

Council  
Decisions  
17 October 2019



Agenda item	Decision
1 Minutes	Approved
To consider the recommendations from the Executive	
<p><b>5a Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 (Executive Councillor for Housing)</b></p>	<p>Approved Executive Councillor recommendation as amended (unanimously).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approve proposals for changes in existing housing capital budgets, as introduced in Sections 6 and 7 and detailed in Appendix E of the officers report, with the resulting position summarised in Appendix H.</li> <li>ii. Approve the revised funding mix for the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme, recognising the latest assumptions for the use of Devolution Grant, Right to Buy Receipts, HRA Resources, Major Repairs Allowance and the specific use of Section 106 Funding for investment in affordable housing against the Campkin Road scheme</li> <li>iii. Council is asked to note, as per the unanimous agreement at the recent Housing Scrutiny Committee in the light of the recent declaration of a climate emergency, that the HRA MTFS will be reviewed within a year to take into account specific environmentally sustainable solutions to ongoing</li> </ul>

	<p>maintenance, repairs and replacements, as well as for new build proposals.</p>
<p><b>5b Review of Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)</b></p>	<p>Approved Executive Councillor recommendation as per agenda (unanimously)</p>
<p><b>5c Treasury Management Half Yearly Update Report 2019/20 (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)</b></p>	<p>Approved Executive Councillor recommendation as per agenda (by 24 votes to)</p>
<p><b>5d General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) October 2019 (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)</b></p>	<p>Approved Executive Councillor recommendation as per agenda (by 24 votes to 0)</p>
<p>To consider the recommendations of Committees</p>	
<p><b>6a Review of Officer Employment Procedure Rules (Civic Affairs Committee)</b></p>	<p>Approved Committee recommendation as per agenda (unanimously)</p>
<p>To consider notice of Motions</p>	
<p><b>9 Councillor Bick: Cutbacks in Hostel Provision For Rough Sleepers</b></p>	<p>An amendment was proposed by Councillor Johnson was approved (by 21 votes to 15).</p> <p>Resolved (unanimously):</p> <p>Council welcomes the prospect of expanded "Housing First" provision for rough sleepers in Cambridge and the additional contribution it can make alongside the hostel pathway to progress rough sleepers off the streets and into mainstream accommodation.</p> <p>Council believes that hostels are likely to remain the most effective provision for some</p>

rough sleepers who benefit from the structure provided and the company of others, whilst Housing First models have been shown to provide a more successful solution for some individuals who have demonstrably been unable to succeed in the hostel system. As the city's rough sleeping problem continues at a high level, additional support is called for to help people move more quickly to settled accommodation where they can begin to address other issues, and plan for their future.

Council notes the county council's proposal to cease funding for support services at the Willow Walk hostel, the only hostel in the city for rough sleepers with the highest level of needs. While the county council has made reference to reinvesting funds from Willow Walk towards the expansion of Housing First, there is no suggestion the proposed programme of increased support for Housing First by the city council is directly reliant on the possible decommissioning of the hostel.

Council recognises the difficult financial decisions that all local authorities need to take due to a decade of austerity which, under the Tory/Liberal Democrat coalition and subsequent Tory governments, led to rough sleeping increasing by 165% between 2010 and 2018 according to official figures. Nevertheless, it expresses concern that the county council are looking to make £1m worth of cuts to its housing related support budget with inevitable consequences for services who work with vulnerable people in Cambridge, like Whitworth House, An Lac House and Jimmy's.

Council believes that funding decisions in this area should be evidence-based to meet the goal of supporting rough sleepers back into

	<p>self-contained, safe and secure accommodation and off the streets for good. Any proposals by the county council to cutback funding existing services, like at Willow Walk, which has the potential to increase rough sleeping, must be avoided.</p> <p>Accordingly, council calls on the county council to set aside any decisions, tentative or otherwise, to withdraw funding for any hostels for rough sleepers, until it has completed and published a full needs analysis of this client group and gained agreement on a clear strategy for overall provision embracing innovation such as Housing First, where appropriate. Such a strategy would best be developed, and in partnership, alongside our own proposed “Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 – 2025”.</p>
<p><b>10 Councillor McGerty: Recycling Centres</b></p>	<p>An amendment was proposed by Councillor Moore and was approved (by 24 votes to 15).</p> <p>Resolved (by 24 votes to 0):</p> <p>This council notes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Shared Waste Service’s high kerbside collection rates for residual waste, mixed recycling and compostable waste at 99.8% due to the hard work of our waste-crews day in, day out through all weathers.</li> <li>• the increase on the Greater Cambridge rate for kerbside recycling to over 51%, achieved through greater focus on reducing contamination, which puts us in the top quartile of councils but with opportunities to increase the rate further.</li> <li>• the increased availability of kerbside collection of mixed recycling with the offer of up to four free blue bins per</li> </ul>

	<p>household plus the collection of side waste in clear plastic bags or folded cardboard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the review of Recycling Points in the city that has been taking place over the past year to deal with fly-tipping and the high contamination rates in the mixed recycling, which has resulted in much of the waste collected from these sites being unfit to be recycled.</li> <li>• that dumping waste at Recycling points outside of the recycling bins is fly-tipping and therefore a criminal offence liable for a £400 fixed penalty notice</li> <li>• the increase in fly-tipping seen nationally with over 998,000 incidents reported by Local Authorities last year.</li> <li>• the environmental damage caused by fly-tipping and litter, to wildlife and local residents, particularly in rural areas.</li> <li>• the damage caused by litter and rubbish washing into our waterways and oceans.</li> <li>• the high cost of cleaning up fly-tipping and litter to local Authorities and organisations such as the Woodland Trust who estimated that they have spent over £1m in the last five years*.</li> <li>• the new Scrap-it scheme that Cambridge City Council are trialling along with our partners across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to raise awareness of fly-tipping to householders who may not realise that their waste is being fly-tipped and to improve evidence gathering and prosecution of offenders.</li> <li>• the improvements in the quality of recyclate collected and the reduction in fly-tipping seen at the Recycling Points where we have removed mixed recycling bins following the review</li> <li>• that in the last two years, the Greater</li> </ul>
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	<p>Cambridge Shared Waste service have opened three new underground Recycling Points across the city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the Shared Waste service are looking to add and promote the recycling of extra materials at Recycling Points that are not collected at the kerbside such as shoes, textiles, lightbulbs and small electricals.</li> <li>• the cost to the environment from high levels of waste and in this time of a climate crisis the importance of the waste hierarchy of Reduce, Re-use, Recycle.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://rsnonline.org.uk/a-not-so-green-and-pleasant-land-what-more-can-be-done-to-tackle-fly-tipping">*rsnonline.org.uk/a-not-so-green-and-pleasant-land-what-more-can-be-done-to-tackle-fly-tipping</a></p>
<p><b>11 Councillor Martinelli: Cambridge Cycle Point Thefts</b></p>	<p>An amendment was proposed by Councillor Massey and was approved (by 24 votes to 0).</p> <p>Resolved (unanimously):</p> <p>Council notes the consistently high level of unprosecuted cycle theft at Cambridge Rail Station Cycle Point, with over 100 reported episodes in the last year of publicly available crime statistics having led to no subsequent prosecutions. Council further notes that this is likely an under-representation of the total number of criminal acts in the area and that CCTV gives users a false sense of security when, in reality, the images are not monitored, nor have they proved useful in identifying thieves.</p> <p>Council affirms that, in light of the Climate Emergency, it is committed to encouraging cycling as a sustainable form of transit and is</p>

	<p>not prepared to let organised crime undermine its transport strategy.</p> <p>Council also notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- that the Police and Crime Commissioner has been asked by Councillors and others in Cambridge to prioritise cycle thefts, especially given this type of crime feeds into the wider acquisitive crime that links to drug misuse and the huge issue our city faces to tackle county lines drug dealing.</li><li>- that the numbers of police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs), who patrol the streets in Cambridge and nationally has seriously reduced, as part of austerity measures brought in by the Conservative and Coalition governments from 2010.</li><li>- the work our local police have been doing at the Cycle Point at the ongoing request of Labour councillors at East Area Committee, we note their ongoing targeted enforcement and target hardening suggestions that have already been communicated to Greater Anglia.</li><li>- that other Cycle Points across the country are policed by British Transport Police and not by the local police force.</li><li>-The work of the Executive Councillor of Planning who has requested officers to already investigate the potential breach of a S106 agreement, a review the management arrangements and that an updated Cycle</li></ul>
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	<p>Park Management Plan, which includes monitoring thefts and remedial measures be submitted.</p> <p>- the ongoing dialogue the Executive Councillor for Community safety has with both Police officers and Greater Anglia on this subject.</p> <p>This council will</p> <p>1) Write to Greater Anglia as operators of the Cycle Point to request urgent action aimed at ensuring that rail users' property is protected, including dramatically increasing security patrol frequency and improving the quality of the CCTV.</p> <p>2) Write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to request further targeted enforcement given the recurrent and relatively predictable nature of the crimes involved and the links to both acquisitive crime and drug misuse.</p> <p>3) Write to British Transport Police to seek their support in them policing Cycle Point especially given the fact Cycle Point has British transport police phones in cycle point but they don't have any jurisdiction.</p>
<p><b>12 Councillor Collis: Food Poverty</b></p>	<p>Resolved (unanimously):</p> <p>Council notes the rise in food poverty both nationally and in Cambridge, where the Cambridge City Food Bank distributed 8,766 3 day emergency food parcels to people in crisis last year, an increase of 36% from 2017. Nationally, food bank usage has now risen above 1 million.</p>

Council notes with thanks the excellent work being done by officers across the city to tackle the impact of this trend, including;

- developing a programme of holiday lunches that in 2018/9 provided 2737 free meals
- supporting 51 cookery skills sessions (2018/9) attended by 271 local residents
- continuing to develop a robust, evidence-based anti-poverty strategy to tackle the underlying causes of food poverty and insecurity
- promotion of the Living Wage

We also welcome the strength of partnership working in line with our Sustainable Food Policy. This is particularly evident within the Food Poverty Alliance established by Cambridge Sustainable Food, which incorporates the council, Cambridge city foodbank, housing providers, sports clubs, local churches and other frontline organisations providing community meals, emergency food provision and advice.

We note the publication of the alliance's comprehensive action plan listing a package of preventative and crisis measures, and five main aims;

1. to ensure children's access to food 365 days a year
2. to ensure there is emergency support so that people in Cambridge do not go hungry

	<p>3. aim to tackle the underlying causes of food poverty in Cambridge</p> <p>4. to promote and support community responses to food poverty</p> <p>5. to monitor and evaluate the extent of food poverty in Cambridge</p> <p>At a national level, this council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is concerned that in the event of a No Deal Brexit, there will be a significant impact both on our short-term food security and any longer term work to establish a sustainable food strategy for the UK.</li> <li>- welcomes UK Labour’s pledge to introduce a Fair Food Act, creating a legal right to food, and their aim to halve food bank usage in their first year in government.</li> </ul> <p>Cambridge City Council therefore resolves to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fully endorse the Food Poverty Alliance’s action plan and continue to work in partnership with local agencies to tackle food poverty in our city, and its underlying causes.</li> <li>- call on our local MPs to support Sue Hayman MP’s proposals for a Fair Food Act.</li> </ul>
<b>7 Written Questions</b>	Contained in the Information Pack – published on the Website.

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