



Council 22 July 2021

Decisions

Full meeting recording available on the webpage

1. Minutes
 - Approved

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

4. Recommendations of the Executive.
 - 4a. 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances – Housing Revenue Account
 - Approved carry forward requests of £18,610,000 in HRA and General Fund capital budgets and associated resources from 2020/21 into 2021/22 and beyond to fund re-phased net capital spending, as detailed in appendix D of the report and the associated notes to the appendix.

 - 4b. Annual Treasury Management (Outturn) Report 2020/21
 - Approved the report with the Council's actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2020/21.

 - 4c. 2020/21 General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances
 - Approve carry forward requests totalling £658,670 of revenue funding from 2020/21 to 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix C of the officer's report.

- Approve carry forward requests of £49,211,000 of capital resources from 2020/21 to 2021/22 to fund rephased net capital spending, as detailed in Appendix D of the officer's report.
- Approve the addition of £85,000 capital funding in 2021/22 to undertaken works to the Council Chamber/Committee Rooms to stream meetings/enable hybrid meetings.

5. Oral Questions

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

6. Motions

6a: The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration

Agreed the following:

The UN Environment Programme Food Waste Index Report (2021) highlighted the extent and environmental impacts of food waste, noting that if food waste were a country it would be the third biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions. This makes it a major factor in 'the three planetary crises of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste' (p.4). It is also behind UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, which aims to halve food waste and reduce food loss by 2030.

With the next major climate negotiations, COP26, due to begin in Glasgow later this year and with food waste still nowhere on the agenda, we have – collectively – a unique opportunity to put pressure on governments to address this issue. Without tackling food waste at international, national, regional and local levels, we won't be able to meet key climate goals.

In the UK, initiatives such as WRAP's Courtauld Commitment 2025, which is a voluntary commitment between participating retailers, farmers and growers, food manufacturers and hospitality businesses, across ten years to meet three targets;

- a 20% per person reduction in food and drink waste associated with production and consumption of food and drink in the UK, post farm gate
- a reduction in impact associated with water use and water stress in the supply chain
- a 20% per person reduction in the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with production and consumption of food and drink in the UK

While initiatives such as the Courtauld Commitment aim to make positive changes, we also urgently need coordinated action at national government level.

Launched in December 2020, the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration brings together *‘all types and sizes of local authorities – from small and medium sized towns to mega-cities, districts and regions, territories, federal states and provinces – to speak with a unified voice in renewing their commitments to develop sustainable food policies, promote mechanisms for joined-up action and call on national governments to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency.’* It is only by speaking with this ‘unified voice’ that we can put pressure on global decision makers to act now, before it is too late.

Council therefore recognises;

- the connection between environmental and social justice
- the environmental devastation caused by the current food system, that results in one-third of all food that is produced globally being wasted before it even reaches the table.
- that we have already taken a number of measures locally to address the issue of food waste including the adoption of a sustainable food policy (2018), our ongoing work with Cambridge Sustainable Food including the city’s recent award of Silver Sustainable Food Place status, including a specific objective on sustainable food in our new climate change strategy and trialling food waste collections in parts of the city.
- that, as a district council, our capacity to ‘to assess GHG emissions reduction targets from food systems’ and directly achieve those reductions (Glasgow Declaration points 14 and 15) is inevitably limited.
- the importance and potential of a working with other authorities, including the Combined Authority and County Council, to address food waste and sustainability at a local level.

Council resolves to;

- reaffirm our commitment to developing and implementing our own sustainable food policy, and to explore potential ways in which we can work with neighbouring authorities
- add the voices of the people of Cambridge to these calls for action by writing to Alok Sharma MP, president of the COP26 summit, calling for food waste and food systems to be put on the agenda.

- make Cambridge the first district council in the UK to sign up to the principles in the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration and put pressure on national government to
 - address the environmental impact of food waste
 - recognise the fragility of our food systems, that has been highlighted under COVID-19 and shown, for example, by the demand on the city's food hubs.
 - implement a food systems approach to accelerate climate action (and also to promote biodiversity and access to healthy and sustainable diets for all, among other co-benefits).

6b: Motion on Policing Bill

Agreed the following:

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.
- 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.

6c: Pesticide free motion

Agreed the following:

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 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 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 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

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) to use in the 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 herbicide-free wards and those wards that are not pesticide-free in any identified trial, and on the use of identified alternatives 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);

- publishing the planned dates of 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;
- displaying signage in situ on the relevant roads and pavements with dates of any herbicide treatments from 2022 onwards.
- publishing the amount of 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 herbicide use;

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

To publish a regular six monthly update to be included in the environmental reports already made to Area Committees on any exceptional usage of 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.

6d: Winter Opening of Jesus Green Lido

Agreed the following:

This council notes that:

- There is increased participation in outdoor swimming, which has accelerated during the pandemic, and 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.

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.

6e: Climate Change Task Force

Agreed the following:

This Council resolves to:

- Add our voice to calls for a joint local & national government Task Force to plan action to reach 'net zero' emissions.
- Write to Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26, the Prime Minister and the Leadership Board of the LGA informing them of our support for a joint Local/National Government Climate Change Partnership Taskforce and asking for one to be established as soon as possible.

Notes on the motion

- 1 Cambridge City Council's Climate Change Strategy has an ambitious vision for Cambridge to achieve net zero carbon status by 2030.
- 2 This requires the co-operation of our national government, industry and regulators.
- 3 In 2018, at COP24, our national government made a commitment to having 'domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities' so localities can play their part in delivering the UKs 'Nationally Determined Contributions' in the Paris Climate Agreement.
- 4 In May 2021 Alok Sharma MP, President of COP26 re-iterated this commitment;
"Governments, business and civil society (sometimes called 'non-state actors' and including local government) need to work together to transform the ways we power our homes and businesses, grow our food, develop infrastructure and move ourselves and goods around"
- 5 The Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport and other organisations have called for a joint local & national government Task Force to plan action to reach net zero emissions
- 6 Despite these agreements and statements, no action has been taken to set up any formal structure for such a partnership between local and national government.
- 7 Such a partnership can set appropriate regulations, benchmarks and targets and create robust long-term funding mechanisms. This is essential if local communities and economies are to decarbonise whilst remaining resilient and sustainable.
- 8 The Covid-19 pandemic has showed how important local action is and how rapidly local authorities can respond to major challenges, provided that they are fully supported by our national government.
- 9 Without such support, this council's vision to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 is unlikely to be achieved.

6f: A Developer's Charter

Agreed the following:

Council awaits the government's response to the recent consultation on its white paper "Planning for the Future" and notes the widespread

objections amongst communities locally and nationally about the direction of the proposals, including through our own detailed Greater Cambridge representation.

We share concerns about the pace of national delivery of new homes, but we do not believe the solution lies in robbing local government of its role in shaping development in its area with input from local residents, both through local plan-making and the ongoing management of planning applications. In this Cambridge has demonstrated considerable success over many years.

We see the proposed removal of the democratically accountable and transparent process for approving planning applications, in favour of new zoning plans granting automatic permission, as a 'developer's charter'. We regard this as seriously harming the chances of achieving local support for development and of integrating new homes and communities successfully. In particular we call for the protection of residents' rights to have their objections to individual planning applications properly considered before decisions are made.

The potential changes come on top of the government's recent expansion of 'permitted development' which this council has separately opposed, which enables significant changes of use of existing buildings without planning approval, irrespective of plans and prevailing standards for their wider areas.

Council calls on the government to pull back from its White Paper proposals and focus instead on refreshing powers of responsible local democratic decision-making and exploring ways of encouraging timely completion of projects for which developers have already gained consent. We request the Chief Executive to communicate this motion to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and to the MPs who represent the Greater Cambridge area, calling on them for their support.

7. 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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