



CAMBRIDGE
CITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION PACK

Date: Thursday, 20 July 2023

- 1 **AGENDA ITEM 7 - ORAL QUESTIONS** *(Pages 5 - 14)*
- 2 **AGENDA ITEM 5E - COUNCILLOR BICK AMENDMENT TO GENERAL FUND RESERVE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN** *(Pages 15 - 16)*
- 3 **AGENDA ITEM 8A - COUNCILLOR THORNBURROW AMENDMENT TO THE REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ON CHILDMINDERS MOTION** *(Pages 17 - 18)*
- 4 **AGENDA ITEM 8B - COUNCILLOR GILDERDALE AMENDMENT TO THE COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING AND PROCUREMENT MOTION** *(Pages 19 - 24)*
- 5 **AMENDMENTS TO THE OPEN DOORS AT THE GUILDHALL MOTION**
 - 5a Agenda item 8c - Councillor Bick amendment to the Open Doors at the Guildhall motion *(Pages 25 - 26)*
 - 5b Agenda item 8c - Councillor Pounds amendment to the Open Doors at the Guildhall motion *(Pages 27 - 28)*
- 6 **AMENDMENTS TO THE STOP DUMPING SEWAGE IN OUR RIVER AND CHALK STREAMS MOTION**
 - 6a Agenda item 8e - Councillor Glasberg amendment to the Stop Dumping Sewage in our River and Chalk Streams motion *(Pages 29 - 32)*
 - 6b Agenda item 8e - Councillor Porrer amendment to the Stop Dumping Sewage in our River and Chalk Streams motion *(Pages 33 - 34)*
- 7 **AGENDA ITEM 9 - WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS** *(Pages 35 - 36)*

Revised order	From	To	Question
1	Cllr Karen Young	Cllr Sam Carling, Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services	Could the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces please update council on the herbicide free trials going on across the city?
2	Cllr Wade	Cllr Healy, Executive Councillor for Communities	What support will we be providing residents with this winter for those still struggling with the cost of living crisis?
3	Cllr Holloway	Cllr Gerri Bird, Executive Councillor for Housing and Homelessness	Can the executive give an update on Homelessness and how we are preparing for the winter?
4	Cllr Flaubert	Cllr Alice Gilderdale, Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety	Could the Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety please explain what support is available from the city Council for victims of Hate Crimes?

5	Cllr Delowar Hossain	The Leader	<p>Cambridge does not want this Congestion Charge. It will crush our businesses and hit the least well off and most vulnerable the hardest. We need to listen. Listen to residents, to businesses, to charities ,to community and to all faith groups. No one should be taxed to go to their prayers. During covid, residents of our city saw planters pop up in their roads almost overnight. Now those planters have become metal barriers. This council claims to be so concerned about congestion and pollution in our city. Yet our politicians are creating the very congestion & pollution they claim to want to solve! It's time this council said enough! Enough to the madness of closing Mill Road bridge, to the threatened closure of Arbury Road! We must stop the push to carve up the city that we love. Taxpayers cannot use their roads ,someone using as their private roads as for example Nightingale Avenue, Bateman street, Luard Road.,Panton Street,Story's way,Carlyle Road, Vinery Road.We are here for all not for few. Question to Labour Party leaderWhat is cambridge council's view on roads closures & congestion charge plan?</p>
---	----------------------	------------	---

6	Cllr Pounds	Mairéad Healy, Executive Councillor for Communities	Could the exec for communities give us more information about the recently announced Street Arts Festival?
7	Cllr McPherson	Cllr Alice Gilderdale, Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety	Following recent tragic events, what is the council doing to ensure residents are made fully aware of the dangers of lithium battery charging?
8	Cllr Baigent	Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	What are the important quick wins that could improve rail transportation for the Cambridge area?
9	Cllr Naomi Bennett	Cllr Gerri Bird, Executive Councillor for Housing and Homelessness	The Green and Independent Group welcomes the 25 June 2023 by Homes England that they will now fund replacement “Affordable” homes as well as new ones .However, the new scheme comes with conditions that existing projects may not be able to satisfy. What plans does the Executive councillor have to take advantage of the additional funding and will she bring a report to Housing Scrutiny in September 2023 to identify which pipeline projects are expected to qualify and which are not ?

10	Cllr Griffin	Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	What can be done to provide new home dwellers with the same levels of consumer protection that is enjoyed by clients elsewhere in the construction industry to ensure all new homes are built in full compliance with the approved drawings and performance standards in respect of energy consumption, ventilation, and air tightness?
11	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	<p>Could the Exec Councillor update the council on the implications of the letter from the Environment Agency on 28th June objecting to the building of new homes in the Greater Cambridge planning area on the basis that “there remains a great deal of uncertainty relating to water provision”.</p> <p>What confidence does the Exec Councillor have that Cambridge Water will be able to provide the assurance needed by the Environment Agency, and what is being done by the Council to ensure that the issue of water shortage does not lead to a very serious failure of the planning process in our area?</p>

12	Cllr Divkovic	Cllr Alice Gilderdale, Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety	What is the council doing with its partners to make the market square and city centre safe at night?
13	Cllr Holloway	Executive Councillor for Housing and Homelessness	Could the Executive Councillor give an update on numbers of people currently homeless in Cambridge, what is being done to support them, and what preparations are being made for the winter
14	Cllr Howard	Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	Does the council monitor the numbers of homes that have obtained Planning Permission but have not yet been built? If so, is the number increasing with the economic downturn?
15	Cllr Nestor	Cllr Sam Carling, Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services	Can the Executive Councillor give an update on the progression of the Herbicide Reduction Plan?
16	Cllr Cheney Payne	Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	Could the Executive Councillor please offer an update on actions the Council has taken so far to support residents in Darwin Green and the surrounding area following the recent announcement of the need for demolition of a number of properties due to an issue with the foundations?

17	Cllr Dryden	Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	Many residents have expressed concern following Michael Gove's recent announcement of Cambridge becoming a new 'Silicon Valley'. How has the leader of the council responded to these claims, particularly regarding the water shortages the region is facing?
18	Cllr Sheil	Cllr Simon Smith, Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources	Could the Executive Councillor outline how and why the focus for the strategic EIP funding has changed this year?
19	Cllr Glasberg	Cllr Healy, Executive Councillor for Communities	With the rise in interest rates and the knock on impact on private rent levels, many Cambridge residents are turning to our food banks and food hubs for the first time. Will the council publish the Cambridge Sustainable Food list of food hubs and food banks in an easily downloadable form on their website to enable struggling residents to access the help they need.
20	Cllr David Levien	Cllr Sam Carling, Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services	Can the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services explain how the Council can allow street traders on open spaces outside the consent zone, especially in the new developments that lack local amenities?

21	Cllr Olaf Hauk	Cllr Rosy Moore, Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment	Can the Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment assure us that Cambridge City Council will continue to support Hobson's Conduit Trust in its role of maintaining the heritage and environmental value of Hobson's Brook and Hobson's Conduit?
22	Cllr Tong	Mairéad Healy, Executive Councillor for Communities	In 2020/21, children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities had the highest rates of overall absence and persistent absence from school. Of any ethnic group in the UK . The rate is over 50% which is shockingly high. (source gov.uk) The lack of sites and transit places for the GRT community and non GRT van dwellers is undoubtedly a factor in this. The impact of losing out of education stays with GRT children for life . Will the Executive Councillors state what progress they have made to finding sites in our local area and how long they think it will take to obtain and equip sites and do our part to prevent young GRT lives from being blighted?

23	Cllr Bick	Cllr Mike Davey, The Leader/Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	Would the Leader agree with me that, rather than impose an arbitrary 250,000 homes on this area with its concept of "Cambridge 2040", the Government would do better to work with this council and its partner in South Cambridgeshire on the new local plan we are already developing to meet the evidence-based need for additional homes and jobs; and to help us address the specific local challenges and obstacles such as water scarcity and the social stress that arising from rapid growth?
24	Cllr Anthony Martinelli	Cllr Gerri Bird, Executive Councillor for Housing and Homelessness	Is the Executive Councillor satisfied with the maintenance of council housing?
25	Cllr Daniel Lee	Cllr Sam Carling, Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services	With the potholes over winter there is still lots of loose gravel and debris across roads and cycle paths which could potentially cause accidents and damage people's cars and bicycles, likely forcing cyclists to use cars. Given it is now July and winter is coming, could the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services explain what is the council's plan

			to deal with this before the situation gets worse?
26	Cllr Katie Porrer	Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	Can the Executive Councillor for Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure comment on the government proposals for a new Infrastructure Levy, put forward for consultation as a replacement for Section 106 money and Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

This page is intentionally left blank

STRATEGY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

03 July 2023

5.30 – 22:05

Present: Robertson (Chair), Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Gawthrop Wood, Holloway, Sheil and Young.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL (EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR FINANCE & RESOURCES COUNCILLOR S. SMITH)

2022/23 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN, CARRY FORWARDS AND SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES

This report presents, for all Portfolios:

- a) A summary of actual income and expenditure compared to the final budget for 2022/23 (outturn position)
- b) Revenue and capital budget variances with explanations
- c) Specific requests to carry forward funding available from budget underspends into 2023/24.

The outturn report presented reflects the Executive Portfolios for which budgets were originally approved (which may have changed since, for example for any changes in Portfolio responsibilities).

The Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee considered the report and approved the recommendations.

Accordingly, Council is recommended to:

- a) Carry forward requests totalling £1,391,800 of revenue funding from 2022/23 to 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix C. These are carry forward requests in excess of £50k. Requests up to and including £50k which total £176,070 are approved via delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer.
- b) Approve additional budget in 2023/24 of £80k to the Climate Change Fund funded from reserves, as detailed in Paragraphs 3.6 to 3.8 below.

c) Approve the allocation of £200k from the General Fund reserve to establish Greater Cambridge Impact (GCI) as detailed in Paragraphs 3.9 and 3.10 below.

d) Approve the allocation of £218k in 2023/24 from the General Fund reserve to fund the additional resource required to enable the delivery of key programmes and projects within the Place Group. The allocation required will increase to £267k in 2024/25 and £281k 2025/26 onwards as detailed in Paragraphs 3.11 below.

e) To carry forward requests of £81,444,000 of capital resources from 2022/23 to 2023/24 to fund rephased net capital spending, as detailed in Appendix D.

f) Note the handing back to the government of the majority of the recent Sustainable Warmth Grants - unspent - which was intended to insulate private sector homes, and request a detailed review at the relevant scrutiny committee of the contributory factors to this situation and courses of action to improve take-up of future iterations of this government funding source for the very important climate change-related objective of retrofitting existing homes.

Agenda item 8a – Councillor Thornburrow proposes and Councillor Moore seconds the following amendment to the Removal of Restrictive Covenants on Childminders and Other Small Enterprises motion. (Deleted text struckthrough, additional text underlined.)

Council notes that some housebuilders impose restrictive covenants prohibiting residents from running businesses from homes and that such a prohibition can prevent the operation of ~~domestic childcare provision with the community and shares the concern about the implications of this with Cambridgeshire County Council, which debated the matter earlier this year~~ small enterprises, including domestic childcare provision within the community.

Council notes that at its annual meeting on May 16 2023 Cambridgeshire County Council resolved to ‘make a recommendation to the District Councils that on strategic new developments, a condition of planning is that such restrictive covenants which are to be put in place state explicitly that childcare on domestic premises will be exempt, where there is an identified need which can be demonstrated’.

Council ~~considers~~ agrees that the availability of childcare is an important component of a sustainable community in terms of service, social integration, employment and parental participation in the workforce, its absence encourages unnecessary travel and presents a barrier to securing family livelihoods and the pursuit of chosen lifestyles – and that this is particularly true of wholly new neighbourhoods.

Council further notes that restrictions on other small enterprises can have equally negative effects on the communities where they apply, and that exemptions for childcare on domestic premises should also apply to other small enterprises.

Council therefore calls on:

- (a) the Planning Committee and members on the Joint Development Control Committee to explore the use of planning conditions to avoid restrictive covenants on business use which preclude small

enterprises such as domestically based childcare provision, where this can be supported by evidence of need

- (b) the Greater Cambridge Planning Service to engage with housebuilders active in Greater Cambridge to address the childcare deficit for new communities being delivered as part of the current adopted Local Plan 2018; and in view of predicted growth, seek their support for approaches that will meet the needs of childcare providers and families in the emerging joint local plan
- (c) the Executive Councillor for Planning and Infrastructure to develop a planning policy regarding childminders that will include feedback from the engagement with housebuilders and stakeholders across Greater Cambridge, including organisations like The Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY), to ensure that needs are balanced across all the interests in the community so that childminders are exempt from blanket covenants to restrict businesses being run from homes.

Agenda item 8e - Councillor Gilderdale proposes and Councillor Griffin seconds the following amendment to the Community Wealth Building and Procurement motion. (Deleted text struckthrough, additional text underlined.)

The Council Notes:

1. The Council has recently completed a Community Wealth Building (CWB) research project, which highlighted the importance of taking a holistic, systems approach to inclusive wealth building.
2. That the Council is already proactively working to support local businesses and social enterprises. This includes working with professional organisations and industry bodies, including potential suppliers.
3. That according to Tussell's 2021 statistics, Cambridge City Council was placed in the top quartile for locally based supplier spending, with the following participation rates:

The purpose of this motion is to:

- ~~— Encourage smaller businesses, community organisations and local businesses and organisations to consider becoming council suppliers~~
 - ~~— Identify and remove invisible barriers to participation while:~~
 - ~~— continuing to comply with the strict statutory rules and best practice guidelines for public sector procurement.~~
1. ~~This council proposes to encourage more small and local suppliers by showing that other such suppliers already do so. It will do this by publishing its participation statistics as prominently as possible.~~
 2. ~~This council recognises that invisible barriers for smaller organisations do exist. Sole traders may struggle to find time to access training at conventional times. For this reason, council officers will explore options on all Council media channels available for the most suitable way in which to engage with novice suppliers~~

~~3. The Council shall draw these steps to the attention of “multipliers” and ask them to share this with their networks. Multipliers are professional organisations and industry bodies that deal with a large number of potential suppliers.~~

~~Background Notes (not part of active motion):~~

~~1. By law, public procurement must be a level playing field open to all potential suppliers. Councils cannot for example offer preferential treatment to local or smaller businesses or community organisations.~~

~~2. However, nothing prevents councils from working to eliminate invisible barriers to participation.~~

~~3. In particular, smaller organisations are time poor and may struggle to research opportunities or access training.~~

~~4. Cambridge City Council current available figures (2021) shows we achieved~~

~~a. Spent £48,344,507 with SMEs. This is 51% of Cambridge City Council's total procurement spend.~~

~~b. Spent £2,773,347 with VCSEs This is 3% of Cambridge City Council's total procurement spend.~~

~~c. Spent £68,062,517 with locally based suppliers This is 72% of Cambridge City Council's total procurement spend.~~

~~5. Out of 259 authorities, Cambridge City Council achieved:~~

~~a. 44th place for its SME spending (51%)~~

~~b. 195th place for its VCSE spending (3%)~~

~~c. 4th place for its locally based supplier spending (72%)~~

~~6. Overall, this puts Cambridge City Council in the top quartile.~~

~~a. Rankings may be affected by differences between the functions of the councils.~~

~~b. Locally placed suppliers may include local branches of national and international businesses.~~

~~c. There are no figures for smaller SMEs such as micro businesses~~

~~NB— figures for 2022 are due to be published later this month~~

~~7. Abbreviations:~~

~~a. SME means small and medium enterprises. The UK definition of SME is now a small or medium-sized enterprise with fewer than 500 (was 250) employees, and a turnover of less than €50 million, or a balance sheet total of less than €43 million~~

~~b. VCSE means an incorporated voluntary, community or social enterprise which serves communities solely within England.~~

~~c. Community wealth building is usually defined as creating a resilient and inclusive economy for the benefit of the local area.~~

~~d. And is one of the key principles of “doughnut economics” a term coined by Kate Raworth.~~

~~e. Cllrs Bennett and Tong wish to thank officers and councillors from Bristol, Preston, Stroud and Cambridge for their help in putting this motion together. Any errors or omissions are of course our own~~

The Council believes:

4. That these procurement figures do not include spending on grants, despite the City Council having a significant grants scheme which supports the local voluntary and community sector.
5. That smaller businesses and organisations face invisible barriers, including access to training, and support.
6. The council's successful application for funding from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), included a three-year package of support for local businesses. This included supporting youth enterprise, support for the city centre post-pandemic recovery, the continuation of the Green Grants programme, and specific provision for local businesses recovering from the impact of Covid-19.
7. The Council has a strong partnership with Allia, the non-profit organisation based in the ground floor of the Guildhall, which provides a hub for local start-ups, charities and enterprises.

The Council Believes:

1. That in order to strengthen the prosperity of the city and its residents, the Council must support SMEs, community organisations and local businesses to develop and succeed.
2. Supporting SMEs, community organisations and local businesses is a key strand of a Community Wealth Building approach, enabling smaller businesses to thrive, and supporting the creation of local jobs.

The Council Will:

1. Continue to develop a new CWB umbrella strategy, which builds on the foundation of work already in place provided by our Anti-Poverty Strategy and further work the Council is already doing.

2. Continue to ensure that part of the ongoing CWB strategy specifically looks into the way the Council procures. This includes supporting local supplies to participate in council procurement.
3. In order to do this, the council will:
 1. Use its allocated Shared Prosperity Fund grant to continue to support SMEs, community organisations and local businesses. This will include launching our Green Business programme by September 2023, to support at least 70 local SMEs. This will strengthen their businesses and increase their ability to respond to council tender opportunities and requirements on environmental strategy and social value.
 2. Work with business network and membership organisations on a Business Resilience programme offering targeted support to local businesses and start-ups, connecting local businesses to support and advice the council and other organisations offer.
4. Continue to comply with the strict statutory rules and best practice guidelines for public sector procurement.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda item 8c - Councillor Bick proposes the following amendment to the Open Doors at the Guildhall motion. Deleted text ~~struckthrough~~, additional text underlined.

1. This council resolves to promote a closer relationship between the council and residents by opening the Guild Hall to the public.
- ~~2. It is envisaged that initially this would be on a trial basis and hours would be limited, or by appointment only.~~
- ~~3. It is envisaged that priority would be given to school groups and other educational visits.~~
- ~~4. This council resolves to consider ways of opening up its collection of antique ceremonial objects to public view, perhaps by partnering with a suitable local Museum.~~

~~Background Notes (not part of active motion):~~

- ~~1. We understand that before lock down, school visits were made to the Guild Hall on occasion.~~
- ~~2. The Guild Hall still contains a court house and functioning cells which were used up until the 1920s.~~
- ~~3. The Guild Hall is also home to the Council's collection of ceremonial objects, such as maces and trowels.~~

Council notes that:

1. With the Guildhall currently occupied by a tenant and Mandela House still operating as if locked down, that the council is not projecting an open and accessible physical presence to the public;
2. The council has made the welcome decision to retain the Guildhall as a civic building at the heart of the city and to operate from it in future;
3. That even with the recent shift to digital transactions with the council, there is an unrealised potential for a physical shop window for its work offering some personal contact.

Council calls for:

1. A timetable for the council's re-occupation of the Guildhall to be agreed and published as soon as is practicable;
2. An interim re-instatement of a daily open door, a reception to the public staffed by the council, a small exhibition space for topical matters related to the city council and other public services, and computer terminals enabling digital access for the public to the wider services of the council;
3. Access to be enabled to schools and other visitors to the council chamber and civic regalia.

Agenda item 8c – Councillor Pounds proposes and Councillor Dryden seconds the following amendment to the Open Doors at the Guildhall motion. (Deleted text struckthrough, additional text underlined.)

- ~~1. This council resolves to promote a closer relationship between the council and residents by opening the Guild Hall to the public.~~
- ~~2. It is envisaged that initially this would be on a trial basis and hours would be limited, or by appointment only.~~
- ~~3. It is envisaged that priority would be given to school groups and other educational visits.~~
- ~~4. This council resolves to consider ways of opening up its collection of antique ceremonial objects to public view, perhaps by partnering with a suitable local Museum.~~

Background Notes (not part of active motion):

- ~~1. We understand that before lock down, school visits were made to the Guild Hall on occasion.~~
- ~~2. The Guild Hall still contains a court house and functioning cells which were used up until the 1920s.~~
- ~~3. The Guild Hall is also home to the Council's collection of ceremonial objects, such as maces and trowels.~~

Council notes that:

- Public access to the Guildhall and its predecessor buildings have played a vital role in the civic and community life of Cambridge for centuries.
- There is an open invitation to the Guildhall for members of the public to observe and contribute to the work of the Council, which is fundamental to the transparency and accountability of the democratic process.
- The presence of the ceremonial artifacts in the Guildhall is symbolic of the Council's institutional authority as a democratically elected decision-making body, and these are available to view.
- The Guildhall's facilities are open to the public for a diverse range of community and commercial activities, facilitated in part by the Allia-operated Future Business Centre which was pioneered by the Labour Group.
- Hosting tours of the Guildhall for the Cambridge community, including youth organisations, is already a core part of the Mayor's role, and work is underway to establish the demand for – and resource implications of – tours for school children.

Council believes that:

- Maintaining and expanding public access to the Guildhall is an important part of showing openness to residents, and preserving the civic history of Cambridge.
- This must be part of a wider culture around opening our spaces across the city, improving resident access to other spaces such as community centres, so that delivery of services and contact with the Council is not limited to a central location.

Council resolves to:

- Reiterate its commitment to maintaining the Guildhall as the City's seat of local government, and its commitment to refurbishing the Guildhall into a community-oriented civic space in line with the pledge made in Cambridge Labour's manifesto.
- Continue to invite a diverse range of community and educational organisations into the Guildhall and encourage any such organisations which are interested to reach out to the Mayor.

Agenda item 8e - Cllr Glasberg proposes and Cllr Bennett seconds the following amendment to the Stop Dumping Sewage in our River and Chalk Streams motion. (Deleted text ~~struckthrough~~, additional text underlined.)

This Council notes that:

On 21st July 2022, a motion was passed by the Council regarding Rivers, Safe Swimming and Sewage, which recognised the cumulative impact of sewage discharge events.

The responsible bodies are the Environment Agency for general oversight, Cambridge Water for water supply, and Anglian Water for sewage. Despite members highlighting the issues in this Council, and engaging with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water, recent evidence shows that pollution levels in our rivers and chalk streams remain unacceptable.

Many residents and local organisations have rightly raised concerns about the health implications of the poor water quality in our rivers and chalk streams, especially during summer months when local children and families would expect to be able to bathe and enjoy nature-rich river banks. Cam Valley Forum have undertaken water quality tests for the year 2021 to 2022, and Anglian Water continue to take weekly tests. All show poor water quality.

On 22nd September 2022, South Cambridgeshire District Council agreed a motion calling for measures to stop water companies dumping raw sewage in our chalk streams, and has begun working towards a formal application to Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs for an inland bathing water stretch within their district under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC).

A designation as a bathing water site from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs imposes a legal obligation on Anglian Water to reduce sewage pollution in the area concerned until the level 'good' or 'excellent' is reached; requires the Environment Agency to test the water regularly during the bathing season in order to produce an annual classification as "excellent", "good", "sufficient" or "poor"; requires the local council and agencies to publish the annual water quality classification; and can help residents enjoy the benefits of wild swimming, reducing stress, and improving wellbeing, fitness and contact with nature.

Therefore, this Council calls on everyone to engage with the River Cam and its associated chalk streams and tributaries with respect, accepting our stewardship of this vital natural resource, and asks all residents and organisations of Cambridge to act as guardians of the river and be mindful of the impact of our own actions and those of others that threaten its health and survival.

Furthermore, in order to reduce threats to the River Cam and its tributaries caused by pollution and over-abstraction, this Council:

- ~~will support a formal application to Defra for an inland water stretch along the River Cam within Cambridge City Council boundaries to be designated as a bathing water site, working with Anglian Water and local partners such as Cam Valley Forum, recognising that designation would bring tangible benefits to the health of the river and city residents, subject to approval from the Executive Councillor following consideration by the Environment & Community Scrutiny Committee;~~
- The Council will carefully consider the implications of the 3 July 2023 guidance Bathing waters: apply to designate or de-designate - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- In particular, the council will take advice as to the legal and public health implications of encouraging a minimum of 100 people to spend an aggregate of 800 hours immersed in an unsafe and polluted area. This is a requirement of any new application for designated status.
- The Council will also take advice as to the legal and public health implications of encouraging an unknown number of people to expose themselves to polluted water. It should be borne in mind that only testing for e coli would be required if designated status is granted and not for the other chemicals and contaminants known to be present in the Cam.
- The Council will carefully consider and take independent biodiversity advice on the impact on the river, the river banks, protected species and particularly on the three local nature reserves adjacent to the site.
- The Council will consult the Conservators of the River Cam who are the statutory navigation authority for the river.
- The Council will consider the impact on existing other users of the area including but not limited to the existing 600 member canoe club, the iconic punt route through this narrow site to Grantchester Meadows and the impact on the key tourism asset of the Scudamores punt station and existing visitors to and residents of this popular and heavily used area..
- The Council shall review the accident and safety records of the site and consider the costs and biodiversity implications of making the site physically safe for swimmers.
- The council shall consider the considerable capital and recurring costs and feasibility of providing and maintaining appropriate bankside facilities to comply with the 3 July 2023 requirements and its own safety standards.
- The Council shall consider the likelihood of any designated bathing water application resulting in cleaner water given that water status remains poor at the only current inland bathing site at Ilkley.
- The Council shall consider carefully the outcome of this preliminary review before making any decision to permit a public consultation to

take place or any application for designated bathing area status to proceed.

- asks the Chief Executive to send a formal letter to the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water, and Anglian Water expressing its concerns over the state of the River Cam and associated chalk streams and other tributaries, and calling for their assistance in improving water quality and reducing pollution;
- will continue to consider the impact of the emerging Local Plan on the water environment through the cross-party, cross-boundary Shared Planning Local Plan Advisory Group, and the cross-party Cambridge City Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee;
- affirms the goal, agreed by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, of having the water management plan for our chalk streams based on being an 'environmental destination' with subsequent protection as sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), rather than 'business as usual plus';
- will provide public access to the full response of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning to the Cambridge Water, Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) consultation.

References

Information provided by the Government on Bathing Water Quality

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bathing-waters>

Information from Cam Valley Forum <https://camvalleyforum.uk/water-quality/>

South Cambridgeshire District Council motion, agreed on 22 September 2022

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=93434>

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 6b

Agenda item 8e – Councillor Porrer proposes and Cllr Bick seconds the following amendment to the Stop Dumping Sewage in our River and Chalk Streams motion. (Deleted text struckthrough, additional text underlined.)

This Council notes that:

On 21st July 2022, a motion was passed by the Council regarding Rivers, Safe Swimming and Sewage, which recognised the cumulative impact of sewage discharge events.

The responsible bodies are the Environment Agency for general oversight, Cambridge Water for water supply, and Anglian Water for sewage. Despite members highlighting the issues in this Council, and engaging with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water, recent evidence shows that pollution levels in our rivers and chalk streams remain unacceptable.

Many residents and local organisations have rightly raised concerns about the health implications of the poor water quality in our rivers and chalk streams, especially during summer months when local children and families would expect to be able to bathe and enjoy nature-rich river banks. Cam Valley Forum have undertaken water quality tests for the year 2021 to 2022, and Anglian Water continue to take weekly tests. All show poor water quality.

On 22nd September 2022, South Cambridgeshire District Council agreed a motion calling for measures to stop water companies dumping raw sewage in our chalk streams, and has begun working towards a formal application to Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs for an inland bathing water stretch within their district under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC).

A designation as a bathing water site from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs imposes a legal obligation on Anglian Water to reduce sewage pollution in the area concerned until the level ‘good’ or ‘excellent’ is reached; requires the Environment Agency to test the water regularly during the bathing season in order to produce an annual classification as “excellent”, “good”, “sufficient” or “poor”; requires the local council and agencies to publish the annual water quality classification; and can help residents enjoy the benefits of wild swimming, reducing stress, and improving wellbeing, fitness and contact with nature.

Therefore, this Council calls on everyone to engage with the River Cam and its associated chalk streams and tributaries with respect, accepting our stewardship of this vital natural resource, and asks all residents and organisations of Cambridge to act as guardians of the river and be mindful of the impact of our own actions and those of others that threaten its health and survival.

Furthermore, in order to reduce threats to the River Cam and its tributaries caused by pollution and over-abstraction, this Council:

- ~~will support a formal application to Defra for an inland water stretch along the River Cam within Cambridge City Council boundaries to be designated as a bathing water site, working with Anglian Water and local partners such as Cam Valley Forum, recognising that designation would bring tangible benefits to the health of the river and city residents, subject to approval from the Executive Councillor following consideration by the Environment & Community Scrutiny Committee;~~
- Agrees to evaluate the potential of a formal application to Defra for an inland water stretch along the River Cam within Cambridge City Council boundaries to be designated as a bathing site, working with Anglian Water and local partners such as Cam Valley Forum, in order to secure an improvement in water quality while also taking into account the impact of any increased usage and avoidance of significant additional cost; and requests a report on this to the Environment & Community Scrutiny Committee to inform a balanced decision by the Executive Councillor.
- asks the Chief Executive to send a formal letter to the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water, and Anglian Water expressing its concerns over the state of the River Cam and associated chalk streams and other tributaries, and calling for their assistance in improving water quality and reducing pollution;
- will continue to consider the impact of the emerging Local Plan on the water environment through the cross-party, cross-boundary Shared Planning Local Plan Advisory Group, and the cross-party Cambridge City Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee;
- affirms the goal, agreed by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, of having the water management plan for our chalk streams based on being an 'environmental destination' with subsequent protection as sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), rather than 'business as usual plus';
- will provide public access to the full response of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning to the Cambridge Water, Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) consultation.

References

Information provided by the Government on Bathing Water Quality

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bathing-waters>

Information from Cam Valley Forum <https://camvalleyforum.uk/water-quality/>

South Cambridgeshire District Council motion, agreed on 22 September 2022

<https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=93434>

1. Councillor Levien

To Councillor Carling the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services

My application to the Environment Improvement Programme last year for the installation of drinking fountains in Hobson Square, Trumpington appeared to be a well-placed, low cost and good value for money project, which was approved and funded.

Is there a date for this to be completed?

Response:

This project will provide a welcome addition to Hobson Square, improving the amenity of the area, and I am pleased that it received funding from the previous round of the Environmental Improvement Programme. £2,500 has been allocated to provide additional public drinking water points in the area, and officers are currently investigating how this might best be achieved.

There are a number of issues which need to be considered and worked around, including the potential for vandalism of external water taps and fountains (which has been a problem in the past), and the ongoing maintenance costs of these as well. I am sure you will agree, Cllr Levien, that it's important for these issues to be given due consideration in order for the project to be as successful as possible and meet the expectations you will no doubt have as its sponsor.

I have contacted the Project Team and asked for an update, and I am informed that their current expectations are for this project to be completed before the end of 2023. When a possible solution is identified, local ward councillors and any other key stakeholders affected will be consulted prior to works being undertaken.

Should you have any further queries, Cllr Levien, then John Richards in the Project Team (john.richards@cambridge.gov.uk) would be pleased to help. I am also more than happy to engage further if this is needed.

For the benefit of members of the public that may read this reply, I enclose links to more detail on the Environmental Improvement Programme:

[£170,000 available to fund area improvement ideas suggested by residents - Cambridge City Council](#)

[Environmental Improvement Programme Cambridge City Council](#)

This page is intentionally left blank