



## Strategic Planning half year report 2024 to 2025

Performance measure	Target and reporting timescale	Half year update
Subject to legislative arrangements being put in place, commence early stages of a new Local Plan for East Cambridgeshire	Local Development Scheme (LDS) Updated Council approval to commence new Local Plan granted  March 2025	<b>Ongoing</b> Full Council 17 October 2024 agreed to commence new Local Plan and approved a timetable (LDS) for its production. Early stages of preparing plan commenced.
Work with those communities wishing to undertake Neighbourhood Planning, ensure ECDC meets its statutory requirements (timing and demand uncertain, due to lead being parish councils)	At least three parishes anticipated to reach referendum stage by March 2025. Up to a further four other parishes anticipated to make progress towards a referendum.	<b>Ongoing</b> Four parishes progressed to referendum in first half of year: Mepal (June); Sutton (July); Cheveley (September) and Soham & Barway (October), ahead of expectations. Up to six further parish councils continue to work on neighbourhood plans, with our ongoing support, though unlikely any will reach referendum stage in second half of 2024/25.
Publication of an Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) and Five Year Land Supply Report covering period to 31 March 2024, which reports on the performance of the previous year in terms of planning matters	AMR and Five Year Land Supply Reports published by 31 December 2024	<b>Target on track</b> Five Year Land Supply Report published 30.10.24. AMR on track to be published shortly, and before 31 December 2024

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Present to Finance and Assets Committee an updated 'Environment Plan', with a new set of Top 20 actions for 2024/25, in June 2024; undertake activities to deliver those actions	2024/25 Environment Plan produced by June 2024  Deliver new Top 20 Actions by June 2025	<b>Completed</b> Performance measure achieved in June 2024
Successfully put in place arrangements to validate, assess, negotiate, monitor and enforce 'Biodiversity Net Gain' (BNG) proposals for all planning applications except for those very small planning applications which are exempt from BNG. This includes clear and up to date guidance on our website.	100% of relevant planning applications to meet mandatory minimum BNG requirements.  March 2025	<b>Ongoing</b> 'BNG' successfully operating within the council, though the full extent of BNG duties will continue to increase over time.  100% of relevant processed applications have, to date, met their minimum requirements
Play an active part in influencing the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Cambridgeshire	Attend monthly (apx) LNRS steering group meetings. Respond to two formal LNRS consultations (due Summer 2024 and Winter 2024/25)	<b>Target off track</b> Actively attended a large volume of LNRS related meetings. LNRS preparation led by Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of the Combined Authority. No consultations have taken place in first half of the year. Uncertain when consultation will take place.
Oversee delivery of the new statutory duty (s40/s40A of the NERC Act) to conserve and enhance the natural environment	Publish a report(s) by March 2025 setting out what actions the Council will take to meet its duty.	<b>Ongoing</b> Climate and Nature Strategy 2024-2028, and our environment 'Top 20 Actions' agreed in June 2024.  Further activity on this performance measure on-

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		going for second half of year.
<p>Regularly review higher level corporate risks including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new legislation, impacting on work in progress.</li> <li>• new legislation, resulting in a resource pressure to implement.</li> <li>• status of policies within the Local Plan,</li> <li>• adaptation to climate change</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2025</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>For this service area, measures in the Environment Act 2021 and Regeneration and Levelling Up Act 2023 are particularly relevant and continue to be brought into force by Government. A consultation draft NPPF also issued. These are regularly monitored, responded to and implemented where applicable.</p> <p>Status of Local Plan reviewed and brought to Members attention at Full Council on 17 October 2024.</p> <p>Climate change added to corporate risk register over summer 2024.</p>