

Refreshing the Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth

May 2019
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The review for the Combined Authority addressed:

1. The value of the process
2. Achieving cohesion
 - What cohesion means
 - Principles for designing cohesive communities
 - Better neighbourhood management
3. Auditing housing performance

100 people helped draft the Charter



Cambridgeshire
Quality Charter for **Growth**

**The Cambridgeshire Quality Charter is based on
'looking and learning' from what works**



The Quality Panel uses the Charter to assess the design of new schemes



The 4 C's

- Community
- Connectivity
- Climate Change
- Character

QP operates as a 'critical friend'

Current Quality Panel has 17 members:

- 3 architects (environment)
- 4 architects (urban design)
- 2 environmental engineers
- 1 Housing specialist
- 3 landscape architects
- 1 social scientist
- 2 transport engineers (urban design)
- 1 transport/smart city engineer



The University has drawn on visits to European schemes for designing North West Cambridge (Eddington)



**New neighbourhood centre
with mixed uses**



**Higher quality standards have been achieved
In the Southern Fringe**



The principles behind the charter are simple, for example:

Community

- Community involvement throughout the process
- Allowing for changes in needs and lifestyles
- Providing appropriate social infrastructure
- Community buildings should be flexible
- Local shops and services
- Providing formal and informal greenspaces
- Community development support
- Ongoing community involvement in the management of the new neighbourhood

1. The review of the Quality Panel based on interviews concluded:

- The process works well and is appreciated – though an SPD for large developments may help
- Housing is unaffordable to half the inhabitants
- Post Occupancy Evaluation is essential.

2. Securing cohesion involves more than design

- Neighbourhood management will be essential with higher densities in poorer areas
- Key issues will be:
 - Noise
 - Access e.g lifts and lobbies
 - Rubbish
 - Parking
 - Children's' play
- Innovation should be encouraged e.g. family centres, cohousing

**Schools can play a key role
(Best new large building 2017 Cambridge
Design and Construction awards)**



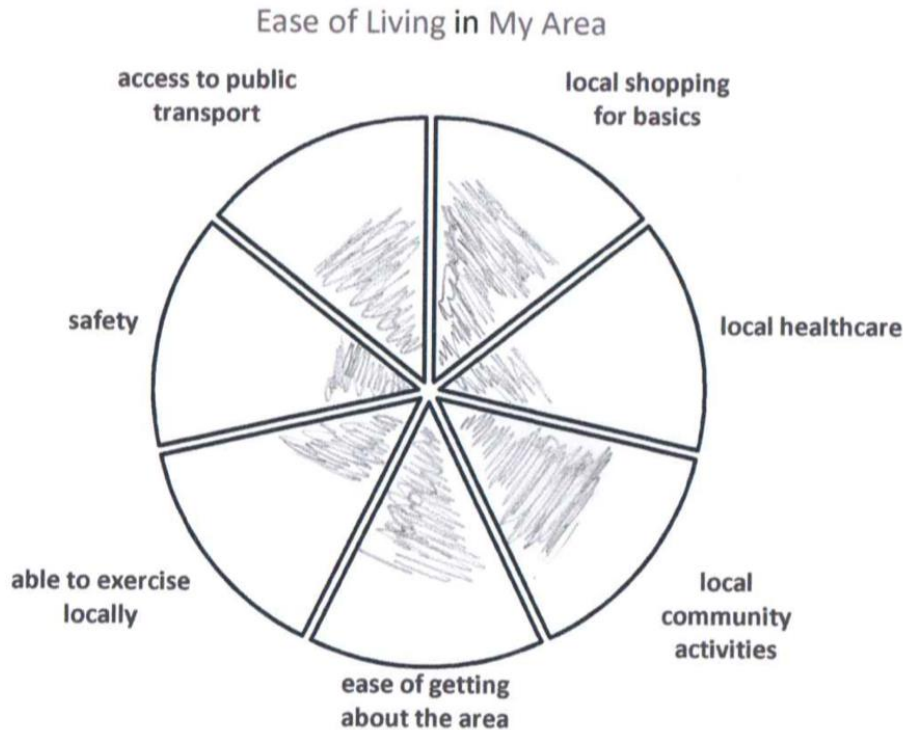
3. Housing performance should be independently audited

- Assessing success is at least as complex as buying a car
- Yardsticks are lacking in the UK
- There are a range of options:
 - Visual inspection
 - Ranking
 - Questionnaires
 - Surveys
 - Focus groups
 - Housing audits
- Schemes should be assessed after five years
- Different aspects should be scored
- User feedback should be sought

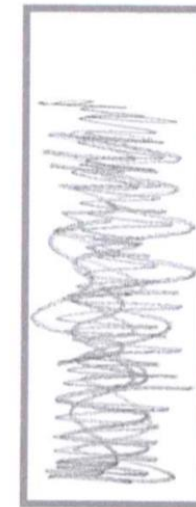
User feedback should be sought *(Three Dragons scorecard methodology)*

Place

Date



Satisfaction with My Area



10

5

0

Instructions

1. Shade in each portion of the circle recording your satisfaction with the area – complete satisfaction fill the portion of the circle, no satisfaction no shading.
2. Then fill in the bar to show overall satisfaction with the area – where 10 is completely satisfied and 0 is not at all satisfied
3. Use Box 1 below to record things you particularly like about your area.
4. Looking at the 3 portions of the circle you are least satisfied with – for each one of them use the table overleaf to list upto 3 changes which would make this more satisfactory.