

## Chapter 8: Social and Community Support Services

### Introduction

- 8.1 Cambridgeshire County Council has a number of statutory duties around the care and wellbeing of its residents which includes providing supportive services to families and vulnerable people. This duty of care sits across broad strategic service areas covering children, families and adult services, which supports new communities across Cambridgeshire. The work of these services can fall under the following headings:
- Public Health (including mental health and well-being)
  - Services to support children, young people and families (including Children's Social Care, Child & Family Centres, Youth Support, Targeted Support)
  - Services to support vulnerable adults (including Adult social care and domestic abuse services)
- 8.2 New communities are recognised as having higher needs which escalate quicker than in more established communities and therefore, they are considered a vulnerable group. Much of the research into new towns or new communities has established clear links between loneliness, poor mental health and antisocial behaviours with a lack of community cohesion and social networks which is greatly influenced by lack of access to community facilities and supportive services.
- 8.3 Cambridgeshire County Council's focus is to support the formation of resilient families within self-supporting communities. Communities that are more connected and resilient require fewer public services, create good places to live and improved outcomes for residents. The emphasis is therefore placed on community development, preventative and early help services in new communities. However, more traditional intensive support must be provided to some families in the form of social care.

### Policy Context

#### Cambridge

- 8.4 Cambridge Local Plan Policy 85: Infrastructure delivery, planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy states that planning obligations may be required for healthcare, community and social facilities.

## **South Cambridgeshire**

- 8.5 South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 Policy TI/8 Infrastructure and New Developments states that planning obligations may be required for healthcare, community and social facilities.

### **Development types from which Obligations will be sought**

- 8.6 All new residential development, including mixed-use schemes, are to make adequate provision for healthcare, community and social facilities.
- 8.7 Proposals for sites of 200 or more dwellings (or groups of smaller sites which cumulatively exceed this figure) are required to provide detailed assessments and strategies regarding community needs and how they will be met. These should be prepared in consultation with service providers and stakeholders, and for approval by the local planning authority.

### **Form in which contributions should be made**

- 8.8 There are three core aims underpinning the County Council's approach towards addressing this area of need in new communities:
- Ensuring that infrastructure in new communities is designed to meet the needs of the community now and in the future;
  - Supporting the development of self-sufficient, resilient communities by helping to build peoples' capacity to help themselves and others in order to create a good place to live, improve outcomes, support economic prosperity and make people less reliant on public services; and
  - Ensure people living in new communities are supported by the right services that are available at the right time to meet their needs and are supported back to independence.
- 8.9 Meeting these aims will enable the development of strong, vibrant and healthy communities as required by the NPPF. In terms of how these aims translate into specific development requirements, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to plan for a mix of housing, including housing to address the needs of different groups in the community such as, but not limited to, older people, care leavers and people with disabilities.
- 8.10 For major development, and particularly development of a significant scale, the County Council will engage with the developer and relevant LPA during the pre-application period to scope the need for particular services and

facilities. The Council will also ensure, wherever, possible, that these requirements are addressed in masterplans for strategic sites.

- 8.11 Many of these infrastructure requirements will serve a range of purposes and people. This includes, for example, public open space, shared community facilities and public transport provision. Where more particular requirements exist, for example for extra care accommodation and short-term contributions to service provision, the Council will work with partners to negotiate the provision of these facilities through planning obligations.

## **Services, Facilities and Infrastructure**

- 8.12 The need for services and facilities arising from new development will be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, the types of buildings and services that typically may be required to support vulnerable people include:

- Provision of specialist accommodation (e.g. residential care facilities, supported living accommodation, etc.) within large scale developments.
- Community buildings and sports facilities.
- Formal and informal meeting spaces and offices.

- 8.13 Funding may be required to support residents wellbeing and encourage place making (e.g. set up and initial running costs of groups and activities to promote resilience and prevent issues escalating, including staff). Contributions would be on a short term basis as the community forms to mitigate the impact of increased demand the development will place on supportive services. The range and type of infrastructure, services and facilities necessary to provide social and supportive services in new communities are set out in the table below.

## **Requirements for Social and Supportive Services**

### **Housing design and mix**

- An appropriate proportion of homes, should be accessible and or adaptable to meet differing needs (most frequently set to the Lifetime Homes standard (or successor standards))

**Specialist accommodation**

- Provision of specialist housing to meet the needs of a range of client groups such as:
- Learning disabilities
- Older people
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Young people leaving care
- Physically disabled
- Mental health needs

**Funding**

- Short term funding to kickstart community activity and community-led support this will include financial support for setting up groups & running activities.

**Staff**

- Community development workers
- Specialist workers (e.g. Mental Health, Domestic violence prevention, Youth, Child & Family Centre, Social).

**Exemptions**

8.14 No specific exemptions.

**Further guidance**

8.15 Applicants for planning permission should contact the County Council via email: [GrowthDevelopment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:GrowthDevelopment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) to obtain pre-application advice in the social and community implications for their development

[Cambridgeshire County Council Draft Planning Obligations Strategy](#)