

# Request 9575 – Planning for Net Zero

## Response

For the final stage of my MSc in Urban Planning I am undertaking a research project titled: 'Planning for net zero - what role does spatial planning play in the delivery of sustainable development with respect to net zero.'

To support this research I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information;

1. Have you declared a climate emergency? Y/N

Yes (see: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/climate-emergency-toolkit/>)

2. a. Do you have an action plan or strategy (or equivalent) related to net zero goals?

Y/N Yes, the South Cambridgeshire Zero Carbon Strategy and Action Plan (<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/zero-carbon-strategy-and-action-plan/>)

b. If yes, is 'Spatial Planning' featured within the action plan/strategy? Y/N

Yes

3. a. Does your 'Local Plan' reflect net zero targets? Y/N b. if yes to what year?

No, our 2018 Local Plan does not include net zero carbon targets as it was written prior to the Climate Change Act being updated to require net zero carbon by 2050. Our emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (at Preferred Options Stage) does (see below).

c. If no, does your 'Local Plan Review' plan to include net zero? Y/N

Yes, our emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan First proposals document does include net zero carbon policies, as well as wider policies related to climate change. Further information will shortly be published on the committee page for the September meeting of the Joint Local Planning Advisory Group (<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=492&Year=0>)

4. a. Do you have an in-house sustainability (or equivalent) officer/s supporting local planning policy, if yes, the number of officers?

Yes we have two officers, one principal sustainability officer and one senior sustainability officer

b. Who is the key contact at your council?

[Emma.davies@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:Emma.davies@greatercambridgeplanning.org)

5. a. What tools do your planners use to support climate planning policy and delivery in your authority? Our sustainability officers provide technical guidance to planning officers on the application of our policies to development proposals and the development of new planning policies. There are a number of tools that our officers use to support the delivery of climate related planning policy including the detailed guidance contained in our Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD and tools developed by other external bodies such as the Good Homes Alliance Overheating Toolkit. Regarding the development of new policy, working with consultants we have developed a carbon assessment tool to help assess the carbon implications of our spatial strategy.

b. Do your planning officers receive climate literacy training or equivalent? Y/N  
Our principal sustainability consultant has undertaken climate literacy training and also provides training on the implementation of climate related policies to our planning officers.

c. Do you use climate change mitigation as a material consideration in balancing planning applications? Y/N

Yes