



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION PACK

Date: Thursday, 22 July 2021

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Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport

Description

The portfolio is scrutinised by the Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee and covers the following:

Planning Policy

Development, implementation and monitoring of the Council's plans, policies and strategies relating to:

- Land use planning, including implementing the adopted Local Plan and developing local planning briefs and supplementary planning guidance
- Development of future planning policy including the Joint Local Plan, working with South Cambridgeshire District Council and other partners
- Strategic planning, working together with South Cambridgeshire District Council, on OxCam Arc planning and initiatives taking account of the need for conservation and sustainability of new development
- Council wider contributions to Combined Authority, regional and national planning policies and strategies formulated by other bodies and wider planning partnerships.

Delivering through planning policy and major planning decisions of the Council's objectives of:

- achieving net zero carbon in new development
- increasing biodiversity in Cambridge

Including the exercise of the Council's functions and the delivery of services:

Development control and building control services delivered as shared services including the joint management of the Greater Cambridge shared services, leading on all operational matters and improvement in relation to planning and building control.

Transport

- City Council contributions to transport projects impacting on Cambridge, including delivery by the County Council, Greater Cambridge Partnership, Combined Authority and other relevant authorities
- Public transport and congestion reduction plans including bus services and bus shelters, and future rail proposals and funding opportunities and cycling including secure cycle parking
- County Council roads, pavements and cycle route issues in Cambridge, including maintenance and road safety, parking and off-street parking and advancing the interests of pedestrians and cyclists as well as wider public transport and road users and schemes to provide walking and travel facilities for people with disabilities.

Progressing the objectives set out in the above areas through :

- Direct provision.
- Grant aid or other assistance to voluntary bodies and external organisations.
- Partnership delivery.

The relevant exercise of compulsory purchase powers and capital expenditure on the public realm from relevant s106 budgets.

Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing

Description

The portfolio is scrutinised by the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee and covers the following.

The development, implementation and monitoring of the Council's plans, policies and strategies on three priorities.

Open Spaces and Biodiversity

- Tree strategy.
- Open spaces, nature reserves, parks, recreation grounds, commons and closed churchyards, allotments, rivers and other water recreation areas.
- Inclusive access including for all ages, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities in Cambridge.

- Biodiversity.

Including the Council's responsibilities for

- Drainage and sewerage.
- Open space maintenance.
- Play facilities.
- Recreation grounds including park paddling pools/splash pads
- Allotments.
- Closed churchyards.
- Commons, nature reserves, parks and open spaces
- Rivers and other water recreation areas, adopted watercourses and drainage, including work with the Cam Conservators and the Council's Conservator representatives.
- Events on public spaces.
- Nature conservation.
- Environmental improvement.
- Biodiversity.

Sustainable Food

- Council representative on the Cambridge Sustainable Food partnership board.
- Council representative on the city's Food Poverty Alliance.
- Leading delivery on the Council's Sustainable Food Policy Statement.
- Working with local partners to promote food justice and increase food redistribution.
- Developing Meanwhile and other additional growing spaces.

Community Safety and Policing

- Councillor lead and representative on the Community Safety Partnership and city policing priority setting, and work with Cambridge police and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Responsibility for the CCTV system.
- Working with Lead Councillor on Community Safety and the Council's representative on the countywide Police and Crime Panel.

Ensure that the climate emergency is considered in all initiatives in their portfolio and ensure their portfolio contributes towards Cambridge becoming a zero carbon city
Progressing the objectives set out in the above sections by:

- Direct provision.
- Grant aid or other assistance to voluntary bodies and external organisations.
- Partnership delivery.

The relevant exercise of compulsory purchase powers.

1.

Active travel and the deteriorating state and misuse of pavements in the city

Living Streets Cambridge recently published its report, from Risky Streets to Living Streets, detailing the results of a survey of over 300 residents about their experience of using their local pavements for active travel. The report clearly emphasised the deteriorating state of footways in the city and the barriers this presents to active travel, especially for the disabled, the elderly and for parents with young children. At the same time it revealed the importance of safe walking to economic activity in the city. Will the Council take the lead in organising a joint action task force charged with making our pavements safe for walking, by escalating repair and maintenance and enforcing regulations about cycling, the use of eScooters, and pavement parking in conjunction with the County Council and the relevant agencies?

2.

I would like to refer councillors and officers to the following documents:

"Major Facilities Sub Regional Facilities in the Cambridge Area - Review of Evidence and Site Options" published Jan 2013
(<https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/RD-CSF/RD-CSF-020.pdf>)

and

Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy published and approved on 02 June 2016
(<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieIssueDetails.aspx?Id=16302&PlanId=0&Opt=3#A15718>)

Please can Cambridge City Council, alongside South Cambridgeshire District Council commit to undertaking a review and a progress update of both of these documents, and reporting back to the relevant committees, with specific reference to:

1) A new large concert hall - mindful of Cambridge University's recent announcement on a centre of excellence for music performance
(<https://cambridgetownowl.com/2021/03/25/the-time-for-cambridges-new-large-concert-hall-has-arrived/>)

2) A new large swimming pool - mindful that this was proposed by the University of Cambridge for their NW Cambridge site but which is yet to be delivered - despite significant actual and planned population growth.

I'm not looking for a comprehensive and detailed answer, just a commitment that such a review will take place and report back in the autumn. Otherwise, what's the point on spending a significant amount of money on the strategies in the first place if there is no intention to deliver what the strategies identify as the needs of our city.

3.

On the 1st of July the Secretary of State for the Environment declared Cambridge Water an area of serious water stress. The Stantec Report, commissioned by Cambridge City Council and published last November, found that 'there is no environmental capacity for additional development to be supplied with water by increased abstraction from the Chalk aquifer. Even the current level of abstraction is widely believed to be unsustainable'. In view of this, should the council support a freeze on all further development?

A separate member of the public wished to register their support for this public question.

4.

The proposed goal of building good relations seems at odds with punitive actions toward and eviction of Travellers last year. I have seen and heard city councillors speak of a 'process' when they are made aware of Travellers arriving in their wards, but it is very unclear what this process entails. I am concerned, given what we know about police racism locally and nationally, that this process involves the police in a way that causes harm to our GRT neighbours. This is particularly worrying in the context of the new Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts bill, which strengthens police powers. What exactly is the process for making contact with and supporting Gypsies and Travellers when they arrive in the city, who is involved in the process, and in the last two years to date how many contacts between council officials and Traveller groups who have stopped on Council land have ended in an eviction or Police action?

5.

Market Matters

On the 19th July a message was received from the Head of Environmental Services stating that the report on the market redevelopment to the scrutiny committee has been moved from Oct 2021 to March 2022. Also that the design of a potential demountable stall will be revisited and consideration given to the types of evening events to be held. Market traders have a list of community focussed event and social engagement activities we want to present in this extra time window.

However, the aim of this question is to point out that traders have had (1) A very poor 2020 with the majority of traders unable to trade for most of the year (2) A shut down in the start of 2021 (3) A phased reopening of the market (4) Some return to 'normality' on July 19th.

As a result of this some traders have had to use food banks in place of donating to food banks. The majority of traders have managed to survive by using their savings while retaining most of their staff. A very limited number of traders managed to operate throughout this period as they sell food and other essentials, even there the situation was abnormal and not sustainable being a 'roller-coaster' of over-demand crashing to very poor weeks and months. We are happy to have helped in this period and remain committed to selling local goods, supporting the local community and welcoming residents and visitors alike.

However, Market rents will return to 'normal' (currently they are ~20% lower than normal) in the near future based on foot-fall being 'only' 18% lower than a normal year.

Both market traders and many shop owners are aware that much of the footfall are local people unable to travel far and that we are still missing the large numbers of international tourists, students, conference attendees and other visitors. Records of takings have been supplied by some shops to Market Traders and these show that there is an income gap of 50% or so compared with a normal year (based on the last 5 years), the market overall sees this kind of income gap. Similarly any redevelopment will inevitably produce disruption and/or displacement of market traders.

Timing of the redevelopment is key to ensuring continuity for small local businesses and the incomes of many local families.

SO - can the council confirm that such factors will be considered in timing of any redevelopment, met people do not want this year to be immediately followed by another period of disruption AND can they revisit plans to return the rents to normal as will happen in the next 2 months.

6.

The County Council has proposed putting up bollards on Skaters Meadow Footpath, the city access to Grantchester Meadows, to prevent vehicles access, making the area safe for pedestrians and cyclists and to allow rewilding there.

The City Council has declared climate and biodiversity emergencies, and this is in line with its policies to enhance biodiversity and support active travel over car transport.

All Newnham Councillors have backed this proposal.

.

Can we depend on the City Council to support them and make clear to the County Council that no legal footpath in the city should be turned into a car park?

7.

Will the City Council commit to ringfence funding to build Traveller sites within the boundaries of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Team? Will you also commit to working with neighbouring authorities to safeguard against the displacement of Cambridgeshire's permanent Traveller communities due to gentrification and detrimental consequences of local development projects?

8.

Paid promotion of activities or products that are potentially harmful to mental or physical health or the environment, such as junk food, gambling, alcohol or the most polluting forms of transport, are very common on our television screens, radios, social media feeds and across a variety of out of home advertising media. Here in Cambridge, I have noticed in particular that there are many, many adverts for junk food on billboards and at bus stops.

There is a strong precedent for precluding such forms of advertising. Most forms of tobacco advertising and sponsorship were banned from 2003.

I learnt recently that several other councils have developed more ethical advertising policies, recognising both the public health benefits and potential savings to the public purse through restricting advertising of harmful products. Liverpool passed a "Low Carbon Advertising Policy" motion in January of this year. Bristol **Bristol City Council** became the first local authority outside of London to ban advertising for junk food, gambling and payday loans on ad sites it controls. In December last year, **Amsterdam** municipality voted to end advertising for petrol and diesel cars, airlines and fossil fuel companies. Amsterdam implemented this ban on its transport network in May 2021. And in Norwich, the Labour-run council unanimously voted in June 2021 to limit harmful categories of advertising and sponsorship such as gambling, junk food and environmentally-damaging products, through developing an ethical advertising policy/. Since 2019, Transport for London has banned junk food ads on its transport, and several London councils have followed suite since then.

As a Cambridge resident, living near Newmarket Road, I've noticed that McDonalds has placed a LOT of adverts at bus stops which are of course heavily used by school children. The UK has one of the highest rates of childhood obesity in the UK, and it's the NHS which has to pick up the pieces when heart conditions, diabetes etc results. It's a similar story with air pollution: as many as one in five cases of asthma in children in the UK is linked to traffic fumes and other pollution*. It's great to see Cambridge council officers working hard to encourage active travel in our city, and get people cycling and walking - but the council's messaging and investment in this is undermined by car ads.

Will the city council develop an ethical advertising policy which avoids products that are potentially harmful to our communities advertising junk food, alcohol, gambling and damaging products etc. , building on the motion drafted by Norwich

Council? <https://cmis.norwich.gov.uk/Live/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=PPSsWDyo%2Btas7fUMyYUyk/bX9bOHQumaxlRT75xpZhKfGsYCpPWUFA%3D%3D&rUzwRPf%2BZ3zd4E7lk n8Lyw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNih225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ/LUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9lXnlg%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9/pWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2BAJvYtyA%3D%3D=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&Fg>

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[*https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/child-asthma-air-pollution-uk-nitrogen-dioxide-children-lancet-a8865016.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/child-asthma-air-pollution-uk-nitrogen-dioxide-children-lancet-a8865016.html)

9.

We know that there are serious material issues affecting Gypsy and Traveller life expectancies and opportunities. For example, recent research showed that 74% of GP surgeries refused registration to nomadic patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Good relations depend on the provision of adequate support for Gypsies and Travellers, including for example site provision, access to schools and medicine where needed. What concrete actions will you take to build good relations with the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire?"

10.

I raise concerns about the way in which this very important public project has been managed and presented to you, and at the Council's failure to involve the public properly in the Market Square project, which is a matter of concern for all Cambridge people and their councillors.

I welcome 2 things:

- 1) The improving dialogue between the Council and the market traders, notably that the officers are at last talking to each trader individually; and
- 2) The postponement of the Market Square report until March 2022, after the trials of the market stalls.

BUT

- 3) Can the officers please confirm by when they will have completed their current 1:1 meetings with all 150 Market Traders?
- 4) These meetings, which are essential to understand the traders' needs) should have been part of the RIBA Stage 1 briefing process.

- 5) The draft Concept Design on which the Council has been consulting is premature in the absence of this vital evidence of the traders' needs.
- 6) Both the draft Vision and the draft Concept Design are also premature in the absence of feasibility assessments, to establish which of the range of potential alternative activities set out in the Council's "wish-list" (and in question 17 of the public consultation) have realistic potential for the draft Concept Design.
- 7) All the above information is required as part of RIBA Stage 1 "Agree the brief and establish that the proposals can be accommodated on the site" – but has not been done. Instead, this project, which I can only describe as half-baked, is being presented as a Stage 2 Concept Design.
- 8) What's also missing from all of the above is the PUBLIC, as key users and ultimate clients for the Market Square project.

Turning to the extended Public consultation:

- 9) The questionnaire is very partial (for example there is nowhere in it for residents in or near the Market Square to register their particular interest);
- 10) The trial stalls which Councillors promised would be on site during the consultation only arrived on 14 July, a week after the scheduled end of the consultation;
- 11) Responses received before 14 July will not have had the chance to consider the potential stalls;
- 12) Both the main consultation and the extended consultation and stalls have been very badly publicised to users of the Square. Try walking around the Square and looking for a poster!
- 13) The Market Square Consultation page doesn't link the demountable stalls survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Demountable-stall-trial>
- 14) For all these reasons, the consultation responses will need to be treated with a very large pinch of salt.

What is missing from all of this is any real public engagement in the Vision for the Square, and its surroundings. I hope the Council will use the time until March 2022 not only to pursue the vital practical feasibility issues, but also to involve its public actively in visioning exercises for their Market Square and its surroundings.

11.

While welcoming Cllr Healy's Motion on the Policing Bill to be put to the full Council meeting on Thursday, 22 July 2021, it comes at a time of grave concern for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities living within Cambridge and travelling through it. **This Bill will pass.** Its second reading on the 5 July passed in the House by 359 to 263 and will eradicate nomadic life in Britain – this despite the fact it is opposed by the majority of police forces in the country. What is of critical importance, therefore, is what the Council resolves to do in Cambridge. The precedents are not encouraging. To have a Labour Council chasing and evicting an extended family group of Travellers composed of 18 adults and 20 children around Cambridge last summer, is not a good look.

You do not have to wait for the results of a Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) to recognise need, which only seeks to identify need for permanent sites. Yet the lack of permanent and transit sites is a continual source of flash points between the GRT community and the settled population of Cambridge. Travellers have a close relationship with Cambridge due to the importance of the 800 year-old Royal Chartered Midsummer Fair within their culture – it is not an 'event' but a gathering of the tribes. Until the Council challenges the systemic racism towards this community and within itself, there will be no improvement in this relationship.

Question: With the imminent threat of the criminalisation of trespass, will the Council now prioritise, with immediate effect, the provision of transit sites in and around Cambridge through the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Team?

12.

I'm very glad to see that Cllr Healy has put forward a motion to this meeting with the goal of putting pressure on the national government to fulfil their human rights obligations with regards to Travellers. However, the council also has human rights obligations to GRT communities at a local level, and they have repeatedly broken these with Traveller evictions during a pandemic that has disproportionately affected GRT people both directly and indirectly. Speaking as an infectious disease epidemiologist, evictions and a lack of access to safe, adequate, and legal sites are dangerous to public health. Will Council commit not to evict any more Travellers who stop on public land until adequate sites have been provided and access to health services ensured for GRT communities?

Council 22 July 2021

Agenda Item 5-Oral Questions

Question number 1

From Councillor K Porrer
To Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment & City Centre

Question

Given the current heavy use of our open spaces throughout the day and into the evening, and in particular those around the city centre, would the Executive Councillor agree to the later opening of the public toilets on Jesus Green to 10 pm during the summer period, and to at least 8 pm in the winter period.

Question number 2

From Councillor R Robertson
To Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Strategy and External Partnerships

Question

What is the Council's response to Government claims that last Monday was "Freedom Day"?

Question number 3

From Councillor J Dalzell
To Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing

Question

Important trees on Alexandra Gardens are currently under threat of significant and irreversible damage in proposals that seek to protect the Council against potential legal claims from an insurance company. This claim primarily arises from an extension that was approved and built long after the trees had been established, with similar issues arising in

wards across the city. What steps will the Council take to try to limit such issues arising in the future?

Question number 4

From Councillor D Baigent
To Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport

Question

Does the Council support the report by Professor Jo Ulanowski on the impact of traffic restrictions on pollution?

Question number 5

From Councillor C Payne
To Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment & City Centre:

Question

Can the Executive Councillor please give us her reaction to the trial demountable stall currently on the market square?

Question number 6

From Councillor H Davies
To Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing

Question

Can the Executive Councillor give an update on the click and collect trial for verge management?

Question number 7

From Councillor M Healy
To Executive Councillor for Housing

Question

Can the Executive Councillor update us on the progress that is being made towards meeting our commitment to house more Syrian refugees.

Question number 8

From Councillor R Dryden
To Executive Councillor for Communities and Statutory Deputy Leader

Question

What are the current plans for reopening sport and leisure facilities?

Question number 9

From Councillor N Bennett
To Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing

Question

I think all councillors will be well aware that drug dealing and linked antisocial behaviour have increased under lock down and also spread to different streets . This means that many residents are having to report drug related anti-social behaviour for the first time . Unfortunately, many residents are struggling with the reporting process and this means that problems are not being reported fully -if at all. Lack of information means that the limited police resources are not allocated efficiently and the opportunity to catch these problems early is lost. Some wards have high levels of digital exclusion and cannot access the internet based information on how to report incidents.

Residents are also not well informed as to what information is shared between council and police. This makes it more likely that incidents won't be reported comprehensively. Residents then don't see an adequate police response and lose faith in the reporting process leading to even more under-reporting, fewer resources being allocated and further loss of confidence. Will the council (in conjunction with the police) undertake the following steps to make the reporting process easier and more effective ?

1 Put a simple one page guide in Cambridge Matters and Open Door to reporting used needles, anti social behaviour and related criminal

behaviour together with up to date information on local needle exchange services ,preferably on a separate sheet that can be used as a poster.

2 Change the web based reporting so that there are Question prompts and click button links between council needle reporting, council antisocial behaviour reporting and council crime information.

3 Resolve the GDPR issues that inhibit sharing information between council and police by giving users a clear choice via suitably annotated tick boxes on the web pages as to whether information goes to council, police or both.

4 Ensure that there is a clear anonymous reporting option on all web forms

Question number 10

From Councillor O Hauk
To Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing

Question

Several residents have raised repeated concerns to me about failing trees in the new developments of Trumpington (Abode specifically). This is a very understandable and urgent concern in the light of our climate and biodiversity crises. Some of these trees are still owned by the developers (e.g. Countryside), while some have been or will be adopted by the County or City Council. Can the Executive Councillor explain how the council plans to work with developers to ensure that any replacement trees that the developers are still responsible for will be replaced and appropriately cared for?"

Question number 11

From Councillor I Flaubert
To Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment & City Centre

Question

Would the Exececutive Councillor agree to continue the reduced rent for our valued market traders past the recently announced cut-off date of 31st July 2021

Question number 12

From Councillor A Gilderdale
To Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing

Question

Can the Executive Councillor please advise members on measures taken in anticipation of the expected Midsummer weekend gathering on our city centre open spaces?

Question number 13

From Councillor J Gawthrope Wood
To Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Strategy and External Partnerships

Question

What does he anticipate will be the Government's proposals for devolution?

Question number 14

From Councillor P Sheil
To Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport

Question

What are your transport priorities for Cambridge and for the GCP over the next three years?

Question number 15

From Councillor N Sweeney
To Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing

Question

Can the Executive Councillor let members know what progress there has been in discussions of continued public access to Grantchester Meadows, and what the City Council's involvement has been?

Question number 16

From Councillor D Lee
To Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport

Question

With the pandemic leading a revolution in how and where people work, with a notable increase in hybrid and home working, could the Executive Councillor confirm whether the council will be reviewing the need for so many office blocks around the city that at the moment lie vacant and when occupied tend to generate congestion?

Question number 17

From Councillor C McQueen
To Executive Councillor for Housing

Question

What support can the council provide for private renters?

Question number 18

From Councillor T Bick
To Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

Question

In the interests of clarity for the public and all the many stakeholders, could the executive councillor clarify whether the council is now undertaking an exercise to re-imagine the city centre to take account of the long term changes in the retail sector accelerated by Covid, as proposed in my proposal to council on 1st March and to Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 12th July, despite rejecting the suggestion on both occasions?

Question number 19

From Councillor A Cox
To Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment
& City Centre

Question

Given the recent interest in the Cows About Cambridge art trail, could the Exec Councillor for the Climate Change, Environment and the City Centre confirm whether there are any plans to extend these locations outside the central areas of Cambridge and into many of our other wards across the city?

Question number 20

From Councillor G Bird
To Executive Councillor for Communities and Statutory
Deputy Leader

Question

Where can people who are self-isolating or who still need to shield go for support?

Question number 21

From Councillor J Scutt
To Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable
Food and Community Wellbeing

Question

Can the Executive Councillor update members on progress towards making Cambridge a herbicide free city?

Question number 22

From Councillor Hannah Copley
To Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable
Food and Community Wellbeing

Question

Abandoned needles and drug-related litter are frequently reported by residents and represent a real health hazard until both reported and safely collected. The Council has clear reporting mechanisms available for residents to report such items, but not a mechanism for residents to monitor and learn of hotspots where these items are found, which may be close to their houses or near to where their children play. Would the City Council create an online map updated in real time for residents to see where reported needles are/were located, in order to inform themselves about the safety of locations in which they want to spend time, and to be extra-vigilant in areas which are emerging hotspots?

Question number 23

From Councillor S Davies
To Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing

Question

Of 100 trees planted on the Ninewells development in the last five years, 11 are dead and several others have already had to be replaced for the third time, having been killed off by strimming damage or lack of watering. What further action does the Executive Councillor believe can be taken by the City Council to ensure that developers are obliged to not only plant, but also nurture to maturity, trees on new build estates in the city?"

Question number 24

From Councillor S Baigent
To Executive Councillor for Communities and Statutory Deputy Leader

Question

Can the Executive Councillor update us on developments in the period poverty initiative?

Question number 25

From Councillor S Smith

To Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport

Question

How do you expect the Council will respond to Government planning reform legislation?

Question number 26

From Councillor D Pounds

To Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport

Question

What are the opportunities and challenges for Cambridge from the Government's Arc strategic planning framework, and future consultations?

Second questions

From Cllr Copley

To Executive Councillor for Strategy and External Partnerships

1. Some local residents who would like to take part in public meetings that are currently in person have asked if a hybrid meeting would be possible for them, so that they can have a right of reply during the Public Questions section of full council meetings. Will the council explore a hybrid meeting format for the "Public questions time" section of full council meetings, such that residents who are shielding or self-isolating, or carers for the vulnerable, can both read out their own question, and give a follow up question after hearing the response?

Question number

From

To

Question

Question number

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To

Question

Briefing accompanying Council motion on Policing Bill

Information on unauthorised encampments on Cambridge City Council land

- The Council does not hold information on the number of unauthorised encampments in the city that are not on its own land. There have been 16 unauthorised encampments between 2019 to date on Council owned land.
- Most of the encampments have had children travelling with them.
- In some of the cases access to Addenbrooke's hospital has been recorded as the reason for staying.

Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller people

Hate crime/incidents

- Research from the Equality and Human Rights Commission published in 2018 found that 44% of the British public surveyed expressed openly negative attitudes towards Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, more than any other protected characteristic group. Police officers consider hate crime to be the most common issue Gypsies, Roma and Travellers report to them, but less than 15% of hate incidents are reported to the police.¹

Health

- Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT) undertook a mystery shopping exercise which found 74 out of 100 GP surgeries broke NHS England guidance by refusing to register a nomadic patient in March and April of 2021.² (Anecdotal information suggests that where Gypsy and Traveller people have experienced this, some may be more likely to come to Addenbrooke's A&E to drop in for health support.)
- Women and Equalities Select Committee report from 2019³ quotes following stats/findings:
 - Life expectancy is 10 to 12 years less than that of the non-Traveller population
 - 42 per cent of English Gypsies are affected by a long-term condition, as opposed to 18 per cent of the general population

¹ [Challenging hate | Friends, Families and Travellers \(gypsy-traveller.org\)](https://www.friendsfamiliesandtravellers.org.uk/challenging-hate/)

² [Locked-out-A-snapshot-of-access-to-General-Practice-for-nomadic-communities-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic.pdf \(gypsy-traveller.org\)](https://www.friendsfamiliesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Locked-out-A-snapshot-of-access-to-General-Practice-for-nomadic-communities-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic.pdf)

³ [Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities - Women and Equalities Committee \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/womenandequalitiesselectcommittee/)

- One in five Gypsy Traveller mothers will experience the loss of a child, compared to one in a hundred in the non-Traveller community.

Education

- Women and Equalities Select Committee report from 2019 quotes the government's Race Disparity Audit published in October 2017 that found that pupils from Gypsy backgrounds and those from a Traveller or Irish Heritage background had the lowest attainment of all ethnic groups throughout their school years.

Employment

- The Women and Equalities Select Committee report from 2019 shared that Gypsies and Travellers have the lowest economic activity rate out of any other ethnic group.

Lack of trust in public services

Women and Equalities Committee report: "Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people have historically been persecuted across Europe, with every modern EU state having anti-Gypsy laws at some point. In the sixteenth century a law was passed in England that allowed the state to imprison, execute or banish anyone that was perceived to be a Gypsy. This history is felt keenly by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and contributes to the lack of trust the Communities have in the state and state bodies."

The committee also found that there has been persistent failure by policymakers to tackle the inequalities highlighted above in a sustained way. In turn, this has led to a lack of trust in public services.

Agenda item 6b

Councillor Copley proposed the following amendment to motion (additional text underlined).

This council notes:

- The right to peaceful assembly and protest is a fundamental human right and a crucial part of our democratic society. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill (hereinafter “PCSC bill”) undermines that right and represents a significant impingement on civil liberties. Additionally, the PCSC bill specifically targets Gypsy and Traveller communities, effectively criminalising their way of life.
- The provisions in part 3, concerning the right to protest and assemble, represent an unprecedented extension of policing powers which would effectively give both police and Government ministers the powers to ban or impose undue restrictions on peaceful protests, which interferes with the right to peaceful assembly, enshrined in international law. Many measures are neither proportionate nor necessary. The Bill also sets out to crackdown on explicitly nonviolent dissent - a form of protest which is clearly protected by the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. There is a huge risk of abuse of powers under the bill as it gives the Home Secretary unfettered power, to define “serious disruption” without parliamentary approval.
- The current version of the bill would also allow police to restrict static assemblies and vigils, rather than just moving demonstrations. A picket line outside a workplace, a sit-down protest or a solidarity vigil (like so many peaceful vigils held in Parker’s Piece) could all be limited or banned if they are deemed to have an undue “impact” upon people. The whole point of demonstrations is to have an impact. If we think of some of the key moments in civil rights history, where change happened, it was through protests such as the civil rights movement in the US, the suffragette’s movement in the UK or the women’s strike

in Dagenham factories which led to the equal pay act for women in the UK.

- The change in criminal threshold significantly lowers the standard to find someone guilty of a serious offence and the provisions are open to such wide-ranging and discretionary interpretation that they would almost certainly give rise to even more arbitrary and discriminatory approaches to how protests are managed. This may disproportionately impact on ethnic minority groups, who already experience disproportionality in the criminal justice system. The PCSC Bill also includes greater police powers to enhance stop and search– a tactic already used disproportionately against people of colour. The structural inequalities in the criminal justice system need to be addressed first, not exacerbated.
- It is a really serious criminal offence which includes fine up to £10,000 and 10 years in prison for causing “serious annoyance” for taking part in a noisy protest. There will be a huge deterrent effect in terms of participating in protests or vigils as a result of the potential to be imprisoned for lengthy periods of time. Amnesty International has warned about the possibility of this leading to prisoners of conscience in this country, as a result of the bill, with people locked up for years for engaging in peaceful protests. The sort of thing we see in dictator regimes in other parts of the world.
- Part 4 of the Bill contains measures specifically targeting Gypsy and Traveller communities, who are some of the most discriminated against and marginalised minority ethnic communities in UK society. Yet the new PCSCB Bill further targets them by criminalising trespass to land. These measures will further exacerbate inequalities and discrimination, pushing these groups into the criminal justice system as Gypsies and Travellers unable to pay a fine (£2500) could be imprisoned (three months).
- No family willingly stops somewhere they are not welcome, with no running water, waste disposal or electricity, and the way to resolve this is not by criminalising GRT families or by introducing anti-encampment landscaping in open spaces.,. The existence of encampments needs to be understood not only in terms of the age-

old cultural traditions of Gypsies and Travellers, but in terms of the historic failure of government to properly meet their accommodation needs. The proposals are being put forward despite the existence of a range of other eviction powers for encampments, and despite alternative solutions such as negotiated stopping agreements.

- The new provisions also allow authorities to seize property and caravans, which effectively amounts to seizing their homes and all their worldly possessions. The measure is clearly discriminatory and disproportionate. The consequences of these measures will be devastating for Gypsy and Traveller families – suddenly without a home or possessions and with the lead family member thrown into the criminal justice system. This will also have implications for Gypsy and Traveller families with children in Cambridgeshire, who may be at risk of entering the care system.

This Council resolves to:

- Express strong concerns about the provisions in Part 3 and Part 4 of the PCSCB Bill, which will have a significant impact on the UK Government's adherence to its international and domestic human rights obligations and which will also affect relations and trust in Cambridge with Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- Stand in solidarity with Traveller and Gypsy communities in Cambridge and continue to build trust and good relations with them.
- Write to the Home Secretary to express strong concerns about the provisions in the PCSCB bill which impact on civil liberties including the right to protest and peaceful assembly and in relation to the provisions targeting Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- Change the approach to unauthorised encampments, from enforcement, to an approach which prioritises provision of sites and negotiated stopping arrangements.
- Seek to identify suitable transit sites within the City of Cambridge for Travellers to legally stop at, recognising the immense cultural importance of the City to the Traveller community.

- Explore with the Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC) team potential locations for a transit site to enable the close relatives of Travellers requiring medical care to have access to a legal transit site, as part of their conversation with local communities about the future of the CBC.
- Continue to work with neighbouring local authorities in Cambridgeshire to find solutions where it is found that there is a lack of legal sites and stopping places for GRT communities.
- Identify opportunities to work with the police to find best practice solutions to supporting Gypsy and Traveller communities when no legal site places are available and to enable them to move to safe stopping places.

Agenda Item 6c

Councillor Collis proposed and Councillor Scutt seconded the following amendments to motion (additional text underlined, deleted text ~~struck through~~).

Council notes:

That it unanimously voted in favour of declaring a Biodiversity Emergency on 18th July 2019;

That this included reducing and removing the need to use ~~pesticides~~ herbicides on highway footpaths and verges, and to find viable and effective alternatives;

That the recent Biodiversity strategy focusses on city council owned open spaces but excludes county council assets including roads, pavements and infrastructure which are still being treated with ~~pesticides~~ herbicides by council staff;

The importance of working collaboratively and in partnership with the joint administration at the County Council to address herbicide use and ~~That with~~, the changed control of the County Council, there is real opportunity to stop day to day ~~pesticide~~ herbicide use for weed management across our city within the next year.

Council resolves:

To explore the potential for making two wards completely herbicide-free at the earliest available opportunity on a trial basis, including:

- Carrying out a full assessment of the resources needed for any trial (which *may* include additional signage)
- Working with local communities in the wards identified to raise awareness of the trial and encourage participation / feedback, which *may* include the need for additional signage alongside other digital methods such as social media/ council website

~~To commit to making two wards completely pesticide-free from now on as a trial, and making the relevant ward residents aware of this trial;~~

In order to do this, to continue our assessment of the full range of alternative weed control options available (including but not limited to brush cleaning equipment) ~~commit to purchasing or hiring brush cleaning equipment to use in the~~ pesticide herbicide free wards (and others where possible).

To assess alternative options with active involvement of Pesticide Free Cambridge representatives and frontline council staff to select the product, prior to the next planned round of treatments in 2021;

To report back to the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee on the differences between the ~~pesticide~~ herbicide-free wards and those wards that are not pesticide-free in any identified trial, and on the use of identified alternatives ~~the brush equipment~~ before the start of the 2022 cycle of treatments. This would include information about operative time and savings or costs made, feedback from residents and operatives, and the level of any complaints or compliments;

To explore the most effective methods of communicating with residents (and any additional resource implications) about any necessary herbicide applications, which *may* include the following commitments (both existing and additional);

- ~~To commit~~ to publishing the planned dates of ~~pesticide~~ herbicide treatments by road/ward for the remainder of 2021 and thereafter on the council's website, allowing residents to find out when a treatment is planned. This is because it can take several days before it is clear that a pesticide treatment has been applied and residents need to be informed so that they can choose to avoid the area and to keep children and animals in particular away from the treatment sites;
- ~~To commit, in addition to the online listings,~~ to displaying signage in situ on the relevant roads and pavements with dates of any herbicide treatments from 2022 onwards.
- ~~To commit~~ to publishing the amount of ~~pesticide~~ herbicide used each month and the cost to the council;

To commit officer time to working with community groups who may wish to volunteer to clear their street spaces to avoid ~~pesticide~~ herbicide use;

To complete a comprehensive assessment of the resources needed to ensure we can make ~~To commit to making~~ Cambridge City Council ~~pesticide~~ herbicide free by the end of 2022.

To publish a regular six monthly update to the ~~Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee~~ be included in the environmental reports already made to Area Committees on any exceptional usage of ~~pesticide~~ herbicide (for example for Japanese Knotweed) and to establish a clear protocol for any such usage, ensuring that the least harmful options are selected, including sign off by a senior manager before any use is permitted.

To commit to sharing the data on our trials with other councils considering similar trials and allowing an exchange of information (and visits if possible) for council staff to showcase and share Cambridge City Council's learning.

Agenda Item 6d:

Councillor Sheil proposed and Councillor Scutt seconded the following amendment to motion (deleted text ~~struck through~~ and additional text underlined).

~~Noting the~~ This council notes that:

- There is increased participation in outdoor swimming, which has accelerated during the pandemic, and ~~its~~ which has a recognised beneficial impact on wellbeing and mental health.
- In April 2021, GLL expressed a wish to explore with the Council an extension of the season of the outdoor Lido beyond the traditional closing date in mid-September, and to keep the Lido open to run a reduced swimming programme over the winter months.
- Initial discussions were held between officers and GLL in May, and after being given the go-ahead by the Executive Councillor to further these discussions, officers have continued to work with GLL to explore both the feasibility of swimming in the Lido over the winter, and what an extended offer may look like.
- A general consultation questionnaire for swimmers at the Lido, The Friends of Jesus Green Lido, and other open water swimming groups, has been designed, in order to gain feedback and assess levels of support.
- All feedback received will help further shape a final offer from GLL for continued outdoor swimming at the Lido.
- Details of a final programme will be announced by the end of the summer.
- Opening the Lido in the winter represents a significant undertaking and necessitates a great deal of work. It is therefore particularly praiseworthy that GLL and officers have put (and will put) so much time into this during such a difficult year.

~~council calls on the Executive Councillor for Communities to bring forward options for winter opening of Jesus Green Lido in consultation with GLL and the Friends of the Lido.~~

This council therefore resolves to:

- Thank GLL for bringing forward this proposal and GLL team and officers both for the feasibility work done so far and for the further consultation and feasibility work planned.
- Ask that the Executive Councillor and officers ensure that proposals made are compatible with the current contractual arrangements with GLL.
- Ask that a review of the trial is brought to a future Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

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**Council 22 July 2021
Written Questions and Answers**

1. Councillor Payne

To Councillor Moore Executive Councillor for Environment, Climate Change & City Centre

QUESTION 1.1

Can the Executive Councillor provide an itemised breakdown of the costs of the market square redevelopment project consultation so far, including the costs of any external bodies used in drawing up the initial consultation, and the cost of acquiring the model demountable stalls?

RESPONSE 1.1

Please see itemised cost breakdown as follows:

Vision and Concept Design public consultation:

**1365 Design and artwork for communication materials
557 Summary document of key Concept Design proposals
936 Poster display via City Council Distribution Board service**

£2,858

Demountable stall display 'test' trial:

**1395 Design and artwork for communication materials
350 Stall unit hire until 31 July 2021
85 Stall weight delivery
468 Poster display via City Council Distribution Board service
for additional period of public consultation**

£2,298

QUESTION 1.2

Can the Executive Councillor please detail the proposed next stages of consultation to take place relating to the market square redevelopment project, including the timeline for further consultation and testing of the demountable stalls, including the planned next stages if the proposed demountable stall model from City B does not gain support from the traders and market users?

RESPONSE 1.2

The six-week public consultation online survey on the proposed Market Square Project Vision and Concept Design, which started on 19th May has been extended by a further two weeks to end the 31st July 2021.

Following the close of the consultation, we will analyse and review the responses and consider if the Concept Design stage of the Project would benefit from further public engagement, either to address any specific risks or issues highlighted by consultee responses; and/ or any sections of the Cambridge community whose views may not have been adequately reflected in the responses received. Any agreed additional engagement work will be undertaken during the late summer/autumn/ winter 2021 period.

Whilst the proposed Concept Design included two prototype demountable stall design options, we took the decision, at the start of the public consultation, to review whether there were any commercially available demountable stall products, which were potentially suitable and available for trial 'testing', before incurring the risk and cost of commissioning an 'untested' prototype design.

To date, we have identified one commercially available demountable stall supplier – City B Group – with a stall unit system which would appear to be both robust and durable and available for trial testing. This demountable stall system units is available in a range of stall sizes, up to a maximum of 3 x 3 metres in trade-able area; and can be configured internally to meet the requirements of a variety of different trader business types, including retail, hot food and fresh produce.

We have been able to secure the loan of two 'sample' demountable stall units from the City B Group for an initial 2 week 'display test' trial. Although these 'display test' stalls are slightly smaller than the current fixed market stalls on the square, they are the only demountable stall units which the supplier had available for immediate hire. As these slightly smaller stalls use the same demountable system as the larger 3 x 3 metre stalls, we agreed to proceed with organising the initial short term 'display test' trial using the available smaller units.

The City B Group 'display test' trial began on 14th July and is in two stages, with the first stage being an initial assessment by traders and the general public, involving the erection of two 'sample' stalls for 'test' display over a two-week period until 31st

July. A separate online survey has been made available to capture feedback. The trial demountable stalls will be selected and evaluated against a design brief and evaluation criteria, developed with market traders, which include the following key elements:

- Canopy durability, ie. whether it is waterproof, fire-proof, tear-proof
- Practicalities of setting up and taking down
- Adaptability of internal layout to meet different traders' business needs
- Wind resistance
- Storage needs
- Transport needs
- Stall structure weight load limit
- Accessibility
- Orientation of market stalls

- **Alternative product display fixtures/ fittings**

Whilst there are other demountable stall manufacturers, all work to defined commissions and don't carry sample stock products. To date, it has not been possible to obtain any other robust demountable stall supplier for the initial 'test' trial. That said, we are continuing to source other suppliers and are confident of finding at least another robust and durable demountable stall system to trial.

From the initial 'test' trial evaluation outcome, we hope to identify a preferred product supplier to trial at stage two. Subject to the support of participating traders, the second stage will involve running a full operational trial of c5-10 stalls from the selected preferred supplier, over the coming autumn/ winter period.

Should the trial prove unsuccessful in finding a workable demountable stall design, we will revisit the proposed Vision and Concept Design to consider how it could still be reasonably achieved, with either all fixed stalls; or a combination of both demountable and fixed stalls.

In accordance with the resolution passed by the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee in March 2021, we will not proceed to the next stage of the Market Square Project until the results from the proposed Vision and Concept Design public consultation and demountable stall trial have been reviewed by that Committee and approval to proceed secured. We have reviewed the project timeline for this and, based on public consultation responses received to date on the proposed Vision, Concept Design and demountable stall trial, have decided to defer bringing the consultation outcome and recommended 'next steps' report to Committee until March 2022.

To take part in the consultation on the proposed Market Square Vision and Concept Design, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Cambridge-Market-Square-Project-Public-Consultation>. To provide feedback on the demountable stall trial, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Demountable-stall-trial>. The deadline for completing both is Saturday, 31 July.

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