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CAMBRIDGESHIRE – ONE OF THE TOP PLACES TO LIVE IN THE EASTERN REGION

National figures just out show residents think that Cambridgeshire is one of the top places in the Eastern Region to live.

Some 86 per cent of residents said they are satisfied with the local area – this is higher than both the average regional rate of 83 per cent and the average national rate of 80 per cent. This ranks Cambridgeshire 18th out of the 151 local authorities in the survey, meaning the county is in the top 15% in the country for satisfaction with the local area.

Cambridgeshire was joint sixth (with Buckinghamshire and Suffolk) out of the 27 County Councils surveyed in terms of satisfaction with the local area.

The results form part of the Place Survey, which shows for the first time what residents think about living in different areas of the country. In Cambridgeshire, over 5,500 residents picked from a random sample were asked questions about services provided by police, fire, NHS, county and district councils. These organisations work in partnership under the umbrella of 'Cambridgeshire Together'.

Initial figures were released in February, and the Government has now finalised figures for the County Council and District Councils.

Cambridgeshire County Council and the District Councils were scored in terms of percentage of people 'very' and 'fairly' satisfied with how they ran things. The scores are:

- Cambridgeshire County Council scored 46.7% for the number of people 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied with how it ran things – higher than the national average of 45.4% and the same as the regional average.
- Cambridge City Council scored 50.3%
- East Cambridgeshire District Council scored 43.9%
- Fenland District Council scored 42.6%
- Huntingdonshire District Council scored 50.4%
- South Cambridgeshire District Council scored 43.5%

Other highlights included:

South Cambridgeshire saw the highest percentage of people who felt they belonged to their neighbourhood and took part in civic activity. Its highest score, at 90.9%, was for people aged 65 and over, who were satisfied with both their home and neighbourhood. Over 90% of residents were satisfied with South Cambridgeshire as a place to live.

Over 86% of Cambridge respondents felt strongly that their area was a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. It also had the highest percentage of people who felt they could influence decisions in their locality.

More than 61% of East Cambridgeshire's residents felt 'very' or 'fairly' strongly that they belong to their neighbourhood, above the regional average of 58.8%. The district also scored well for people who receive support to live independently.

Nearly 80% of Huntingdonshire respondents felt they were treated with respect by local public services. Hunts residents are also the best informed about what to do in a large-scale emergency.

Fenland also scored above the national average with 73% of respondents saying that they were treated with most respect by local public services.

Cllr Jill Tuck, Chairman of Cambridgeshire Together and Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "People's views are vitally important to ensure that our services truly meet the needs of communities. Although these figures show the public we are heading in the right direction, we are determined to continue to make improvements that put our community's needs at the heart of what we do.

Results for the Place Survey can be viewed at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Ends

Notes for editors:

Cambridgeshire Together is a group of the County's most influential organisations working to improve the quality of life for all who live, learn, work and travel in Cambridgeshire.

For further information, contact: Matthew Hall, LAA Communications Officer on 01223 699493

Cambridgeshire Together Board

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Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council

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