

Case study
Influence and contribution



Hartree Cambridge

- Settlement extension
- 5,600 homes



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The Hartree development is a 48-hectare major mixed-use project located in the North East Cambridge area, designed to transform the region into a vibrant, sustainable, and well-connected urban community over the next 20+ years. It is part of a broader vision to redevelop the Cambridge Science Park area, one of the leading hubs for technology and innovation in the UK. The development aims to create an engaging and lively environment that combines residential, commercial, and public spaces, fostering a sense of community and enhancing the overall quality of life.

A core part of the design and development of this project was a programme of both traditional and innovative forms of community consultation and engagement. This programme set out to gather diverse perspectives on the project and how it can be a net positive for the constellation of stakeholders and community members in the area. In the process, TOWN have spoken to thousands of people through a series of workshops, pop-ups, roadshows, meetings, door-knocking sessions and at events such as the People City Planet Festival, which took place in 2022.

This wider engagement effort was complimented by an Ideas Exchange, a forum made of a group of 18 demographically representative residents from the surrounding area that have fed into the different stages of the design development process. This approach, based on a model led by the Sortition Foundation, was the beginning of long-term conversations that informed TOWN's masterplan proposal using locally rooted lived experiences of the area.

Targeted sessions to speak to young people were also part of this process. These were sessions that spoke specifically to young people and those with disabilities, and were carried out in partnership with organisations such as VoiceAbility, and the locally based Cambridge Curiosity & Imagination (CC&I).

The Hartree development is set to be a transformative project that enhances North East Cambridge, making it a model for sustainable urban development that balances residential, commercial, and public interests while celebrating the area's scientific heritage. The process carried out in this development brought the community along, ensuring that they were actively, consistently and equitably engaged with the community and its constituent members.

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