



Council 21 July 2022

Decisions

Agenda item 1. Minutes 26 May

- Agreed

Agenda item 4. Recommendation of the Executive

Agenda item 4a. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn Report 2021/22 (Executive Councillor for Housing)

Resolved to:

Approve carry forward requests of £22,055,000 in HRA and General Fund Housing capital budgets and associated resources from 2021/22 into 2022/23 and beyond to fund re-phased net capital spending, as detailed in appendix D of the officer's report and the associated notes to the appendix.

Agenda item 4b. Annual Treasury Management (Outturn) Report 2021/22 (Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation)

Resolved to:

- Approve the report with the Council's actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2021/22.
- Approve a loan of £50,000 to Cherry Hinton Community Benefit Society for their contribution to the building costs of the Cherry Hinton Hub.

Agenda item 4c. General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances Report (Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation)

Resolved to:

- i. Approve carry forward requests totalling £2,132,920 of revenue funding from 2021/22 to 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix C of the officer's report.
- ii. Approve additional budget in 2022/23 of £22k for Arboriculture and £12k for Project Delivery funded from reserves, as detailed in Paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 in the officer's report.
- iii. Approve carry forward requests of £71,909,000 of capital resources from 2021/22 to 2022/23 to fund rephased net capital spending, as detailed in Appendix D of the officer's report.

Agenda item 4d. Budget for Land Acquisition (Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation)

Council resolved by 26 votes to 0 to exclude members of the public from the meeting on the grounds that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of information defined as exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved to:

Approve a budget of £33.94 million for a loan to the Cambridge Investment Partnership to cover land acquisition for the scheme explained in the officer's confidential report.

Agenda item 4e. Appointment to Conservators of the River Cam (Executive Councillor Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development)

Resolved to:

Approve the appointment of Councillor Hauk and Councillor Swift as the City Councillor to the Conservators of the River Cam (term ending December 2024).

Agenda item 6. Notices of Motion

Agenda item 6a. Fireworks and Pets as Prizes motion

Agreed:

Effects of Loud Fireworks on Animals

1. Studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs¹, and it is estimated that 45 percent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks². A New Zealand survey recorded 79 percent of horses as either anxious or very anxious around fireworks or over the Guy Fawkes Day period.³

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

¹ 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.

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

³ 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 encourage others in Cambridge to also ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form.
- F. write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

Agenda item 6b: BBC Look East motion

Agreed motion as amended:

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, 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.

Agenda item 6c. Private Renters Charter motion

This motion was withdrawn under Council Procedure Rule 27.

Agenda item 6d. Rivers, Safe Swimming motion

Agreed motion as amended:

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^[1].

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 companies⁴ 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>

Agenda item 6e. Cost of Living motion

Agreed:

Context:

Our residents are facing a cost-of-living emergency. According to the Office for National Statistics, [88% of adults in the Great Britain reported an increase in their cost of living](#) in May 2022, due to a range of factors

including rising inflation, increases in energy prices and government tax rises.

The cost of living has been increasing across the UK since early 2021. [in April 2022, inflation reached its highest recorded level](#), and the ONS estimates that it is now higher than at any time since around 1982, affecting the affordability of goods and services for households. Consumer prices, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), were 9.0% higher in April 2022 than a year before. On 5 May, [the Bank of England forecasted inflation to peak “at slightly over 10% in 2022 Q4, which would be the highest rate since 1982”](#). and predicted that it would remain above 9% up to and including Q1 2023.

Energy prices are another important driver of inflation , with both household energy tariffs and petrol costs increasing. From April 2021 to April 2022, domestic gas prices increased by 95% and domestic electricity prices by 54%. This is due in part to a [return of global gas demand as pandemic restrictions are lifted](#) and lower than normal production of natural gas. On 1 April 2022 the new price cap came into force. The regulator Ofgem announced [the cap would increase from its current equivalent annual level of £1,277 per year to £1,971](#); a 54% increase. As a result, road fuel prices in the UK have increased and energy bills may also rise further. The chief Executive of Ofgem said on 24 May that [he expected the price cap to increase to around £2,800 in October 2022](#), an increase of around 40%.

Food prices have also risen sharply, with incomes and benefits failing to keep pace. According to the British Retail Consortium, food inflation rose to 4.3% in May 2022, up from 3.5% in April, and has now reached its highest since April 2012. Fresh food has been particularly affected by price rises. The ONS has shown that a study of supermarket prices showed that even staple budget items like pasta rose 50% in the year to April 2022.

Alongside price increases, in April 2022, the Government also brought in tax rises, for both income tax and National Insurance contributions (NICs).

Council notes:

- That the Cost-of-Living emergency is a key issue for us as a local authority, against a backdrop of financial factors at national and international level.
- In these increasingly difficult times, there is a for us as a local authority to ensure advice and appropriate support is available to all residents.
- The disproportionate impact of the crisis on low-income households, which will spend a larger proportion of their income than average on energy and food and will therefore be more affected by price increases and tax rises that result in reduced disposable income.
- The work we are currently undertaking as a city council *across all departments* to support the most vulnerable residents, including:
 - increasing our council housing stock, with over 540 new council homes already completed
 - retrofitting our existing council housing stock to help reduce fuel bills and also supporting fuel-poor homeowners with retrofitting initiatives
 - running a Real Living Wage campaign, paying our own staff a Real Living Wage and encouraging employers across the city to do the same
 - providing an extensive range of community grants to organisations supporting residents
 - addressing the digital divide during the pandemic and beyond
 - building on our strong track record of fighting for food justice, including continuing our support for the city's network of food hubs
- That, while many of the economic factors causing the current cost of living crisis are outside of our control as a local authority, it is *essential* that we focus our efforts on providing the assistance we *do* have at our disposal to those residents struggling the most.

Council resolves to:

- Ensure that we continue to take a coordinated approach towards addressing the cost-of-living emergency, alongside working with our partners.
- Set up a dedicated officer working group to address the cost-of-living emergency.
- Address health and fuel inequalities through our health and heating project, which will employ a multi-layered approach that provides targeted support, working closely with community and voluntary sector partners.
- Build food justice and address food insecurity by making Cambridge a Right to Food City. This means that we will:
 - Call on national government to enshrine the right to food in law
 - Write to the Secretary of State *together with the Food Poverty Alliance* asking them to strengthen the National Food Strategy to ensure that it provides support for people struggling to eat in this cost-of-living crisis.
 - Continue our support of the city's food hubs and commit to working with our communities and members of the Food Poverty Alliance to form a vision of what the Right to Food looks like for Cambridge.
- Ensure that council decisions are not disproportionately impacting on residents who are struggling the most, through introducing a socio-economic duty and separately considering socio-economic impacts in all our equality impact assessments.
- Continue campaigning for and championing a real living wage for workers in our city, especially working closely with employers.
- Commit to working with others to ensure that we can harness both the good will and the wealth in our city to benefit all our residents.
- Review our small grants programme to make it easier for local groups supporting those struggling to get funding from our community grants.

Agenda item 6f. Waste Reduction and Recycling Rates

Agreed motion as amended:

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 2018/19 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.
- 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 to consider how this trend in residual waste reduction can be maintained and increased over the coming years.

For more information please contact Democratic Services:

- democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk
- Full meeting recording available on the Council's You Tube channel [Cambridge City Council - YouTube](#)

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