

Greater Cambridge Strategy 2024-2029

Action Plan Year 1: June 2024 to March 2025



(Actions for year 2 onwards to be agreed during year 1 implementation)

- Objective 1:** Building the right homes in the right places that people need and can afford to live in
- Objective 2:** High quality, low carbon, energy and water efficient homes
- Objective 3:** Settled lives
- Objective 4:** Building Strong Partnerships

End of year update:

- Red** = No/little progress
- Amber** = Well under way
- Green** = Complete
- Blue** = Circumstances changed – no further action

CCC = Cambridge City Council

SCDC= South Cambridgeshire District Council

Objective (see page 1 above)	No.	Actions	New, or carried forward from 2019-23 Strategy Y5 action plan?	Comments/Progress/Outcomes at April 2024	Completion by (date)	Lead	Funding	Update April 2025
O.1	1.1	Both councils to work with government to understand and	New	n/a	March 2025 and ongoing	Greater Cambridge	Officer time within existing resources	

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		influence their “Cambridge 2050” housing growth proposals				Planning Service		
O.1	1.2	Both councils to complete an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showmen, and caravan & boat dwellers. Identify how to meet any permanent or temporary accommodation requirements which emerge	Carried forward from actions 5.4 & 5.5	First draft report received March 2024 and being reviewed. Aiming for publication summer 2025	Spring 2024	CCC & SCDC Housing Strategy	General Fund project budget (funded jointly between SCDC & City)	
O.1	1.3	Both councils to work with Cambridgeshire County Council to identify specialist accommodation options for people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs	New	To be based on new County Council accommodation profiles	March 2025 and ongoing	SCDC & CCC Housing Strategy	Officer time from existing resources	

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O.1	1.4	Both councils to develop a standard S.106 Agreement template for the Affordable Housing obligations	Carried forward from actions 5.7	Working with 3C Legal Team to agree standardised S106 Agreement template for the Affordable Housing provision.	June 2024	Services Legal Team	Officer time from existing resources	
O.1 & O.2	1.5	SCDC to deliver 75 new homes for rent and/or shared ownership.	Continuation of actions 5.8 & 5.9	91 new homes completed 2022/23, exceeding target. 109 new homes delivered 2023/24, including 27 Affordable Rent & 21 Shared Ownership, plus an additional 61 homes through the Local	April 2025	SCDC New Build	Right to Buy receipts, money received in lieu of affordable housing, Housing Revenue Account reserves and long-term borrowing Potential to seek grant funding if applicable on specific schemes	

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				Authority Housing Fund.				
O.1 & O.2	1.6	SCDC to develop a new carbon reduction standard for properties that the council builds outright	New	n/a	April 2025	SCDC New Build	Officer time from existing resources	
O.1 & O.2	1.7	SCDC to develop an exemplar scheme on one of its own landholdings based on Passivhaus or similar design	Continuation of action 5.9	Planning permission granted March 2024 for the provision of 256 dwellings, of which the council will be delivering 72 affordable rented homes using Passivhaus principles	TBC	SCDC New Build	Right to Buy receipts, Housing Revenue Account reserves and long-term borrowing	

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O.1 & O.2	1.8	CCC to deliver 151 new council homes 2024-25, including 14 built to Passivhaus standards and in line with the council's Sustainable Housing Design Guide targets.	Continuation of actions 5.11 & 5.12	n/a	March 2025	CCC Housing Development Agency	Right to Buy receipts, grant funding, Housing Revenue Account reserves and long-term borrowing	
O.1	1.9	CCC to deliver 14 of its new council homes 2024-25 at 80% of market rents, and identify opportunities for private rent/ Build to Rent development.	New	n/a	March 2025	CCC Housing Development Agency	See action 1.8 above	
O.2	1.10	CCC to explore further opportunities for non-traditional types of development which could be delivered along with broader council stock refurbishment/ retrofit	New	n/a	March 2025	CCC Housing Development Agency	Existing resources	

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O.1	1.11	Both councils to establish and implement a mechanism for monitoring occupation of new affordable housing to understand whether strategic objectives are being met	New		March 2025	SCDC & City Housing Strategy	Officer time within existing resources	
O.2	1.12	CCC to continue its programme to fit external wall insulation to 200+ council properties, to bring them up from Level 'D' Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating to Level 'C'.	Next stage on from action 5.18	Programme of work in place and being implemented to fit external wall insulation to 200+ EPC D-rated council homes to achieve a C rating by September 2025. Ongoing programme thereafter to ensure all council	September 2025	CCC Asset Management	£8.5m Housing Revenue Account capital plan, including £2.3m Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Grant.	

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				properties achieve C rating by 2035.				
O.2	1.13	CCC to carry out a pilot project to retrofit 50 council homes to as near zero carbon standards as possible	Next stage on from actions 5.18 & 5.20	Net zero retrofit pilot is due to start on site April 2024.	June 2025 (Start on site April 2024)	CCC Asset Management	£6.7m, through Housing Revenue capital plan	
	1.14	CCC to carry out a feasibility study to assess how retrofit capacity can be grown locally	New	n/a	December 2024 (provisional)		£25k General Fund contribution	
	1.15	CCC to ensure at least 250 private rented properties are brought up to Minimum Energy Efficiency standards during 2024/25		332 were brought up to standard 2023/24	March 2025	CCC Environmental Health		
	1.16	CCC to deliver home energy improvements in 250 homes occupied by low income	Next stage on from	Retrofit Framework went live May 2023 with 5		CCC Environmental Health	Government grant, including Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) fund.	

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		households during 2024/25, in partnership with the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership through the Action on Energy scheme	action 5.22	contractors in place. Enables delivery of externally funded projects (e.g. HUG2 and SHDF), and provides a list of contractors the council can promote to private residents for self-financed work. This established route to contractors has helped secure funding by ensuring confidence in delivery of grant funded projects. Framework in place until April 2027.			(Actual funding allocated on a case-by-case basis). Further opportunities for partnerships and funding bids to be explored.	

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O.2	1.17	SCDC to deliver HUG2 (Home Upgrade Grant) to scheme to upgrade off-gas properties	NEW		April 2025	SCDC Climate & Environment	Government Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2)	
O.2	1.18	SCDC to develop and promote the self-funding offer for housing retrofit through Action on Energy Cambridgeshire (including marketing initiatives)	NEW		April 2025	SCDC Climate & Environment	Officer time within existing resources	
O.2	1.19	SCDC to improve all council homes below a 'C' EPC rating	New	n/a	April 2025	SCDC Housing Assets	Housing Revenue Account (Capital Programme)	
O.2	1.20	SCDC to use EPC and stock data to create a costed 5,10 & 15 year plan to improve energy efficiency in council homes and in consideration of adapting to climate change.	New	n/a	December 2024	SCDC Housing Assets	The project will identify costings – to be funded through Housing Revenue Account (Capital Programme) and any government funding available	

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							£1.7m funding secured through the government's Social Housing Decarbonisation, so far.	
O.2	1.21	SCDC to develop a SCDC Homes Standard for its council properties following analysis of the Stock Condition Survey and STAR survey	Carried forward from action 5.27		April 2025	SCDC Housing Property Services	Officer time within existing resources	
O.2	1.22	SCDC to complete energy retrofit assessments of communal rooms and identify feasible improvements and a costed agreed delivery plan for decarbonisation (to take place alongside refurbishment works)	New	n/a	April 2025	SCDC Housing Management	Assessment to be costed once completed – to be funded through Housing Revenue Account (Capital Programme)	

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O.2	1.23	SCDC to work with resident reps to review its Resident Involvement Framework	Carried forward from action 5.49	Working Group set up with tenant reps to review framework – looking for new structure to be approved at next Housing Engagement Board in June 2024	July 2024	SCDC Housing Strategy	Officer time within existing resources	
O.2	1.24	SCDC to publish a Communications Standard for council housing residents	New	n/a	July 2024	SCDC Housing Strategy	Officer time within existing resources	
O.2	1.25	SCDC to run a Minimum Efficiency Standards (MEES) project to identify private rented sector properties which fall below standards and require actions.	New	n/a	April 2025	SCDC Environmental Health	Officer time within existing resources	

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O.2	1.26	SCDC to establish a private rented sector landlord forum to share best practice and advise on support for improvement measures	New	n/a	April 2025	SCDC Environmental Health	Officer time within existing resources	
O.2	1.27	SCDC to carry out a private sector stock condition survey to inform decisions on future approaches	Carried forward from action 5.24		September 2024	SCDC – Environmental Health	General Fund Reserves	
O.2	1.28	SCDC to produce a retrofit guide for South Cambridgeshire housing archetypes to support householders to realise retrofit improvements.	New	n/a	April 2025	SCDC Climate & Environment	Within existing resources	
O.2	1.29	SCDC to bring 20 empty homes back into use which have been empty for longer than 6 months	New	n/a	April 2025	SCDC Environmental Health	Dedicated officer for empty homes. No additional resources identified	

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O.2 & O.3	1.30	Both councils to implement requirements arising from the new Social Housing (Regulation) Act and new Consumer Standards, and prepare for potential regulatory inspection.	Next stage on from action 5.16	Both councils working to implement new national Consumer Standards and to prepare for landlord regulatory inspections. Both councils have completed tenant satisfaction surveys and are on track to submit the required data for 2023/24 for the new Tenant Satisfaction	Act & Regulations came into force 1 April 2024 – work ongoing thereafter	CCC & SCDC Housing	Officer time within existing resources	

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				Measures by June 2024. SCDC - Self Assessment completed using HQN Toolkit.				
O.3	1.31	Both councils to implement 2024/25 actions arising from the councils' Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategies and action plans	New	n/a	April 2025	CCC & SCDC Housing	SCDC - DLUHC Homeless Prevention Grant (£966,799 for 2024/25) plus from General Fund	
O.3	1.32	Both councils to implement requirements arising from the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act in relation to 'exempt' supported accommodation.	New	Awaiting publication of regulations	Tbc - dependent on publication of regulations	CCC Housing Advice	General Fund - depending on regulatory requirements	

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O.3	1.33	CCC to review its Resident Involvement Strategy for council tenants & leaseholders	New	n/a	January 2025	CCC Housing Support & Performance	Existing resources	
O.3	1.34	CCC to explore opportunities for sustainable activities in sheltered schemes	New	n/a	April 2025	CCC Housing Support & Performance	Existing resources to October 2024; exploring Integrated Commissioning Service grant funding thereafter	
O.3	1.35	CCC to explore solutions for tackling hoarding in council homes	New	Tenancy audits have identified hoarding as an issue to be addressed	April 2025	CCC Housing Support & Performance /City Homes	To be considered as part of Our Cambridge Communities team re-design	
O.3	1.36	SCDC to review all tenant data to improve customer insight reporting.	New		April 2025	SCDC Housing Strategy	Existing resources	
O.3	1.37	SCDC to continue to participate in the Government's Local Authority Housing	New		January 2025	SCDC Housing	LAHF grant funding, Housing Revenue Account reserves	

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		Fund to enable the Council to offer more properties to refugees and temporary accommodation.					and long-term borrowing	
O.3	1.38	SCDC to implement the agreed cost of living support package for 2024/25 (including delivery of 20 community hubs across the district and continuation of a mobile food hub truck) and ensure schemes are embedded and self-sustaining following initial council support and investment.	New		April 2025	SCDC Communities	Funding agreed from General Fund Reserves (£206,000) and grant funding from the Integrated Care Board (£224,400)	
O.3	1.39	Implement the Low-Income Family Tracker to identify households before they reach crisis point and target	New			SCDC Communities	Funding agreed from General Fund Reserves (£187,000)	

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		support where it will be most effective, preventing hardship.						
O.3	1.40	Both councils to review the county-wide Adaptations policy to ensure grant funding for home adaptations and repairs for private sector residents is targeted appropriately.	New		January 2025	CCC Housing Strategy	Within existing resources Funding for disabled facilities grants comes from the Better Care Fund distributed by the County	
O.3	1.41	SCDC to host a skills event in conjunction with partners at South Cambs Hall showcasing in house and partner skills and career pathways.	NEW		December 2024	SCDC Business Support	Within existing resources	
O.3	1.42	SCDC to lead a 'work and health pilot project' to support long term unemployed people with a disability or long-term condition	NEW		April 2025	SCDC Business Support	Funding secured externally from Public Health	

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		gain skills and/or support to get back to work, by developing a series of employment hubs and engagement with employers to secure good quality jobs						
O.3 & O.4	1.43	CCC to explore how issues such as social value and employment & skills development can be achieved through housing activity	New	See CCC's new Community Wealth Building Strategy	March 2025	Tbc following staff restructure	Tbc	
O.3 & O.4	1.44	CCC to explore how communities can take a more central role in co-creation, design and decision-making	New		March 2025	Tbc following staff restructure	Tbc	
O.3 & O.4	1.45	CCC to develop engagement strategies for new council developments, taking a place-based approach	New	n/a	March 2025	CCC Housing Development Agency	Existing resources	

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O.4	1.46	Support the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Commission in seeking housing solutions for their workers	New	Have been working with the ICS, supporting development of their housing needs survey and through their Accommodation Forum.	Ongoing	CC & SCDC Housing Strategy	Existing resources	
O2 & O.4	1.47	CCC to work in partnership with Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service to review external wall cladding issues in buildings 11-18m tall	New		March 2025 (then potentially ongoing)	CCC Environmental Health	Existing resources	
O.2 & O.4	1.48	CCC to explore, with local Registered Providers, how low level nuisance can be tackled, and whether a consistent approach to tackling housing stock defects, including	New		March 2025 (then potentially ongoing)	CCC Environmental Health	Existing resources	

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		damp and mould, can be achieved.						