

Case Study

The Project

Cambridgeshire Asset
Management Forum

The Authority

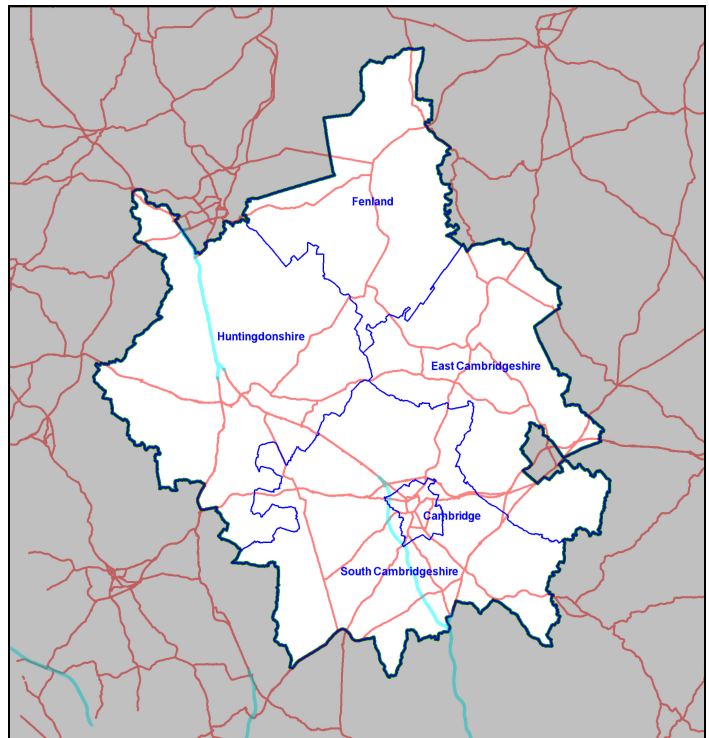
The Forum members are:

Anglia Support Partnership (NHS)
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridgeshire Police
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Peterborough City Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Cambridgeshire County Council provide
the secretariat function,

Key Practice Areas

Strategic Asset Management
Working with partners



The Challenge

Share information and learning at operational property/asset management officer level, build trust, provide support, develop the strategic “tools” to support strategic asset management.

The Key Steps

The District Asset Management Forum was formed in the early 2000’s by the District Councils and County Council in Cambridgeshire at a time when there was an initial and formal requirement to produce asset management plans for consideration by the local Government Office in accordance with guidance provided by the then Department of Trade and the Regions (DETR).

The forum has developed in to a property officer group that discusses and shares information on strategic asset management and allied subject areas. It has also promoted project work that provides “tools” for strategic asset management the most notable one being “Mapping the Public Realm” whereby all the property assets for the public sector in Cambridgeshire were mapped on to one single GIS system and accessible via the internet by all partner

organisations. The membership has now broadened to include health, the police and fire & rescue services. Peterborough City Council is a unitary council created in 1997, formally part of Cambridgeshire, joined the forum in 2004 in recognition that they had very similar issues.

Structure

The forum meets three times a year and is hosted by a different member of the forum each time.

The County Council provides the secretariat function, organising dates, liaising with the host organisation to arrange the agenda, circulate papers and provide meeting notes. Each host provides the venue and usually takes the opportunity to present a project/issue they have been working on.

The Outcome

The forum has continued to meet regularly since inception. A high level of trust has developed between officers from the partner organisations. Information and experiences exchanged on strategic asset management issues. Provided the base data (maps) that greatly assisted the inception of the County's Total place project called "Making Assets Count" (MAC)¹ and supported the County's role as a Total Capital and Assets Pathfinder in 2010/11.

Learning Points

- Learning and awareness of the key asset management issues across the public sector
- Trust and productive working relationships have developed between the officers by meeting "off line" to consider asset management issues in principle
- The majority of partner organisations retain only a small strategic asset management function and the forum provides the opportunity to share information and learn about best practice
- A light formal structure to the group has been achieved, there are no terms of reference, the agenda is developed by the partner organisations
- Whilst the County Council has provided the leadership to start the Forum it has not retained "ownership" of the Forum
- It is a sign of the value perceived by Forum members that they attend and contribute.
- The County Council have the resources to provide the secretariat function to sustain the forum

For further information please contact:

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¹ The MAC project was the collaboration between all the public sector partners in Cambridgeshire plus the government aiming to develop the **joint asset** management strategy for Cambridgeshire focusing on:

- a) rationalisation of the existing operational estate, and;
- b) maximising the investment potential from pooling public sector-owned land and buildings