

Public Questions for 15 January 2024 Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Question 1: Submitted by Federation of Cambridge Residents

I should like to ask a question on behalf of the Federation of Cambridge Residents about the use of the general fund to pay for the refurbishment of the Guildhall, Corn Exchange and Cambridge market Square. Item 6 on the agenda. The BBC reported that “The Guildhall, Corn Exchange & the Market Square in Cambridge could all be refurbished as part of a £20 million project and that the £20 million would come from the council’s general reserve”. Residents say there has been no consultation about these plans or the vision for the city centre and that there is no mention of Cambridge’s traditional market or of the market traders. This is important because at the last market square stakeholders’ meeting the CEO of Cambridge Bid told attendees a bid for investment in the city centre was going out to tender and that the vision for the city centre would be commercially driven and not civic.

Cambridge residents ask why there has been no public disclosure of the discussions about using the General Fund for this, which involves large sums of taxpayer money and impacts world famous city spaces and people’s livelihoods?

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