



Decisions of Council held on 30 November 2023

Public Questions

Please see the meeting recording, Council minutes will follow.

[\(2\) Council - Thursday, 30th November, 2023 6.00 pm - YouTube](#)

Agenda item 5a: Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 (Executive Councillor for Housing)

Resolved (by 27 votes to 0) to:

- i. Approve proposals for changes in existing housing capital budgets, as introduced in Section 9 and detailed in Appendix F of the document, with the resulting position summarised in Appendix H of the Officer's report.
- ii. Approve proposals for new housing capital budgets, as introduced in Sections 6 and 7 and detailed in Appendix E of the document, with the resulting position summarised in Appendix H of the Officer's report.
- iii. Approve the revised funding mix for the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme, recognising the latest assumptions for the use of Grant, Right to Buy Receipts, HRA Resources, Major Repairs Allowance and HRA borrowing, as summarised in Appendix H of the Officer's report.

Agenda item 5b: Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2023/24 (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)

Resolved (unanimously) to:

- i. Approve the council's estimated Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2023/24 to 2026/27 (Appendix A).

Agenda item 5c: General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 to 2032/33

Resolved (by 27 votes to 1) to:

- i. Agree the incorporation of changed assumptions as presented in Section 3 [pages 12 and 13], which provide an indication of the net savings requirement, by year for the next five years [page 16], and revised projections for General Fund (GF) revenue and funding as shown in Appendix A [page 34] and reserves, Section 6 [page 26].

Resolved (unanimously) to:

- ii. Agree the 2023/24 revenue budget proposal as set out in Section 4 [page 15], for a £651k increase in pay budgets to reflect the recently agreed pay settlement for 2023/24.

Resolved (by 26 votes to 0) to:

- iii. Note the changes to the capital plan, as set out in Section 5 [pages 22 to 25]. and Appendix B [pages 35 to 44] of the MTFs document.

Resolved (unanimously) to:

- iv. To agree a capital spending proposal, rephasing and scheme deletions/reductions as set out below.

Ref.	Description - £'000s	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total
	Proposals							
SC853	East Barnwell redevelopment	49	1,447	1,996	677	-	-	4,169
	Rephasing							
SC732	Park Street car park development	(69,203)	(7,173)	-	-	-	-	(76,376)
		11,295	65,081					76,376
PR055	Operational Hub	(9,308)	-	-	-	-	-	(9,308)
		705	8,063	-	-	-	-	9,308
	Deletion/reduction							
SC771	Data and analytics	(70)	-	-	-	-	-	(70)
SC770	ICT project delivery	(40)	-	-	-	-	-	(40)
SC804	ICT and digital capabilities	(145)	-	-	-	-	-	(145)
SC659	Online customer portal	(19)	-	-	-	-	-	(19)
	Total	(66,736)	67,418	1,996	677	-	-	3,355

Resolved (unanimously) to:

- v. Agree changes to GF reserve levels, the prudent minimum balance being set at £5.934 million and the target level at £7.121 million as detailed in Section 6 [page 27].

Resolved (by 23 votes to 0) to:

- vi. Approve the contribution of £700k of general reserves and £274k of funding released from capital schemes to the Our Cambridge Transformation earmarked reserve as set out in Section 4 [pages 19 to 21].

Resolved (by 27 votes to 11) to:

- vii. Approve the council's reserve policy as set out in Appendix E [page 47].

Agenda item 6: Oral Questions

Please see the meeting recording, Council minutes will follow.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPi_Zir2ki0

Agenda item 7a: Motion - Councillor Anna Smith - Debate not Hate

Resolved (unanimously) that:

This council notes the intimidation and abuse of councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; preventing elected members from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election, and undermining public life in democratic processes.

This council further notes that increasing levels of toxicity in public and political discourse is having a detrimental impact on local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors feel safe and able to continue representing their residents.

This council therefore commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does.

The council further agrees to sign up to the Local Government Association's (LGA) Debate Not Hate campaign. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation.

In addition, the council resolves to:

- Write to our local Members of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign
- Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians
- Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and councillor safety
- Work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.
- Express our support for the Jo Cox Foundation¹'s Civility in Public Life Campaign, which we commit to adhering to in all of our political discourse².

Notes:

- Except for the last bullet point, this motion follows the wording, with only very minor edits for local context, of the Local Government Association's *Debate not Hate* motion which has been passed at councils across the country. More details of the LGA debate not hate campaign can be found here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/campaigns/debate-not-hate>.
- The Jo Cox Foundation is a registered charity set up in memory of murdered MP, Jo Cox, who studied at Cambridge University. It works to promote stronger communities, respectful politics, and a fairer world. (<https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/about/>)
- The 2023 Civility Pledge, which is the core of the Civility in Public Life campaign is as follows:
 - Set a respectful tone when campaigning
 - Lead by example to foster constructive democratic debate
 - Demonstrate compassion by defending and promoting the dignity of others, especially my opponents.
- More details about the Jo Cox Foundation's campaign to promote civility in public life can be found here: <https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/our-work/respectful-politics/>

¹ A charity set up in memory of murdered MP, Jo Cox, who studied at Cambridge University. It works to promote stronger communities, respectful politics, and a fairer world.

<https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/about/>

² <https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/our-work/respectful-politics/civility-pledge/>

Agenda item 8: Written Questions

These can be viewed in the Information Pack of the Council agenda pages at the following link:

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 30th November, 2023, 6.00 pm - Cambridge Council](#)

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