



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION PACK

Date: Thursday, 22 May 2025

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Proposed Cabinet positions (appointed by the Leader of the Council) – max of 10 Members

	2025/26
Leader of the Council	Cameron Holloway
Deputy Leader	Rachel Wade
Finance & Resources	Simon Smith
Housing	Gerri Bird
Planning & Transport	Katie Thornburrow
Communities	Anna Smith
Open Spaces and City Services	Martin Smart
Climate Action and Environment	Rosy Moore
Safety, Wellbeing and Tackling Homelessness	Mike Todd-Jones
Culture, Economy and Skills	Antoinette Nestor

Opposition Spokes

Lib Dem	2025/26
Finance & Resources	Jamie Dalzell
Housing	Anthony Martinelli
Planning & Transport	Katie Porrer
Communities	Cheney Payne
Open Spaces and City Services	Olaf Hauk
Climate Action and Environment	Olaf Hauk
Safety, Wellbeing and Tackling Homelessness	Karen Young
Culture, Economy and Skills	Tim Bick
Green	
Leader, Finance & Resources	Naomi Bennett
Finance & Resources, Culture, Economy & Skills	Hugh Clough
Deputy Leader, Housing, Safety, Wellbeing & Tackling Homelessness	Elliott Tong
Communities, Climate, Action & Environment, Open Spaces & City Services	Jean Glasberg
Planning & Transport	Matthew Howard

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Agenda item 11a: Civic Affairs Committee_ Cambridge City Council Constitution

Amendment proposed by Councillor Porrer and seconded by Young
(Deleted text struck-through, additional text underlined).

Part 4, section 1.9.1 (on page 105/173):

On Line 2 delete "including" and replace with "excluding".

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Additional Information for Independent Remuneration Panel Report:

Under proposed Cabinet Member positions there would be an increase of one Cabinet Member and allowances would therefore increase overall cost by £14,075.

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***Performance, Assets & Strategy Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Opp to Chair**

Membership: 8 + 5 alternates (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

	2025/26
Labour Vice-Chair	Gawthrope-Wood
Labour	Tim Griffin
Labour	Dave Baigent
Labour	Mike Davey
Labour	Patrick Sheil
Labour Alternate	TBC
Labour Alternate	TBC
Lib Dem Chair	Katie Porrer
Lib Dem	Jamie Dalzell
Lib Dem Alternate	Anthony Martinelli
Lib Dem Alternate	Tim Bick
Green	Hugh Clough
Green Alternate	Naomi Bennett

Services, Climate and Communities Scrutiny Committee – Opp to chair

Membership: 9 + 5 alternates (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem +1 Green)

	2025/26
Labour Vice-Chair	Beth Gardiner-Smith
Labour	Dinah Pounds
Labour	Dave Baigent
Labour	Iva Divkovic
Labour	TBC
Labour Alternate	Tim Griffin
Labour Alternate	TBC
Lib Dem Chair	Karen Young
Lib Dem	Olaf Hauk
Lib Dem	Cheney Payne
Lib Dem Alternate	Anthony Martinelli
Lib Dem Alternate	Tim Bick
Green	Jean Glasberg
Green Alternate	Elliott Tong

Civic Affairs and Audit Committee

Standards Sub Cttes will be set up on an ad hoc basis as and when required comprising three members each on a politically proportionate basis.

**Membership: 7 + 4 alternates (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)*

	2025/26
Chair	Russ McPherson
Vice Chair	Jenny Gawthrop-Wood
Labour	Richard Robertson
Labour	Patrick Sheil
Labour Alternate	Mike Davey
Labour Alternate	TBC
Lib Dem (Spokes)	Jamie Dalzell

Lib Dem	Tim Bick
Lib Dem Alternate	Karen Young
Green (Spokes)	Naomi Bennett
Green Alternate	Hugh Clough

Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 Committee / General Purposes and Licensing Committee

Licensing Sub Cttes will be set up on an ad hoc basis as and when required comprising three members each

Membership 10 (**nb. 10 is the statutory minimum number for a Licensing Committee**) +3 alternates (6 Labour + 3 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

	2025/26
Chair	Russ McPherson
Vice Chair	Gerri Bird
Labour	Richard Swift
Labour	Rachel Wade
Labour	Rosy Moore
Labour	Iva Divkovic
Labour Alternate	Anna Smith
Lib Dem (Spokes)	Immy Blackburn-Horgan
Lib Dem	Nadya Lokhmotova
Lib Dem	Tim Bick
Lib Dem Alternate	Bob Illingworth
Lib Dem Alternate	Ingrid Flaubert
Green	Hugh Clough
Green Alternate	Naomi Bennett

***Planning Committee (these members will also sit on Development Control Forums and Pre-application Developer Briefings as required)**

Membership 8 +5 alternates (if req per group) (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

	2025/26
Chair	Martin Smart
Vice Chair	Dave Baigent
Labour	Katie Thornburrow
Labour	Mike Todd-Jones
Labour	Robert Dryden
Labour Alternate	Mark Ashton
Labour Alternate	Jenny Gawthorpe-Wood
Lib Dem (Spokes)	Ingrid Flaubert
Lib Dem	Bob Illingworth
Lib Dem Alternate	Katie Porrer
Lib Dem Alternate	Nadya Lokhmotova
Green	Matthew Howard
Green Alternate	Naomi Bennett

***Employment Committee**

Membership 7 + 4 alternates (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green) – Must include 1 Cabinet member

	2025/26
Labour	Rosy Moore
Labour	Mark Ashton
Labour	Mike Davey

Labour	Antoinette Nestor
Labour Alternate	Cameron Holloway
Labour Alternate	TBC
Lib Dem	Tim Bick
Lib Dem	Anthony Martinelli
Lib Dem Alternate	Cheney Payne
Green	Matt Howard
Green Alternate	Hugh Clough

Joint Staff Employer Forum

Membership 6 + 2 Alternates (1 Exec Cllr + 3 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)

	2025/26
Executive Cllr for Finance & Resources (ex-officio)	Simon Smith
Chair	Gerri Bird
Vice Chair	Rosy Moore
Labour	Rachel Wade
Labour Alternate	TBC
Labour Alternate	TBC
Lib Dem	Olaf Hauk
Lib Dem	Ingrid Flaubert
Lib Dem Alternate	Tim Bick
Lib Dem Alternate	Anthony Martinelli

Chief Officer Appointments Sub Committee (nb must include one Cabinet member)

Membership to be drawn from Employment Committee on ad hoc basis

Investigating and Disciplinary Sub Committee (nb must include one Cabinet member)

Membership 5 (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem) to be drawn on ad-hoc basis from membership of whole council

Chief Officer Appeals Sub Committee (nb must include one Cabinet member)

Membership 5 (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem) to be drawn on ad-hoc basis from membership of whole council

Employee Appeals Sub Committee (nb No requirement for a Cabinet Member to sit on this Sub Cttee)

Membership 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)

	2025/26
Labour	Rachel Wade
Labour	Mike Davey
Labour	Beth Gardiner-Smith
Labour	TBC
Lib Dem	Ingrid Flaubert
Lib Dem	Anthony Martinelli

Working Parties appointed by Cabinet/Leader

***Housing Engagement Board (Advisory Board to Cabinet) – Final numbers (8)**

Membership: proposed 5 Labour, 2 Lib Dem, 1 Green(8) + 6 elected tenant/leaseholder reps

	2025/26
Labour Chair	Richard Robertson
Labour Vice-Chair	Tim Griffin
Labour	Baiju Thittala
Labour	Beth Gardiner-Smith
Labour	Jenny Gawthroe-Wood
Labour Alternate	TBC
Labour Alternate	TBC
Lib Dem	Anthony Martinelli
Lib Dem	Nadya Lokhmotova
Lib Dem Alternate	Daniel Lee
Lib Dem Alternate	Immy Blackburn-Horgan
Green	Elliot Tong
Green Alternate	Naomi Bennett

Equalities Panel

Membership 5 (3 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)

	2025/26
Labour	Martin Smart
Labour	Rachel Wade
Labour	Gerri Bird
Labour Alternate	TBC
Labour Alternate	TBC
Lib Dem	Katie Porrer
Lib Dem	Anthony Martinelli
Lib Dem Alternate	Ingrid Flaubert
Lib Dem Alternate	Nadya Lokhmotova

PARTNERSHIP BODIES/COMMITTEES

Appointed by Council

Combined Authority Board – (these members cannot sit on the CPCA O&S and A&G Ctte but can sit on a CPCA ‘Thematic Ctte’)

Membership: One member (Leader) and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (1 Labour)

	2025/26
Labour	Anna Smith
Labour Alternate	Cameron Holloway

Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (nb. Proportionality set by the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer, these members cannot sit on the CPCA Board or ‘Thematic Cttes’)

Membership Two members (1 Lab & 1 Green) and Alternate members

	2025/26
Labour	Mike Davey
Labour Alternate	TBC
Green	Hugh Clough
Green Alternate	Elliott Tong

Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee (nb. Proportionality set by the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer, these members cannot sit on the CPCA Board or ‘Thematic Cttes’)

Membership One member and one alternate (1 Labour)

	2025/26
Labour	Iva Divkovic
Labour Substitute	Mike Todd-Jones

The following CPCA committees are appointments made by the Leader.

Combined Authority Skills & Employment Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (1 Labour)

	2025/26
Labour	Antoinette Nestor
Labour Alternate	Iva Divkovic

Combined Authority Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (1 Labour)

	2025/26
Labour	Rosy Moore
Labour Alternate	Mike Todd-Jones

Combined Authority Transport and Infrastructure Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (1 Labour)

	2025/26
<i>Labour</i>	<i>Katie Thornburrow</i>
<i>Labour Alternate</i>	<i>Simon Smith</i>

Combined Authority Investment Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (1 Labour)

	2025/26
<i>Labour</i>	<i>Simon Smith</i>
<i>Labour Alternate</i>	<i>Richard Robertson</i>

Combined Authority Human Resources Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (1 Labour)

	2025/26
<i>Labour</i>	<i>Cameron Holloway</i>
<i>Labour Alternate</i>	

Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly-this is a Council Appointment

Membership 3 (2 Labour + 1 Lib Dem)

	2025/26
Labour	Simon Smith
Labour	TBC
Lib Dem	Tim Bick

Joint Development Management Committee – this is a Council Appointment (these members will also sit on JDMC Development Control Forums and Pre-application Developer Briefings as required)

Membership 6 + 4 Alternates (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)

	2025/26
Cambridge City Council Vice-Chair (alternates Chair with SCDC- City's turn in 2026/27)	Simon Smith
Labour	Dave Baigent
Labour	Martin Smart
Labour	Katie Thornburrow
Labour Alternate	Antoinette Nestor
Labour Alternate	Jenny Gawthrope-Wood
Lib Dem	Katie Porrer
Lib Dem	Ingrid Flaubert
Lib Dem Alternate	Bob Illingworth
Lib Dem Alternate	Nadya Lokhmotova

Cambridge Joint Area Committee

Membership 6 + 4 Alternates (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)

	2025/26
Labour	Dave Baigent
Labour	Katie Thornburrow
Labour	Richard Swift
Labour	Mark Ashton
Labour Alternate	TBC
Labour Alternate	TBC
Lib Dem	Daniel Lee
Lib Dem	Cheney Payne
Lib Dem Alternate	Anthony Martinelli
Lib Dem Alternate	Olaf Hauk

Appointed by an Executive Councillor**Cambridge Community Safety Partnership**

Membership 1 + 1 Alternate (1 Labour)

	2025/26
Labour	Anna Smith
Labour Alternate	TBC

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

Membership 1 + 1 Alternate (1 Labour)

	2025/26
Labour	Anna Smith
Labour Alternate	TBC

Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board

Membership 1 + 1 Alternate (1 Labour)

	2025/26
Labour	Cameron Holloway
Labour Alternate	Dave Baigent

Advisory Council - Cambridge Growth Company (Homes England)

Membership 1 Labour

	2025/26
Labour	Cameron Holloway

OTHER APPOINTMENTS BY EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS - proportionality need not apply**Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors**

Membership 1 Labour

	2025/26
Labour	TBC

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Military Covenant Board

Membership 1 Labour

	2025/26
Labour	Mike Davey

Clay Farm Advisory Board

Membership 1 Labour+ 1 Lib Dem

	2025/26
Labour	Rachel Wade
Lib Dem	Olaf Hauk

Cambridge Investment Partnership

Ex Cllr for Housing and Ex Cllr for F&R

	2025/26
Executive Councillor for Housing	Gerri Bird
Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources	Simon Smith

Members Active Travel Steering Group (previously Members Cycling and Pedestrian Steering Group)

Membership 8 (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem)

	2025/26
Labour	Katie Thornburrow
Labour	Dinah Pounds
Labour	Dave Baigent
Labour	Antoinette Nestor
Labour	Simon Smith
Lib Dem	Daniel Lee
Lib Dem	Jamie Dalzell
Lib Dem	Olaf Hauk

East West Main Line Partnership Board

Membership 1 (1 Labour + 1 reserve)

	2025/26
Labour	Katie Thornburrow
Labour (reserve)	TBC

EWR Eastern Section Board'

Membership 1 (1 Labour + 1 reserve)

	2025/26
Labour	Katie Thornburrow

Labour (reserve)	TBC
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Water Resources East Strategic Advisory Group

Membership 1 (1 Labour + 1 reserve)

	2025/26
Labour	Katie Thornburrow
Labour (reserve)	TBC

Flood & Water Partnership (CPFloW) (County Council)

Membership 1 (1 Labour + 1 reserve)

	2025/26
Labour	Katie Thornburrow
Labour (reserve)	TBC

The Junction

Membership 2 (1 Labour + 1 Lib Dem)

	25/26
Labour	Antoinette Nestor
Lib Dem	Immy Blackburn-Horgan

Cambridge BID

	2025/26
Labour	TBC

East of England Local Government Association

	2025/26
Labour	Simon Smith

Adults and Health Committee (County Council)

	2025/26
Labour	TBC
Labour Substitute	TBC

Horizons Board (County Council)

	2025/26
Labour	Richard Robertson

OxCam

	2025/26
Leader	Cameron Holloway

LGA General Assembly

	2025/26
The Leader	Cameron Holloway

Local Government Information Unit

	2025/26
Labour	Tim Griffin

District Councils Network (DCN)

	2025/26
Labour	Cameron Holloway

Recycling in Cambridge and Peterborough (RECAP)

	2025/26
Labour	Rosy Moore

Joint Local Planning Advisory Group (joint with South Cambs DC)

5 (3 Labour + 1 Lib Dem + 1 green)

	2025/26
Labour	Beth Gardiner-Smith
Labour	Katie Thornburrow
Labour	Simon Smith
Labour reserve	Rosy Moore
Labour reserve	Martin Smart
Lib Dem	Katie Porrer
Lib Dem reserve	Tim Bick
Green	Naomi Bennett
Green reserve	Hugh Clough

Cambridge Airport consultative Committee

1 (1 Labour)

	2025/26
Labour	Richard Robertson

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List of public questions

1. From Cambridgeshire Action

This question is submitted on behalf of Cambridgeshire Action Group.

Over the past several years, two consecutive governments have outlined extremely ambitious plans for growth in Greater Cambridge. Meanwhile, the Greater Cambridge Partnership has persisted in advancing plans for busways that demonstrate extremely poor benefit-cost ratios and that still fail to provide adequate capacity for transport to key destinations such as the city centre and Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

All candidates but one in the recent election for combined authority mayor favoured some form of light rail to meet the region's needs for transport in the Greater Cambridge area.

Before wasting yet more public funds on two public inquiries, does the newly elected leader of the council agree that is time for a re-think of the GCP's outdated proposals for guided busways?

2. Unitaries and local government reform Cambs Unitaries Campaign

The Campaign for Unitary Authorities in Cambridgeshire, has written to all councillors to set out some suggested principles for determining how the new unitaries should be formed:

www.cambsunitaries.org.uk/principles

The key points are:

1. There **must be a genuine improvement in democratic accountability**: changes must increase democratic accountability while being able to take difficult decisions;
2. Each **council should have a coherent economic area**: Linking together areas with completely different economic outlooks would mean a council 'looking in multiple directions', e.g. a council trying to manage both Cambridge's growth agenda and rural farming issues would not be well-focussed;
3. **Each council should contain a reasonably coherent culture**: Similarly, mixing areas that are very different culturally, such as town and rural areas, would mean politicians from one dominating the other;

4. **Each council should cover a single travel for work area:** Density of transport requirements will be very different between urban and rural communities, so different transport solutions will be needed.

Additionally, we believe, unitaries should reflect coherent housing/rental patterns, have clarity about funding (so that more expensive aspects like social care can be sustainable), that councils should be able to share services and work together (subject to maintaining democratic accountability), and that councils must not be so large as to 'lose touch' with people.

We also believe there must be clarity of relations with a CPCA/Mayor: Although our organisation is opposed to the existence of a mayoral position, we recognise that government will likely retain it. It is not clear why it will be necessary in the context of, say, three unitary authorities to have an overarching authority. For instance, it would make little sense to have a Greater Cambridge unitary council, managing issues like housing, growth and transport, but have another body set the strategy for these.

Does the City Council agree with the principles we have set out? Will you push for a Greater Cambridge unitary council that has clear powers to manage change effectively, with strong democratic accountability, and which avoids looking in multiple directions.

3. On Behalf of Cambridge PSC

The recent Oxford City Council motion on ethical procurement can be seen here: <https://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=41670>

Cambridge Palestine Solidarity Campaign is grateful to Cambridge City Council for the Mayor's repeated statements calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. We are proud that Cambridge was the first council to call on the government to immediately revoke all licences for arms exports to Israel and to suspend arms sales. We also thank the Council for allowing us to hold two exhibitions in the Guildhall earlier this year, which provided a valuable platform for raising awareness.

As you will be aware, the situation in Gaza has continued to deteriorate. Israel has blocked all aid from entering Gaza since 2nd March 2025. Bombing resumed following Israel's breach of the ceasefire agreement on 18th March^[1] and has been relentless. Hospitals, in particular, appear to be deliberately targeted. On 15th May (Nakba Day), "Operation Gideon's Chariots"^[2] was launched with the stated aim of taking full control of Gaza. In just 36 hours, at least 250 people were killed^[3]. The figure had risen to 500 after 72 hours^[4].

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, displacement, land appropriation, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings, and attacks on vital infrastructure continue unabated. Area C is, in effect, being annexed^[5].

Over the past year and seven months, the UK government has continued to arm Israel, despite Foreign Secretary David Lammy's claim that "UK exports are not what would be routinely described as arms" — a statement that is demonstrably untrue^[6]. The UK has also supported Israeli operations through over 500 surveillance flights over Gaza^[7]. These actions arguably render the UK complicit in war crimes^[8].

Following the announcement in September 2024 of the suspension of around 30 export licences for items destined for the Israeli Defence Forces, the UK still approved the export of £127.6 million worth of military equipment to Israel between October and December 2024 — exceeding the total exported during the entire period from 2020 to 2023 under the previous government^[9].

The government has consulted the Israeli embassy about the prosecution of British protestors^[10]. British journalists have been persecuted for critical reporting of Israel's actions^[11]. Despite the International Court of Justice finding it plausible that Israel's acts could amount to genocide^[12] — and the obligation of parties to the Genocide Convention to take measures to prevent such acts — our government continues to maintain that there is a "tenable view that no genocide has occurred or is occurring," regardless of overwhelming evidence of the deliberate targeting of civilians, including children^[13].

Polls have shown that the British public supports an immediate ceasefire and a ban on arms sales to Israel^[14], yet both the current and former governments have failed to act accordingly.

A quarter of sitting MPs, including over half the current Cabinet, have received funding from pro-Israel lobby groups and individuals^[15]. It is evident that Israel exercises a disproportionate influence over our political system, and the public must turn to our local representatives to reflect our views.

Will the Council:

- Reaffirm its demand that the UK government immediately revoke all licences for arms exports to Israel and to suspend all arms sales.
- Publicly condemn the government's failure to act decisively in the face of mass killings, forced displacement, deliberate starvation in Gaza, and continuing violence, land theft, and demolitions in the West Bank.

- Raise concerns about the undue influence exerted by the Israeli government and its lobbyists on British political and legal institutions.
- Strengthen the Council's ethical procurement and investment policies, reaffirming its commitment to human rights and international law, by ensuring the Council does not invest in or trade with entities involved in:
 - state violence, occupation, or repression involving grave violations of international law, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide;
 - the production of weapons, weapons components, or military equipment where there is a credible risk of such violations;
 - the extraction, processing, or trade of fossil fuels.

We urge the Council to continue standing on the side of justice, human rights, and international law, and to use its voice to help bring about a just and lasting peace.

[1] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/18/why-has-israel-resumed-large-scale-airstrikes-on-gaza>

[2] <https://www.middleeasteye.net/live-blog/live-blog-update/what-gideons-chariots-israels-latest-plan-gaza-0>

[3] <https://imemc.org/article/dozens-killed-in-ongoing-israeli-bombing-in-gaza/>

[4] <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb5FMNR1yT27YMJOcw0u>

Posted Sunday 18th May 2025. Translation: Head of field hospitals at ministry of health to aljazeera: 500 martyrs in gaza strip in last 3 days

[5] <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-289-west-bank>

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-take-full-control-land-registry-area-c-annexation>

[6] <https://www.icjpalestine.com/2025/05/08/ground-breaking-report-reveals-evidence-suggesting-uk-is-continuing-to-export-military-goods-to-israel-despite-arms-ban/>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/664aed65d320123f2b3ab647/t/681b13a2197d634a11d746c0/1746604963269/REPORT-ExposingUKArmsExportsToIsrael-05072025.pdf>

[7] <https://www.declassifieduk.org/britain-sent-over-500-spy-flights-to-gaza/>

[8] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/23/criminal-complaint-alleges-uk-politicians-complicity-in-israeli-war-crimes>

- [9] <https://www.thenational.scot/news/25165991.labour-see-massive-increase-uk-military-equipment-sent-israel/>
- [10] <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/apr/29/police-and-prosecutors-details-shared-with-israel-during-uk-protests-inquiry-papers-suggest>
- [11] <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20241018-uk-police-raid-home-of-journalist-exposing-israeli-crimes-and-weaponisation-of-anti-semitism/>
- [12] <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/01/gaza-icj-ruling-offers-hope-protection-civilians-enduring-apocalyptic>
<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>
- [13] <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/harrowing-gaza-testimonies-describe-children-shot-through-heart-britain-defends-arms>
- [14] <https://www.caabu.org/news/press-release/caabu-press-release-new-poll-shows-sustained-british-public-support-immediate>
<https://bylinetimes.com/2024/04/03/brits-want-the-uk-to-ban-arms-sales-to-israel-but-its-political-parties-arent-listening/>
- [15] <https://www.declassifieduk.org/israel-lobby-funded-a-quarter-of-british-mps/>
<https://www.declassifieduk.org/israel-lobby-funded-half-of-keir-starmers-cabinet/>

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Agenda Item 6

No	From	To	Question
1	Cllr Tong	Leader	The Royal National Institute for Deaf People has reported that more than 50% of people over age 55 will suffer from hearing loss, rising to 80% of people over the age of 70. As such, it is immensely important that we work to accommodate these individuals, pushing for local democracy in Cambridge to be as transparent and open as possible. Visitors to this chamber have reported to me that, after being invited to tune their hearing aids into an audio induction loop, they were unable to, harming their ability to take part in the democratic process. Is this due to a fault, and, if so, is work being done to rectify it?
2	Cllr Robertson	Cab Member for Finance & Resources	Describe the consultation process for Civic Quarter
3	Cllr Dalzell	Cab Member for Planning & Transport	With regard to the proposed redevelopment of Arbury Court shopping centre, and in the context of the broader 'Shaping North Cambridge' consultation, could the Executive Councillor outline what specific measures are being taken to ensure that: - local residents' concerns about maintaining essential retail services during any construction period are being addressed; - the final development will enhance rather than diminish the community hub function that Arbury Court currently serves; - small independent businesses currently operating in the area will be protected from unsustainable rent increases following redevelopment?"
4	Cllr Blackburn-Horgan	Cab Member for Finance & Resources	With the council having a local building 100 Blinco Grove offered to purchase from Cambridgeshire County Council, which is set within the community by schools and families of a growing population why is it not being purchased and repurposed as a much-needed youth and community centre to meet the identified needs of QEW?
5	Cllr Clough	Leader / Cab Member for Culture, Economy & Skills	The recent ICAEW survey shows that confidence among small retail businesses has fallen to its lowest level for two years. What support will the council offer to support these small businesses that make such a positive contribution to making our city a special place.
6	Cllr Divkovic	Cab Member for Climate Action & Environment	Is there provision for recycling batteries
7	Cllr Howard	Cab Member for Communities	Given the recent changes proposed by the ruling group's colleagues in national government that many refugees arriving in the UK should NEVER be eligible for British Citizenship and the inflammatory remarks made by Keir Starmer - how can this City still claim to be "City of Sanctuary" to those fleeing conflict, persecution and desperation?"
8	Cllr McPherson	Cab Member for Culture,	Could the new CM outline her priorities for year ahead

		Economy & Skills	
9	Cllr Bick	Leader	Does the Leader agree with Equalities Minister Bridget Phillipson's statement following the recent Supreme Court judgement, that trans women should only use public toilets for their biological sex?
10	Cllr Gawthrope-Wood	Cab Member for Finance & Resources	How does CCC provide best value for residents
11	Cllr Gardiner-Smith	Cab Member for Open Spaces & City Services	Could the CM update Council on our allotments across the city please
12	Cllr Bennett	Cab Member for Planning & Transport	Community organisations such as the British Red Cross Mobility Centre and Cambridge Re Use have an important part to play in our local anti-poverty safety net. Yet increasingly, these important organisations are being displaced as older properties are redeveloped and are struggling to find new homes. Will the planning service and the council's own commercial property department join together to work with developers and other institutions to compile a register of possible "meantime" and longer-term temporary accommodation for such organisations?
13	Cllr Thittala	Cab Member for Safety, Wellbeing & Tackling Homelessness	Could CM tell us about support offered to those currently experiencing homelessness
14	Cllr Martinelli	Leader	With the current restructuring of the Council how can we ensure we embody the principle of integrity and increase transparency, enabling residents to contact a named officer for the specific issue to save time and ensure no case work is lost or unnecessarily delayed
15	Cllr Dryden	Cab Member for Communities	Could the CM update re Cambridgeshire Community Lottery please
16	Cllr Gawthrope-Wood	Cab Member for Safety, Wellbeing & Tackling Homelessness	Could Cm update council on provision of splash pads across the city
17	Cllr Howard	Cab Member for Planning & Transport	Our planning policies set energy & water usage for new developments, how successful is this
18	Cllr McPherson	Cab Member for Culture, Economy & Skills	How is the CE marking its 150 Anniversary
19	Cllr Glasberg	Cab Member for Planning & Transport	Our local planning committee is quasi judicial and follows a number of rules designed to ensure that it is not only impartial but seen to be impartial. How does the council reconcile this with having our local planning committee make decisions on applications made by its in-house

			developer, Cambridge Investment Partnership? Is this not the same as marking one's own homework?
20	Cllr Young	Cab Member for Open Spaces & City Services	Can the Council explain how they claim to remain committed to No Mow May but continue to mow in May
21	Cllr Griffin	Cab Member for Open Spaces & City Services	Can the CM advise re tenants' survey
22	Cllr Divkovic	Cab Member for Communities	CM update on match my project initiative
23	Cllr Lee	Leader	Could the Leader of the Council let us know whether the ruling Labour group agrees with the Labour Prime Minister's assessment of the 'incalculable' damage to this country by immigrants?
24	Cllr Swift	Cab Member for Planning & Transport	Are any recent improvements to local bus service
25	Cllr Porrer	Cab Member for Open Spaces & City Services	Can the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services comment on single use plastic use at events on council land, which we agreed to stop several years ago?
26	Cllr Gardiner-Smith	Cab Member for Open Spaces & City Services	Could the CM update Council on logans meadow please
27	Cllr Ashton	Cab Member for Climate Action & Environment	How can we help tackle food waste

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Agenda Item 16a Councillor Bennett - Proposed cuts to disability benefits and Access to Work Funding

Amendment proposed by Councillor Wade and seconded by Councillor Smart (Deleted text struck through, additional text underlined)

Background

~~The current Labour government has proposed cuts to disability benefits (especially Personal Independence Payments) and changes to the Access to Work funding that could leave Cambridgeshire residents destitute.~~

~~Further more it is proposed that these cuts will be put to a vote without waiting for a full report on the impact of the proposed cuts.~~

~~The purpose of this motion is not to draw attention to the cruelty of the proposed cuts. That is so blindingly obvious that no motion is required.~~

~~The purpose of this motion is to contend that the proposed cuts don't save money. All they do is transfer the costs to hard pressed local services, the NHS and local economies.~~

~~These cuts are not just cruelty but stupid cruelty.~~

~~-~~

Active Motion

~~This council notes that the disability cut proposals are not just a threat to disabled residents and their families, although these are quite bad enough. There are also likely to be wider adverse impacts on our city. These include:~~

- ~~• Local health services - one in 7 hospital beds are already occupied by patients who no longer have a medical need but are trapped in hospital because care is not available~~
- ~~• The immediate local economy - disabled residents spend most of their income in local shops and on local services~~
- ~~• Increased rent arrears among council tenants~~
- ~~• Increased pressure on social services -- the county council has the same statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 but residents' ability to contribute to care costs is reduced~~
- ~~• Increased pressure on county council finances - adult social care has to be prioritised by law so funds available for other services are reduced~~

~~—Increased use of food banks and food hubs –75% of food bank visits are from households with one or more disabled members~~

~~The council proposes to write to the ministers concerned, Liz Kendall and Rachel Reeves and ask local MPs, Daniel Zeichner and Pippa Heylings to co-sign the letter~~

~~The council’s letter will ask for the proposed cuts to be abandoned or at the very least paused until a full impact assessment can be undertaken.~~

~~The council’s letter will also ask whether the proposed cuts will really result in savings or merely transfer the costs from central government budgets to those of the NHS, local councils and struggling local economies.~~

~~-~~

~~Background Notes~~

~~Access to Work (“AtW”)~~

~~1——The Access to Work scheme is intended to help people with disabilities or long term health conditions get work and stay in work. Full details of the scheme are here: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>~~

~~2——Critics of the Access to Work scheme have drawn attention to the long wait for scheme payments and unexpected refusal of funding The target time to process new schemes is 4 weeks but the average wait is now 12 weeks, up from 8 weeks at the 2024 General Election.~~

~~3——It is now proposed that the type of equipment that can be funded, the duration of awards, the use of support workers and the pay rate for support workers will be reduced.~~

~~4——It has been claimed that some of these changes have already been put into practice even though the disability consultation is still open.~~

~~5——It seems clear that the cuts to Access to Work will make it harder for people to get and keep jobs or achieve self employment.~~

~~-~~

~~Personal Independence Payments (“PIP”)~~

~~-~~

~~1——PIP is designed to help with extra living costs if you have both:~~

~~a. A long term health condition or disability; and~~

~~b. Difficulty doing essential every day tasks or getting around because of that condition~~

- ~~2 — PIP is not means tested and 1 in 6 PIP claimants are in paid work.~~
- ~~3 — 20 % of UK residents has a disability or long term health condition but only 8% claim PIP~~
- ~~4 — PIP is a working age benefit although 15% of claimants are over working age . This is because if PIP is awarded before retirement, entitlement continues afterwards. The increase in pension age has meant that more people are able to claim.~~
- ~~5 — PIP is considered to be a hard to get benefit. The success rate is 52 % and the fraud rate is 0.02 per cent.~~
- ~~6 — PIP replaced a previous benefit called Disability Living Allowance (“DLA”). The transition is still ongoing and some Cambridge residents are still on DLA not PIP.~~
- ~~7 — Residents who lose out on PIP also lose access to blue badges, free bus passes, discounted rail travel and carer’s allowance and make it harder to access other disability services and concessions.~~
- ~~8 — Cambridge has one of the lowest rates of PIP claims in the UK at 4%, compared to 7% for East of England and 8% for the UK. This may reflect a healthier, more youthful population or simply that many residents are still on DLA. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-data-personal-independence-payment-2>~~
- ~~9 — However, even in Cambridge, there are 4,300 residents receiving PIP expected to lose a total of £7.5 million in PIP from the proposed changes. This is based on 87% of people on standard PIP and 13 % of people on enhanced PIP losing PIP which is in turn based on FoI figures produced by DWP. <https://www.healthequitynorth.co.uk/app/uploads/PIP-REPORT-1.pdf>~~
- ~~10 — The National Audit Office July 2024 report estimates that £870 million in PIP goes unclaimed every year.~~

This Council believes in the dignity of all people and their right to respect and equality of opportunity.

This Council is a Disability Confident employer and is committed to recruiting, retaining and supporting disabled employees. The Council aims to remove barriers, resolve issues relating to disability and consider individual needs. This includes taking positive steps towards promoting equality of opportunity, reasonable adjustments and accommodations, inclusion for all and promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people.

The Government's 'Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working' Green Paper was published in March, and is out for public consultation until 30 June. This Council encourages residents to participate in the public consultation on the Green Paper.

This Council notes that:

Cambridge has one of the lowest rates of PIP claims in the UK at 4%, compared to 7% for the East of England and 8% for the UK.

This Council has three-year core grant funding agreements with Cambridge & District Citizens Advice and with Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum to provide independent advice and advocacy to residents on a range of subjects, including on benefits, as well as with Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service to provide infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector. Across its multi-year grants, the Council has allocated £466,113 for the year 2025-26.

Cambridge & District Citizens' Advice (CDCA) statistics show that, for the first half of 2024/25, general help and advice was given on 10,987 issues to 7,950 clients, and the top issue people were seeking advice for was benefits. The top benefit issue was PIP.

The total income gains achieved by CDCA for those seeking advice were £2,149,832.00.

In the last year, 414 City residents received specialist benefit advice – 54% of these related to benefit applications.

From 1 April to 30 September 2024, the CDCA benefits team completed 21 appeals lodged with the Courts and Tribunals Service. 20 of the 21 appeals were won.

This Council resolves to:

- continue the Council's strategic partnership work with Citizens' Advice and Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum to support residents to maximise their benefits.
- work to ensure that all residents are aware of the opportunities for support to maximise their benefits, including by sharing all the relevant information with other stakeholders in the city including landlords and GP surgeries.
- offer all tenants in sheltered accommodation the opportunity to meet with the Independent Living Service to conduct an income maximisation check, particularly for tenants who don't currently access to Council support services.
- submit a response to the Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper.

Alternation to Labour Motion.

RETROFIT DIVIDENDS CHEAPER HEATING, LOWER EMISSIONS, HEALTHIER LIVES AND RESILIENT HOMES

Proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor S Smith.

This council notes;

Residential homes are responsible for almost 20% of the UK's carbon emissions mainly through heating, hot water, and electricity.

Public sector buildings account for 17% of Cambridge's emissions, which is a much higher proportion than the UK average of 3% from this emissions source.

In 2022, just over half (52%) of properties in England had Band C ratings – above the average for energy efficiency.

National Energy Action estimates that 6.1 million UK households are currently in fuel poverty, unable to afford to heat their homes to the temperature needed to keep warm and healthy.

LGA research in 2020 estimated that the average cost to councils in pursuing competitive grant-funding was in the region of £30,000 per application.

Retrofitting is a form of home improvement that brings homes up to a better standard of thermal and energy efficiency. It can include installing insulation, improving ventilation, water conservation, replacing gas and other fossil fuel heating systems with heat pumps, and adding solar PV panels and battery storage.

Cambridge City Council's retrofit programme is delivering multiple dividends for people and the planet and economy:

- Responding to the cost-of-living crisis through lower energy bills
- Mitigating climate change through lower fossil fuel emissions
- Adapting to climate change and creating resilient homes by keeping homes cooler during our more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improving quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,

- Improving public health with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.
- Creating conditions for new businesses to grow and build the skilled workforces needed to scale-up retrofit, across the City and elsewhere. A skilled workforce is essential for delivering an effective and sustainable retrofit programme

The work that is going on across the city and wider areas is synonymous with the campaign – ‘RetroFit for the Future.’ Fuel Poverty Action, ACORN, Greener Jobs Alliance, Medact and the Peace & Justice Project have teamed up to push for three key interventions in the retrofit debate:

- A workforce skills plan
- Protecting private renters
- Accountability for retrofit work

The Council’s retrofit programme comprises the following work streams:

1. Building capacities and skills to get the job done:
 - Partnership for Government energy efficiency and retrofit funding: The Council has invested in professionals who have in turn built and led the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) which as a grant application and delivery vehicle has attracted over £25m in energy efficiency and retrofit programmes. The latest 2023-2025 £8.6m programme retrofitting 494 low energy efficient homes owned by low-income households across the County. This equated to an estimated 490 tonnes of CO2 saving. This was achieved through a combination of government grant funding and funding awarded by CPCA.
 - Partnership for Government water retrofit programme: The shared planning service is leading a £5m a programme to reduce water consumption in Council homes across the City and South Cambridgeshire
 - On the supply side, CERP procurement for a pipeline of energy efficiency and retrofit works has enabled contractors to invest in their business and critically apprenticeships and skills across the full range of trades.
 - On the demand side, the Council has published a ‘how to’ retrofit guide for different housing archetypes for the construction industry

and 'able/willing to pay' households which the CPCA is extending and promoting across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The newly developed guide will highlight homes which are "heat pump ready."

- The 3C Building Control service has launched a building regulations advisory service for applicants retrofitting houses and listed buildings
- To encourage retrofit at scale and pace, some of the wider work of Cambridge City Council include collaborating on a research piece with the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leaders, which is expected to be released in the Summer: "RetroFit For Future: Scaling building decarbonisation across Greater Cambridge. The aim of this piece will be to identify and detail an array of practical levers for us to encourage retrofit and the co-benefits, such as supporting the increase of green skills, supporting the growth of the local economy, and developing access to finance mechanisms for those that don't meet grant criteria.
- City Council has created a new "Energy and Retrofit" team which has pulled together colleagues and expertise from across the organisation who work on energy and retrofit across our council owned homes, private housing and our own corporate, commercial and community properties into a new centre of excellence. The team will seek funding and partnership opportunities to support and deliver our commitments to decarbonise homes and businesses across Cambridge with an invigorated streamlined approach.
- CERP are currently seeking endorsement to create a retrofit strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. With no national strategy in place to look at retrofit holistically there is a requirement to support local economy, market capacity and upskilling and leverage of private finance – a clear strategic local approach and long-term vision for delivery is important to ensure these can be reconciled.

2. Getting the job done, retrofitting most energy inefficient Council homes

- ~~— Council home retrofit comprising external wall insulation, improved ventilation in wet rooms, door undercuts and when required, replacement windows, rear doors and top-up loft insulation to 300mm. To date 225 homes refitted since December 2023, with funding in place for 370 more retrofits~~
- We have two principal projects underway. Using a mix of our own funds and central government grants we have so far retrofitted 225

homes to EPC C standard. We have recently received funding for a further 370 council homes over the next two years with support from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 (£2.26m) and the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund Wave 3 and a further 130 properties in 2027/28. The funding focuses on external wall insulation, ventilation through extractor fans and indoor air quality, but general improvements such as replacing windows and doors when they are near to end of life and top-up loft insulation to 300mm are incorporated as much as possible.

- ~~Net zero carbon pilot: Comprehensive retrofit of 50 Council homes~~
The second project is a net-zero home pilot on Ross Street and Coldhams Grove to net zero carbon standards, with monitoring results and practical lessons learned and monitoring to inform future retrofit works. investing up to £5m to retrofit fully 50 homes to net zero carbon standards. Monitoring and evaluating results are key to this project to inform future retrofit projects and outcomes.

More than half of all heat loss from these homes is through uninsulated solid brick walls and about sixth is lost through the floor and roof. The retrofit measures involve:

- adding insulation to the external walls, floor and roofs to reduce heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer.
- replacing gas boilers and fossil fuel systems with clean heat solutions such as air source heat pumps, which typically produce about three times as much energy as they use.
- installing new mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems. These will replace stale, moist air with fresh, filtered air and reduce heat loss. It also reduces humidity and the risk of condensation and mould.
- installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels to the roofs, to provide electricity for the homes. This will contribute to the running of the heat pumps and MVHR systems. It will also enable qualifying tenants to claim [Smart Export Guarantee payments](#).
- upgrading to triple-glazed windows and composite external doors to reduce heat loss, draughts and condensation. It will also provide better insulation against external noise.
- Investing in the Grade II listed Guildhall so that it will be net zero carbon in operation

3. Retrofitting private sector homes

- ~~— We are delivering government funded projects to support those on the lowest income with retrofitting their homes to reduce their bills and ensure they are in warm and effect homes, funded through the Warm Homes grant~~
- ~~— The contractors' framework agreement is also accessible to residents, helping homeowners who are in a position to navigate the market for suppliers and find contractors to do the retrofit work~~
- ~~— The Council also developed a retrofit guide to provide homeowners and landlords in Cambridge with practical information on how to retrofit their homes to make them more energy efficient. The guide sets out a whole house approach to retrofitting, based on the most common archetype of housing in the city.~~
- Cambridge City Council acts as Lead Authority delivering government-funded capital retrofit programmes across Cambridgeshire – operating as a partnership between all the Cambridgeshire authorities including Peterborough City Council and CPCA. Having successfully delivered over £9m of energy efficiency and clean heat measures through the Home Upgrade Grant 2, we have recently secured a further £8.5m from the Warm Homes: Local Grant to continue delivery for the next 3 years. These grants are designed to support low income, fuel poor households who live in the most inefficient, poorly performing homes.
- In partnership with the CPCA, the City council was awarded a further £950,000 to complete retrofit upgrades across the County.
- Cambridge City Council also participates in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) administered by Ofgem, which focusses on supporting low-income, vulnerable and fuel poor households through installation of insulation and heating measures.
- The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) operating under the brand of 'Action on Energy,' provides communities with advice on how to maximise energy efficiency within homes, save money on energy bills, cut carbon emissions and support to find accredited installers.
- The contractor's framework agreement for the provision of energy efficiency works is also accessible to residents across

Cambridgeshire, helping homeowners who are able or willing to pay for measures to navigate the market for suppliers and find accredited contractors to do retrofit work.

- With the framework in place, we have been able to develop the social benefits of the retrofit work. Contractors are offering their skills, volunteering and funding projects through “Match my Project.” This process is demonstrating strong community value in the stimulation of the retrofit market.

4. Retrofitting non-domestic building stock

- This council has set itself an ambitious target to achieve net-zero energy use by 2030 for council properties where we control the energy supply. This includes properties we occupy or manage, like community centres, as well as common areas in housing or commercial buildings we own and operate.
- In 2023, we completed a £1.7m project (funded by Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund) to retrofit Parkside and Abbey Pools, installing air source heat pumps and energy efficiency upgrades.
- We have recently won Salix funding for decarbonization measures for the crematorium, Brown's Field Community Centre and Trumpington Pavillion - including systems controls, insulation, lighting replacement and solar panel installation.
- We are developing proposals for a **district heat network** with the University of Cambridge, city centre Colleges and Anglia Ruskin University. The aim is to create a renewable heat network in the city by 2030 to supply renewable heat and hot water around the city centre to help decarbonize buildings. This project is currently in the detailed design and business case development phase.
- The **Civic Quarter redevelopment** will upgrade the Guildhall and Corn Exchange. We are aiming for exemplar project outcomes, targeting, water neutrality and a Biodiversity Net Gain of 20% across the Civic Quarter and Operational Net Zero for the Guildhall. The design work to date includes consideration of fabric upgrades and alignment with ENERPHIT and LETI standards, introduction of water saving measures, PV panels and enabling a future connection to the proposed city centre District Heating Network

~~This Council will ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Milliband, and the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, to ask them to replace the current retrofit and energy efficiency funding programmes that are intermittent, short term and uncertain due to wasteful competitive bidding and hard to meet ring fenced eligibility criteria with consistent long term funding to give confidence to local government to plan for large scale retrofit programmes and their contractors and firms in the supply chain to invest in apprenticeships and skills training.~~

This Council will ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Milliband, and the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, to:

1. Note the nation's housing stock accounts for almost 20% of the UK's carbon emissions and is so energy inefficient that over 6m households are in fuel poverty, unable to afford to heat their homes to the temperature needed to keep warm and healthy.

2. Note that without increasing investment to accelerate retrofit, the UK is missing out on multiple dividends for people, the planet and economy as retrofit:

- Responds to the cost-of-living crisis through lower energy bills
- Mitigates climate change through lower fossil fuel emissions
- Adapts to climate change by keeping homes cooler during more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improves quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,
- Improves public health and productive health life expectancy with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.
- Creates conditions for new labour-intensive businesses to grow, build the skilled workforces and finance products needed to scale-up retrofit across the UK.

3. Request Government to give local government confidence to plan for large scale retrofit programmes and their contractors and firms in supply chains to invest in apprenticeships and skills training by:

i) Replacing the previous Government's grant making regimes with one that is:

- consistent and long term (instead of intermittent and short term),
- allocated against deliverable programmes (in place of wasteful competitive bidding) and
- flexible (in place of hard to meet ring fenced eligibility criteria)

ii) Incentivising employers to invest in workforce skills recruitment and development as a well-trained workforce is essential for delivering an effective, sustainable retrofit programme.

iii) Requiring independent regulation of retrofit work with quality assurance standards alongside robust monitoring and measurement of effectiveness and value of retrofit dividends.

iv) Facilitating investment across all tenures from registered providers, afford to pay owner occupiers and private rented sector.

4. Request Government to require in the forthcoming Future Homes Standard to require installation of solar panels, set higher ventilation and building fabric standards and progress approaches to reducing embodied carbon in new buildings, noting that because the last Government scrapped Labour's zero-carbon home standard, 1.35m homes built since 2016 will have to be retrofitted at a cost of up to £2bn.

Agenda item 16c: Councillor S Smith - Alternation Retrofit Dividends Cheaper Heating, Lower Emissions, Healthier Lives

Amendment proposed by Councillor Dalzell (Deleted text struck-through, additional text underlined).

This council notes;

Residential homes are responsible for almost 20% of the UK's carbon emissions mainly through heating, hot water, and electricity.

Public sector buildings account for 17% of Cambridge's emissions, which is a much higher proportion than the UK average of 3% from this emissions source.

In 2022, just over half (52%) of properties in England had Band C ratings – above the average for energy efficiency.

National Energy Action estimates that 6.1 million UK households are currently in fuel poverty, unable to afford to heat their homes to the temperature needed to keep warm and healthy.

LGA research in 2020 estimated that the average cost to councils in pursuing competitive grant-funding was in the region of £30,000 per application.

Retrofitting is a form of home improvement that brings homes up to a better standard of thermal and energy efficiency. It can include installing insulation, improving ventilation, water conservation, replacing gas and other fossil fuel heating systems with heat pumps, and adding solar PV panels and battery storage.

Cambridge City Council's retrofit programme is delivering multiple dividends for people and the planet and economy:

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- Adapting to climate change and creating resilient homes by keeping homes cooler during our more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improving quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,

- Improving public health with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.
- Creating conditions for new businesses to grow and build the skilled workforces needed to scale-up retrofit, across the City and elsewhere. A skilled workforce is essential for delivering an effective and sustainable retrofit programme

The work that is going on across the city and wider areas is synonymous with the campaign – ‘RetroFit for the Future.’ Fuel Poverty Action, ACORN, Greener Jobs Alliance, Medact and the Peace & Justice Project have teamed up to push for three key interventions in the retrofit debate:

- a. A workforce skills plan
- b. Protecting private renters
- c. Accountability for retrofit work

The Council’s retrofit programme comprises the following work streams:

1. Building capacities and skills to get the job done:
 - Partnership for Government energy efficiency and retrofit funding: The Council has invested in professionals who have in turn built and led the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) which as a grant application and delivery vehicle has attracted over £25m in energy efficiency and retrofit programmes. The latest 2023-2025 £8.6m programme retrofitting 494 low energy efficient homes owned by low-income households across the County. This equated to an estimated 490 tonnes of CO2 saving. This was achieved through a combination of government grant funding and funding awarded by CPCA.
 - Partnership for Government water retrofit programme: The shared planning service is leading a £5m a programme to reduce water consumption in Council homes across the City and South Cambridgeshire
 - On the supply side, CERP procurement for a pipeline of energy efficiency and retrofit works has enabled contractors to invest in their business and critically apprenticeships and skills across the full range of trades.
 - On the demand side, the Council has published a ‘how to’ retrofit guide for different housing archetypes for the construction industry

and 'able/willing to pay' households which the CPCA is extending and promoting across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The newly developed guide will highlight homes which are "heat pump ready."

- The 3C Building Control service has launched a building regulations advisory service for applicants retrofitting houses and listed buildings
- To encourage retrofit at scale and pace, some of the wider work of Cambridge City Council include collaborating on a research piece with the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leaders, which is expected to be released in the Summer: "RetroFit For Future: Scaling building decarbonisation across Greater Cambridge. The aim of this piece will be to identify and detail an array of practical levers for us to encourage retrofit and the co-benefits, such as supporting the increase of green skills, supporting the growth of the local economy, and developing access to finance mechanisms for those that don't meet grant criteria.
- City Council has created a new "Energy and Retrofit" team which has pulled together colleagues and expertise from across the organisation who work on energy and retrofit across our council owned homes, private housing and our own corporate, commercial and community properties into a new centre of excellence. The team will seek funding and partnership opportunities to support and deliver our commitments to decarbonise homes and businesses across Cambridge with an invigorated streamlined approach.
- CERP are currently seeking endorsement to create a retrofit strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. With no national strategy in place to look at retrofit holistically there is a requirement to support local economy, market capacity and upskilling and leverage of private finance – a clear strategic local approach and long-term vision for delivery is important to ensure these can be reconciled.

2. Getting the job done, retrofitting most energy inefficient Council homes

- We have two principal projects underway. Using a mix of our own funds and central government grants we have so far retrofitted 225 homes to EPC C standard. We have recently received funding for a further 370 council homes over the next two years with support from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 (£2.26m) and the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund Wave 3 and a further 130 properties in 2027/28. The funding focuses on external wall

insulation, ventilation through extractor fans and indoor air quality, but general improvements such replacing windows and doors when they are near to end of life and top-up loft insulation to 300mm are incorporated as much as possible.

- The second project is a net-zero home pilot on Ross Street and Coldhams Grove investing up to £5m to retrofit fully 50 homes to net zero carbon standards. Monitoring and evaluating results are key to this project to inform future retrofit projects and outcomes.

More than half of all heat loss from these homes is through uninsulated solid brick walls and about sixth is lost through the floor and roof. The retrofit measures involve:

- adding insulation to the external walls, floor and roofs to reduce heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer.
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- installing new mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems. These will replace stale, moist air with fresh, filtered air and reduce heat loss. It also reduces humidity and the risk of condensation and mould.
- installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels to the roofs, to provide electricity for the homes. This will contribute to the running of the heat pumps and MVHR systems. It will also enable qualifying tenants to claim [Smart Export Guarantee payments](#).
- upgrading to triple-glazed windows and composite external doors to reduce heat loss, draughts and condensation. It will also provide better insulation against external noise.
- Investing in the Grade II listed Guildhall so that it will be net zero carbon in operation

3. Retrofitting private sector homes

- Cambridge City Council acts as Lead Authority delivering government-funded capital retrofit programmes across Cambridgeshire – operating as a partnership between all the Cambridgeshire authorities including Peterborough City Council and CPCA. Having successfully delivered over £9m of energy

efficiency and clean heat measures through the Home Upgrade Grant 2, we have recently secured a further £8.5m from the Warm Homes: Local Grant to continue delivery for the next 3 years. These grants are designed to support low income, fuel poor households who live in the most inefficient, poorly performing homes.

- In partnership with the CPCA, the City council was awarded a further £950,000 to complete retrofit upgrades across the County.
- Cambridge City Council also participates in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) administered by Ofgem, which focusses on supporting low-income, vulnerable and fuel poor households through installation of insulation and heating measures.
- The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) operating under the brand of 'Action on Energy,' provides communities with advice on how to maximise energy efficiency within homes, save money on energy bills, cut carbon emissions and support to find accredited installers.
- The contractor's framework agreement for the provision of energy efficiency works is also accessible to residents across Cambridgeshire, helping homeowners who are able or willing to pay for measures to navigate the market for suppliers and find accredited contractors to do retrofit work.
- With the framework in place, we have been able to develop the social benefits of the retrofit work. Contractors are offering their skills, volunteering and funding projects through "Match my Project." This process is demonstrating strong community value in the stimulation of the retrofit market.

4. Retrofitting non-domestic building stock

- This council has set itself an ambitious target to achieve net-zero energy use by 2030 for council properties where we control the energy supply. This includes properties we occupy or manage, like community centres, as well as common areas in housing or commercial buildings we own and operate.
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- We have recently won Salix funding for decarbonization measures for the crematorium, Brown's Field Community Centre and

Trumpington Pavillion - including systems controls, insulation, lighting replacement and solar panel installation.

- We are developing proposals for a **district heat network** with the University of Cambridge, city centre Colleges and Anglia Ruskin University. The aim is to create a renewable heat network in the city by 2030 to supply renewable heat and hot water around the city centre to help decarbonize buildings. This project is currently in the detailed design and business case development phase.
- The **Civic Quarter redevelopment** will upgrade the Guildhall and Corn Exchange. We are aiming for exemplar project outcomes, targeting, water neutrality and a Biodiversity Net Gain of 20% across the Civic Quarter and Operational Net Zero for the Guildhall. The design work to date includes consideration of fabric upgrades and alignment with ENERPHIT and LETI standards, introduction of water saving measures, PV panels and enabling a future connection to the proposed city centre District Heating Network

This Council will ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Milliband, and the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, to:

1. Note the nation's housing stock accounts for almost 20% of the UK's carbon emissions and is so energy inefficient that over 6m households are in fuel poverty, unable to afford to heat their homes to the temperature needed to keep warm and healthy.

2. Note that without increasing investment to accelerate retrofit, the UK is missing out on multiple dividends for people, the planet and economy as retrofit:

- Responds to the cost-of-living crisis through lower energy bills
- Mitigates climate change through lower fossil fuel emissions
- Adapts to climate change by keeping homes cooler during more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improves quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,
- Improves public health and productive health life expectancy with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.

- Creates conditions for new labour-intensive businesses to grow, build the skilled workforces and finance products needed to scale-up retrofit across the UK.

3. Request Government to give local government confidence to plan for large scale retrofit programmes and their contractors and firms in supply chains to invest in apprenticeships and skills training by:

i) Replacing the previous Government's grant making regimes with one that is:

- consistent and long term (instead of intermittent and short term),
- allocated against deliverable programmes (in place of wasteful competitive bidding) and
- flexible (in place of hard to meet ring fenced eligibility criteria)

ii) Incentivising employers to invest in workforce skills recruitment and development as a well-trained workforce is essential for delivering an effective, sustainable retrofit programme.

iii) Requiring independent regulation of retrofit work with quality assurance standards alongside robust monitoring and measurement of effectiveness and value of retrofit dividends.

iv) Facilitating investment across all tenures from registered providers, afford to pay owner occupiers and private rented sector.

4. Request Government to require in the forthcoming Future Homes Standard to require installation of solar panels, set higher ventilation and building fabric standards and progress approaches to reducing embodied carbon in new buildings, noting that because the last Government scrapped Labour's zero-carbon home standard, 1.35m homes built since 2016 will have to be retrofitted at a cost of up to £2bn.

Further more:

This Council further notes that:

1. Despite the valuable work underway locally, Cambridge's retrofit program could be significantly accelerated with proper support from central government.

2. The council's own Housing Revenue Account Budget Setting Report acknowledges that the current target of 2035 for bringing all homes to EPC 'C' standard is five years behind the government's 2030

requirement, potentially requiring £20 million in additional borrowing without committed government funding.

3. The Labour government's recent 2025 budget failed to deliver the promised Green Prosperity Plan in full, reducing the scale of investment originally pledged during the election campaign that could have helped meet this accelerated timeline.

4. The competitive bidding process for retrofit funding wastes an estimated £30,000 per application (as noted in the LGA research cited in the motion), resources that could be better spent directly on improving homes.

Therefore, this Council additionally resolves to:

1. Develop a more ambitious retrofit target that aims to upgrade 100% of all council-owned properties to EPC Band C or above by 2030, establishing Cambridge as a national leader in housing energy efficiency.

2. Create a Cambridge Retrofit Partnership between the Council, local businesses, and community organizations to pool resources and expertise.

3. Establish a dedicated advice service that supports both private renters and landlords - helping tenants understand their rights regarding minimum energy efficiency standards and offering support for enforcement action when needed, while also providing landlords with practical guidance on compliance pathways and available funding options.

4. Call on the government to reinstate the full funding originally promised in the Green Prosperity Plan and to introduce a specific funding stream for both social housing providers and private landlords in historic cities like Cambridge, where retrofit solutions often need to accommodate conservation requirements.

Agenda item 16c: Councillor S Smith - Alternation Retrofit Dividends Cheaper Heating, Lower Emissions, Healthier Lives

Amendment proposed by Councillor Clough (Deleted text struck-through, additional text underlined).

This council notes;

Residential homes are responsible for almost 20% of the UK's carbon emissions mainly through heating, hot water, and electricity.

Public sector buildings account for 17% of Cambridge's emissions, which is a much higher proportion than the UK average of 3% from this emissions source.

In 2022, just over half (52%) of properties in England had Band C ratings – above the average for energy efficiency.

National Energy Action estimates that 6.1 million UK households are currently in fuel poverty, unable to afford to heat their homes to the temperature needed to keep warm and healthy.

LGA research in 2020 estimated that the average cost to councils in pursuing competitive grant-funding was in the region of £30,000 per application.

Retrofitting is a form of home improvement that brings homes up to a better standard of thermal and energy efficiency. It can include installing insulation, improving ventilation, water conservation, replacing gas and other fossil fuel heating systems with heat pumps, and adding solar PV panels and battery storage.

Cambridge City Council's retrofit programme is delivering multiple dividends for people and the planet and economy:

- Responding to the cost-of-living crisis through lower energy bills
- Mitigating climate change through lower fossil fuel emissions
- Adapting to climate change and creating resilient homes by keeping homes cooler during our more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improving quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,

- Improving public health with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.
- Creating conditions for new businesses to grow and build the skilled workforces needed to scale-up retrofit, across the City and elsewhere. A skilled workforce is essential for delivering an effective and sustainable retrofit programme

The work that is going on across the city and wider areas is synonymous with the campaign – ‘RetroFit for the Future.’ Fuel Poverty Action, ACORN, Greener Jobs Alliance, Medact and the Peace & Justice Project have teamed up to push for three key interventions in the retrofit debate:

- a. A workforce skills plan
- b. Protecting private renters
- c. Accountability for retrofit work

The Council’s retrofit programme comprises the following work streams:

1. Building capacities and skills to get the job done:
 - Partnership for Government energy efficiency and retrofit funding: The Council has invested in professionals who have in turn built and led the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) which as a grant application and delivery vehicle has attracted over £25m in energy efficiency and retrofit programmes. The latest 2023-2025 £8.6m programme retrofitting 494 low energy efficient homes owned by low-income households across the County. This equated to an estimated 490 tonnes of CO2 saving. This was achieved through a combination of government grant funding and funding awarded by CPCA.
 - Partnership for Government water retrofit programme: The shared planning service is leading a £5m a programme to reduce water consumption in Council homes across the City and South Cambridgeshire
 - On the supply side, CERP procurement for a pipeline of energy efficiency and retrofit works has enabled contractors to invest in their business and critically apprenticeships and skills across the full range of trades.
 - On the demand side, the Council has published a ‘how to’ retrofit guide for different housing archetypes for the construction industry

and 'able/willing to pay' households which the CPCA is extending and promoting across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The newly developed guide will highlight homes which are "heat pump ready."

- The 3C Building Control service has launched a building regulations advisory service for applicants retrofitting houses and listed buildings
- To encourage retrofit at scale and pace, some of the wider work of Cambridge City Council include collaborating on a research piece with the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leaders, which is expected to be released in the Summer: "RetroFit For Future: Scaling building decarbonisation across Greater Cambridge. The aim of this piece will be to identify and detail an array of practical levers for us to encourage retrofit and the co-benefits, such as supporting the increase of green skills, supporting the growth of the local economy, and developing access to finance mechanisms for those that don't meet grant criteria.
- City Council has created a new "Energy and Retrofit" team which has pulled together colleagues and expertise from across the organisation who work on energy and retrofit across our council owned homes, private housing and our own corporate, commercial and community properties into a new centre of excellence. The team will seek funding and partnership opportunities to support and deliver our commitments to decarbonise homes and businesses across Cambridge with an invigorated streamlined approach.
- CERP are currently seeking endorsement to create a retrofit strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. With no national strategy in place to look at retrofit holistically there is a requirement to support local economy, market capacity and upskilling and leverage of private finance – a clear strategic local approach and long-term vision for delivery is important to ensure these can be reconciled.

2. Getting the job done, retrofitting most energy inefficient Council homes

- We have two principal projects underway. Using a mix of our own funds and central government grants we have so far retrofitted 225 homes to EPC C standard. We have recently received funding for a further 370 council homes over the next two years with support from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 (£2.26m) and the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund Wave 3 and a further 130 properties in 2027/28. The funding focuses on external wall

insulation, ventilation through extractor fans and indoor air quality, but general improvements such replacing windows and doors when they are near to end of life and top-up loft insulation to 300mm are incorporated as much as possible.

- The second project is a net-zero home pilot on Ross Street and Coldhams Grove investing up to £5m to retrofit fully 50 homes to net zero carbon standards. Monitoring and evaluating results are key to this project to inform future retrofit projects and outcomes.

More than half of all heat loss from these homes is through uninsulated solid brick walls and about sixth is lost through the floor and roof. The retrofit measures involve:

- adding insulation to the external walls, floor and roofs to reduce heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer.
- replacing gas boilers and fossil fuel systems with clean heat solutions such as air source heat pumps, which typically produce about three times as much energy as they use.
- installing new mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems. These will replace stale, moist air with fresh, filtered air and reduce heat loss. It also reduces humidity and the risk of condensation and mould.
- installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels to the roofs, to provide electricity for the homes. This will contribute to the running of the heat pumps and MVHR systems. It will also enable qualifying tenants to claim [Smart Export Guarantee payments](#).
- upgrading to triple-glazed windows and composite external doors to reduce heat loss, draughts and condensation. It will also provide better insulation against external noise.
- Investing in the Grade II listed Guildhall so that it will be net zero carbon in operation

3. Retrofitting private sector homes

- Cambridge City Council acts as Lead Authority delivering government-funded capital retrofit programmes across Cambridgeshire – operating as a partnership between all the Cambridgeshire authorities including Peterborough City Council and CPCA. Having successfully delivered over £9m of energy

efficiency and clean heat measures through the Home Upgrade Grant 2, we have recently secured a further £8.5m from the Warm Homes: Local Grant to continue delivery for the next 3 years. These grants are designed to support low income, fuel poor households who live in the most inefficient, poorly performing homes.

- In partnership with the CPCA, the City council was awarded a further £950,000 to complete retrofit upgrades across the County.
- Cambridge City Council also participates in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) administered by Ofgem, which focusses on supporting low-income, vulnerable and fuel poor households through installation of insulation and heating measures.
- The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) operating under the brand of 'Action on Energy,' provides communities with advice on how to maximise energy efficiency within homes, save money on energy bills, cut carbon emissions and support to find accredited installers.
- The contractor's framework agreement for the provision of energy efficiency works is also accessible to residents across Cambridgeshire, helping homeowners who are able or willing to pay for measures to navigate the market for suppliers and find accredited contractors to do retrofit work.
- With the framework in place, we have been able to develop the social benefits of the retrofit work. Contractors are offering their skills, volunteering and funding projects through "Match my Project." This process is demonstrating strong community value in the stimulation of the retrofit market.

4. Retrofitting non-domestic building stock

- This council has set itself an ambitious target to achieve net-zero energy use by 2030 for council properties where we control the energy supply. This includes properties we occupy or manage, like community centres, as well as common areas in housing or commercial buildings we own and operate.
- In 2023, we completed a £1.7m project (funded by Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund) to retrofit Parkside and Abbey Pools, installing air source heat pumps and energy efficiency upgrades.
- We have recently won Salix funding for decarbonization measures for the crematorium, Brown's Field Community Centre and

Trumpington Pavillion - including systems controls, insulation, lighting replacement and solar panel installation.

- We are developing proposals for a **district heat network** with the University of Cambridge, city centre Colleges and Anglia Ruskin University. The aim is to create a renewable heat network in the city by 2030 to supply renewable heat and hot water around the city centre to help decarbonize buildings. This project is currently in the detailed design and business case development phase. ~~The Civic Quarter redevelopment will upgrade the Guildhall and Corn Exchange. We are aiming for exemplar project outcomes, targeting, water neutrality and a Biodiversity Net Gain of 20% across the Civic Quarter and Operational Net Zero for the Guildhall. The design work to date includes consideration of fabric upgrades and alignment with ENERPHIT and LETI standards, introduction of water saving measures, PV panels and enabling a future connection to the proposed city centre District Heating Network~~

This Council believes that social justice and climate justice are inextricably linked. In the current cost of living crisis and given the limited availability of funding and skilled workers, the Council is minded to use its funds to prioritise partial retrofit to low income residents' homes so that the benefits can be shared as fairly as possible. This is exemplified by the Ditton Fields scheme.

This Council will ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Milliband, and the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, to:

1. Note the nation's housing stock accounts for almost 20% of the UK's carbon emissions and is so energy inefficient that over 6m households are in fuel poverty, unable to afford to heat their homes to the temperature needed to keep warm and healthy.
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Council 22 May 2025 - Written Questions

1. Councillor Glasberg

To the Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment

At the September meeting of the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee I asked if the Council would consider investigating a trial of Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) in some Cambridge locations.

West Suffolk Council already has a successful scheme operating and it is good news that our officers have been able to work with them and have identified a location in the Cambridge Leisure Centre that seems suitable. What support are they being given to progress this, and do you have any idea of the likely timescale for installation?

The Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment responded with the following:

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service, Trovr and Cambridge Leisure are collaborating to install a reverse vending machine at Cambridge Leisure at Clifton Leisure Park. Cambridge Leisure and Trovr are in the final stages of checking Wi-Fi speed at the complex making sure it is fast enough for the Trovr app to be used by the public. Cambridge Leisure is also in process of arranging a licence to occupy the facility on site which is currently being addressed by their solicitors.

The logistics fee for the vending machine to be transported to Cambridge Leisure has been paid. Installation of the machine is estimated to be within the first week of July. Once we have an exact date, we will update members and proceed with advertising the scheme through social media and websites.

2. Councillor Hossain

To the Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing

Addressing Unresolved Loose Manhole Covers Impacting Residents' Well-being.

I would like to raise an ongoing issue concerning loose manhole covers across the city, particularly on Green End Road, Hills Road, Victoria Road, Histon Road, and Regent Street.

While these covers may not pose an immediate safety risk, the persistent noise they generate—especially when vehicles drive over them—is seriously affecting the well-being of nearby residents.

The noise is disrupting sleep, leaving many residents unrested and struggling to start their day properly. This issue has been ongoing for several months. Despite being reported, responsibility continues to be passed between the County Council and the water company, with delays attributed to manpower shortages.

Could the Council please provide a clear response on when these manholes cover issues will be resolved? What steps are being taken to ensure such problems are addressed promptly in the future, without delays caused by unclear responsibility?

Response from Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing

Thank you for raising your concerns regarding the ongoing issue of loose manhole covers across several key roads in the city.

While Cambridge City Council is not the Highway Authority and therefore does not have direct responsibility for the maintenance of the highway network, we appreciate the impact this issue is having on residents' well-being, particularly in relation to persistent noise and sleep disruption.

We will raise this matter with Cambridgeshire County Council, who are the relevant Highway Authority, and seek clarification on the status of the reported defect.

In the meantime, if you have not already done so, we would recommend reporting specific problem locations directly to the County Council via their online Highways Fault Reporting Tool:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/report-a-highways-fault>

3. Councillor Hossain

To the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure

Unfair Resident Parking Policy at Morello Place.

I am writing to raise concerns about the resident parking policy at Morello Place. Residents there are required to pay for parking, while nearby social

housing estates offer free parking. These areas are within the same ward, share the same postcode, and are managed by the same council—yet they are being treated differently.

This inconsistency is especially troubling for residents facing financial difficulties. As a result of this policy, Morello Place residents often park in surrounding areas, which has led to overcrowding. Residents living nearby—particularly those returning home from work late—struggle to find parking spaces.

Could the Council explain why such a discrepancy exists in parking charges between these areas? And will the Council consider reviewing this policy to ensure fairness and to help reduce parking pressure across the ward?

The Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure replied with the following:

Thank you for raising your concerns about the parking arrangements at Morello Place.

To clarify, the parking at Morello Place is managed by Cambridge City Council and is not part of the County Council highway network. A new approach to managing parking on Council newbuild housing sites was agreed at the Housing Scrutiny Committee in September 2021. This introduced a revised strategy to ensure consistency and long-term viability of estate parking. You can read the relevant paper here [Agenda for Housing Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 23rd September, 2021, 5.30 pm - Cambridge Council](#): Housing Scrutiny Committee – 23 September 2021 (Item 21/43/HSC)

In response to further feedback, including from local councillors, a review of garage and parking charges was undertaken, and a revised charging policy was approved by the Committee in September 2024. Details of this are available [Agenda for Housing Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 17th September, 2024, 5.30 pm - Cambridge Council](#) under Item 24/40/HSC on 17 September 2024.

The approach taken for Morello Place reflects these strategic decisions, which aim to ensure fair usage, better management of limited parking resources, and reinvestment into housing services. While we appreciate that there may be differences in historical arrangements across estates, these changes were introduced to improve consistency over time, particularly in new developments.

The Council recognise the concern about parking pressures on neighbouring streets. These surrounding roads fall under the County Council's responsibility. If residents in those areas are interested in managing parking demand locally, the County Council offers a Residents' Parking Scheme. This would require local support and consultation, and the introduction of permits is subject to a fee. More information can be found via: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

I hope this clarifies the position and the reasons for the current arrangements.