

Redistribution of Housing Need In the Cambridge HMA Area

Joint Statement by:

Peterborough City Council

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Fenland District Council

November 2017

Introduction

In 2013, a formal 'Memorandum of Cooperation: Supporting the Spatial Approach'¹ (MoC) was agreed between all district councils in the Cambridge Sub-Region HMA area², plus by Peterborough City Council. The MoC had the effect of reducing the overall housing 'need' to be met in the Cambridge Sub-Region HMA area from 93,000 to 90,500 (2011-2031), with the difference (2,500), it was agreed, having already been met and planned for in Peterborough via their up to date Local Plan. Full details, and wider evidence of joint working, can be found in the MoC.

The purpose of the MoC was for the benefit of the round of Cambridge Sub-Region HMA Local Plans being prepared at the time (i.e. as at 2013). Since then, some of those Local Plans have subsequently been adopted, whilst others are well advanced. The Cambridge HMA districts which were most affected by the MoC were Fenland (-1,000 dwellings) and East Cambridgeshire (-1,500 dwellings). Those two districts have subsequently adopted their Local Plan, with the Inspector in each case finding 'sound' their respective housing targets. To illustrate this point, it is worth setting out two quotations from the East Cambridgeshire Inspector's Report (March 2015):

27....In functional terms, I have seen no evidence that providing an element of the Cambridge HMA's needs within Peterborough would conflict with the Framework's sustainable development objectives. Indeed, given Peterborough's accessibility, infrastructure availability and range of service provision, this arrangement would broadly accord with general sustainable development principles.

28...In view of the close relationship between the Cambridge and Peterborough HMAs, the intended provision of 2,500 dwellings across the HMA boundary does not therefore appear either unreasonable or inconsistent with the overall policy thrust of the Framework.

Moving Forward

It is now the case that two of the districts affected by the MoC (Peterborough and East Cambridgeshire) have commenced preparation of a further review of their Local Plans. Both are progressing to a similar timetable, commencing in 2015 and intending to adopt at some point in 2018, and both are adopting a plan timeframe of 2016-36. Fenland is yet to commence a review, but is likely to do so in about two years' time. At this point it will review its housing need and target.

So as to provide clarity for all parties, it is hereby confirmed that the three councils, AGREE:

- That the intent and sentiment of the MoC remains intact, regarding the previously agreed redistribution of growth between 2011 and 2031;
- That the redistribution remains intact, albeit discounted by 25% to reflect the fact that 25% of the time period of the original MoC (2011-31) does not apply to the plan period of the two emerging plans (which are both 2016-36);
- That, as a consequence, 1,875 of the housing need arising in the Cambridge Sub Region HMA should continue to be provided for in Peterborough, between 2016-31, on top of its up to date Local Housing Need;
- That, as a consequence, East Cambridgeshire should continue to have a reduced housing target (reduced by -1,125, between 2016-31) compared with its up to date Local Housing Need; and
- That the up to date Local Plan for Fenland already has a reduced housing target to reflect the MoC, and this statement therefore has no direct implications for Fenland.

All other Cambridge HMA authorities were consulted on this statement in September 2017. No objections were received from any such authority.

¹ See: <http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/planning/joint-working>

² Cambridge HMA comprises the whole of Cambridgeshire (Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland) and parts of Suffolk (Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury)