



# **CAMBRIDGE** CITY COUNCIL

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## **INFORMATION PACK**

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Oral Questions for the 21 July 2022 meeting

Question 1

Councillor Holloway to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Can the Exec Cllr for Housing please give an update on homelessness numbers in the city?

Question 2

Councillor Bennett to the Executive Councillor

Cambridge Water has asked all customers to help save water by avoiding using hoses to water plants or clean cars, recycling water wherever possible, and taking shorter showers. It is questionable how many Cambridge residents will either see or respond to this request. The water company maintains that there is no need for a temporary use ban (TUB) in the near future. However, one of their senior staff reported earlier this month that heavy recent use of water has already led to some issues with low water pressure for some customers. The company has stated that they are now taking more water from the environment, which is no doubt contributing to the low levels of water in the Cam and associated chalk streams.

Would the Council work with Cambridge Water to get a TUB implemented as a matter of urgency, since there is no evidence that the water situation will improve in the near future. As we pointed out last year in our response to the consultation on Cambridge Water's Drought Plan, the triggers for implementing TUBs are completely inadequate in this time of rapid global heating.

Question 3

Councillor Gawthrope Wood to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development

The learner pool in King's Hedges has been a valuable resource for the North Cambridge community for decades, teaching generations of local children to swim. It closed temporarily during the pandemic, and remains closed. Can the Executive Councillor please give us an update on plans to reopen the pool?

Question 4

Councillor Lee to the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Infrastructure

In Queen Edith a 5G phone mast has recently been approved on appeal by the planning inspector. I appreciate that to some extent prior approval means planning has less room for manoeuvre, but this means that telecommunications companies can and do place equipment with little thought and even less consultation. No one is objecting to the phone mast itself or the need for infrastructure, but the mast dangerously obscures pedestrians using the zebra crossing from drivers, and this ridiculous situation could have been avoided by engagement with the local community including ward councillors who could have proposed a site not even 20m away. This contributes to an unnecessarily fractious relationship between planning, communities and companies. Could the Executive Councillor for Planning and Infrastructure write to the government to outline concerns and push for reform that would require more consultation with communities as to where infrastructure is placed?

#### Question 5

Councillor Sarah Baigent to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Can the Exec Cllr for Housing please give an update on how many Ukrainian refugees have been housed in the city, and any associated issues?

#### Question 6

Councillor Nethsingha to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development

As many in this Chamber will know, a planning application has been submitted by Queens' College for a major redevelopment of the Owlstone Croft site in Newnham. This site runs next to the Paradise Nature Reserve, which is a hugely important area of our city for biodiversity. I and many residents do not believe that the assessment of the environmental impact that the proposals may have on the Paradise Reserve have been sufficiently carefully assessed, given the importance of the reserve and the delicacy of the environment. Could the Executive Councillor for Environment tell me whether she is aware of the concerns which have been raised about the impact on the reserve, whether she has visited the reserve to see how significant the loss of trees would be? If she has not visited the reserve would she be willing to meet with me and residents of the area to look at the impact of the proposed development.

#### Question 7

Councillor Divkovic to the Leader

What is your message to the Conservative leadership contestants from Cambridge?

#### Question 8

Councillor Copley to the Executive Councillor for Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

In the context of Tuesday's record breaking temperatures, we have seen how the deadly temperatures that have been affecting those in the Global South as a direct result of the climate crisis are now directly affecting residents of Cambridge as well.

These impacts are not felt equally across the city - some residents are able to go to air conditioned workplaces or remain relatively cool due to having well insulated homes built to high specifications, and other residents have been exposed to extreme temperatures in their homes due to them not having been built to be resilient to extreme heat.

What work has the city council done to date to assess the climate resilience of existing homes in the City (including council homes) from the risk of overheating, and to put in places changes to protect residents from extreme heatwaves? As we all know, these will become increasingly common and intense with ongoing climate breakdown.

#### Question 9

Councillor Herbert to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development

Can the Executive Councillor give an update on the management of this year's Midsummer Fair and, in particular, both the clean-up operation and any plans for next year's event?

#### Question 10

Councillor Payne to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Can the Exec Cllr update us on the council's actions so far and its future plans to address the backlog of council house repairs and maintenance?

#### Question 11

Councillor Bick to the Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation

Councillor Davey told the BBC last month that there were lessons to be learned from the marketing of Ironworks and Timberworks homes to offshore property investors. What are they?

Question 12

Councillor Thittala Varkey to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Can the Exec Cllr for Housing please update us on the current state of progress with a) repairs and b) voids?

Question 13

Councillor Carling to the Executive Councillor for Recovery, Employment and Community Safety

In pre-covid 2019, the Children's Commissioner reported that Cambridge was the fourth worst performing area in the country for young people on Free School Meals. How is the Council supporting young people from disadvantaged backgrounds through education and into the job market?

Question 14

Councillor Howard to the Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation

Residents who are not able to pay their council tax on time are sent a reminder, after which they will be sent a court summons via magistrates court (see link below). In the context of a cost of living crisis, and when the threat of legal action is likely to cause immense anxiety, does the Executive Councillor agree that this punitive approach is incorrect, and that the next immediate step should be to make contact with the resident and offer them assistance with the cost of living crisis and / or a payment plan?

Reference: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/council-tax-reminders-and-recovery-action>

Question 15



Councillor Hauk to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development

How are you supporting community development in our new areas around the city such as in my ward of Trumpington?

#### Question 16

Councillor Porrer to the Executive Councillor for Recovery, Employment and Community Safety

Could the Exec Cllr please update council on progress on purchasing noise cameras to deter the increasing unsafe anti-social behaviour, particularly at night, of scooters, mopeds, motorcycles and cars racing around the city streets, which is causing disruption to so many of our residents across the city.

#### Question 17

Councillor Pounds to the Executive Councillor for Recovery, Employment and Community Safety

Can the Executive Cllr for Finance and Resources update us on progress relating to the City Council building Council Homes with the Cambridge Investment Partnership

#### Secondary Questions

##### Question 1

Councillor Copley to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development

A contract was signed for the Big Wheel on Parker's Piece in 2021, representing privatisation of part of Parker's Piece.

Would the council provide a list consisting of the name of the item about which a contract has been signed, and the park or open space that it relates to for items which fulfil all of:

- Contracts signed between the city council and another body
- Which relate to parks and open spaces owned or managed by the City Council
- Involve the privatisation of all or part of them for greater than 1 week

- That have been signed between the date of the full council meeting where this was approved (ie approved that parks could be treated as assets to raise funds for the City Council) as part of the council budget and today (19th July).

## Question 2

Councillor Howard to the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Infrastructure

In the context of record breaking temperatures, the positive impact of mature trees on streets in the city has been apparent to anyone fortunate enough to walk under or live near them. In the context of future heatwaves, is the cityscape being modelled from the context of a globally heated world, and tree selection taking place to mean that we have the greatest possible tree canopy cover on roads and streets in the city, when we will need it most?

## Question 3

Councillor Bennett to the Executive Councillor for Equalities, Anti-Poverty and Wellbeing

What is the reason for the ongoing delay to the publication of the GTANA (Gypsy/Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment)?

## Question 4

Councillor Divkovic to the Executive Councillor for Recovery Employment and Community Safety.

Can the Executive Councillor outline what steps are being taken to reduce cycle crime?

## Question 5

Councillor Holloway to the Executive Councillor for Equalities Anti-Poverty and Wellbeing

What is the present situation in relation to our Ukraine programme – what are the numbers of guests welcomed, what support are we providing to guests and hosts and what happens at the end of the 6-month period?

## Question 6

Councillor Pounds to the Executive Councillor for Equalities Anti-Poverty and Wellbeing

I've heard that the County council are intending to put the old Mill Road library up for sale shortly, what would be the process for a city council community consultation on this, since it is an asset of community value?

Councillor Porrer proposed and Councillor Nethsingha seconded the following amendment to motion (additional text underlined.)

This Council notes:

## **Effects of Loud Fireworks on Animals**

1. Studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs<sup>1</sup>, and it is estimated that 45 percent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks<sup>2</sup>. A New Zealand survey recorded 79 percent of horses as either anxious or very anxious around fireworks or over the Guy Fawkes Day period.<sup>3</sup>
2. Although there is limited direct evidence, it is also likely that fireworks and their debris will cause disturbance to wildlife, and are likely to cause suffering or distress, depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level.
3. The RSPCA believes that a licensing system would help with better enforcement of the law by allowing enforcement bodies to know where licensed events are being held so they can focus on locations and incidents elsewhere.
4. This phobia can be treated (in dogs at least) in the long term but owners need to prepare themselves and their pets sooner, rather than just before the fireworks are let off. There is a need to raise awareness about the impact of fireworks on animals to the wider public to encourage them to be more considerate of those with pets, horses and livestock as well as local wildlife

<sup>1</sup> Blackwell, E., Bradshaw, J., & Casey, R. (2013). Fear responses to noises in domestic dogs: Prevalence, risk factors and co-occurrence with other fear related behaviour. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 145, 15-25.

<sup>2</sup> Blackwell, E., Casey, R., & Bradshaw, J. (2005). Firework Fears and Phobias in the Domestic Dog. Scientific Report for the RSPCA, University of Bristol, UK

<sup>3</sup> Gronqvist, G, Rogers, C. & Gee, E. (2016). The Management of Horses during Fireworks in New Zealand. *Animals* 6(20).

## **Pets as prizes**

5. That the RSPCA

- a. receives reports of pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels in England – and notes the issue predominantly concerns goldfish
  - b. is concerned for the welfare of those animals
  - c. recognises that many cases of pets being as prizes may go unreported each year
  - d. supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form.
6. That the city council has an existing policy that does not permit the use of live creatures as prizes at any event including circuses and funfairs on the Council's parks and open spaces,

The Council agrees to:

- A. To encourage the organisers of all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- B. To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- C. To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
- D. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display.
- E. To investigate the use of fireworks and firework equivalents that reduce carbon release and reduce noise, and to work with Cambridge University and colleges and other stakeholders across the city to share this knowledge to reduce the carbon and acoustic impact of future events.
- F. To encourage others in Cambridge to also ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form.
- G. write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

**Councillor Anna Smith proposes the following amendment to motion (additional text underlined, deleted text ~~struckthrough~~)**

Cambridge City Council notes the recent announcement by the BBC to cease production of the Look East regional news output from Cambridge and only broadcast a regional news programme based in Norwich.

Council also notes with concern the proposed closure of the BBC News Channel that serves viewers in the UK and the potential impact on the coverage of UK news stories. As well as the loss of an important space on TV where MPs are able to discuss policies and constituency matters, local, regional, and non-metropolitan issues will struggle to find room in future programming, if this closure is allowed to go ahead.

We also note that the BBC has been required to cut its spending by £1bn a year between 2017 and 2022 as a result of a licence fee settlement imposed by the Government and that this has created significant pressures on the BBC.

The 2021 census shows that the East of England has experienced the highest population increase across the English regions and Wales. Cambridge is a key city in the region due to its rapid employment growth.

Reducing BBC Look East's operations to Norwich only will mean vital local stories in Cambridge, which may have significance across the region, may be missed. We believe that effective scrutiny is a key to good democracy and local journalists are a crucial part of this

Cambridge City Council expresses deep concern over the plans and believes that as a growing area our region requires more, not less, investment in local journalism.

Council therefore agrees

1. To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Director General of the BBC to oppose these cuts to local, ~~and regional~~ and national news, ~~and expressing support for the Corporation's attempt to achieve a full and sustainable funding settlement in future.~~
2. To seek support from other local authorities to highlight the growing importance of our region and that more, not less, local journalism should be focussed on the area in general.

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

## **Background**

Cambridge residents are deeply concerned about water quality and the impact of wastewater discharge, including untreated sewage, into the River Cam and its tributaries. Studies by the Cam Valley Forum show that sewage treatment works run by Anglian Water are the greatest source of faecal pathogens in the River Cam<sup>[1]</sup>.

These are a major concern in relation to health of those who come into contact with the water, whether for work or leisure, - swimming in the River is increasingly popular. In addition high levels of nitrate and phosphate and low levels of dissolved oxygen have a major negative impact on the ecological health of the river and streams.

The main sources of pollution are the numerous small village sewage works that are often totally overloaded and no longer fit for purpose and have failed to prevent sewage pollution of the Cam, Rhee and Granta rivers, upstream and downstream of Cambridge. Releasing sewage into rivers and streams is no longer an emergency-only situation occurring as a result of severe storms, but is a regular occurrence even in 'normal' rainfall.

While Anglian Water have made long term commitments to making progress as set out in the notes, there are no plans in place to address the immediate unacceptable situation.

## **Motion**

This Council resolves to:

1. Recognise the challenges facing our rivers and streams due to the cumulative impact of sewage discharge events.
2. Engage with the Environment Agency as part of the forthcoming water resources management planning exercise (see notes) and seek to ensure that investment in the foul water treatment focuses on reducing discharges from existing treatment works into the rivers and streams in Cambridgeshire.

3. Organise a public meeting to discuss sewage discharge, its impacts on the City and priorities for action, inviting the Chief Executive of Anglian Water plus senior representatives from the Environment Agency and Natural England and South Cambridgeshire.
4. Ask Anglian Water for clear information on all the treatment works that have an impact on the quality of water flowing through Cambridge: whether information is available to assess the impact of the number or duration of sewage discharges into the Cam catchment, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested, not required).
5. Support the chair of the Environment Agency's call to increase the legal accountability of water companies<sup>4</sup> by requesting that the government introduce legal targets for intermediate and ultimately zero discharges, a sewage tax on discharges to contribute to supportive infrastructure, and increased criminal liability of company directors; and encourage Cambridge's local MPs to join us in advocating this.

Notes:

1. Anglian Water have stated:

*"We agree that storm overflows are no longer fit for purpose, especially as our climate is changing and extreme weather is more commonplace.*  
Cambridge Independent 15 May 2022

2. The company are currently running a consultation and have stated: Our draft DWMP indicates that over the next 25 years, investment of up to £3.5 billion is needed to address the future risks highlighted in our DWMP, as well as fixing some existing problems. And please note, while we await outputs from the Storm Overflow Action Plan this estimate of investment doesn't include the assessment of costs required to meet the new storm overflow targets

3. Anglian Water's draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan is currently out for consultation (30 June - 16

September): <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/drainage-wastewater-management-plan/draft-plan/> . Final version to be published Spring 2023. The plan itself is here: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/dwmp-draft.pdf>

4. Environment Agency: Water and Sewerage Companies in England: Environmental Performance Report 2021:



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report-2021/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report-2021>

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## **Cost of living briefing note – July 2022**

### **Background**

Cambridge City Council has produced three Anti-poverty Strategies covering the periods from 2014-17, 2017-20, and 2020-23. They set out the Council's broad strategic approach to tackling poverty and sets out three underpinning themes for the Council's approach:

- 1) Combining ongoing efforts to address the effects of poverty, with a further focus on preventative work (often in partnership with other organisations) to address some of the root causes of poverty.
- 2) Balancing direct Council service delivery, with partnership-working and influencing and lobbying activity where this will have a greater impact.
- 3) Building the capacity and resilience of residents and communities and facilitating community action.

The national economic context has change significantly since the strategy was produced, due to a range of factors including Brexit, the coronavirus pandemic, and the war in Ukraine. Significant rises in energy costs, food prices, fuel prices and other costs in recent months are having a significant impact on household budgets in Cambridge and across the UK, particularly for residents on low incomes.

The Council recognises that further increases in the cost of living are expected over the coming year, with further rises in energy bills and other costs predicted. This could result in significant economic hardship for some local residents who are currently on low incomes.

This briefing note has three main focuses. Firstly, it outlines current actions in the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy that address the cost-of-living issues. Next, it highlights new Council-led activities that have been initiated, before giving an overview of what Central Government has done to provide support.

### **Current Anti-Poverty actions directly addressing the cost-of-living crisis:**

The Anti-Poverty Strategy has existing actions that aim to support residents who have been or are currently experiencing difficulties with living costs. The following actions directly address the current crisis and have been enhanced to support people in need.

- **Helping residents to maximise their income and reduce outgoings:**
  - The Council has continued to support residents through the appointment of financial inclusion officers who have worked directly with Council

tenants to offer budgeting and savings advice and support. The Council has also continued to fund an Outreach Advisor at Cambridge Jobcentre Plus to provide financial advice to new Universal Credit claimants.

- The Council allocated just over £1 million of Community Grants to projects aiming to reduce social and economic deprivation in Cambridge in 2021/22. Over 80 organisations delivered over 130 projects and activities, many of which supported residents experiencing economic hardship and poverty because of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and cost of living crisis.
  - The Council supported 4,419 households to receive housing benefits as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, continued the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme for its third year with a spend of £8.2 million in 2021/22, and paid over 1,000 £500 grants which supported low-income individuals to self-isolate in response to Covid.
  - The Council worked with the Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT), using funding from UK Power Network's Power Partners scheme to provide advisory support to 178 households experiencing fuel or energy insecurity and training for frontline support staff in 2021. Additional funding was secured by PECT for 2022 which enables them to continue this support.
  - The Council has continued to campaign for local employers to implement the Real Living Wage, which will help boost the incomes of the lowest earners in the city. Two events were held during national Living Wage week in November 2021, which 17 organisations and the Living Wage Foundation attended. There were 79 Cambridge employers accredited with the Living Wage Foundation in March 2022.
  - Additionally, the Council worked closely with Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS) to support voluntary and community sector organisations (VCS) to sign up for the Real Living Wage, including paying the first-year accreditation fee for small VCS organisations. This resulted in a number of VCS organisations becoming accredited during the year.
- **Facilitating food justice:**
    - The Council has progressed the food distribution and community kitchen project (formally known as the Food Hub project). The project will relocate from Buchan Street Neighbourhood Centre in 2022, moving into temporary accommodation on Barnwell Drive. Following this, the project plans to be housed at the North-East Cambridge meanwhile site for up to 15 years (subject to planning approvals).
    - The Council has continued to support the work of Cambridge Sustainable Food and the Food Poverty Alliance, who have played a pivotal role in supporting those facing food insecurity in Cambridge.
    - In 2021/22, the Council has supported food hubs to distribute over 204 tonnes of food through a total of 21,210 visits to food hubs across Cambridge City.

- Holiday lunches for school children and families made a return following the coronavirus pandemic. The Council supported local partners to provide meals at venues in 7 wards in the city (Abbey, Queen Edith's, Kings Hedges, Chesterton, Arbury, Cherry Hinton, and Coleridge).
- **Addressing housing costs and activities to prevent or rough sleeping:**
  - As part of the Council's affordable housing programme 159 more affordable homes were approved, and 66 new homes were completed giving a cumulative total of 550 homes.
  - The Council continued to work with developers through the planning process to enable the delivery of new high-quality, energy-efficient affordable homes. In 2021/22 this saw 51 affordable dwellings being completed, 17 of which being to Passivhaus standard.
  - The Greater Cambridge Affordable Rents policy was approved and published in June 2022. This states that rent should not exceed 60% of gross median market rent in Cambridge City for that size of the property, location type and service provision, or the current Local Housing Allowance rate, whichever is lower.
  - Homeless Prevention grants totalling £324,000 for 2022/23 were given to a range of voluntary and community groups including Cambridge Citizens Advice, Cambridge Cyrenians, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, CHS Group, Cambridge Women's Aid, Centre 33, It Takes a City, Jimmy's Cambridge and Wintercomfort for the Homeless.
  - A new joint Streets to Home service in collaboration with Cambridgeshire County Council has been agreed to be developed. The service will be funded through a government homelessness prevention grant. The service will provide a more cohesive approach to tackling rough sleeping and homelessness in Cambridge and providing better outcomes for homeless people in the city.
- **Reducing digital exclusion**
  - The council has supported digitally excluded Council tenants and leaseholders by loaning out tablets with pre-loaded data, providing free wifi in community rooms at Hanover and Princess court, and facilitating the roll-out of fibre-optic broadband by commercial companies to Council homes including a heavily discounted social rate broadband package.
  - The council successfully applied to the National Databank scheme, which helps promote digital inclusion for resident-leaseholders on low incomes as it gives tenants access to free data and unlimited calls and messages for up to six months.
  - The Council supported the Cambridgeshire Digital Partnership, which brings together local voluntary and community groups providing support to digitally excluded households, and provided funding through its

Community Grants to local voluntary and community groups to deliver a range of digital inclusion activity.

### **New activities that the Council has initiated to address the cost of living:**

The Council has taken a number of additional steps recently to help address the cost of living for local residents. Recent activities have included:

- Holding meetings with relevant Council service managers and key partner organisations to identify and coordinate activities to help address the cost of living.
- Attending meetings of a multi-agency City Community Reference Group (CRG), which is looking at measures to help alleviate the cost-of-living issues.
- Developing a single cost-of-living page on the Council's website which provides information on a range of support available from the Council to reduce costs and maximise incomes and signposts residents to support available from other organisations. The webpage is available here: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help>
- Securing £179,000 funding from the Clinical Commissioning Group for a Heat and Health project (as part of a combined total of £500,000 awarded to the City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council). During 2022/23, the project will work with communities across the three districts to co-produce an approach to support residents who are experiencing damp and mould and associated health conditions as a result of not being able to heat their homes fully.
- Securing £391,000 government grant to fund a Vaccine Champion project which delivers support for vaccine access and health inequality. The project collaborates with Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to tailor and co-design activities and communication campaigns to tackle misinformation and overcome barriers to vaccine access.
- Organising a food justice event in Cambridge in May 2022 to bring together local partners to discuss their experience of addressing food justice issues, share best practice and identify opportunities to collaborate. Following this event, a food poverty and sustainability conference is planned for May 2023.
- Supporting Cambridge Sustainable Food's Going for Gold campaign, which aims to secure a Sustainable Food Places Gold Award for Cambridge. Along with climate change and biodiversity, food justice is one of the two key themes of the campaign. The campaign aims to encourage everyone in Cambridge to help co-create a local food system that's healthy, climate-friendly, and fair for all.

## **Central government provisions that aim to support the cost of living**

The government have provided £37 billion in support for those who are most in need. The most vulnerable households will receive at least £1,200 of support in total this year, to help with the cost of living. All domestic electricity customers receiving at least £400 to help with their bills. Key support packages include:

- **Help with energy bills**

- A £15 billion energy bill rebate package, worth up to £550 each for around 28 million households. All domestic energy customers in Great Britain will receive a £400 grant to help with the cost of their energy bills through the Energy Bill Support Scheme. This money will not need to be paid back.
- Households liable for Council Tax in Bands A-D in England will also receive a £150 Council Tax Rebate to help with the rising cost of bills. In Cambridge, the City Council has been responsible for administering the rebate.
- The Warms Home Discount. 2.2 million low-income households receive a £140 rebate on their energy bills. From 2022, proposed changes will see the scheme worth £475 million a year with nearly 3 million households receiving a £150 rebate.
- Winter fuel payments. Providing payments of £200 for households with someone of State Pension Age, or £300 for Households with someone aged 80 or over. In total, this represents a £2bn per year contribution to winter fuel bills.

- **Cost of living payments**

- More than 8 million households on means-tested benefits will receive a payment of £650. This includes all households who receive Universal Credit, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Pension Credit.
- All pensioner households will receive an extra £300 to help them cover the rising cost of energy this winter. This payment will go to the over 8 million pensioner households who receive the Winter Fuel Payment.
- People with disabilities will receive an extra £150 to help with the particular extra costs they face.

- **Household support funds**

- The Household Support Fund will provide £1.5 billion to help households who are not eligible for other kinds of help or need further support. The Household Support Fund helps those in most need with the cost of essentials such as food, clothing and utilities. In Cambridge, the funding is being distributed by Cambridgeshire County Council.

- **Rising national insurance contribution thresholds**

- National Insurance starting thresholds will rise to £12,570 from July 2022. The cut, worth over £6 billion, will benefit 30 million working people with a typical employee saving over £330 a year.
- **Cutting fuel duty**
  - From 23 March, a 12-month cut in the main rates of fuel duty for petrol and diesel of 5 pence per litre. This represents savings for consumers worth almost £2.4 billion over the next year.
- **Reducing NICs for lower earning self-employed people**
  - From April, self-employed individuals will not pay Class 2 NICs on profits between the Small Profits Threshold and Lower Profits Limit, meaning lower-earning self-employed people can keep more of what they earn while continuing to build up to National Insurance credits. This change represents a tax reduction for around 500,000 self-employed people worth up to £165 per year.
- **National Living Wage**
  - Raising the National Living Wage by 6.6% to £9.50 per hour for workers aged 23 and over from 1 April, will benefit more than 2 million workers. This means an increase of over £1,000 to the annual earnings of a full-time worker on the NLW.



**Councillor Herbert proposed the following amendment to motion (deleted text ~~struckthrough~~, additional text underlined)**

This council notes:

- That waste and recycling rates have remained remarkably stable over the past two years, despite periods of lockdown with most workers and school children staying at home plus periods of service disruption due to staff shortages.
- That total waste and recycle per household has reduced over the past four years, from 901.09kg per household in 2019/19 to 879.09 kg per household in 2021/22.
- That the weight of both residual waste and recycling collected has reduced.
- Despite service disruptions to green bin collections the weight of green bin waste has increased.
- ~~Noting from the recent report of corporate performance~~ That blue bin recycling rates have decreased over the past year and the proportion of black bin waste has increased as the weight of residual waste collected has been reduced.
- The waste hierarchy is to reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, dispose.
- Reducing the amount of waste going into the residual bin and then to landfill is a priority of the shared waste service.

Council requests a report to the next Environment & Community Scrutiny committee ~~enabling focused scrutiny of this situation and examination of potential emphases to reverse these trends and get back on track.~~

to consider how this trend in residual waste reduction can be maintained and increased over the coming years.

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## **Council 21 July 2022 Written Question and Answer**

### **1. Councillor Davies**

#### **To the Leader:**

"Although there is acknowledged uncertainty about the government's own strategy towards the OxCam Arc project, work on promoting this continues at District level through the 'Arc Leadership Group', in which officers and members participate on behalf of Cambridge City Council.

Can the Leader of the Council update Members on the activities being undertaken under the auspices of the Arc Leadership Group, which include the tender advertised earlier this year to:

"write an Internationalisation Plan for the OxCam Arc area, cementing the area as a World Leading Innovation Centre of Excellence, positioning the OxCam Arc as the Powerhouse of Sustainable Technologies on the Global Stage and showcasing the highest level of collaboration across the different areas of the OxCam Arc region encouraging and sustaining economic growth by backing existing sectors and boosting new emerging clusters."?

Specifically, can she explain the purpose and implications of this Internationalisation Plan as they relate to Cambridge?"

#### **Answer**

As you are aware the Government withdrew support for the ARC to develop into a sub-regional intergovernmental body.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Levelling-up in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Neil O'Brien MP wrote to the Chair of the ARC Leadership Group to indicate that the group should nevertheless consider how best to achieve their shared ambitions for the environment, infrastructure, and inward investment together.

Since then, Neil O'Brien resigned from the Government, as have other DLUHC ministers, the Secretary of State Michael Gove was fired, and government policy in relation to the Oxford to Cambridge geography is uncertain.

Prior to the government withdrawing its support I understand a report was commissioned jointly by the ARC Leadership Group and Department for Trade and Investment. That report included recommendations to promote regional exports and inward investment; closer co-ordination between LEPs and Universities; better data sharing and collaboration; and inclusion of the OxCam geography in DTI led UK investment campaigns.

I would be happy for the Chief Executive to provide you with a copy of that report, subject to securing permission from the DTI.