

In brief

Ali is appointed as new trust director

Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH) NHS Foundation Trust has appointed a new non-executive director. Ali Layne-Smith is an experienced human resources (HR) director who has worked in the private and public sectors. She has held senior roles at GE Healthcare and Johnson &



Ali Layne-Smith, non-executive director at CUH NHS Foundation Trust

Johnson, and was formerly director of people and organisational development at West Midlands Police and director of people and culture at London Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Ali was appointed to a three-year term of office by the CUH council of governors following a competitive recruitment process.

Survey: county is cheap for pet jabs

A survey by pet insurance company Bought By Many has revealed that Cambridgeshire has the cheapest dog vaccinations and second-cheapest cat vaccinations in the East of England.

It surveyed 165 vets throughout Britain to discover the cost of vaccinating cats and dogs.

Dog vaccination in the East has an average price of £54.37, lower than the British average. Visit bit.ly/3KtSuJh.

Institute's events recall Holocaust

Theology students and staff in Cambridge came together to remember the Holocaust.

Students and staff within the Cambridge Theological Federation of the Woolf Institute met in person and on

Woolf Institute's founder president Dr Edward Kessler with executive director Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner



Zoom yesterday (Tuesday, January 25), two days ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day.

This year's event has been organised by students from Westcott House, Westminster College and Ridley Hall. Visit woolf.cam.ac.uk.

'Green planning proposals will protect our rural villages'

Opinion Cllr Dr Tumi Hawkins, a Lib Dem cabinet member on South Cambridgeshire District Council, discusses the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which will guide development for 20 years.

The First Proposals consultation for our emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan 2020-2041 concluded in December 2021. I want to thank all those residents, community groups, organisations and businesses that sent in their comments. All those comments will be evaluated over the coming months and information gained will be used to refine the proposals in preparing the actual draft Local Plan.

The First Proposals were very much shaped by the feedback we received from the First Conversation consultation in 2020. You told us clearly that addressing climate change was your top priority, so we listened and put climate change, net zero and doubling biodiversity at the heart of the emerging plan. We commissioned ground-breaking carbon-modelling work, and the result has enabled us to understand

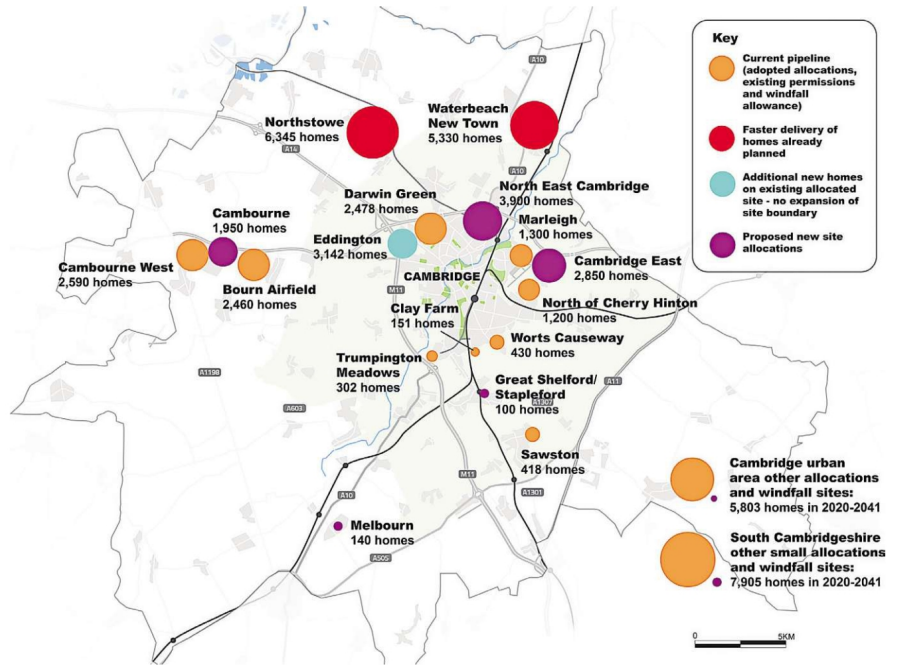
“Preserving the precious character of our villages is so important to residents, so we are shifting emphasis away from unsustainable locations in rural villages”

Cllr Dr Tumi Hawkins
South Cambs District Council

how we could create effective policies to minimise our climate impacts while addressing the growth needs of our city and district.

Government requires us to objectively assess our local needs, which includes homes and jobs, requiring local plans to help improve quality of life for residents and create conditions in which businesses can invest, expand, and adapt. Drawing on our evidence and consultation feedback, our preferred option is a blended strategy. Providing jobs and homes near each other to reduce the need to travel was a key issue you raised in the First Conversation. As our evidence shows transport is the main carbon generator, we prioritised locations with access to existing and committed sustainable transport infrastructure and opportunities for cycling and walking.

We are also making the best use of suitable previously allocated, safeguarded and brownfield land. Our adopted 2018 Local Plans which determine the current growth in the pipeline up to 2031 identify some large sites for development, such as Northstowe, a new town at Waterbeach, Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield, most of which will continue to build out during and



A map of where 48,794 homes are expected to be built by 2041, according to the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan
Image: Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

beyond the new plan period. There are others on the edge of Cambridge such as Marleigh, Darwin Green and Edlington.

This means that together with other smaller sites in the 2018 Local Plans and those windfall sites with permissions since adoption, three quarters of the development to plan for in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to meet our assessed need plus a 10 per cent buffer has already been identified. The balance to find for the period 2020 to 2041 is 11,640 homes, of which 40 per cent will be affordable.

Preserving the precious character of our villages is so important to residents, so we are shifting emphasis away from unsustainable locations in rural villages. Only four per cent of the proposed new homes in the First Proposals are in better-served rural villages, while the bulk will be at North East Cambridge, a safeguarded site at Cambridge Airport on the edge of Cambridge and a new extension to Cambourne.

If COP26 has taught us anything, it is that we must be bold and act now to deal with climate crisis. That is why, to address your concerns on biodiversity and achieve our vision of doubling nature, the First Proposals identifies new green space

and wildlife proposals. This is the first time this is happening in our Local Plan after we put out a call for green sites. We propose policies that demand 20 per cent biodiversity improvement, higher than national standards, and requiring the planting of new trees. The proposals also set ambitious targets for building standards, including for low carbon buildings to help us in greening South Cambridgeshire on our net zero carbon journey.

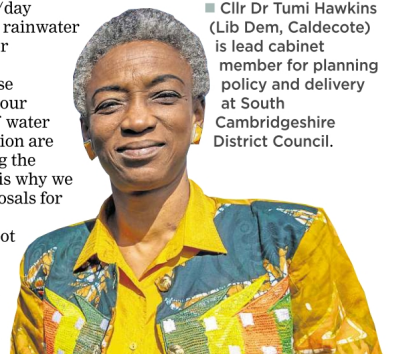
Within the control of the emerging Local Plan, we are proposing the highest achievable standards for water use in new homes at 80 litres/person/day together with surface and rainwater harvesting, and grey water recycling.

However, even with these measures, it is clear from our evidence that provision of water and issue of over-abstraction are real obstacles to delivering the homes we need. And that is why we are clear that unless proposals for new water provision are brought forward, we cannot and should not build the homes needed.

And we are challenging the government to support bringing forward investment in new water

supply. Water Resources East is co-ordinating regional efforts and producing a regional plan for water which may include import of water and the development of new reservoirs. We'll of course play a full part in this work as it develops.

This is an exceptionally green plan with the environment and affordability of homes at its very heart. We want South Cambridgeshire, within the context of Greater Cambridge, to be a place where a big decrease in our climate impacts comes with a big increase in the quality of everyday life for all our communities.



Cllr Dr Tumi Hawkins (Lib Dem, Caldecote) is lead cabinet member for planning policy and delivery at South Cambridgeshire District Council.