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Introduction to the Services and Facilities Study

Purpose

- 1.1 The Services and Facility Study forms part of the evidence base for the South Cambridgeshire Proposed Submission Local Plan 2013. The study supports the review of the settlement hierarchy – Rural Centres; Minor Rural Centres; Group Villages and Infill Villages which classify villages on the basis of their relative sustainability measured against the local availability of services, facilities and employment opportunities. It also captures information on urban areas on the edge of Cambridge that lie in South Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2 The purpose of the study is to collate services and facilities data for all settlements within the district to provide and document an evidence base for the review of the settlement hierarch and for future community / neighbourhood planning. Data is presented for each settlement in both table and map form.
- 1.3 This document contains information on the following services and facilities for each settlement within the district:

Settlement Size

- Settlement Category
 - Adopted LDF Core Strategy (2007)
 - Proposed Submission Local Plan (2013)
- Population Estimates
- Dwelling Stock Estimates

Transport

- Bus Service
- Train Service
- Cycle Route Links

Services

- Education
- Emergency Services
- General Practitioner
- Library

Shopping

- Food Store(s)
- Post Office
- Other Services / Facilities

Village Hall / Community Centre

- Village Hall / Community Centre(s)

Recreation

- Sports Centre
- Outdoor Recreation
 - Children's Equipped Play Area
 - Outdoor Sport
 - Informal Open Space
- Allotments
- Community Orchards

DATA COLLECTION

- 1.4 An update of the Services and Facilities Study March 2012 took place through January to February 2014, working in partnership with Parish Councils within South Cambridgeshire. The March 2012 study was updated by the Council in December 2013 and sent out to each Parish Council for review to allow them to suggest any amendments. The results of this survey are presented in this document.
- 1.5 The January to February 2014 survey forms a large part of the information contained within the report, but data has also been derived from a number of other sources which are detailed on the village assessments and in the following paragraphs.

Settlement Size

- 1.6 The settlement category from the Core Strategy 2007 and the Proposed Submission Local Plan 2013 is included as an indication of the size and sustainability of the settlement in the local context. These two categories are shown to identify where changes have been proposed in the Proposed Submission Local Plan 2013 through a review of the settlement hierarchy.
- 1.7 Figures showing population estimates for each parish and the dwelling stock they contain is presented at the beginning of each section to provide a brief summary of their size.
- 1.8 The population and dwelling stock estimates figure have been sourced from the Research Group at Cambridgeshire County Council who produce annual population estimates for parishes, wards and settlements and are the mid-2012 estimates.

Transport

- 1.9 Bus and train service information to and from Cambridge and / or Market Towns for each settlement has been sourced from Cambridgeshire County Council and the National Rail website in December 2013 and reviewed by Parish Councils. This captures information on any bus or train service from the settlement that has a direct route to Cambridge and/or any of the ring of market towns.
- 1.10 Services to and from Cambridge and Market Towns are of great importance as they provide communities access to a wide range of services and facilities, along with a much greater range of employment opportunities, than in villages. The availability of a good quality of train or bus service provides residents with the opportunity to use public transport to access services, facilities and employment rather than use their cars and is an important measure of the sustainability of a settlement.
- 1.11 The bus and train services have been broken down into three tables to show the quality of service offered on Monday-Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The tables for Monday-Friday and for Saturday have been further broken down into four timeslots: 7:00-9:29; 9:30-16:29, 16:30-18:59; 19:00-23:00 - to illustrate the provision of the bus service. The 7:00-9:29 and 16:30-18:59 time periods highlight bus availability for travelling for employment purposes, while the 9:30-16:29 and 19:00-23:00 slots show

the provision for daytime and evening activities such as shopping and social activities. The Sunday service simply shows bus provision between 9:00 and 18:00.

- 1.12 In addition to the frequency and variety of the bus and train services available to each village or location on the edge of Cambridge, information regarding the timetabled duration of journeys from settlements to and from Cambridge / Market Towns is presented to illustrate the accessibility and proximity in terms of travel time to these areas. The time measured is an average taken from the centre of a village to the centre of Cambridge and / or the Market Towns.
- 1.13 The opening of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway in August 2011 presented several villages with an alternative method of transport to Cambridge, Huntingdon and St Ives. Guided Busway stops in or near to the villages of Fen Drayton, Histon & Impington, Longstanton, Oakington and Swavesey provide this enhanced service to these villages in particular.
- 1.14 The Guided Busway stops themselves are located relatively close to or on the edge of villages and do not run through village centres as regular bus services do. For this reason, the villages listed in paragraph 1.13 contain figures on the distance from these bus stops to the closest and furthest parts of the villages to better show the service available.
- 1.15 Cycle route links are dedicated cycle routes, whether on or off road, that allow residents to cycle more easily and safely from their village. The links presented in this report show where villages have routes to Cambridge or to a higher order settlement, for example an Infill village having a dedicated cycle route to a Rural Centre.

Services

- 1.16 Education provision is presented for each settlement. This shows whether a village or community on the edge of Cambridge contains a Primary School and also whether it contains a Secondary School. The South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD (2007) and the Proposed Submission Local Plan (2013) states that all villages that are Group Villages or above will have at least a primary school. Infill Villages are not required to meet this criterion.
- 1.17 Where a settlement does not contain a Primary School or Secondary School, the school catchment area is detailed to identify which school serves that community.
- 1.18 Figures for planned admission numbers and school capacity have been included in the study and have been sourced from Cambridgeshire County Council:
 - Planned Admission Number – All Planned Admission Numbers provided are correct for the academic year commencing September 2013. These can change from year-to-year.
 - School Capacity - All capacities given are based on the number of year groups provided for by each school and the number of pupils which can be admitted, based on the current Planned Admission Number of the school.

- 1.19 Police and Fire Stations are located in a small number of villages around the district. These emergency services provide a service both to the village in which they are located and also to the wider rural hinterland.
- 1.20 The health care section for each settlement focuses on whether a community contains a General Practitioner. The presence of a General Practitioner within a community is of high importance as it provides a key health care centre for local residents, as well as surrounding villages.
- 1.21 Information on the surgery opening times of the General Practitioner was sourced from the NHS direct website in December 2013 and reviewed by Parish Councils to differentiate part-time and full-time General Practitioners.
- 1.22 Information on the opening times of Libraries within the district was sourced from the Cambridgeshire County Council's website in December 2013 and reviewed by Parish Councils. Across the district there is a mixture of full-time, part-time and mobile library services providing a service to local residents.

Shopping

- 1.23 Food stores provide a key service to any community, providing residents with the opportunity to buy foods and goods locally. The South Cambridgeshire Adopted Core Strategy DPD (2007) states that higher order settlements are expected to contain food shops including a small supermarket, but lower order settlements (infill villages) generally lack such a service.
- 1.24 The location of Post Offices was collected during the survey and further information on the opening times of Post Offices within the district was sourced from the Post Office website in December 2013 and reviewed by Parish Councils to show those that are full-time and those that are part-time, showing their accessibility to local residents.
- 1.25 The Services and Facilities Survey collected a large range of information from local parish council's. This information includes services such as hairdressers, estate agents and public houses and has been included for each village, showing the range of services available.

Village Halls / Community Centres

- 1.26 Village Halls / Community Centres are an important facility within communities. Information was originally drawn into this study from the South Cambridgeshire Community Facilities Audit 2009 which surveyed the district's village halls and community centres looking at what each one has to offer local residents. This information has been built on and updated through consultation with Parish Councils and presented in this study.

Recreation

- 1.27 Sports Centres provide the community with a wide range of activities, clubs and facilities. In most cases around the district, sports centres are associated with village colleges. Sports centres provide a wide range facilities and activities to the local community and surrounding areas.
- 1.28 Information on outdoor recreation is broken into four separate categories:
- Children's Equipped Play Area – small public areas often found on recreation grounds that contain a range of children's play equipment such as swings and slides.
 - Outdoor Sport – large public open space areas, generally recreation grounds, containing sports pitches for the local community.
 - Informal Open Space – comprised of informal areas for public recreational activities ranging from landscaped parks and gardens to less formal green corridors linking open spaces.
 - Informal Play Space – land provided for children's play that is not formally equipped. This category has only been identified in the newer settlements of Cambourne and Orchard Park.
- 1.29 Children's equipped play areas have been given one of the following three classifications:
- NEAP – Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play - Equipped play area for Children, incorporated facilities for older children such as areas for ball games or wheeled activities.
 - LEAP – Local Equipped Area for Play – Equipped play area for Children
 - LAP - Local Area for Play – Small area of open space, typically for young children
- 1.30 Further information regarding recreation has been derived from the Recreation and Open Space Study (July 2013), a report that provides an audit and assessment of need for outdoor play space in South Cambridgeshire. It investigates current quantity and quality of provision and how this is meeting local need, and utilises these assessments to create a local standard of provision, as required by Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. It also investigates the need for a standard for informal open space.
- 1.31 Allotments are small parcels of land that the community can rent to grow crops on, often owned by the Parish Council. This study indicates whether a village contains any allotments and the total size of the allotment area.
- 1.32 Community Orchards consist of a variety of standard fruit trees planted at low density. This study indicated whether a village contains any community orchards and the size of the orchard area.

Maps

- 1.33 Each settlement is accompanied by at least one map showing the location of its services and facilities, the bus routes and their frequency, plus any cycle routes connected to or running through the village. This information has been separated out onto a number of maps depending on the village's category as outlined below:
- Rural Centres & Minor Rural Centres – 2 Maps:
 - Services & Facilities, Cycle Links & Bus / Train Service
 - Village Centre Map – a map showing the central cluster of services and facilities
 - Group Villages & Infill Villages – 1 Maps:
 - Services & Facilities, Cycle Links & Bus / Train Service