



Council 21 October 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. Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 (Executive Councillor for Housing)

- Approved proposals for changes in existing housing capital budgets, as introduced in Sections 6 and 7 and detailed in Appendix E of the officer's report, with the resulting position summarised in Appendix H, for decision at Council on 21 October 2021.
- Approved proposals for new housing capital budgets, as introduced in Sections 6 and 7 and detailed in Appendix E of the officer's report, with the resulting position summarised in Appendix H, for decision at Council on 21 October 2021.
- Approved the revised funding mix for the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme, recognising the latest assumptions for the use of Grant, Right to Buy Receipts, HRA Resources, Major Repairs Allowance and HRA borrowing.

4b. Treasury Management Half Yearly Update Report 2021/22
(Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)

- Approved the Council’s estimated Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2021/22 to 2024/25 (Appendix A of the officer’s report).
- Approved that the counterparty limit for building societies with assets over £100bn be increased by £10m to £30m (Appendix B of the officer’s report).
- Approved the changes to the Cambridge Investment Partnership loans in the counterparty list, to bring these into line with the approved expenditure per the approved capital plan (Appendix B of the officer’s report).

4c. General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
October 2021 (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)

- Agreed the budget strategy and timetable as outlined in Section 1 [pages 5 to 7 refer] of the MTFS document.
- Agreed the incorporation of changed assumptions and specific, identifiable pressures, as presented in Sections 3 and 4 respectively [pages 19 to 30 of the MTFS document refer]. This provides an indication of the net savings requirement, by year for the next five years, and revised projections for General Fund (GF) revenue and funding as shown in Section 6 [page 36 refers] and reserves [Section 7 pages 37 to 41 refer] of the MTFS document.
- Agreed the revenue budget proposals as set out in Section 4 [pages 19 and 20 of the MTFS document refer].

Description	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Additional communications posts and digital consultation platform (license fee) - recurring	45	125	125	125	125
Additional costs of redevelopment of commercial units at Colville Road Phase 3		120	120		
Set up costs of a new housing company and Registered Provider	73				
Feasibility study to expand Cambridge City Housing Company	70				
Total	188	245	125	125	125

- Noted the changes to the capital plan and funding as set out in Section 5 [pages 31 to 35 refer] and Appendix A [pages 49 to 52] of the MTFS document.
- Agreed changes to the budget for the Meadows Community Hub and Buchan Street retail outlet scheme as set out below.

Ref.	Description / £'000s	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Proposals							
SC694	Meadows Community Hub and Buchan Street retail outlet	(1,224)	2,551	158	-	-	-	1,485
	Total proposals	(1,224)	2,551	158	0	0	0	1,485

- Agreed the replacement of third-party contributions of £210k for the community extension to Cherry Hinton library with council funding.
- Agreed the following in relation to the depot relocation programme, included in Appendix F of the MTFS Version 2.0 (for Council on 21 October 2021):
 - Approved capital funding of £10m for the depot relocation
 - Removed the Lion Yard shopping centre investment scheme from the capital plan, reallocating the funding from that scheme to the depot relocation programme
 - Allocated £1m of funding from the General Fund (GF) Development Reserve to the depot relocation programme
 - Allocated an additional £3m of capital receipts or borrowing to fund the balance of the scheme
 - That the capital plan and funding as set out in Section 5 [pages 31 to 35 refer] and Appendix A [pages 49 to 52] should be updated to reflect the changes arising from approval of the depot relocation programme
- Agreed the transfer of £3.1m and £0.8m of GF reserves into earmarked reserves to support the delivery of the Our Cambridge transformation and recovery programme and to provide a contingency fund for the programme [page 41 of the MTFS

document refers]. Furthermore, to agree authorisation to draw down funding from these reserves to be as described.

- Agreed changes to GF reserve levels, the prudent minimum balance being set at £6.64m and the target level at £7.98m as detailed in Section 7 [page 39 of the MTFs document refers] and Appendix B [pages 53 and 54 of the MTFs document refer].

4d. Council Appointments to the Conservators of the River Cam (Executive Councillor Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing)

- i. Approved nominations of three City Councillor appointments (two Labour and one Liberal Democrat appointment) to the Conservators of the River Cam commencing 1 January 2022:
 - Katie Thornburrow
 - Mike Sargeant
 - Alan Cox

5. Oral Questions

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

6. Motions

6a: Single use plastic-free events at the City Council

Agreed the following:

Council notes:

- The acceptance in May 2018 at council of a Plastics motion, which asked that caterers for City commissioned events approach these in as sustainable way as possible;
- That this motion did not commit the Council to removal of single use plastics by a specific date;
- The increasing urgency of the climate emergency, and the documented and evidenced detrimental effects of single use plastics on our oceans, waterways and beaches;
- That the government consultation on the introduction of a ban on single use plastics is unlikely to become law until at least 2023;
- That events put on by the city council, and those on City Council land, are not yet required to be single use plastic-free, or to provide clearly marked on site recycling facilities, or to offer

incentives for members of the public to bring their own cups and glasses (as is common in most cafes now).

Council requests the Executive Councillor commits to:

- Introducing new contractual terms to ensure that organisers for any future events taking place on City Council land, must now:
- Cease the use of any single use plastic on site and provide evidence of this when planning or applying for the event, as well as displaying signage at events to inform the public of this;
- Encourage the use of compostable materials and if used, ensure that separate recycling is provided for these with clear signage;
- Ensure that any events using litter pickers and collections either separate rubbish on site using clearly marked bins, or have arrangements in place that can be provided as part of the application for the event to ensure that this is done off site;
- Install appropriate signage at the event to ensure that members of the public are aware of the different bins and to assist them in putting the correct rubbish in the right bins;
- Ensure that all stalls at least encourage but preferably incentivise the use of reusable or recyclable (or both)_cups for beverages and other cutlery and crockery, for example by advertising discounts for these, as is already very common in cafes across the city;

Council also commits to:

- Promoting the urgent need to remove single use plastic from all day to day use in businesses and events around the city.
- Instruct Officers to monitor and advise on best practice that is currently being developed by the Government, the Local Government Association and representatives from across the festival sector in relation to their commitment for 2023 to have standardised environmental objectives that local authorities must adopt when licensing festivals.

6b: Waste Electronic & Electrical Equipment Recycling For Everyone

Agreed the following:

Cambridge City Council notes:

- Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) is the fastest growing waste stream on the planet.

- WEEE contains a high volume of critical raw materials (CRMs), which are vital components of many 'green' technologies.
- Research in 2019 showing that:
 - 51% of UK households had at least one unused electronic device;
 - 45% had up to 5 unused devices;
 - 82% of these households had no plans to recycle or sell their devices.
- The City Council currently operates six recycling banks for small electricals, all of which are at four sites in Trumpington ward.
- The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service are seeking additional funding that is now available from an electrical compliance scheme, as part of the producer responsibility regulation, to expand the number of banks within the City and introduce collections in South Cambridgeshire where there are currently no WEEE banks.
- Greater Cambridge Shared waste service has recently drawn up plans to expand the number of WEEE banks it provides from 6 to 14.
- Locations have been chosen so that residents can also use other banks at these sites to recycle textiles, bulbs, and batteries at the same time, ensuring that the best service is available and the environmental impact of travelling to recycle items is kept to a minimum.

Cambridge City Council believes:

- The climate crisis requires that we establish a circular economy and ensure the efficient use of CRMs.
- That all households in Cambridge should be able to easily recycle electronic devices.

Therefore, Cambridge City Council requests that the Executive Councillor:

- Introduce a network of eight additional permanent WEEE banks at existing (and new) recycling points across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire in 2022. Using external grant funding to provide the estimated £56,683 cost of the project.
- Promotes WEEE recycling in the next appropriate Cambridge Matters, on the City Council website, with leaflets, stalls at events and new vehicle livery.
- Ensures that the emerging Household Waste and Recycling Policy includes ambitious targets to maximise recycling of CRMs.

6c: Tackling Anti-Social Driving

Agreed the following:

Council notes:

- The number of complaints made by residents about the disturbance and danger caused to neighbourhoods by loud and speeding vehicles using the roads as race tracks.
- That residential areas in Cambridge can suffer heavily from the noise caused by some modified cars, motorbikes and scooters.
- That some drivers of all types of motorised vehicles frequently break the speed limit and drive unsafely through residential areas.
- That anti-social driving has a negative impact on the environment, personal safety and people's wellbeing, and potentially discourages active travel.
- That noise detection cameras have recently been installed in central London to detect engines revving at over 80 decibels and use video footage to record the offenders.
- That the issue of dangerous or antisocial driving is police-led, and that we should continue as a council to share any information we have with them.
- The current discussions at Area Committees around antisocial driving that is often taken up as police priorities for those areas.
- That, at a recent Community Safety Partnership meeting, it was reported that the police will make road safety a priority and will take action on anti-social driving, moped use and speeding.
- The establishment of the new road safety partnership, Vision Zero, which incorporates the international Safe System policy approach for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Council calls on the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing:

- Request the Community Safety Partnership to feed the concerns of residents and Councillors over anti-social driving, including interest in

- the noise detection cameras being used in London, into the Vision Zero Partnership and to work with that partnership to address the issues
- To report back to council on the work of the Vision Zero Partnership.

6d: Carbon taxes and Joint Local and National Climate Emergency Fund

Agreed the following:

This Council calls upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak MP to review the IFS Report “Carbon taxes and the road to net zero “ and to enact legislation to ensure that all taxes (including VAT) are progressive and are used to support a just transition to a green economy, including being allocated to a new joint Local and National Climate Emergency Fund which would be utilised to support councils in implementing a National Retrofit Strategy. We also ask our Chancellor to ensure that any new carbon pricing is used as a tax on fossil fuels as they are produced and that revenues should also be used to increase the flow of finance to developing countries to help them mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts, as promised under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, thereby ensuring a just transition for all.

6e: Fuel Poverty and Climate Change

Agreed the following:

This Council resolves to:

This council believes that a socially just and carbon-neutral recovery from the pandemic is not only possible but imperative if we are to meet the vision set out in our Climate Change Strategy 2021. However, up to now much of national Government’s proposed actions are little more than rhetoric. We really need to turn rhetoric into action.

Melting ice caps and forest fires can often seem like someone else’s crisis when many are taking effect so far from our homes. But crises closer to home affecting thousands of local families cannot be separated from those further afield.

Across the UK there are more than 24 million homes leaking heat, not just wasting the Earth’s precious resources and creating greenhouse gas

emissions but also leaving many residents in cold, damp homes and in fuel poverty. There is no route to decarbonising the economy without retrofitting these homes. Doing so would not only help to protect our planet, improve housing and lead to cheaper energy bills but it would also create hundreds of thousands of good quality jobs across the whole country.

This council notes that;

- The highest temperature ever recorded in the UK was here in Cambridge, in July 2019 and we know that we are already facing a serious water shortage.
- Cambridge has approximately 51,240 homes which need to be retrofitted.
- It is estimated that the average investment needed to fully decarbonise each home in the UK is a minimum of £50k.
- Therefore, to decarbonise all homes in Cambridge would cost an estimated £2.562 billion.
- To retrofit all homes in Cambridge by this council's own Net Zero Carbon vision of 2030 would require 6,405 homes being completed each year.
- To retrofit all homes in Cambridge by the government's Net Zero Carbon target of 2050 would require 1,830 homes being completed each year.
- We have commissioned two high-level retrofit studies to identify what energy efficiency and renewable energy measures would need to be installed for different property archetypes in Cambridge to reach net zero carbon emissions and to provide more accurate costings for retrofitting both council and private homes.
- Over the period of the Council's previous climate change strategies, we have invested £4.3 million in energy efficiency improvements to Council homes, focussing on bringing the lowest rated properties up to an EPC rating of C.
- From 2020/21 to 2022/23, we have committed to investing a further £2.5 million to improve the energy efficiency of some of the remaining Council homes with EPC ratings of D to G, with the aim of bringing these up to a C rating or above where feasible.
- In February 2021 the Council was successful in its consortium bid with other Cambridgeshire local authorities to the Government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme and was awarded just over £2m to retrofit social and private housing.

- As part of a Cambridgeshire local authority consortium, the council has recently submitted a further £5.5m bid into the Sustainable Warmth Scheme, which is scheduled to be implemented between January 2022 and March 2023 if successful.
- The latest fuel poverty data for 2019 states 14.9% of Cambridge residents are experiencing fuel poverty. Energy efficiency also helps to reduce the impact of increasing energy prices and volatile energy markets.
- Cambridge City Council is currently working with PECT with the Warm Homes scheme to provide support to those experiencing fuel poverty.
- The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) regulation for the private rented sector restricts poor energy performing properties being available to rent. Cambridge City Council is implementing this regulation to improve the energy efficiency of the Cambridge rental sector.
- We have established a working group to plan how we will retrofit our own council housing stock and how best we can support private homeowners and landlords to retrofit theirs.
- Our project for Building Control to give homeowners energy saving advice using thermal imaging will launch at the end of this year.

The Great Homes Upgrade calls on the government to offer long term support to local authorities so we can help improve our residents' lives and homes, create thousands of high-quality jobs and decarbonise our housing stock in the face of climate change.

This council commits to;

- Join the “Great Homes Upgrade” campaign and for the leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sec of State DLUHC asking for an additional £11.7bn for retrofitting over the next three years as part of the government’s spending review in 2021.
- The leader will write to Michael Gove MP asking him to work to end fuel poverty, create new green jobs and achieve the UK’s emission targets by adopting the National retrofit strategy set out in the Construction Leadership Council consultative document and in particular to fund the retrofitting of all council homes and housing association homes by 2025.
- Widen the scope of our working group to include working with housing associations, private landlords and owner occupiers to help

access investment and to build the skills and expertise necessary to reach our Climate Change Strategy aspirations.

- Work with local partners, including the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (who lead on skills strategy), the Greater Cambridge Partnership, local councils, businesses and education providers to create the skilled workforce that we need.
- Share best practice and stories of retrofit success with the campaign.
- Write to neighbouring Local Authorities asking them to join the campaign.
- Sign and circulate the Great Homes Upgrade petition.

Background notes on the motions

1. Councillors will be well aware that the UK is legally committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and of our own council's ambitions of achieving that goal by 2030.
2. The Institute for Fiscal Studies ("IFS") have published two reports in October 2021 that address how this plan might be funded.
3. IFS reports that most UK councils will require substantial additional funding to meet current service levels and statutory obligations.
<https://ifs.org.uk/publications/15673>
4. This shows that councils have only the most limited scope to fund this work.
5. This is borne out by Cambridge's own forecasts and accounts.
6. Although the UK does not have a named carbon tax as such, it has had a variety of taxes that have a similar rule for 30 years. The positive impact of these taxes on business and consumer behaviour is well documented and is considered to be one of the principal drivers for the 38% reduction in UK greenhouse emissions between 1990 and 2018.
7. The Office of Budget Responsibility ("OBR") reports that the tax yield from emissions taxes exceeds new government expenditure on reducing emissions and has actually fallen as a percentage of the total tax yield.
8. There is currently no rule of law that requires "green" taxes to be used for "green" purposes such as the establishment of a National Climate Change Fund.
9. IFS have reviewed the UK's complex green tax system and have published an advance report timed to coincide with COP 26.
10. The report calls for review and reform as well as international co-operation on aviation and business taxes.
11. It also states that the 5% VAT rate on domestic gas is effectively a subsidy on emissions and a disincentive to energy efficiency improvements.
12. One in 7 UK households lives in acute fuel poverty (BEIS statistics 2019) and fuel bill fears affect a much broader demographic,
13. While BEIS statistics note the value of insulation incentives in reducing fuel poverty, Green Deal and Green Homes grants were withdrawn in March 2021.
14. Cold homes are responsible for 11,500 of excess deaths every year and treatment for related conditions costs the NHS c £2 billion a year (ONS, CLC)

15. The Construction Leadership Council's report "Greening our Existing Homes" states that homes use 35% of all UK energy and account for 20% of CO2 emissions. It sets out a detailed National Retrofit Strategy without which the UK emission targets cannot be achieved
16. Emissions taxation policy, fuel poverty and retrofitting existing homes remain inextricably linked. It is for this reason that we have chosen to put two linked motions before the council today.

Further reading <https://ifs.org.uk/publications/15653>,
<https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/workstream/net-zero-carbon-workstream/>

6f: Removal of Universal Credit boost

Agreed the following:

Council notes:

- That in March 2020, the government increased Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit by £20 a week to support families through the economic challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- That this scheme officially ended on 6th October 2021.
- That the cut to Universal Credit is the biggest overnight cut to the basic rate of social security since the modern welfare state began.
- Analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation indicates that 21% of all working-age families will experience a £1,040-a-year cut to their incomes due to the removal of the uplift.
- The increase in the number of children receiving Free School Meals nationally, the increase in families relying on help from food banks nationally as well as food hubs locally, and the increase in the number of families claiming Universal Credit in Cambridgeshire following the pandemic.
- That pressures on family incomes are mounting, due to the rise in the cost of living as a direct consequence of this government's actions in leaving the European Union, including rising food prices and fuel costs as well as their failure to implement sustained, long-term policies that could have negated some of its impact.
- That the Winter Support Payments proposed by the Government are not at a sufficient level to meet the level of need.

- The Welsh Government's bold commitment to trial a Universal Basic Income (UBI) with 5000 residents over 24 months and welcomes its bold vision and clear commitment to tackling inequality.

Council believes;

- That it is a national disgrace that anyone should have to rely on help from food banks in one of the largest economies in the world.
- That the withdrawal of the Universal Credit boost at this time will have a significant detrimental impact on the financial security and wellbeing of those affected in Cambridge.
- That the decision to remove the uplift is deplorable, and not the actions of a responsible government.

Council resolves to;

- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, to express this council's grave concern at the impact that the cut of £20 a week to Universal Credit will have on many families in Cambridge, and request that the cut to the Universal Credit uplift be reversed.
- Continue to offer support to our families who are on Universal Credit through our existing Council services.
- Ensure the council website and social media continues to provide clear signposting to sources of financial support.

6g: Great Homes Upgrade

This motion was withdrawn under Council Procedure Rule 27.

6h: Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Agreed the following:

This Council resolves to:

- Affirm their ongoing commitment to the goal of the Paris Climate Agreement to limit global heating to 1.5°C.

- Endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, involving the end of new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, equitably phasing out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and accelerating just energy transition plans.
- Write to Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26 and the Prime Minister, urging them to endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

This Council notes:

- The recent report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reaffirms the vital need for rapid and significant reduction of carbon emissions, and has been described as ‘a code red for humanity’ by the Secretary General of the United Nations, and that “The report must sound a death knell to coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet”.
- Global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to overshoot the remaining carbon budget (that would avert catastrophic climate disruption by limiting global heating to 1.5°C) by 120% by the year 2030.
- That a recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) report states that the fossil fuel industry is subsidised at the rate of \$11 million / minute.
- That the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global level.
- That the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction, and that the UK should be committed, as part of our Climate Emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonize our economy.
- That the global initiative underway calling for a ‘Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty’, is deserving of support, and that other leading cities including Barcelona, Toronto, Los Angeles and Sydney have

already endorsed the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

6i: Parental Leave and Family Friendly Policies

Agreed the following:

This council notes the following.

1. The community has a right to be represented by a diversity of councillors and residents should have a diversity of councillors for whom to vote.
2. Analysis, by the Fawcett Society, of the 2019 Local Election results found that only 35% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2018. Of the seats up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested.
3. Only 15% of councillors nationally are under 45 years of age.
4. As of October 2020, 27 councils have passed the LGA Labour Group's Parental Leave policy, and an additional 9 councils have their own parental leave policy.
5. Cambridge does not have a formal parental leave policy for councillors.
6. The role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of background, and introducing a parental leave policy and other family friendly policies is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may wish to start a family to remain as councillors;
7. Parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and should cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.
8. Parental leave is only part of the picture and other family friendly policies such as support for carers, remote/hybrid meetings, and becoming a breastfeeding-friendly council would further ensure a greater diversity of councillors. And also that family friendly policies are in themselves only a small part of the wider need for policies which encourage truly diverse representation.

This Council resolves the following.

1. To adapt to suit a Cambridge context the parental leave policy drafted by the LGA Labour Group's Women's Task Force and to bring the recommendations to Civic Affairs as part of the next round of discussions on councillor remuneration.
2. To ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate.
3. To acknowledge this is only one part of the picture, and to commit to investigating other inclusive policies and bringing those recommendations forward in the future.
4. To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge him to introduce legislation to allow councils to adopt remote and hybrid meetings where they deem it appropriate to do so.
5. Further to this council's resolution at Civic Affairs on 9th October 2019 (19/41/Civ), that this council shall continue to apply pressure via the Local Government Association and any other appropriate routes to allow for proxy voting for local government for those on parental leave, which is not currently permissible, despite already being available to MPs in parliament.

<https://local.gov.uk/parental-leave-policy-councils>

7. Written questions

- Please see the information pack for question and answers.

For more information please contact Democratic Services:

- democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk