



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION PACK

Date: Thursday, 13 February 2020

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Key:
Lab - Labour
Lib Dem – Liberal Democrats
Ind – Independent

Mayors
Chaplain

The Deputy
Mayor
Russ
McPherson

The Mayor
Gerri Bird

Democratic
Services
Manager

The Chief
Executive

Martin
Smart
(Lab)

Alex
Collis
(Lab)

Mike
Davey
(Lab)

Anna
Smith
(Lab)

Mike
Sargeant
(Lab)

Lewis
Herbert
(Lab)

Carina
O'Reilly
(Lab)

Rosy Moore
(Lab)

Baiju
Thittala
(Lab)

Carla
McQueen
(Lab)

Kelley
Green
(Lab)

John
Hipkin
Ind

George
Pippas
(Lib Dem)

Peter Lord
(Lib Dem)

Rod Cantrill
(Lib Dem)

Katie Porrer
(Lib Dem)

Cheney
Payne
(Lib Dem)

Richard
Johnson
(Lab)

Patrick Sheil
(Lab)

Richard
Robertson
(Lab)

Kevin Price
(Lab)

Sophie
Barnett
(Lab)

Mark
Ashton
(Lab)

Robert
Dryden
(Lab)

Nicky
Massey
(Lab)

Grace
Hadley
(Lab)

Katie
Thornburrow
(Lab)

Dave Baigent
(Lab)

Anthony
Martinelli
(Lib Dem)

Dan
Summerbell
(Lib Dem)

Josh
Matthews
(Lib Dem)

Damien
Tunnacliffe
(Lib Dem)

Tim
Bick
(Lib Dem)

Jamie
Dalzell
(Lib Dem)

Jennifer
Page-Croft
(Lib Dem)

Markus
Gehring
(Lib Dem)

Greg
Chadwick
(Lib Dem)

Colin
McGerty
(Lib Dem)

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Agenda Item 5a: Amendment to Recommendation of Executive Councillor for Housing: HRA Budget Setting Report (BSR) 2020/21

Amendment to recommendation I) Proposed by Councillor Cantrill
(additional text underlined)

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Treasury management

I) Approve the need to borrow over the 30 year life of the business plan, with the first instance of this anticipated to be in 2022/23, to

a. Undertake a significant investment in the existing housing stock, with a specific focus on those homes that do not meet the Decent Homes standard especially the dwellings that fail the category 1 hazards assessment with a clear goal to achieve a zero position in the short term (note: 799 houses failed to meet the Decent Homes Standard in March 2019)

b. Sustain the current level of investment of £10,000,000 per annum for the delivery of new homes

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Extract from Cambridge City Council's Constitution: Part 4A - Council Procedure Rules

Appendix A2 - Council Procedure Rules – Budget Recommendations and Amendments

1. These rules supplement the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained in Part 4C of this Constitution. They also modify the Council Procedure Rules as follows.

2. Subject to the provisions contained in this paragraph, only amendments submitted in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules shall be considered at the Budget Council Meeting.

2.1 The Executive may introduce amendments at the Council meeting or give advance notice of revised recommendations. This might be necessary, for instance, in response to changed circumstances, or in the light of scrutiny of amendments or to correct technical errors. The Leader must explain why it has proved necessary to introduce any amendment. This is to be done at the beginning of the budget item.

2.2 The Executive may make changes to the budget recommendations to give effect to decisions by precepting authorities.

2.3 Further amendments may be moved by any member in direct response to amendments made by the Executive at the meeting.

2.4 Technical amendments may be made by leaders of minority groups or proposers of amendments to correct arithmetical or factual errors.

2.5 The Mayor shall have discretion to permit amendments from members when satisfied that the need for the amendment could not have been anticipated before the deadline. The Mayor should also be satisfied that advance notice of such amendments was given as soon as reasonably practical, and not left to the day of the meeting unless this was unavoidable.

2.6 Members may submit revised amendments where the Mayor is satisfied that the substantive issues have been considered at the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting.

2.7 The Executive may amend its budget recommendations in the light of amendments moved at the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny meeting or at the Council meeting.

2.8 If the Executive fails to secure Council adoption of its budget, further amendments may be moved, and these rules will not apply;

2.9 The Council may, by a simple majority, suspend these rules and permit further amendments.

3. The rules of debate contained in the Council Procedure Rules shall be modified in respect of the Budget Council Meeting as follows:

3.1 The Executive shall present its budget recommendations. A period of 45 minutes is allowed for this, extendable at the discretion of the Mayor. The format and mode of the presentation is for the Executive to decide.

3.2 Minority groups may then present alternative budgets, subject to compliance with the provisions of this Appendix. A period of 45 minutes is allowed for each alternative budget, extendable at the discretion of the Mayor. The format and mode of the presentation is for the minority group to decide.

3.3. Alternative budgets will then be moved in turn as amendments to replace the Executive recommendation. They will be debated in the usual way, although replacement budgets will be deemed to have been moved and seconded.

3.4 At the conclusion of each debate, a vote will be taken for and against the alternative budget.

3.5 If the alternative budget is voted down, the Leader of the proposing Group may ask for separate votes to be taken on individual proposals within the alternative budget, but there shall be no further debate.

3.6 Where individual amendments have been submitted by councillors, these will then be debated in the usual way. However, where they are to the same effect as something in an alternative budget, they shall be considered at the same time as the alternative budget, with the proposer being able to ask for a separate vote in accordance with paragraph 3.5.

3.7 After consideration of amendments the Executive's budget proposals will be debated in the usual way but, subject to paragraph 3.8 below, no amendments may be moved.

3.8. If the Executive's budget is rejected, amendments and alternative proposals may be made as under the present rules, subject to the dispute resolution provisions set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained in Part 4C of this Constitution.

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Agenda Item 6 – Budget Setting Report (General Fund) 2020/21

Please note that land charges part of Appendix G has been updated. The charges that have changed since the Council report was published are highlighted.

The Land Charges service comes under Finance & Resources.

The change in the proposed fees for land charges from that which was included in the Budget Setting Report is due to the receipt of an amended fee schedule for the next financial year from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding their highways searches fees which form part of the land charges search charges. The proposed land charge fees have been recalculated and seven of them have been amended.

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Finance & Resources

Land Charges

Charge Type and description	Charges 2019/20 £	Proposed Charges 2020/21 £	% Increase 2020/21
Land Charges			
LLC1 Official Search in respect of one parcel of land	22.00	25.00	13.6%
Residential Search *			
CON29R	125.00	122.00	(2.4%)
LLC1 and CON29R (Full Residential Search)	N/A	147.00	NEW
Additional Parcels of Land	12.00	17.00	41.7%
Commercial Search			
CON29R	125.00	181.00	44.8%
LLC1 and CON29R (Full Commercial Search)	N/A	206.00	NEW
Additional Parcels of Land	12.00	28.00	133.3%
Additions			
Additional Enquiries *	12.00	12.00	0.0%
CON290 (Optional Enquiries) *			
Q4 - Road Proposals	8.00	5.00	(37.5%)
Q5 - Advertisements	8.00	9.50	18.8%
Q6 - Completion Notices	8.00	6.00	(25.0%)
Q7- Parks & Countryside	4.00	6.00	50.0%
Q8 - Pipelines	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Q9 - House in Multiple Occupation	8.00	6.00	(25.0%)
Q10- Noise Abatement and other Nuisances	4.00	6.00	50.0%
Q11 - Urban Development Areas	4.00	6.00	50.0%
Q12 - Enterprise Zones	8.00	6.00	(25.0%)
Q13 - Inner Urban Development Areas	4.00	6.50	62.5%
Q14 - Simplified Planning Zones	4.00	6.00	50.0%
Q15 - Land Maintenance Notices	8.00	6.00	(25.0%)
Q16 - Mineral Consultation Areas	4.00	10.00	150.0%
Q17 - Hazardous Substance Consents	8.00	4.50	(43.8%)
Q18 - Environmental & Pollution Notices	8.00	6.00	(25.0%)
Q19 - Food Safety Notices	8.00	6.00	(25.0%)
Q20 - Hedgerow Notices	8.00	6.00	(25.0%)
Q21 - Flood Defence and Land Drainage Consents	4.00	10.00	150.0%
Q22 - Common Land, Town and Village Greens	8.00	19.60	145.0%
Discretionary services (including Pre-application work and Planning and Performance Agreements (PPAs)) will be charged for on a case by case basis. This charge will be based on full recovery of the cost of delivering the agreed work. Officer time will be charged at the following rate according to the officer band:	Hourly Charge (£)	Hourly Charge (£)	
City Band 2	N/A	42.00	NEW
City Band 3	N/A	51.00	NEW
City Band 4	N/A	58.00	NEW
City Band 5	N/A	64.00	NEW
City Band 6	N/A	73.00	NEW
City Band 7	N/A	86.00	NEW
City Band 8	N/A	91.00	NEW
City Band 10	N/A	119.00	NEW
The full direct cost of any external consultants, contractors or agency staff incurred by the Planning Service in the delivery of the discretionary service will also be included in any fees charged for the work done.			

Notes

* Includes VAT

Q16, Q21 and Q22 are answered by Cambs County Council. Fees are subject to change for 2018/19 (last amended April 2016)

Q4 is now answerable from the Planning Service database, hence the proposed fee.
Q7, Q10, Q11, Q13, Q14 currently have standard responses, hence the proposed fee reduction.

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STRATEGY & RESOURCES

3 February 2020

5.00- 8.05 pm

Present: Councillors Davey (Chair), Todd-Jones (Vice-Chair), Bick, Dalzell, Green.

Executive Councillors:

Councillors Herbert, Johnson, Massey, Moore, Robertson, Thornburrow and Smith

Opposition Spokes:

Councillors Cantrill, Martinelli, McGerty and Payne

Amendments to the Budget Setting Report 2020/21: Liberal Democrat Amendment

The purpose of the discussion was to ask questions of the Liberal Democrat Members on their group's budget amendment.

The Labour Members of the Committee and Executive Councillors asked the following questions. The answers provided by Liberal Democrat Members immediately follow.

- i. Reserves were proposed to be reduced – asked by how much and what the purpose was for.

To provide a clearer investment, this was not for the same sum of money as the budget proposed. Looked at whether the council had the ability to generate funding from an alternative model.

- ii. Asked what assurances there were that the amendment had taken account of risks with the economy and Brexit.

The amendment proposed would still meet with reserve requirements, the strategy could be phased if required.

- iii. Referred to the proposal to buy 40 houses and produce an income of £237,000 and questioned how long it would take to acquire the properties as this would need to be in place by 1 April.

Would look to phase the proposal over a period of time and would not want to disturb the Cambridge housing market.

- iv. Questioned if thought had been given to the requirement to upgrade the properties.

Had taken into account capital expenditure on the properties, this proposal had been presented in the past.

B0006 Air Quality - Engine Idling Education Campaign

- v. Engine idling had been discussed previously by the committee; her recollection was that the enforcement would cost more than the revenue raised.
- vi. Asked if there was any evidence that an engine idling campaign had been proven to make a difference.

The engine idling budget amendment was not a revenue raising item, it was an educational health campaign. Councils who had run engine idling campaigns had noticed improvements to air quality.

B0014 Civic Beekeeper (grant to local group)

- vii. She was aware of bee hives in Cambridge but questioned whether this budget amendment may be delivered better by the private sector. Honey production was a great business.

In relation to the Civic Beekeeper budget amendment, the Council had taken on the biodiversity challenge by declaring a Biodiversity Emergency at Full Council. The wildflower meadows which had been created were welcomed, but this amendment was a further action that the council could take to protect pollinators

B0020 Youth Liaison Officer – remit to include knife crime

- viii. Violent crime included knife crime

County Lines was a critical area which needed to be looked at more. County lines did lead into violent crime. Proposed to extend the scope of the role to 3 years and knife crime was a component part.

B0021 Support for lone parents in / at risk of poverty

- ix. Asked if there was a specific project identified and if any discussions with lone parents had taken place.

No specific project had been identified. Discussions with lone parents had taken place and free access to childcare was highlighted as an issue.

B0013 Enhanced leaf clearance

- x. Leaf clearance on public footpaths was the responsibility of the County Council why should the City Council pick this issue up.

The public safety aspect of the amendment was clear; was keen for the City Council to take the lead because it was seen by the public as something which had degraded over the years. Could be replaced with funding from fixed penalty notices.

B0016 Reverse cuts to cycle and walking grants (B4541)

- xi. Commented that this issue had been picked up earlier in the Budget Setting report discussion and that this grant could possibly be included with other grants so that there was a 'one stop shop' for people to contact the council about grants.

Expressed concerns that walking / cycling groups could find that the grant funding had already been spent if the grant funding was amalgamated within other grant funding.

II0002 Trade Waste Surplus

- xii Questioned how the increased surplus from trade waste could be achieved.

Wanted businesses to produce less waste, but where they do for the Council's service to be as commercial as it can. Thought that the target was very achievable as there is already work underway in the service to deliver more.

CAP0003 Housing company capital [linked with II0005, RI0004]

- xii. Referred to discussions which had taken place on a similar amendment suggested last year. Asked how 'key workers' would be defined and asked if affordable housing should be promoted for everyone (and not just key workers).

The amendment was proposed as it was felt that key workers were an important segment of society, and which they felt had been neglected by the current administration.

- xiii. Referred to a report which had been undertaken by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) in 2018 which stated that the skills demand in the Cambridge area was for a greater proportion of lower skilled workers.

The current MP had referred to a current shortage of teachers. Without teachers children could not be educated. A report had been undertaken specifically in Cambridge about key workers.

- xiv. Referred to housing for single homeless people on town hall lettings and questioned whether there was a 'need' to be met for single homeless people.

Questioned if the level of need was understood by the Executive Councillor, single people who were homeless could not get private rented accommodation. He was aware of this issue last Friday, the 'need' did exist.

CAP0012 Succession Tree Planting on Parkers Piece

- xv. Noted that this budget amendment proposed tree planting but expressed concern that this was a knee jerk reaction to plant further trees on Parker's Piece. The quality of the area was open and flat. The history of the area should be considered, this was where the rules of football were developed and Parkside School used the area for sports lessons. Believed the area was in or close to a Conservation Area. Planting further trees may damage the character of the area.

The description of the amendment was clear that the proposal was only to replace and maintain trees along the perimeter of the area so that it did not impinge on the use of the open space for sports and events.

The Conservation Area Plan for Parkers Piece was agreed in 2001 and called for the provision of succession planting.

Council Meeting: Oral Questions in Order of Receipt

13 February 2020

Primary Questions

1. Councillor Porrer to the Leader

Could the Executive Councillor confirm that Cambridge City Council will continue to display the European flag at the Guildhall in future to show our support for our European residents and visitors and to highlight our city's ongoing strong connections to the rest of Europe?

2. Councillor Collis to the Executive Councillor for Communities

Could the Executive Councillor provide an update on the anti-poverty strategy?

3. Councillor Dalzell to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

Following significant delays to the completion of the Council's statutory audit last year, which is still yet to be completed, can the Executive Councillor confirm what steps the Council are taking to prevent these problems recurring?

4. Councillor Todd Jones to the Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre

Can the executive councillor update us on what is known about Extinction Rebellion's plans for the city centre next week?

5. Councillor Pippas to the Leader of the Council

Given Cambridge's large and peace-loving Chinese community, does the leader share my concern at reports of hate crimes against Chinese people in this area related to coronavirus?

6. Councillor Gehring to the Leader

Given that Brexit is far from being done, what is the City doing to prepare?

7. Councillor Bick to the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces

Now the 5-year contract with the council the ice rink and fun fair on Parker's Piece has ended, what are the Executive Councillor's plans for the future?

8. Councillor O-Reilly to the Executive Councillor for Communities

What measures are being taken to make the Folk Festival as green as possible?

9. Councillor Matthews to the Leader

Does the leader support his group's strategy to address sustainability?

10. Councillor Ashton to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Can the Executive Councillor inform Council of how many days the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol has been in operation during the last few months, how many rough sleepers have taken shelter under this provision since October 2019, and what steps the local authority takes, in concert with stakeholders, in promoting the provision in times of bad weather?

11. Councillor Cantrill to Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre

Does the Executive Councillor agree with me that we should do everything possible to encourage residents to recycle?

12. Councillor Martinelli to the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces

Is the Executive Councillor satisfied with the progress of the resurfacing works on Parker's Piece?

13. Councillor McQueen to the Executive Councillor for Communities

Could the Executive Councillor advise what is being planned for LGBT+ History month?

14. Councillor Chadwick to the Executive Councillor Planning Policy and Open Spaces

Does the Executive Councillor worry about the number of hotels in Cambridge?

15. Councillor Payne to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Can the Executive Councillor comment on whether the recent claims in the Cambridge News that hundreds of Cambridge Council houses fail to meet basic living standards are justifiable?

16. Councillor Summerbell to the Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre

Can the Executive Councillor please outline the plans and targets in place to improve the recycling rate in Cambridge, particularly with respect to plastic recycling?"

17. Councillor Smart to the Executive Councillor for Communities

What is being planned to support non-UK EU citizens in Cambridge?

18. Councillor Davies to the Executive Councillor for Communities

What activities are being planned for young people over Half Term?

19. Councillor Barnett to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Could the Executive Councillor for Housing detail the significance of the Council recently being awarded the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation?

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Council 13 February 2020 Written Questions and Answers

1. Councillor Martinelli

To the Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre

Please could the Executive Councillor update the Council on the report "looking at the options for further reducing waste across the council and the city as a whole, making progress towards a Zero Waste strategy which they proposed to bring to the Environment & Community Services Committee "within the next year" at Annual Council in May 2018?

Due to the delay of the Environment Bill and the national Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) it has not been possible to develop a new waste strategy for the city however, we are currently undertaking modelling of the available options under the RWS so we can develop a location strategy once this is released. We have responded to all of the consultations and have been helping DEFRA to develop further consultations, the next round of which will be in early summer.

It does not make sense to make drastic changes to our waste collection and own local waste strategy until we hear back from government on national strategy and incoming regulations however this has not stopped us working on reducing waste across the city including;

- With the support of residents, the council has increased its recycling to over 51% last year
- The Trade waste service is promoting recycling collections to our customers; including food waste to more business each year
- We have supported the Green Coffee Shop Scheme run by Cambridge Food Hub.
- We now offer additional blue bins and side waste collection to increase recycling at the kerbside.
- We are about to start a trial of separate food waste collections for 1,000 households
- The service continues to educate residents on waste reduction and recycling.

2. Councillor Martinelli

To the Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre

Please could the Executive Councillor provide a further update on their commitment to looking into the legalities of ensuring Cambridge has a fur free market (as agreed at Council in October 2018), with the most recent update in July 2019 having anticipated a formal report by the end of that year?

We had hoped to conclude the work of signing Cambridge up as a 'fur free market', under the animal welfare charity Respect for Animals Fur Free Markets campaign, but due to service capacity issues and competing priorities, the timescale for this has unfortunately slipped. The agreed revised timetable is to consult on and adopt a fur free market policy and complete our sign up as a 'fur free market' by July, 2020. We expect the policy to target the sale of products made with real fur from unethically farmed animals.

3. Councillor Cantrill

To the Executive Councillor for Housing

Please provide the latest analysis of the following for all council owned housing stock and for April 2019 and April 2018:

The number of properties in total classed as non decent, of the non decent homes how many are classified as category 1 hazard and how many properties were without a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

The data for Decent Homes extracted from our system shows:

Criteria	April 2018	April 2019	Feb 2020
The number of properties classed as non-decent	341	799	857
Of which, number classed as Category 1 Hazard	116	273	170
Of which, number without a reasonable degree of thermal comfort	29	67	77

Our asset management system showed that 799 Council homes did not meet the Decent Homes standard on 31/03/19; it now shows 857 such properties as we have added in properties surveyed during the year, but not yet removed those which have had works done during the year. At year end, we update the system with homes that have had works completed on our capital programme, and those that we now are about to fail due to a component reaching the end of its planned lifespan.

Some homes fail the Decent Homes standards because of issues identified under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System: we have 170 homes currently identified as having a category 1 hazard under HHSRS. Of these around 100 are due to a risk of falls on stairs or between levels, which is a particular issue for some designs of Council homes, that include an open plan staircase. Over time, we have carried out works to enclose these staircases, and will continue to do so. All of these HHSRS works are scheduled for completion in our plan of work for 2020/21.

The Council has 77 homes identified as having poor thermal comfort, due to a lack of insulation: we are resurveying to check that these homes have in fact not been upgraded on earlier programmes, as we have completed extensive work in this area. We will order any outstanding work.

Where homes fail due to the age of particular components such as roofs, kitchens or bathrooms becoming too old, it is helpful to note that many such homes are in good condition, loved and looked after by tenants, and definitely fit to live in. The individual failing component may be older than the standard says it should be, but still in good condition. We identify roofs that are due for replacement and aim to replace them before they fail and leak. If there is a delay between adding them to the programme and the work being completed as part of a cost-effective programme, they show as a failure for a limited period, but this has no impact on the quality of the home the tenants enjoy. On the other hand, a Decent Home may experience a roof leak from a newer roof which has worn out sooner than expected – and whenever a tenant reports a failure of this kind, we will address it, with a repair or replacement at that point.

Decent Homes is only one measure of the quality of a home. In setting out our investment programme, we work with tenant and leaseholder representatives to set priorities. We are currently investing in external works as part of an Estates Improvement Programme (from 2019/20 for

five years), and our budget for 2020/21 onwards, includes significant revenue funding, for staff to develop a new energy and carbon reduction programme, and capital resources to invest in improving the quality of our most poorly insulated homes. These homes would not fail Decent Homes for thermal comfort – because with solid walls, a home cannot receive cavity wall insulation as an improvement – but we are committed to making these homes warmer, and to reducing their carbon footprint.