

Greater Cambridge Local Plan – The First Proposals

Comments on Section/Policy by Imperial War Museum (IWM) and Gonville and Caius College (Caius)

13 December 2021

S/JH: New jobs and homes

The GCLP First Proposals has a target of 44,000 new homes and a target of 55,800 new jobs over 2020-2041. IWM and Caius note the jobs figure is a middle/central jobs forecast based on long term historic patterns of employment. A higher forecast which placed greater weight on fast recent growth in key sectors, resulted in a much higher growth target of 77,800 new jobs, but GCLP has dismissed this scenario.

The GCLP refers to the Centre for Cities March 2021 (“Fast Growth Cities”) report which points out that with “*mature innovation systems*” in place (with “*very strong*” university and business sectors), it is likely innovative places (such as Greater Cambridge) will... “*continue to lead and benefit from continuing changes in the economy... either because they are directly involved in the development of solutions (such as Cambridge’s life sciences cluster)... or have the right dynamics to quickly adapt their business models*”.

The GCLP also notes that Greater Cambridge sits at the heart of several economic corridors including the Oxford-Cambridge ARC, the UK Innovation Corridor (London-Stanstead-Cambridge-Peterborough) and the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor. In addition, there is to be significant transport infrastructure investment within the Greater Cambridge over the plan period, including East-West Crossrail and a new rail hub at Cambridge South

NPPF Para 81 requires plans to support economic growth and productivity and says.... “*This is particularly important where Britain can be a global leader in driving innovation*” (NB: Footnote 42 refers to the 2017 Industrial Strategy to make the UK a leader in artificial intelligence and big data; clean growth; future mobility; and catering for an ageing society). The emerging OxCam ARC strategy, UK Innovation Corridor and the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor are also based on promoting employment and innovation clusters in the corridor.

IWM and Caius are therefore concerned that the middle jobs forecast may significantly underplay and restrict Greater Cambridge’s future growth potential and its role as an engine for economic growth particularly in innovation sectors and does

not reflect the emerging objective for the Ox-Cam Arc. We agree that housing delivery needs to meet the need from increased new jobs in order to reduce in commuting and help address affordability issues, and as such the homes target of 44,000 would need to be increased.

The current GCLP jobs and homes targets may therefore fail to reflect future needs, NPPF policies as the innovation corridors goals. As such it is considered that the GCLP jobs and housing needs and targets are re-visited in the light of Greater Cambridge's growth potential and dynamic economy.