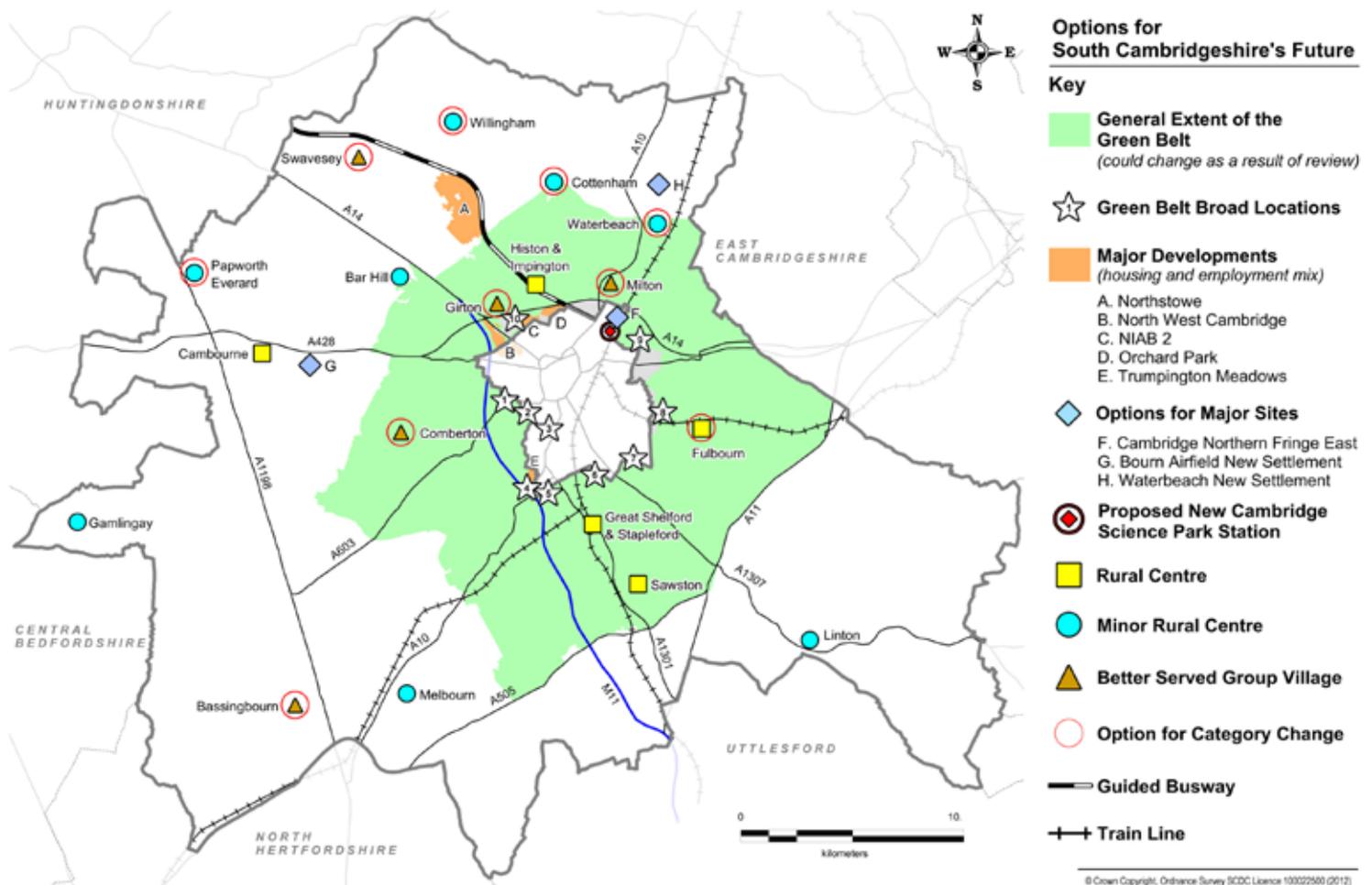


Public consultation on 'issues and options'

South Cambridgeshire District Council needs your views to help create a new plan for how the area should be developed over the next 20 years.



The district is consistently recognised as one of the top places to live and work in the country due to our thriving economy, attractive environment and quality of life our residents enjoy. Now we need to make sure we have a plan that can continue our success by providing for new jobs and homes while protecting and enhancing what makes South Cambridgeshire special.

To make it easier than ever to give your views during the consultation, there are ten questions covering the more significant issues being debated for the entire district.



Question 1 - Jobs

Our successful local economy has meant that around 1,600 new jobs have been created each year over the last 20 years. The average was around 1,000, even during the downturn. Forecasts show a growth of 1,200 more jobs per year is most likely over the next 20 years, but if the economy is worse or better than predicted it could be as few as 700, or as many as 1,500.

What are your views on how many new jobs we should provide for?

Question 2 - Homes

To accommodate our growing population, and to support new jobs, more homes will be needed. There are already 14,200 homes in the Council's current plans, including Northstowe and sites on the edge of Cambridge. If we planned for the most likely number of new jobs forecasted, we expect sites for an additional 7,300 homes will be needed. Planning for the lower number of jobs would suggest an additional 4,300 homes and the higher number of new jobs would need 9,300.

What are your views on how many new homes we should be planning for?

Question 3 - Development focus

The Council's existing plan focusses development on the edge of Cambridge and in Northstowe, a proposed new town near to Longstanton, with little development in villages. This is to give people a choice of living near to jobs and services which are concentrated in or close to Cambridge so they do not have to rely on their car for all their journeys. Some village development is expected to be needed to provide smaller housing sites in the next plan, but there are options for the main focus of future development:

- a) On the edge of Cambridge (would require a review of the green belt)
- b) Another new town/village
- c) Larger villages (could require a review of the green belt)
- d) Combination of the above

Where do you think development should be focussed?

Question 4 - Green belt

Cambridge is surrounded by green belt which stretches 3 to 5 miles from the edge of the city and includes some of our larger villages. The boundaries around villages were last reviewed 20 years ago. To develop land in any of these areas another review would be needed. The merits of ten areas on the edge of Cambridge can be viewed by visiting www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/localplan (see Appendix 2).

What are your views on releasing land from the green belt to allow more development around the edge of Cambridge or the larger villages, and do you have any comments on any of the ten broad locations?



Question 5 - Village development

Development is currently allowed within villages, for houses for sale. However, current policies mean sites in villages are becoming increasingly more difficult to find.

Over the next 20 years do you feel the plan should allow greater flexibility so villages are able to expand and would you support more development in proportion to the scale of the village where you live?

Village name _____

Question 6 - Where should new housing sites be located

Following detailed assessments of nearly 300 locations we want your views on the 52 sites we believe could be the most suitable options for development. A list of the locations are below, but for more detailed information on each site please visit Chapter 5 at www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/localplan.

New town - Waterbeach barracks and nearby land

New village - Bourn airfield

Villages sites - Sawston, Histon & Impington, Cambourne, Great Shelford and Stapleford, Cottenham, Fulbourn, Linton, Melbourn, Gamlingay, Milton, Swavesey, Bassingbourn, Girton, Comberton, Papworth Everard, Willingham, Waterbeach.

What are your views on the options suggested, and are there any other sites we should consider?

Question 7 - Rural Exception Sites

The Council can grant planning permission for 'rural exception' schemes' where housing association homes are built on the edge of villages to meet local needs for affordable housing. Reduced national funding means that if we are to continue to deliver new affordable houses for local people in this way that some houses for sale may have to be included in future schemes.

How important is affordable housing, and where evidence shows that a rural exception scheme cannot be adequately funded, should the Council consider the inclusion of some full market value homes in the scheme to cross-subsidise the affordable homes?



Question 8 - Local services

Residents need access to good quality services and facilities – from schools and doctors to shops and parks. The Council tries to protect existing services as well as making sure they can be available when planning for new development.

What do you think we should do as part of the plan to make sure facilities are right for residents in the future?

Question 9 - Quality of life

We know that South Cambridgeshire is a special place to live and work which gives our residents a high quality of life. A number of factors contribute to this, from the unique character of our villages, local heritage and the countryside, to the number and variety of jobs available and the design of new homes. These examples will all play a role in maintaining our quality of life for future generations.

What factors are important to you, and how do you think we should help maintain the high quality of life for ourselves and future generations?

Question 10 - Further comments

For more detail on all the issues and options being explored as part of preparing the new Local Plan please visit www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/localplan. You can also give further comments below:

Please complete and give to a member of staff or post to:

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Cambridge, CB23 6EA
Email: LDF@scambs.gov.uk

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

For further information visit www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/localplan or visit us on facebook and twitter. or ring the Policy team on (01954) 713183

The deadline for comments is 12 noon on the 28 September 2012

