said gambling has had an effect on their university experience, including trouble paying for food, attempting to access hardship loans and missing social activities and work deadlines.
- 1 in 16 (6%) reported that they have deferred or considered dropping out of university due to their gambling
- 28% of students who gamble are at 'moderate risk' of harm, and 21% are in the 'problem gambling' category.

Table 3 below, taken from the report shows the types of gambling undertaken by the students in the survey. 6.75% of responders used a high street bookmaker, 9.6% used machines in amusement arcades and 7.8% used high street fruit machines. Those that did use high street premises spent a lot of time in them. Table 4 shows that the average (mean) the number of days in a year that respondents who gamble reported using High Street Bookmakers was just under 100 days. For machines in amusement arcades it was a similar figure and high street fruit machines was approximately 90 days.

Table 3: Participation in Gambling by students

	All	Male	Female	Non-binary	Other
<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>2000</b>	1002	961	32	5
<b>I do not gamble</b>	<b>38.55%</b>	30.74%	45.89%	56.25%	80.00%
<b>National Lottery</b>	<b>25.40%</b>	25.75%	25.29%	21.88%	0.00%
<b>Online sports bet</b>	<b>22.90%</b>	32.34%	13.74%	6.25%	0.00%
<b>Online bingo</b>	<b>16.05%</b>	14.67%	17.59%	15.63%	0.00%
<b>Online casino games</b>	<b>15.85%</b>	20.26%	11.76%	3.13%	0.00%
<b>Online scratch cards</b>	<b>15.05%</b>	15.87%	14.46%	9.38%	0.00%
<b>Online fruit machines</b>	<b>11.45%</b>	14.87%	7.80%	15.63%	0.00%
<b>Online poker</b>	<b>10.55%</b>	14.27%	6.76%	9.38%	0.00%
<b>Esports</b>	<b>9.75%</b>	14.97%	4.58%	3.13%	0.00%
<b>On machines in amusement arcades</b>	<b>9.60%</b>	10.18%	9.05%	9.38%	0.00%
<b>High street fruit machines</b>	<b>7.80%</b>	11.28%	4.27%	6.25%	0.00%
<b>Private bets</b>	<b>7.40%</b>	10.28%	4.47%	6.25%	0.00%
<b>High street casinos</b>	<b>7.25%</b>	10.48%	3.95%	6.25%	0.00%
<b>High street bookmakers</b>	<b>6.75%</b>	10.28%	3.33%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>On-course horse/dog racing</b>	<b>5.65%</b>	6.99%	4.27%	3.13%	20.00%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	<b>1.75%</b>	1.50%	2.08%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	<b>1.00%</b>	0.90%	1.04%	3.13%	0.00%

Source: Censuswide Student Gambling Survey

Table 4: Gambling days per year

	Mean gambling days per year				
	All	Male	Female	Non-binary	Other
<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>1194</b>	679	500	14	1
<b>Online fruit machines</b>	<b>108.09</b>	120.89	83.93	88.94	NA
<b>High street bookmakers</b>	<b>99.67</b>	111.32	62.14	NA	NA
<b>Online poker</b>	<b>99.28</b>	106.30	87.28	24.70	NA
<b>High street fruit machines</b>	<b>98.42</b>	105.07	83.60	26.50	NA
<b>Online casino games</b>	<b>94.25</b>	104.75	75.75	52.00	NA
<b>Online sports bet</b>	<b>91.29</b>	105.46	56.52	91.00	NA
<b>High street casinos</b>	<b>90.92</b>	103.22	61.52	3.50	NA
<b>Online bingo</b>	<b>87.78</b>	113.13	66.99	44.90	NA
<b>Private bets</b>	<b>86.43</b>	90.74	78.90	26.45	NA
<b>Esports</b>	<b>72.34</b>	75.81	61.68	20.80	NA
<b>Oncourse horse/dog racing</b>	<b>70.45</b>	95.49	27.68	130.00	12.00
<b>Online scratch cards</b>	<b>68.34</b>	84.84	50.69	11.37	NA
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	<b>59.99</b>	76.67	45.77	52.00	NA
<b>National Lottery</b>	<b>54.28</b>	66.67	39.74	102.19	NA
<b>On machines in amusement arcades</b>	<b>53.38</b>	78.83	24.54	24.70	NA

Source: Censuswide produce a Student Gambling Survey

#### *Existing controls available to local authorities*

The Gambling Act (2005) sets out the requirements for legal gambling participation. The Gambling Commission and licensing authorities share regulation of gambling through licensing, policy and local risk assessment.

Local Authority Licensing Teams have a duty under the 2005 Act to licence premises where gambling is taking place through the issuing of Premises Licences. The location of the premises in terms of the licensing objectives is relevant to councils' decision making on licensing premises.

The Statement of Principles for both Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, as per the guidance, in its [Statement of Principles](#) (March 2025 – March 2028) the councils state that it will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as issues of crime and disorder in its consideration of the

location of premises.

For regulatory purposes it is assumed that ‘vulnerable persons includes people who gamble more than they want to; people who gamble beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to, for example, mental health, a learning disability or substance misuse relating to alcohol or drugs’.

Cambridge’s [Local Area Profile](#) includes Ward breakdowns of schools, place of worship and crime and disorder. It also analyses population, health and well-being, deprivation and economic well-being across the city. For South Cambridgeshire, the Statement says there no need for a Local Area Profile due to the low number of gambling outlets and the rural nature of the area. Neither authority have a specific policy in place with regards to areas where gambling premises should not be located.

On 29 April 2026 Royal Assent was given to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act which enables Gambling Impact Assessments to be prepared by licensing authorities to address the proliferation of gambling shops on the high street. It also allows councils to restrict new gambling shops in specific areas based on the findings of the assessment. Specifically, it states that:

“A licensing authority may publish a document (“a gambling impact assessment”) containing a statement that the licensing authority consider that the grant of any relevant licence, or of any further relevant licences, in respect of premises in one or more parts of their area described in the assessment (the “affected part or parts”) is not likely to be reasonably consistent with one or more of the licensing objectives because of—  
(a)the cumulative impact of relevant licences in respect of premises in the affected part or parts, or  
(b)other reasons which relate to that licensing objective, or those licensing objectives, and to the affected part or parts.  
...”

## Additional alternative approaches considered

### *Local plan policy examples*

- 1.23 Planning policies that manage the prevalence of gambling premises can be found in local plans across the UK. A sample of policy examples are listed in Appendix 1.
- 1.24 There is variation in the gambling premises that are covered by policies. In some areas, such as Newham and Lambeth only betting shops are included in the policy. In other areas policies are more broadly drawn. Policies in Doncaster and Sandwell cover gambling activities and alternative financial services incorporating betting shops, amusement arcades, pay day loan units and pawnbrokers.
- 1.25 Of the policies reviewed, no one policy is the same with the individual elements tailored to individual area. There are however some common tools:
- Limitations on concentrations in individual retail centres by:
    - limiting the number of premises that can be adjacent/consecutive;
    - specifying that there must be a separation between premises; and
    - limiting the number or percentage of premises in each retail centre.
  - Limiting the numbers of premises within areas by:
    - specifying the number of premises across an area e.g. no more than 3 units within a 400m of each other; and
    - limiting units based on overlapping of catchment areas.
  - Limiting premises in retail areas for reasons of centre vitality and viability and the amenity of residents and town centre users in terms of anti-social behaviour and crime and disturbance.
  - Specifying that a retail unit must be vacant for 12 months and marketing having taken place.
  - Specifying that the use must generate additional footfall in the retail area.
- 1.26 In some areas the policy includes variations between types of retail centre, for example, a separation of units is specified in Lambeth's district centres whilst only one unit is allowed in its local centres. Some policies split their

policy between the types of uses, for example, Brent has different limits on the proportion of betting shops and amusement arcades allowed within a centre.

## Additional alternative approaches considered

1.27 Other alternative approaches include:

- No gambling policy – not considered reasonable as evidence has identified the health risks associated with gambling.
- A more area focused policy for restricting gambling premises was considered linked to areas of higher deprivation, however further evidence would be required to understand the use of gambling premises within local areas and it was considered that the new Gambling Impact Assessments would provide a suitable alternative tool.

## Proposed approach

1.28 The following amendments have been made to the Draft Plan policy:

- Part 2 of the policy has been altered to provide clarity that it is capturing policies elsewhere in the Plan. Individual elements and the supporting text have also been altered to reflect individual themes within the Regulation 19 Plan.
- In part 3 “...as appropriate, to take into account how they can contribute to the aims and objectives of those strategies” has been replaced by “and seek to contribute to the aims and objectives of those strategies”. Reflecting the importance of placemaking in the health outcomes of individuals and communities, this alteration has been made to give all developers of major sites a more proactive requirement to consider how their development can contribute to the aims and objectives of local and regional primary care and other health strategies.
- To provide clarity, and reflect evidence on harm, betting shops, amusement arcades, hot food takeaways and fast food outlets are included in uses that have a significant impact on health and wellbeing and therefore require a Health Impact Assessment.
- “And” has been added to part 5 (previously part 4) to clarify that both a. and b. must be demonstrated by proposals requiring a full Health

## Impact Assessment.

- Alterations have been made to the hot food takeaway and fast food outlets element of the policy to reflect the fact, in some circumstances, hot food takeaways can play a role in providing affordable, accessible and/or healthy food. “Normally” has been added to part 6 and a further element has been added to part 7 which allows that in exceptional circumstances a concentration of hot food takeaways and fast food outlets may be acceptable. The addition of Part 9 provides the opportunity for the councils, working with businesses, to improve the healthiness of takeaway and fast food offers.
- Additions have been made to the supporting text to explain the reasoning behind the new elements of the policy and explain “Healthy Catering Principles”.
- Further changes to the Hot Food Takeaways and fast food outlets policy are confirmation that 400m buffer zone around schools, colleges and youth centres should be measured from site boundaries and the replacement of “over concentration” with “harmful concentration”. These changes seek provide clarity on the purpose and implementation of the policy.
- On review, it was considered that where a village or parade of shops have a public house and a convenience shop, the wording of Part 8 of the policy would allow one of these to become a hot food takeaway or fast food outlet. The new wording seeks to ensure that in these circumstances both premises would be retained.
- In the absence of a national definition of fast food outlets, new supporting text seeks to clarify the distinction between the two uses.
- Whilst the evidence outlined above suggests that the imperative to restrict gambling premises in Greater Cambridge is not high with numbers falling nationally and locally, the low current levels of premises compared to other areas coupled with the high risks of problem gambling in Cambridge, suggest that were demand to return, even a limited demand, this could contribute to undermining the health and wellbeing of individuals in the area.

- A policy to limit new gambling premises to designated centres and to limit concentrations within individual designated centres is considered to be a proportionate response to manage this risk. The requirement for a health impact assessment for gambling premises outlined above would also ensure that applicant considers how any harms arising from gambling-related activity can be minimised and preferably avoided.
- Several alterations have been made to the supporting text to improve its grammar and readability.

## 4. Proposed Submission Local Plan update to WS/NC: Meeting the needs of new and growing communities

### Policy context update

#### *South Cambridgeshire District Council Corporate Plan 2025-2030*

1.29 The vision for South Cambridgeshire is for a fairer, kinder, and greener South Cambridgeshire, where all residents will be equal partners in their communities. To aspire to create a better district to the benefit of everyone in our communities. The Council recognises the many challenges that face the district and will continue to work to overcome these to help realise its full potential.

1.30 South Cambridgeshire priorities are as follows:

- Healthy and supported communities
- Sustainable homes and vibrant places
- Being green to our core
- Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire
- Financially secure and fit for the future

1.31 The ambition of the 'Healthy and supported communities' priority is to create a district where people feel safe, supported, and confident in their communities.

1.32 As part of the Corporate Action Plan, the Action Plan continues to outline the work to deliver new community facilities at Northstowe. This includes the new permanent community centre for phase one – the Unity Centre – (now open), helping ensure Northstowe has new, state of the art spaces to support its growing and thriving community.

1.33 The Council also intends to provide rental space for businesses, including via its commercial premises and space for start-ups and small businesses at its South Cambs Hall office building. Through the Visit South Cambs website, there will also be continued promotion of the district's high streets, events and businesses.

#### *Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge*

1.34 Cambridge City Council's corporate plan for 2022 to 2027 sets out our four key priorities for the city over the next five years.

- Leading Cambridge's response to the climate and biodiversity

emergencies and creating a net zero council by 2030

- Tackling poverty and inequality and helping people in the greatest need
- Building a new generation of council and affordable homes and reducing homelessness
- Modernising the council to lead a greener city that is fair for all

1.35 The Council will work with voluntary and community groups and local employers to help strengthen local communities, and we will work cooperatively with partners to address the underlying issues. And we will seek to listen to and work with our communities, making sure that we work in partnership with residents rather than simply doing things for them.

*Cambridge City Council Community Wealth Building - Strategy and Approach (March 2024)*

1.36 Cambridge City Council's community strategy is driven by their Community Wealth Building Strategy, which replaced the previous anti-poverty strategy. The core vision is "One Cambridge, Fair for All", focusing on tackling poverty, creating a fairer economy, empowering local communities, and keeping wealth circulating locally.

1.37 The City Council has had an anti-poverty strategy since 2014, which has focussed on improving the standard of living and daily lives of residents in Cambridge who are experiencing poverty; and helping to alleviate issues that can lead households on low incomes to experience financial pressures. Over the past 10 years, this approach has been gradually evolving and forms part of the City Council's new Community Wealth Building Strategy, which will run from April 2024 onwards, when the current anti-poverty strategy ends.

1.38 The Community Wealth Building Strategy will outline the City Council's approach to reducing poverty and inequality in Cambridge and supporting a more inclusive, fair and sustainable economy. The strategy takes a broad definition of community 'wealth', one that addresses economic inequality alongside other forms of wealth, including building human, social, knowledge, physical, natural and institutional 'capital' - all these forms of capital are needed to create sustainable prosperity.

1.39 The Community Wealth Building approach will focus on four areas of

work:

### **1. Using the Council's resources, assets and powers**

- Procurement and spending power
- Buildings and land assets
- Voluntary sector grant funding
- Employment practices

### **2. Building an inclusive and sustainable economy**

- Encouraging businesses and anchor institutions to adopt good employment and procurement practices
- Local business and social enterprise support
- Influencing learning and skills provision

### **3. Building community power**

- Working collaboratively with communities
- Giving individuals agency and empowering communities
- Focusing on strengths and potential that exist in communities

### **4. Taking a holistic, systems-based approach**

- Working collaboratively with a range of stakeholders, including communities, partner organisations and businesses

1.40 To summarise, as part of our Community Wealth Building approach, the Council would make the following key asks of local partners:

- 1. Spend and procurement** – to consider how to maximise social value in procurement and to develop local businesses and social enterprises into the supply chain.
- 2. Workforce and employment** – to adopt positive employment practices, including a commitment to pay the Real Living Wage, secure employment, good development and progression opportunities, recruiting people from local communities, and providing high quality training and apprenticeships that meet current and future skills gaps.
- 3. Finance and investment** – to invest in local initiatives to address inequality (through the Greater Cambridge Social Impact Fund or company Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) programmes)
- 4. Buildings, land and assets** - to consider opportunities to use or manage building and land assets for community benefit, including opening up assets to community access or use and to create social

value.

**5. Empowering communities** – to work with and help empower local communities to develop solutions to local problems. 6. Community and voluntary sector support – to help strengthen local community and voluntary organisations by aligning funding opportunities with other partners and supporting skilled volunteering by staff.

**6. Collaborative working** – working together as partners and stakeholders to address poverty and inequality and ensure all residents of Cambridge can benefit from the city's prosperity.

### New or updated evidence

- 1.41 **Greater Cambridge Burial Study (Interim) (2026)** sets out a review of funerary legislation, policy and trends followed by the baseline position in terms of burial spaces and funerary facilities in Greater Cambridge, as well as providing an understanding of the area's current demographic. The study also considers the current needs and capacity in addition to identifying both opportunities and constraints for disposition post-death. Future demographic projections and mortality forecasting are also provided along with the study's findings and recommendations, establishing future needs. The final section considers potential approaches for ensuring that existing and future funerary provision is delivered as needed and sustainably managed.
- 1.42 The overall estimated shortfall in burial spaces during the Plan Period across Greater Cambridge is approximately 3,120. These figures are preliminary and the final version of this study will set out a finer grain analysis about the finer grain analysis about the geographical distribution of this shortfall. The shortfall identified is not focussed on one area but spread across Cambridge and at new settlements separated from the city. The report takes into account the needs of different faith groups and the provision of their disposition post-death.
- 1.43 The interim report also recommended the additional need created by new settlements should be provided within them, as part of the essential infrastructure provided by the developers. The number of burial spaces provided should extend beyond the expected requirement of the Plan

Period to truly meet the needs of the new communities for a reasonable period of time. If the ground/water conditions are not suitable for onsite provision, in accordance with legislation and the Environment Agency's guidance, developers should complete their own assessments to identify sites for locating suitable burial provision in an alternative location and to provide sufficient capacity at that location. This may include neighbouring parishes where more suitable burial ground conditions may exist.

1.44 **Greater Cambridge Community Infrastructure Study (2026)** provides a practical planning tool for deciding what community infrastructure new development should provide or fund across Greater Cambridge.

1.45 The study focuses on the spaces, facilities and local assets that help people meet, organise, access support and take part in community life. This includes community centres, village halls, parish halls, libraries, faith spaces with active community use, youth spaces, women's and specialist support spaces, schools with genuine community use, and other stable community-serving assets.

1.46 The study brings together mapped asset-location data, community facilities evidence, workshop evidence, officer interviews, existing resident survey evidence, demographic and growth evidence, standards and comparator evidence, and draft planning evidence.

1.47 The main findings of the report include:

- Greater Cambridge has a wide community infrastructure network, with many community-facing assets already recorded.
- Mapped asset-location data records indicate 223 geolocated community-facing or contextual entries in Cambridge City and 517 in South Cambridgeshire. These records show distribution, clusters and possible gaps.
- Workshop and officer evidence highlighted gaps between buildings being present and provision working well, including visibility, welcome, affordability, booking, youth use, kitchens, storage, transport access, management capacity and revenue.
- Community facilities evidence shows that growth can place additional pressure on existing assets and stewardship arrangements, so new

development needs to plan for early usable space, improvements to existing facilities, long-term management and clear routes for contributions.

- Cambridge City has a dense community infrastructure network comprising of a network of Council-supported community-centres alongside community-led provision. The city also has clear local gaps and growth pressures, especially where existing neighbourhoods sit close to major development areas such as Cambridge East, the eastern fringe and southern institutional growth locations.
- South Cambridgeshire has a dispersed network of village, parish and growth-area provision. Many places rely on village halls, parish facilities, faith spaces, schools and volunteer-led management. The South Cambridgeshire community facilities evidence supports a 129 square metre per 1,000 population benchmark and shows that quality, accessibility, running costs and local stewardship are as important as the headline amount of floorspace.
- Major growth locations need early, visible and usable provision. New settlements, strategic allocations, large urban extensions and employment-led campuses need Community Plans, clear phasing, on-site and off-site decisions, safeguarded capacity, youth-capable space, kitchen and storage capability, revenue support and long-term stewardship.
- Community infrastructure needs to work for people who may face barriers to access. This includes young people and teenagers, older people, disabled people, carers, low-income households, non-drivers, women and girls, LGBTQIA+ communities, faith communities, new arrivals and groups that may need safe or trusted meeting space.

1.48 The study recommends the use of Community Plans as the main mechanism for larger developments and locally complex proposals. The Community Needs Assessment should sit inside the Community Plan, alongside the proposed provision, engagement, phasing, funding, stewardship, management, monitoring and review arrangements.

1.49 The study supports the use of proportionate Community Plans for strategic

sites, larger residential developments, larger employment developments and other proposals where local context, cumulative growth or pressure on existing provision creates material community infrastructure issues.

- 1.50 **Greater Cambridge Cultural Infrastructure Strategy (Interim) - Stage 2** (2026) identifies how planned growth in Greater Cambridge necessitates and can support the vision and priorities for cultural infrastructure established through the Greater Cambridge Cultural Infrastructure Strategy Stage One, which were based on an extensive audit of existing infrastructure provision, engagement with key stakeholders in cultural infrastructure delivery, and community involvement.
- 1.51 The Stage 2 report makes the case for cultural infrastructure as a core component of social and economic infrastructure, essential to delivering sustainable, inclusive and high-quality places and therefore the need to provide and maintain infrastructure through new development to support planned development and mitigate the impact of development.
- 1.52 The report also identifies the need for contributions through S106 agreements, in addition to wider funding mechanisms, to deliver the necessary cultural infrastructure to support Greater Cambridge's economic and population growth.
- 1.53 See also section under Policy WS/NC: Meeting the needs of new and growing communities.

### Additional alternative approaches considered

1.54 None

### Proposed approach

1.55 The following amendments have been made to the Draft Plan policy:

#### *Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and Crematoriums*

- Paragraph 10 has been added to explain the circumstances that need to be satisfied proposals for new cemeteries, burial grounds, natural burial sites, supporting buildings and extensions to existing facilities including crematoriums will normally be supported.
- Additional supporting text provided to support the delivery of new burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoriums.

### *Community & Cultural Infrastructure*

- The sub-heading Indoor Community Facilities has been amended to include Indoor and Outdoor Community and Cultural Facilities.
- Paragraph 6 has been amended to explain the metrics that should be applied by applicable developments as part of the process of calculating their contribution towards community and cultural infrastructure.
- It also requires applicable developments to submit Community and Cultural Plans as part of the planning application process to establish a robust, evidence-led and locally responsive approach for their provision and long-term viability.
- Additional supporting text provided to support the delivery of community and cultural plans.

### *Leisure routes*

- Paragraph 9 has been added to require new development to provide or contribute towards leisure routes, suitable for people of all ages and abilities and for a variety of uses, to allow them to exercise outdoors and access nature and the wider countryside.
- Additional supporting text provided to support the delivery of leisure routes.

## 5. Proposed Submission Local Plan update to WS/CF: Community, sports and leisure facilities

### Policy context update

1.56 See section under Policy WS/NC: Meeting the needs of new and growing communities.

### New or updated evidence

1.57 **Greater Cambridge Indoor Sports Facility Strategy (ISFS) (2026)** has been developed in accordance with Sport England's prescribed methodology and builds on the work completed by the ISFS 2016 version which planned up to 2031. The updated version plans for the period up to 2031 and from 2032 to 2045, while acknowledging some developments will not be completed until after 2045.

1.58 The latest ISFS states how the scale of planned housing growth to 2045 will generate increased demand for sport and leisure facilities and there will therefore be a need to develop new swimming pools, sports halls, fitness facilities and a range of other leisure facilities. All strategic housing sites, and large employment sites, should be collecting developer contributions towards the provision of both new and improved indoor sports facilities.

1.59 The new facilities will be funded through both off and on-site s106 contributions. However, it is also likely that other funding will be needed given the increasing cost of sports infrastructure.

1.60 **Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) (Interim) (2026)** has been developed in accordance with Sport England's prescribed methodology and builds on the work completed by the PPS 2016 version which planned up to 2031. The updated version plans for the period up to 2031 and from 2032 to 2045, while acknowledging some developments will not be completed until after 2045.

1.61 The PPS provides an up-to-date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) and its current and future demand in the local authority. The strategy and the evidence base upon which it is based is delivered using national guidance and facility insight from specific Governing Bodies of Sport. The assessment focusses on natural and

artificial facilities used by football; rugby union, cricket; and hockey.

- 1.62 Within these sports, the strategy seeks, as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether: club and league based (formal) competitions and training; less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g. turn up and play products such as Rush Hockey, walking football, All Stars Cricket, and Touch Rugby); and informal and un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students, school friends (out of school).
- 1.63 The PPS provides a holistic analysis of sports facilities across the Study Area. This will lead to a comprehensive set of recommendations for the future development of leisure / health and wellbeing provisions, in line with the needs of local residents.
- 1.64 **Greater Cambridge Outdoor Courts & Rinks Strategy (OCRS) (Interim) (2026)**. The OCRS has been developed for Greater Cambridge and provides an assessment of outdoor tennis, padel outdoor netball and outdoor bowls facility provision in the area, following Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities guidance. This assessment was undertaken in collaboration with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), England Netball (EN), Bowls England (BE) and British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA).

### Additional alternative approaches considered

- None

### Proposed approach

- 1.65 The following amendments have been made to the Draft Plan policy:
- Paragraph 1, an additional criterion has been added requiring all proposals (excluding minor applications) to facilitate community access to new or enhanced facilities through measures such as a community use agreement, unless it can be demonstrated that it is not feasible.
  - Paragraph 7 has been added to require developers prepare, where appropriate management and maintenance strategies, approved by the Local Planning Authorities. These will ensure the facility's or service's robust and effective implementation, adoption and maintenance in the

long term.

- Additional supporting text provided to include the use of Sport England's community use agreement templates and guidance. It also clarifies how facilities should only be counted towards meeting public need where there is secured, affordable and long-term legally binding community access agreement in place.

## 6. Proposed Submission Local Plan update to WS/CH: Cultural and creative hubs

### Policy context update

1.66 See section under Policy WS/NC: Meeting the needs of new and growing communities.

### New or updated evidence

1.67 See section under Policy WS/NC: Meeting the needs of new and growing communities.

### Additional alternative approaches considered

1.68 None

### Proposed approach

1.69 The following amendments have been made to the Draft Plan policy:

- The policy approach has not been changed, rather it has been slightly amended to remove duplication of 'networking' in paragraph 1 and criteria lettering in paragraph 2.
- Paragraph 2 has been amended, removing reference to "rather than duplicate" in the fifth criterion.

## 7. Proposed Submission Local Plan update to WS/MU: Meanwhile uses

### Policy context update

1.70 None.

### New or updated evidence

1.71 In February 2026 Cambridge Ahead's Youth Advisory Committee published [Temporary Space, Lasting Impact: Meanwhile Use as Infrastructure for Placemaking](#). The report explains the economic, social & community and environmental benefits and the strategic value that meanwhile uses can bring. It highlights the practical ways in which meanwhile uses can help tackle inequality and support Cambridge City Council's Wealth Building Strategy. Turning vacant buildings into affordable spaces which can be used by local businesses and community groups, gives entrepreneurs a more affordable way to test their ideas, and provides venues where residents can come together for community activity such as to tackle local issues or strengthen social cohesion. The case studies provided in the report provide some useful practical learning including:

- Featuring meanwhile use opportunities early in discussions around placemaking, as an infrastructure cost at the outset and as fundamental to the development of the place is important to avoid 'tokenistic' or 'bolt on' meanwhile use projects.
- Utilising vacant retail units through meanwhile use enables community organisations and early-stage start-ups to pilot ideas in high-footfall, accessible locations, helping to maintain day-to-day vibrancy in shopping centres while laying the groundwork for future longer-term occupation.
- Meanwhile use can emerge organically when landlords engage early with local community groups. Offering short-term access to vacant units allows organisations to pilot ideas, build community support and keep sites active while redevelopment plans progress.

1.72 The report outlines a series of considerations for good meanwhile use

including “Embedding meanwhile use into local planning policy and practice would encourage asset owners to plan for it from the outset as part of their placemaking strategy.”

## Additional alternative approaches considered

1.73 None

## Proposed approach

1.74 The following amendments have been made to the Draft Plan policy:

- The term “large-scale” has been removed from Part 1 of the policy and the sentence adjusted to accommodate this change. This acknowledges that meanwhile uses can bring benefits to different scales of sites and buildings.
- Part 2 of the policy has been revised to require all phased major development to submit an appropriate Meanwhile Use Feasibility Study, and, if feasible, an appropriate Meanwhile Strategy. This recognises the significant positive impacts that meanwhile uses can bring to new communities.
- Changes have been made to the supporting text to make it read better and to highlight the role of meanwhile uses in providing a continuity of provision during redevelopment. A new paragraph highlights the importance of early discussions to maximise the benefits of meanwhile uses.
- A newly introduced paragraph to the supporting text outlines the expectations of what would be included in a meanwhile use strategy. This will help applicants to understand the councils’ expectations for a strategy and enable the effective use of resources in its preparation and sign-off.

## 8. Proposed Submission Local Plan update to WS/IO: Creating inclusive employment and business opportunities through new developments

### Policy context update

- 1.75 [Get Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Growing](#), the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Local Growth Plan approved in October 2025, states that its growth ambition indicates that by 2035 we will need significant numbers of additional workers qualified to degree level.
- 1.76 “A key challenge for the C&P region will therefore be ensuring that our residents have access to high-quality further education (FE) and higher education (HE) provision, to ensure that businesses within our region have access to a pipeline of talent. This will necessitate addressing existing barriers and challenges our residents face, particularly within specific areas of C&P, as well as ensuring that there are a range of pathways for progression to higher-level skills. Of critical importance will be the role our FE colleges and Independent Training Providers play in the delivery of vocational and technical learning, particularly the delivery of Level 3 qualifications, the demand for which will increase with the evolving specialisation of our economy.
- 1.77 Without suitable and accessible pathways to skills attainment within our region, our residents will not be able to fully benefit from the higher wages and access to good jobs which will be driven by Growth within our economy.”
- 1.78 The Strategy’s vision is to stimulate a thriving labour market, where everyone has the opportunity for good work and to progress in their career, and where we work towards achieving the goal of an 80% employment rate.
- 1.79 The Construction sector is identified as part of the ‘everyday’ economy, which is considered to be critical to maximising economic activity and participation. Achieving positive outcomes for those working in the Everyday Economy - or for those seeking to make their way into it, it states, are key to ensuring future Growth impacts the lives of all residents.
- 1.80 Meeting the skills requirements of sectors within the Everyday Economy is

considered to be at the heart of supporting positive, inclusive outcomes across the economy as a whole. The Strategy's focus on the Everyday Economy seeks to ensure that learning and training opportunities are designed and delivered to help local people at all levels of the economic spectrum - supporting people with complex needs to enter the labour market for the first time while simultaneously embedding global-level talent within highly specialised technology industries.

### New or updated evidence

1.81 Further exploration has been carried out of what appropriate in lieu payments should be if a skills plan was not implemented directly by the development.

### Additional alternative approaches considered

1.82 None.

### Proposed approach

1.83 The following amendments have been made to the Draft Plan policy:

- Elements of the policy has been slightly altered to improve their clarity.
- An “and” is introduced to the list of what will be expected to be included in an Employment and Skills Plan to indicate that all of the elements would be expected.
- A 20% requirement for the proportion of jobs to be secured for local residents has been added for clarity and specifically tied to the construction phase of the development. A review of existing developments in the Greater Cambridge area with S106 agreements indicates that 20% is a reasonable target for local construction employment.
- A new supported employment places requirement for the occupation stage of a development has been added to the policy and supporting text. This is considered to be appropriate given the growing number of local residents who have difficulty accessing the Greater Cambridge local labour market. More detail on this can be found in Appendix A.
- An addition, “Employment and Skills Plans will be agreed on a site-by-site basis. For local micro businesses or quick construction works,

should the developer be unable to fulfil the obligations set out in the policy, the developers must engage with the councils to confirm if an alternative requirement would be acceptable.”, responds to a number of representations received by seeking to ensure that there is flexibility incorporated into the policy to respond to the characteristics, including costs, of individual developments.

- An additional element has been added to the policy to cover circumstances where reasonable endeavours have not been made to meet an agreed employment and skills plan. Should this circumstance occur, an equivalent contribution for the shortfall in outputs will be sought by the councils.
- In the supporting text, to provide clarity that it is not just one of the examples and benchmarks listed are all required, an “and” has been added.
- The supporting text has also been altered to reflect reforms to the Planning system. More detailed guidance may be provided in a technical note rather than in supplementary planning guidance.
- Formulae for in-lieu payments has been added in Appendix G and the supporting text to the policy now outlines what areas of activities any money received will be spent on.

## 9. Proposed Submission Local Plan update to WS/HS: Pollution, health and safety

### Policy context update

1.84 No additional policy context update.

### New or updated evidence

1.85 No additional evidence update.

### Additional alternative approaches considered

1.86 No additional alternative approaches identified.

### Proposed approach

1.87 The following amendments have been made to the Draft Plan policy:

- Paragraph 1a amended to reference the role of lighting in protective security, to better reflect opportunities for addressing designing out crime.
- Create a new paragraph 1d, clarifying requirements to consider the impact on wildlife and nature conservation, and landscape character, particularly at settlement edges and the surrounding countryside.
- Supporting text – additional information on the role of the policy including the consideration of land contamination along with specific references to technical documents.
- Supporting text – on light pollution, specific reference has been added to barbastelle bats, reflecting comments raised by Natural England, and its association with the Eversden and Wimpole Woods European Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Reference was also added to best practice guidance on lighting, and the role lighting places in implementing policies within the Great Places theme.
- Supporting text – on hazardous materials, reference was added that consideration must be given to preventative design measures and protective security preventing access to hazardous materials.

## 10. Proposed Submission Local Plan update to WS/PH: Public Houses

### Policy context update

1.88 No additional policy context update.

### New or updated evidence

1.89 Additional desk-based public houses assessments were completed to check their status and update our records, accordingly, leading to a finalised safeguarded pubs list that is now an appendices to the Plan.

1.90 **Greater Cambridge Retail and Leisure Study Reg19 Interim Study Findings** (2026) is an interim report compiled to inform future planning policy on town centre, retail and leisure matters in Greater Cambridge, together with a wider strategy for the future of the designated centres, up to 2045. A final version of the report will be issued later this year.

1.91 The report makes the following observations and recommendations regarding pubs and bars, as follows:

- Across Cambridge's network of centres there were 50 pubs/bars (5.1% of all units), which is broadly equivalent to the UK average (5.2%). The number of pubs/bars is higher in Cambridge City Centre (13, 12.4%), reflecting its position in the hierarchy and regional role.
- The Local Plan should be supportive of new pub and bar proposals and the continued development of the evening economy to increase the provision of pubs and bars also presents an opportunity to reduce vacancies across the authority area, where such changes comply with the relevant agent of change and neighbouring amenity considerations. Proposals to adapt the format of public houses, improving operational efficiencies, and their overall viability should be supported.

### Additional alternative approaches considered

1.92 No additional alternative approaches identified.

### Proposed approach

1.93 The following amendments have been made to the Draft Plan policy:

- Paragraph 1 has been re-written to clarify the circumstances where

proposals will be supported for new or enhanced public houses, wine bars, and other drinking establishments where food is secondary.

- Paragraph 3 has been amended to provide additional clarification about the policy requirements along with the inclusion of a List of Safeguarded Public House Sites (featured in Appendix J). The latter clarifies the list of public houses including their curtilage that the policy will apply to. The list will be reviewed periodically.
- Appendix G has been amended to provide more clarity regarding public house viability appraisals.
- No amendments have been made to the supporting text other than for grammatical purposes.