



Council 25 February 2021 Decisions

Full meeting recording available on the webpage

1. Minutes

- Approved

3. Petition – Phone mast on Jesus Green

- Please see the video recording of the debate and Executive Councillor replies to the petition. Council minutes will follow.

4. Public questions

- Please see the video recording of the question and response. Council minutes will follow.

5. Recommendations of the Executive.

5a. HRA Budget Setting Report (BSR) 2021 / 22

- Approved 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 sustain the proposed level of investment, which includes ear-marking of funding for delivery of a net 1,000 new homes over a 10 year timeframe.
- Recognised that any decision to borrow further will impact the authority's ability to set-aside resource to redeem 25% of

the value of the housing debt by the point at which the loan portfolio matures, with the approach to this to be reviewed before further borrowing commences.

- Approved the latest Decent Homes Programme, to include updated decent homes expenditure for new build dwellings to recognise the increased ongoing costs of maintaining homes at Passivhaus standards, as detailed in Appendix E of the HRA Budget Setting Report.
- Approved the latest budget sums, profiling and associated financing for all new build schemes, including revised scheme budgets for Tedder Way, Kendal Way, Clerk Maxwell, Campkin Road, Colville Road and Kingsway, based upon the latest cost information from the Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP) or direct procurements, as detailed in Appendices E and H, and summarised in Appendix K, of the HRA Budget Setting Report.
- Approved allocation of funds from the budget ear-marked for the delivery of 1,000 net new homes to the five schemes at Fen Road, Ditton Walk, Aragon Close, Sackville Close, and Borrowdale in line with the scheme specific reports presented to Housing Scrutiny Committee in the committee cycle.
- Noted the removal of the budget and associated MHCLG grant income for the acquisition of property to accommodate rough sleepers, following confirmation that the authority was unsuccessful in the 2020/21 round of the Next Steps Grant bid process.
- Approved the revised Housing Capital Investment Plan as shown in Appendix K of the HRA Budget Setting Report.

- Approved inclusion of Disabled Facilities Grant expenditure and associated grant income from 2021/22 onwards, based upon 2020/21 original grant levels, with delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to approve an in year increase or decrease in the budget for disabled facilities grants in any year, in direct relation to any increase or decrease in the capital grant funding for this purpose, as received from the County Council through the Better Care Fund. Approved delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to determine the most appropriate use of any additional Disabled Facilities Grant funding announced in year, for the wider benefit of the Shared Home Improvement Agency.
- Approved delegation to the Strategic Director to review and amend the level of fees charged by the Shared Home Improvement Agency for disabled facilities grants and repair assistance grants, in line with any decisions made by the Shared Home Improvement Agency Board.
- Approved delegation to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to draw down resource from the ear-marked reserve for potential debt redemption or re-investment, for the purpose of open market land or property acquisition or new build housing development, should the need arise, in order to meet quarterly deadlines for the use of retained right to buy receipts or to facilitate future site redevelopment.
- Approved delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to include both expenditure and income budgets in respect of any grant bid made to MHCLG as part of the Next

Steps Grant Programme, recognising that any net impact for the HRA will need to be retrospectively incorporated as part of the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy in 2021/22.

- Approved delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to make the necessary technical amendments to detailed budgets in respect of the outcome of the review of recharges between the General Fund and the HRA, with any change in impact for the HRA to be incorporated as part of the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy in September 2021.

5b. Capital Strategy 2021/2022

- Approved the capital strategy; and
- Noted the summary capital programme.

5c. Treasury Management Strategy Statement Report 2021/22 to 2023/24

- Approved the report including the estimated Prudential & Treasury Indicators for 2021/22 to 2024/25 (inclusive) as set out in Appendix C of the officer's report.
- Authorised the increase in the limit for external debt from £400 million to £450 million on 1 April 2022, and to £550 million on 1 April 2023, in order to provide sufficient headroom for external borrowing to finance the HRA new build programme in accordance with the HRA capital plan.

6a. Budget Setting Report (General Fund) 2021/22

- Approved Revenue Pressures and Bids shown in Appendix C(b) and Savings shown in Appendix C(c) (except for the removal of saving S4759 Pinder Service) of the officer's report.

- Approved Non-Cash Limit items as shown in Appendix C(d) of the officer's report.
- Agreed there are no bids to be funded from External or Earmarked Funds (which would be included as Appendix C(e) of the officer's report).
- Approved delegation to the Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance) of the calculation and determination of the Council Tax taxbase (including submission of the National Non-Domestic Rates Forecast Form, NNDR1, for each financial year) which is set out in Appendix A(a) of the officer's report.
- Approved the level of Council Tax for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A (b) and Section 4 [page 20 of the BSR refers].
- Approved delegation to the Head of Finance to finalise changes relating to any corporate and/or departmental restructuring and any reallocation of support service and central costs, in accordance with the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (SeRCOP).
- Agreed any recommendations in respect of the proposals outlined in Appendix D(a) of the officer's report for inclusion in the Capital Plan. As it was already planned to report to future committees on the details of the Corn Exchange improvement programme, for the benefit of clarity, a report on the heating project will be brought to the March meeting of the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee. This will include details of why the heating proposals are, at the present time, both the most viable option, and the least harmful solution environmentally.

- Approved the revised Capital Plan for the General Fund as set out in Appendix D(c) of the officer's report and the Funding as set out in Section 6, page 29 of the BSR.
- Noted the impact of revenue and capital budget approvals and approve the resulting level of reserves to be used to support the budget proposals as set out in the table [Section 8, page 49 of the BSR refers].
- Approved the updated Corporate Plan 2019 - 2022, attached at Appendix B of the officer's report.

7a. Draft Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

- Approved the draft Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 attached as Appendix 1 of the Officer's report.
- Delegated authority to the Head of Human Resources to update the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 should a chief executive and/or chief officer and/or NJC pay award be agreed.

7b. Member Allowances - review by the Independent Remuneration Panel

- Approved the 2020/21 allowance scheme (as attached to the officer's report) and that it is not index linked for 2021/22 (ie. kept at the rate for 2020/21).

7c. Statement of Licensing Policy

- Considered the results of the public consultation exercise as summarised in Appendix B of the Officer's report.
- Approved the amended Statement of Licensing Policy attached to the Officer's report as Appendix D. Appendix C included tracked changes showing the amendments that have been made.

7d. Cumulative Impact Assessment

- Considered the results of the public consultation exercise as summarised in Appendix B of the Officer's report and the information provided by Cambridge Constabulary and Public Health before the public consultation as attached to the Officer's report as Appendix C.
- Approved the proposed Cumulative Impact Assessment attached to the Officer's report as Appendix D. Appendix E is the current section in the Statement of Licensing Policy on the cumulative impact of a concentration of licensed premises.

8. Oral Questions

- Please see the video recording of the question and response. Council minutes will follow.

9a. Motion: The future of Cambridge city centre

The pandemic has had a major impact on the precious environment of the city centre itself and also on the economic and social contribution it makes to the whole of our city and beyond. Equally concerning has been the effect of COVID 19 on neighbourhood shopping areas such as Mill Rd, Cherry Hinton Rd, Arbury Ct., Chesterton Road and Chesterton High St. Council recognises the work undertaken to date to prepare for the future and thanks all City Council staff for their outstanding endeavours over the last 12 months. Council notes the structural changes in the retail sector that have occurred over the last twelve months and of the significant challenge still to come. Therefore, it is timely to take stock, and review and coordinate our ongoing activity with an eye to the future.

We therefore welcome the proposed appointment of the Economic Recovery Officer as set out in the Budget Setting Report. We also resolve that the council, as the city's representative body and, with its key roles in planning, streets & open spaces and commercial property ownership, should continue to lead the process of preparing the City's recovery, building on the effective work undertaken to date to respond to COVID19. This work should be undertaken in conjunction with the Cambridge Business Development (BID), established partnerships such as the GCP and the Combined Authority, working with stakeholders and actively involving the public.

The proposed Review will consider:

- The work of the Economic Recovery Officer in facilitating the recovery of the city centre and neighbourhood shopping areas
- means of offering a broader range of local independent shops, including start-ups, making the centre a destination for retail and supporting the recovery of neighbourhood areas.
- ensuring a secure future for a thriving, popular 7-day market which works for customers and traders
- the changing nature of physical retail for ongoing high street businesses, in particular the key anchor presences
- the demand for co-working spaces which builds on remote and flexible working trends outside the home
- the role of arts and culture and of conserving the city's heritage
- reviewing the public realm schemes currently proposed thereby capitalising on the possible availability of government funding for city centre improvements

- the development of improved public transport access and cycle parking and completion of the traffic-free goal envisaged in our “Making space for People” process
- to continue to challenge the national planning policy proposals regarding switches between use classes which may become 'permitted development' and therefore beyond local planning policy and control.

Council requests the Chief Executive to bring a report to the July meeting of Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on the ongoing work that the council has taken to respond to the needs of the City.

9b. Motion: Domestic Abuse in the Workplace

As an organisation Cambridge City Council is committed to the Work to Stop Domestic Abuse campaign. Cambridge City Council fully recognise that for many people, the workplace is not just a vital source of independent income but can also be a source of support, which enables staff to be safe at home and at work. Much has been done by the Council to date, however the GMB has recently introduced a Charter which identifies good practice, and now is the time to review our practice using the Charter as a model.

Everyone has a responsibility to end domestic abuse and as an organisation, Cambridge City Council will commit to the following actions:

- Train managers how to best support staff members experiencing domestic abuse
- Ensure that all staff have access to a domestic abuse in a workplace toolkit

- Every staff member will have access to our workplace policy, and we will actively take steps to ensure it is adhered to.
- Commit to reviewing our existing Policy by May 2021 and monitoring the amended policy on a regular basis
- Display domestic abuse national and local support/advice in workplaces across the organisation
- Sign up to GMB Union's 'Work to Stop Domestic Abuse' Charter.

9c. Motion: Young Carers' Action Day

Council commends the young people in Cambridge who selflessly provide care for others.

Council notes that:

- Recent research shows that one in five secondary school children may be a young carer. For many, their caring journey begins at a much younger age and can continue past 18.
- Caring for someone can be isolating, worrying and stressful. For young carers, this can negatively impact on their experiences and outcomes in education, having a lasting effect on their life chances.
- Each year, The Carers Trust has organised a Young Carers' Action Awareness Day. In 2021 this will be renamed Young Carers' Action Day and marked on March 16.
- The purpose of the day is to raise public awareness of the challenges faced by young people and young adults because of their caring role, and to campaign for greater support for young carers to meet their needs.

Council resolves to:

- Promote Young Carers Action Day as widely as possible on an annual basis, where possible particularly to young carers and their families.
- To use the Spring edition of 'Cambridge Matters' to promote awareness of the valuable work of Centre 33 in supporting Young Carers.
- To work with local businesses and higher and further education providers around Cambridge to promote awareness of young carers and to encourage them to work with The Carers' Trust to promote opportunities and support for this group of people.
- Write to the County Council to express our willingness to form a partner alongside them, in their All Age Carers Strategy, when it is reviewed in 2022.

10. Written questions

- Please see the information pack for question and answers.

For more information please contact Democratic Services:

- democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk

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