

COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2012

INFORMATION PACK *(Pages 1 - 28)*

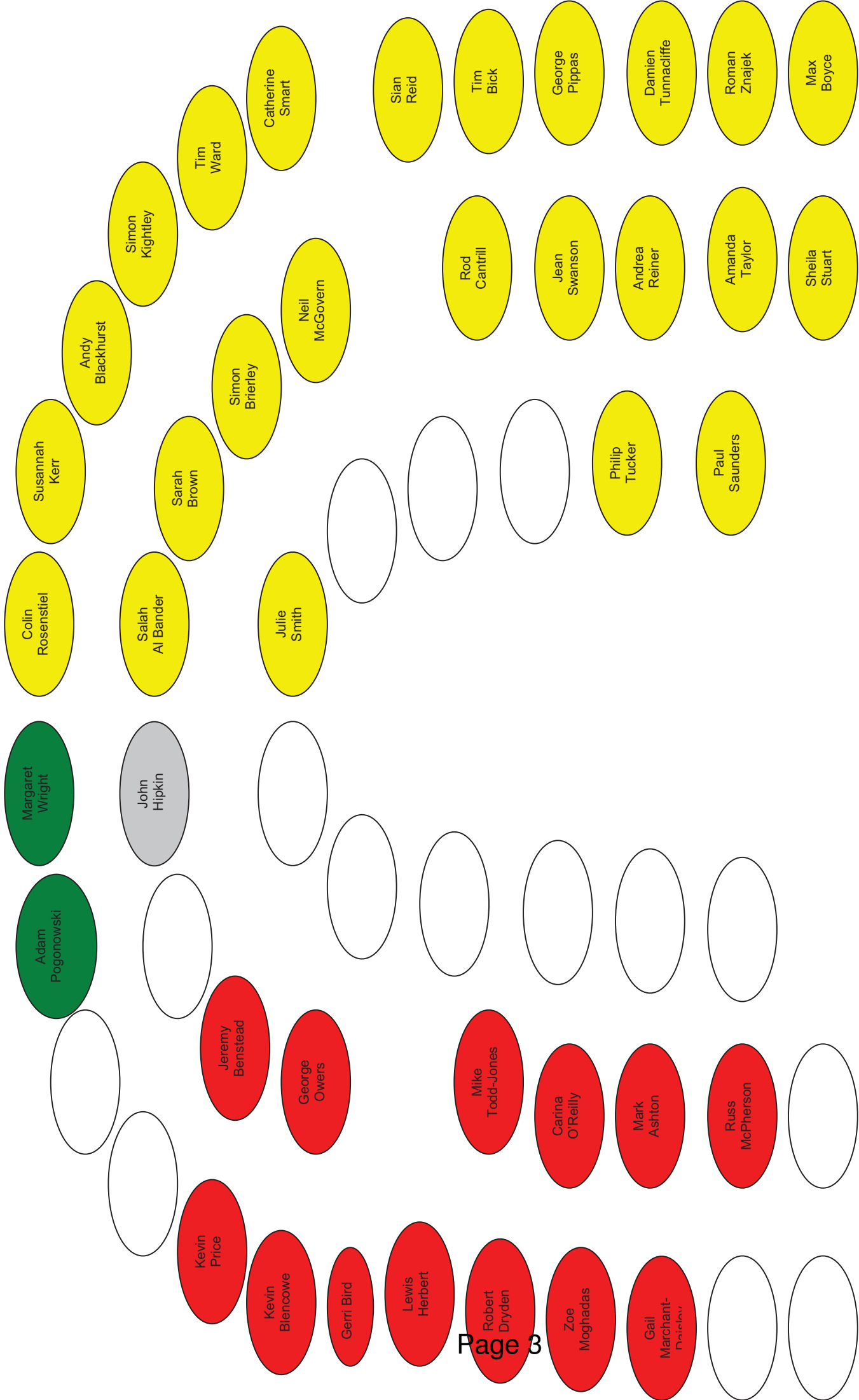
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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Council Information Pack February 2012

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- The Mayor's Chaplain
- The Deputy Mayor Caroline Hart
- The Mayor Ian Nimmo-Smith
- Head of Legal Services, Simon Pugh
- The Chief Executive

Oral Questions for Council

1. Councillor O'Reilly to the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health

Given the likely increase in homeless people living on the streets of Cambridge, and the appalling and tragic attack beside the River Cam, will he lead work with the police, social services, voluntary agencies and CCTV to increase protection for homeless people living rough in Cambridge?

2. Councillor Hipkin to the Chair of the Planning Committee

Would you consider introducing a requirement upon the Planning Committee that when it overturns an officer's recommendation it should nominate at least one from among those members who support the overturn to attend any subsequent appeal hearing or inquiry to defend the Committee's decision before the Inspector?

3. Councillor Brown to the Executive Councillor for Arts, Sport and Public Places

Could the Executive Councillor provide members with an update regarding the consultation on the piece of land owned by the council at 103 Mill Road?

4. Councillor Dryden to the Leader of the Council

There was a motion put to full council on 7th April 2011, proposed by Councillor Owers and seconded by myself. In this motion we noted many of our concerns on what the Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley MP is proposing in his NHS reform bill. At the end of our list of concerns in our motion we asked for the Council to ask the Chief Executive to organize a public meeting at the Guildhall and invite the Secretary of State for Health to speak, so he can explain these reforms and respond to the deep concerns of Cambridge residents. To date this has not take place what are the reasons for not being able to organize this meeting?

5. Councillor Owers to the Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services? (1)

Will the ruling group heed calls from the Labour group and take effective and immediate action on expanding kerbside plastic recycling in the blue bins, as they have been promising for years?

6. Councillor Herbert to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

Will he follow the example of Oxford City Council and commit to implementing a minimum 'Living Wage' of £7.20/hour for staff employed by all council contractors delivering major council services in Cambridge?

7. Councillor Pogonowski to the Leader

In light of the recent High Court ruling on prayers in Councils, will the Leader consider ending Cambridge City Council's tradition of prayers and chaplains before each Full Council meeting, regardless of whether the High Court's ruling is overturned or not?

8. Councillor Todd-Jones to the Executive Councillor for Housing

On her claim in the media that the council will increase council homes by 650, what is the real net increase in the number of homes?

9. Councillor McPherson to the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health

Community Policing is of vital importance to neighbourhoods; there is a growing concern from residents in the Cherry Hinton area (and probably other wards) that the cuts being imposed on the Chief Constable may result in the loss of the Community Beat Manager and/or the dedicated neighbourhood policing teams (which include the all important PCSO's) and seek an assurance that this vital community link with local officers who know and understand the communities in which they serve will not be shifted to possibly non-local rotated shift officers to be absorbed as a part of their normal duties, thereby losing the continuity and local knowledge.

10. Councillor Bird to the Leader of the Council

Will she give a commitment that the Council will retain access for people with disabilities between Fisher Square and Lion Yard that doesn't involve the Grand Arcade lifts area, and disabled people being off blocked by queues of people waiting to get into the lifts?

11. Councillor Ashton to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

Have any senior Director and Heads of Service posts been filled by way of short term consultancy contracts for full time or semi full time 3 or 4 days per week people, and if so how many FT and semi FT posts have been filled this way, and what was the financial cost to the Council of these contracts?

12. Councillor Benstead to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

On the tendering out of Council building cleaning and given the specific meaning of 'Improvement Plan', will a real 'Improvement Plan' be put in place to prepare the inhouse team ahead of tendering occurring, to give them a real opportunity to win, and what will it contain?

13. Councillor Price to the Executive Councillor for Planning and Sustainable Transport

Did his party group on the County Council propose in their alternate budget that the County Council should pay for 100% of the planned 20mph scheme for Cambridge, like Oxfordshire County Council did for the comprehensive Oxford 20mph zone?

14. Councillor Saunders to the Executive Councillor for Customer Service and Resources

The proposal to appoint a Mill Road Coordinator to work with local businesses attracted quite a bit of press coverage.

Has the council received many enquiries as a result of this coverage, and do residents and businesses view this a positive step for local development?

15. Councillor Marchant-Daisley to the Leader

Does the Leader accept that an adherence to the saying of Christian (or indeed any) prayers within the formal agenda of Council meetings not only appears now to be unlawful, but is inconsistent with the Council's statement celebrating diversity.

16. Councillor Tucker to the Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services

How successful has the Streets and Open Spaces apprenticeship scheme been?

17. Councillor Pogonowski to the Leader

The Citizens Survey results show increasing dissatisfaction with the Lib Dem-led Cambridge City Council. Particularly, results of how well the Council keeps residents informed of how it spends money, committee meetings and what they are for, and how residents can get involved scored high levels of dissatisfaction. What will the Leader and her group do to remedy this situation?

18. Councillor Owers to the Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services

Does the executive councillor think that levels of staffing within the environmental health department are sufficient, particularly in light of the impending deletion of the environmental health manager post?

19. Councillor Brown to the Executive Councillor for Arts, Sport and Public Places

Could the Executive Councillor provide an update on the Olympic torch public arts project?

**Council 23 February 2012
Written Questions**

1. Councillor Herbert to the Executive Councillor for Arts, Sport and Public Places

By ward, and by category of contributions/overall totals per ward, since 2005 (or for last 5 years if easier)

a) How much has been raised in developer contributions including commuted sums?

b) How much has been spent, or is allocated to be spent soon?

Answer:

By ward, and by category of contributions/overall totals per ward, since 2005 (or for last 5 years if easier).

a. How much has been raised in developer contributions including commuted sums?

Please see the ward-by-ward analysis in the Area tables in Section A below

b. How much has been spent, or is allocated to be spent soon?

Please see the tables for each ward in Section B below, presented by Area.

Notes

- a. The tables in Section A show the off-site developer contributions (including commuted sums for future maintenance) received since 1 January 2007. The tables do not include details of on-site contributions (eg, the provision of 40% affordable housing and on-site contributions from the major growth sites) or non-financial obligations (eg, travel-to-work plans).
- b. The developer contribution categories/types were revised in April 2010, with the adoption of the new Planning Obligations Strategy. New contribution types for indoor sports provision, outdoor sports provision, waste facilities and monitoring fees were introduced. The tables in Section A include monitoring fees from the major growth sites on the city's fringes.
- c. The tables in Section B show allocations/spending of off-site developer contributions since 1 January 2007. This data is presented by the ward in which the S106 agreement is based. Please note that the allocations and spending are not confined to the use of the income received in the same five-year period and also draw on contributions received before that date.

- Allocations of specific S106 contributions to particular projects have been made following project appraisals, which have been reported to scrutiny/area committees and subsequently approved.
 - Provisional allocations relate to projects to be funded by developer contributions that have been identified in the Council's latest Capital Plan, but which have not yet proceeded to the project appraisal stage. These provisional allocations are indicative: they will need to be checked further to ensure the proposed use conforms with specific stipulations within the relevant S106 agreements. Further provisional allocations may also be added.
- d. The data featured in this written response provides a snapshot/overview of the Council's S106 contribution records as at the end of January 2012. In most cases, the amounts have been rounded to the nearest £100.
- e. The S106 database on which this reply is based is currently being updated and improved and the data is being checked/verified. As this is an on-going process, some of the details set out in this latest snapshot may be revised before the Council publishes S106 monitoring data on the Council's website.

A. How much has been received in off-site developer contributions, including commuted sums for maintenance, since 1 January 2007?

EAST AREA

| Contribution type | Abbey | Coleridge | Petersfield | Romsey |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Community facilities | £152,800 | £168,300 | £53,800 | £104,800 |
| Formal open space | £102,500 | £161,800 | £28,800 | £58,700 |
| Informal open space | £89,300 | £138,000 | £24,800 | £50,700 |
| Provision for children | £87,800 | £82,500 | £10,900 | £58,100 |
| Public Art | £41,200 | £46,500 | £7,000 | £85,000 |
| Public Realm | £0 | £179,000 | £0 | £0 |
| Indoor sports provision | £1,100 | £500 | £0 | £1,100 |
| Outdoor sports provision | £1,000 | £500 | £0 | £1,000 |
| Waste facilities | £150 | £100 | £0 | £150 |
| Monitoring fees | £150 | £150 | £0 | £300 |

NORTH AREA

| Contribution type | Arbury | East Chesterton | West Chesterton | Kings Hedges |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Community facilities | £42,300 | £295,600 | £46,700 | £12,200 |
| Formal open space | £23,900 | £89,200 | £29,400 | £9,000 |
| Informal open space | £27,500 | £64,700 | £25,800 | £7,700 |
| Provision for children | £11,300 | £49,000 | £16,700 | £5,900 |
| Public Art | £0 | £17,200 | £55,600 | £60,400 |
| Indoor sports provision | £2,700 | £1,100 | £800 | £0 |
| Outdoor sports provision | £2,400 | £1,000 | £700 | £0 |
| Waste facilities | £400 | £150 | £300 | £0 |
| Monitoring fees | £0 | £300 | £150 | £0 |

A. How much has been received in off-site developer contributions, including commuted sums for maintenance, since 1 January 2007?

SOUTH AREA

| Contribution type | Cherry Hinton | Queen Ediths | Trumpington |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Community facilities | £105,400 | £87,100 | £147,700 |
| Formal open space | £98,900 | £73,900 | £664,800 ¹ |
| Informal open space | £62,900 | £62,900 | £245,600 |
| Provision for children | £32,400 | £56,700 | £53,900 |
| Public Art | £5,500 | £98,500 | £43,100 |
| Indoor sports provision | £1,100 | £0 | £2,500 |
| Outdoor sports provision | £1,000 | £0 | £2,200 |
| Waste facilities | £300 | £0 | £150 |
| Monitoring fees | £150 | £0 | £25,700 ² |

¹. These formal open space contributions include a commuted sum for maintenance from one development for around £369,300.

². These monitoring fees include around £23,000 from the Trumpington Meadows major growth site.

WEST/CENTRAL AREA

| Contribution type | Castle | Market | Newnham |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Community facilities | £53,400 | £186,100 | £32,700 |
| Formal open space | £22,300 | £63,800 | £18,100 |
| Informal open space | £14,000 | £83,900 | £22,100 |
| Provision for children | £16,100 | £36,300 | £13,000 |
| Public Art | £7,000 | £190,400 | £35,500 |
| Public Realm | £0 | £102,700 | £0 |
| Indoor sports provision | £0 | £700 | £1,900 |
| Outdoor sports provision | £0 | £600 | £1,700 |
| Waste facilities | £0 | £300 | £600 |
| Monitoring fees | £0 | £300 | £150 |

B. Since 1 January 2007, how much of the off-site developer contributions have been spent or allocated to be spent soon?

EAST AREA

Abbey

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Affordable housing | £0 | £0 | £313,900 |
| Community facilities | £86,100 | £77,300 | £0 |
| Formal open space | £20,700 | £4,800 | £82,900 |
| Informal open space | £46,700 | £36,000 | £10,500 |
| Provision for children | £0 | £28,400 | £90,400 |
| Public Art | £0 | £0 | £1,100 |
| Public Realm | £0 | £0 | £214,400 |

Coleridge

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Affordable housing | £0 | £0 | £68,100 |
| Community facilities | £93,500 | £87,300 | £0 |
| Formal open space | £5,800 | £30,500 | £44,700 |
| Informal open space | £14,900 | £165,900 | £166,000 |
| Provision for children | £1,700 | £86,300 | £37,200 |
| Public Art | £0 | £2,300 | £0 |

Petersfield³

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Community facilities | £15,800 | £281,600 | £36,000 |
| Formal open space | £139,200 | £1,500 | £116,900 |
| Informal open space | £0 | £10,700 | £26,100 |
| Provision for children | £900 | £39,300 | £33,100 |
| Public Art | £0 | £6,200 | £1,000 |

³. Officers are in the process of correcting S106 database records for developer contributions relating to planning applications made before ward boundary changes in 2005. For the reason, the figures shown for Petersfield are different from those provided for a local ward Members earlier this month.

- B. Since 1 January 2007, how much of the off-site developer contributions have been spent or allocated to be spent soon?

Romsey

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Affordable housing | £0 | £67,900 | £33,200 |
| Community facilities | £41,400 | £38,200 | £0 |
| Formal open space | £12,200 | £17,500 | £198,600 |
| Informal open space | £85,100 | £1,300 | £16,100 |
| Provision for children | £2,600 | £10,100 | £74,300 |
| Public Art | £0 | £33,200 | £0 |

NORTH AREA

Arbury

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Community facilities | £0 | £0 | £19,100 |
| Formal open space | £5,200 | £0 | £14,300 |
| Informal open space | £31,400 | £0 | £8,200 |
| Provision for children | £9,600 | £0 | £5,600 |

East Chesterton

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Community facilities | £0 | £0 | £345,800 |
| Formal open space | £37,000 | £131,900 | £259,400 |
| Informal open space | £43,900 | £0 | £53,200 |
| Provision for children | £17,300 | £4,600 | £109,500 |
| Public Art | £0 | £11,500 | £7,200 |

- B. Since 1 January 2007, how much of the off-site developer contributions have been spent or allocated to be spent soon?

West Chesterton

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Community facilities | £0 | £0 | £64,800 |
| Formal open space | £0 | £2,000 | £45,100 |
| Informal open space | £5,200 | £0 | £3,400 |
| Provision for children | £10,200 | £0 | £23,900 |
| Public Art | £0 | £22,600 | £0 |

Kings Hedges

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Community facilities | £0 | £0 | £8,500 |
| Formal open space | £0 | £6,100 | £9,900 |
| Informal open space | £0 | £19,100 | £0 |
| Provision for children | £0 | £11,000 | £5,800 |
| Public Art | £0 | £19,900 | £0 |

SOUTH AREA

Cherry Hinton

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Community facilities | £0 | £0 | £13,900 |
| Formal open space | £0 | £62,700 | £74,300 |
| Informal open space | £0 | £95,400 | £0 |
| Provision for children | £0 | £28,400 | £12,900 |
| Public Art | £0 | £5,500 | £0 |

- B. Since 1 January 2007, how much of the off-site developer contributions have been spent or allocated to be spent soon?

Queen Ediths

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Community facilities | £0 | £6,700 | £14,000 |
| Formal open space | £0 | £9,400 | £121,300 |
| Informal open space | £0 | £0 | £1,100 |
| Provision for children | £0 | £0 | £12,800 |
| Public Art | £0 | £45,000 | £0 |

Trumpington

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Affordable housing | £0 | £0 | £2,709,400 |
| Community facilities | £0 | £25,200 | £361,100 |
| Formal open space | £259,200 | £127,500 | £238,600 |
| Informal open space | £121,000 | £0 | £181,100 |
| Provision for children | £113,300 | £0 | £199,700 |
| Public Art | £0 | £22,700 | £5,000 |

WEST/CENTRAL AREA

Castle

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Community facilities | £500 | 0 | £11,700 |
| Formal open space | £2,700 | £0 | £51,400 |
| Informal open space | £0 | £0 | £11,100 |
| Provision for children | £44,000 | £4,600 | £26,200 |
| Public Art | £0 | £7,500 | £0 |

B. Since 1 January 2007, how much of the off-site developer contributions have been spent or allocated to be spent soon?

Market

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Community facilities | £99,500 | £0 | £71,700 |
| Formal open space | £0 | £20,000 | £74,200 |
| Informal open space | £5,000 | £27,000 | £4,200 |
| Provision for children | £0 | £0 | £39,100 |
| Public Art | £0 | £99,100 | £11,200 |
| Public Realm | £0 | £26,500 | £114,600 |

Newnham

| Contribution type | Provisionally allocated | Allocated | Spent |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Community facilities | £0 | £100 | £34,000 |
| Formal open space | £2,000 | £1,800 | £34,200 |
| Informal open space | £0 | £0 | £18,100 |
| Provision for children | £0 | £0 | £18,400 |

2. Councillor Pogonowski to the Chair of Civic Affairs

Is the role of Mayor a politically neutral one, when chairing Full Council meetings? Should the Mayor be allowed to express his or her views in a debate? Precedent has it that mayors do not do this, nor do they Chair other committees (East Area etc.) An excellent example of this was Cllr. Stuart. In light of this precedent, why does the current Mayor chair North Area Committee meetings?

(The Leader has referred the question to Cllr Boyce, as Chair of Civic Affairs Committee, as it relates to a constitutional matter.)

Answer:

It is important that the Mayor is even-handed between political groups when chairing full Council. In chairing the meeting, the Mayor's role is a politically neutral one.

Mayors are elected by the electors in their ward to act as councillors and there is no bar to a mayor contributing to a Council debate if they wish to express their views. There is no recognised convention or precedent that they should refrain from doing so. It is a matter for individual judgement by individual mayors.

There is also no precedent that the Mayor should not chair Council committees during their term of office. There is no reason why the Mayor cannot take part in the wider work of the Council during their period of office although, depending on their personal circumstances, mayors may find it difficult to take on additional responsibilities. Councillor Stuart was the Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee when she was Mayor. Councillor Dixon was Chair of the Licensing Committee during his term of office. A member of the Executive may not, however, hold office as Mayor.

As well as being Mayor, Councillor Nimmo-Smith is elected as a ward councillor to represent West Chesterton. There is no conflict between his status as Mayor and his participation as a ward councillor in the work of the North Area Committee. There is no reason why the Area Committee should not elect Cllr Nimmo-Smith to chair the committee and no reason why he should not accept. He chairs the Area Committee as a ward councillor and not as Mayor.

3. Councillor Wright to the Executive Councillor for Planning and Sustainable Transport

Would the Ex Cllr for Planning and Sustainable Transport support an initiative to undertake a Waterspace Study for Cambridge, looking in particular at the concept of amenity in relation to the River Cam in the city, as undertaken by the city of Bedford with assistance from relevant authorities?

Answer:

At the request of the Ex Cllr for Planning and Sustainable Transport at the end of last year, Officers are currently looking at waterspace issues for Cambridge and what can be taken forward as part of the Local Plan Review. It is expected that the issue will be raised as part of consultation on the Issues and Options Report in June and July 2012.

An initial meeting has already taken place with the Conservators of the River Cam and Officers will be attending the AGM of the Cam Valley Forum at the end of March where there will be a presentation by Richard Glen Associations, who prepared the Bedford Waterspace Study for Bedford Borough Council and the Environment Agency.

Once the scope and resources for taking the project forward have been looked at in more detail, a report will be taken to DPSSC in order for Councillors to agree the way forward and the City Council's role in this project.

4. Councillor Wright to the Executive Councillor for Planning and Sustainable Transport

Traffic Impact Assessments played a crucial part in Planning Committee coming to its recent decisions regarding new major developments on Newmarket Road. However, it has since been revealed that this data was incorrect. What assurances can be given so that such data provided by the County Council is reliable in future?

Answer:

The Head of Planning Services has appointed an Independent Transport Consultant (WSP Group based in Cambridge) to review the Highway Authority advice in relation to three schemes on Newmarket Road. The County Council accept that there are concerns with the original advice they provided and have reviewed the methodology used to assess the Premier Inn planning application and as a result are re-doing the assessment. The methodology they use and the conclusions they will reach will be reviewed by the City's consultant. The County Council have also reviewed the other two recent planning applications in this area. This step has been taken by the local planning authority to ensure that members of the local planning authority, and interested parties including local residents will have the comfort of an independent assessment of the highways advice in undertaking their decision making responsibilities in this case.

The Highway authority has an ongoing statutory responsibility to advise in relation to the implications for the highways network and safety of new development proposals coming forward through the planning system. They are cooperating fully with the City Council and the consultant.

Text of Email from Head of Planning Services sent to all Planning Committee, Petersfield and Abbey ward Members 31/1/12

Dear Councillor, you will recall that concerns have been raised recently about the advice given by the Highway Authority in relation to three planning applications - the Travel Lodge on Newmarket Road, ref: 10/0851/FUL, the residential scheme on Harvest Way; ref: 11/0219/FUL and the Premier Inn Hotel application at Intercell House, Coldham's Lane; ref: 11/0338/FUL.

I advised that we would be considering this position from the local planning authority's perspective, and would take a view on whether we should be seeking independent highway advice on these three cases. I have now had the opportunity to discuss this situation with the County Council and wanted to let you know that they will be undertaking a review of the existing highway authority advice given to us and will be issuing updated advice. I will be appointing an independent Transport consultant to review the updated advice on behalf of the local planning authority. I anticipate that it will take a few weeks to get through this process so expect to be able to update you again in March.

I will let the various local residents groups involved know that this is being undertaken.

5. Councillor Caroline Hart To The Executive Councillor For Housing

Further to her verbal answer at East Area Committee

i) Will the council's planned 146 new build programme result in some cases in less council dwellings and where, including in parts of Abbey?

ii) What plan has the city council in place for assisting any displaced tenants as part of a potential redevelopment?

iii) Will all tenants who want to return to locations like Latimer Close, and to any of the other housing areas under review for redevelopment, be given a total commitment that that is their right?

iv) At what point will the city council arrange effective consultation with all potentially affected?

v) If following consultations, the majority of current tenants vote against the plans at any location, will this mean the city council will not proceed, in line with their wishes?

Answer:

i) Will the council's planned 146 new build programme result in some cases in less council dwellings and where, including in parts of Abbey?

The attached spreadsheet summarises the schemes that makes up the 146 new build programme and in which Ward they are located. Column A shows the existing Affordable Homes in the schemes. Column B shows the number of new homes that were estimated to be provided in the schemes when the bid for grant from the Homes and Communities Agency was made in April 2011. Column C shows the estimated number of new homes at February 2012. Overall, the base position is for the schemes to provide 60% of new homes as Affordable Housing and 40% as market housing as it is this mix that makes the new housing viable. As more detailed schemes are worked up for planning approval, if there is the opportunity to improve on the number of Affordable Homes, then this will be done. For example, in the bid, Barnwell Road was estimated to provide 10 Affordable Homes. Further work has suggested that 16 Affordable Homes may be achievable.

Although there may be fewer new Affordable Homes on some schemes it should be noted that the size and type of new Affordable Homes will represent a significant improvement over existing housing. For example, at Latimer Close, twenty-one bedroom one person flats are planned to be replaced with a mix of a one bedroom flat; three two bedroom flats (including one that is fully wheelchair accessible); two two bedroom houses and five three bedroom houses. In determining the new type and size of housing the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document is used as a guide. This, in turn, is an assessment of the new housing that is required to meet current need. The number of new bedspaces created to replace existing bedspaces is another measure of the impact of the new programme. For example, at Seymour Court, the existing 50 bedspaces will be replaced

with 74 bedspaces despite fewer flats. Columns D and E provide an indicative number of new bedspaces compared with the existing number.

ii) What plan has the city council in place for assisting any displaced tenants as part of a potential redevelopment?

The Home Loss Policy approved at the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in June 2011 covers the statutory Home Loss payment; Disturbance payment; and support offered to tenants and leaseholders.

iii) Will all tenants who want to return to locations like Latimer Close, and to any of the other housing areas under review for redevelopment, be given a total commitment that that is their right?

This will be offered as far as is practicable. For example, at Latimer Close we cannot guarantee that all existing residents will be able to move back to the new scheme because there will be a different mix of size and type of housing on the new scheme. In practice, it has been the experience to-date that few residents choose to opt to move back preferring to move once to a new property.

iv) At what point will the city council arrange effective consultation with all potentially affected?

The current procedure that is followed was introduced in 2008. Once it has been agreed that schemes should be added to the three year rolling programme existing tenants; leaseholders and immediate neighbours are advised that the scheme is being considered for redevelopment. Once a worked up scheme has been approved at Community Services Scrutiny Committee individual tenants are the engaged on a one-to-one basis.

v) If following consultations, the majority of current tenants vote against the plans at any location, will this mean the city council will not proceed, in line with their wishes?

Each scheme and consultation will be treated on its merits. As well as the views of the current tenants the Council needs to consider factors like how lettable the existing properties are now and the likely future demand. This may be linked to the popularity of the size, design and layout of units. Also the Council need to balance this with the state and standard of repair and the likely level of investment required in the future to keep properties lettable. The new homes will all be built to at least Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

6. Councillor Lewis Herbert To The Executive Councillor For Planning And Sustainable Transport

For the planned implementation of a citywide 20mph zone, which Labour Councillors support for residential and shopping streets, what were the dates and the detailed sequence of events to date on

a - meetings and any email discussion with county on the design for the scheme, who would design and implement and how the detailed should work?

b - visit to Portsmouth to see another scheme?

c - meetings and any email discussion with county on a) capital and b) revenue costing figures, including assessment of areas requiring street works to be effective as well as signage?

d - meetings and any email discussion with police on how it can effectively be enforced?

e - publication of estimated costs for proposals in budget document?

and are the capital and revenue costings the final figures, and sufficient for a robust scheme?

Answer: Circulated around the Chamber separately

Council 23 February 2012 – Written Questions

6. Councillor Lewis Herbert To The Executive Councillor For Planning And Sustainable Transport

For the planned implementation of a citywide 20mph zone, which Labour Councillors support for residential and shopping streets, what were the dates and the detailed sequence of events to date on:

- a) - meetings and any email discussion with county on the design for the scheme, who would design and implement and how the detailed should work?
- b) - visit to Portsmouth to see another scheme?
- c) - meetings and any email discussion with county on a) capital and b) revenue costing figures, including assessment of areas requiring street works to be effective as well as signage?
- d) - meetings and any email discussion with police on how it can effectively be enforced?
- e) - publication of estimated costs for proposals in budget document? and are the capital and revenue costings the final figures, and sufficient for a robust scheme?

Response:

City Council officers have undertaken initial investigative work on the motion to Council in July 2011 regarding the possible expansion of 20mph zones in the city. This work has allowed a better understanding of the likely scope of the work, the staff resources needed and the approximate capital cost of any citywide scheme. As a result, a budget bid for project capital and revenue was made as part of this year's budget cycle.

- a. Cllr Tim Ward and Patsy Dell (Head of Planning Services) met with the County Council to discuss the implementation of a citywide 20mph zone coverage scheme in Cambridge. This meeting occurred on 23/1/12 and involved Steve Criswell the relevant County Council Portfolio Holder, the Highways Service Director and other senior staff. The County Council confirmed their in-principle support for the investigation of the implementation of a scheme. The County Council have no programme commitment for this scheme but would work in collaboration with the City Council if we decided to promote and fund it.
- b. Tim Ward and Matthew Bowles (Planning Policy & Transport Officer) met with Adam Bunce, the officer who leads on the 20mph zones at Portsmouth City Council (PCC) on 8th November 2011. Discussions centred on the key findings PCC had encountered as a result of having the widespread 20mph scheme, and any advice they could offer on implementing a similar scheme ourselves. This information helped feed into the budget bid.
- c. More detailed discussions with the County Council about costings and feasibility will be necessary. These discussions have gone as far as possible at this initial stage without more detailed investigation being undertaken. The project officer once appointed will need to undertake

comprehensive assessment of areas requiring street works and signage as part of determining the overall project scope and programme. The County Council has agreed to support the process subject to an understanding of the full implications as more detail emerges e.g. following surveys.

- d. There are many stakeholders who would need to be involved when the project is initiated. General discussions with the Police have already taken place involving the County Council and the City Community Safety Team about enforcement of existing 20mph speed restrictions in the City. An extension of these discussions in the context of this specific project will be a priority for the new post holder.
- e. The budget bid details are summarised below. These details reflect the answers given by the Executive Councillor at Environment Scrutiny Committee (ESC) in January that will shortly be published in the minutes of that meeting that will appear in the agenda for the ESC meeting in March.
 - A city wide 20mph scheme, similar to that in Portsmouth, rather than a piecemeal implementation is considered likely to be more appropriate and successful in terms of public awareness, compliance and enforceability.
 - The capital cost of setting up this scheme has been estimated at around £400,000. This includes commuted maintenance for the new structures and markings on the highway that will be necessary if the City funds this project, and is based on experience as well as advice from Portsmouth City Council.
 - It is estimated that this would be a minimum 2-year project, with scoping, research, surveys and preparation in year one with implementation following in year two.
 - The creation of at least one full time post would be required. The cost estimates for this (the PPF bid) come to around £29,900 per year.

7. Councillor Marchant-Daisley To The Executive Councillor For Customer Services and Resources

What are the Council's best estimates for the number of Cambridge households projected to be hit by each of the main categories of cuts in benefit being implemented by the Coalition Government, including numbers for multiple impacts?

Answer:

Background

The Welfare Reform Bill provides for the introduction of a 'Universal Credit' to replace a range of existing means-tested benefits and tax credits for people of working age, starting from 2013.

The Bill follows the November 2010 White Paper, 'Universal Credit: welfare that works', which set out the Coalition Government's proposals for reforming welfare to improve work incentives, simplify the benefits system and reduce "welfare dependency", whilst driving down benefits expenditure.

Key Areas

Besides introducing Universal Credit and related measures, the Welfare Reform Bill makes other significant changes to the benefits system, in particular the Bill:

- Restricts Housing Benefit entitlement for social housing tenants whose accommodation is larger than they need.
- Up-rates Local Housing Allowance rates by the Consumer Price Index.
- Limits the payment of contributory Employment and Support Allowance to a 12 month period.
- Caps the total amount of benefit that can be claimed.
- Abolishes Council Tax Benefit.
- Introduces Personal Independence Payments to replace the current Disability Living Allowance.
- Amends the forthcoming statutory child maintenance scheme.

There will also be the introduction of locally based welfare assistance, which replaces Community Care Grants and Department for Work & Pensions [DWP] Crisis Loans for living expenses from April 2013.

Changes to Local Housing Allowance (LHA)

There have already been changes to LHA, including:

- Removal of the £15 excess.

- The restriction of LHA to a maximum four-bed rate, instead of five-bed.
- LHA rates set using 30th percentile rather than 50th percentile.
- Managing the transitional protection for existing claimants against the above LHA changes.
- Additional bedroom in size criteria for non-resident carers.
- Shared Accommodation Rate extended to under 35's.

Impact in Cambridge

Shared Accommodation - Under 35

The Government's impact assessment showed that the average loss per claimant affected by this change is **£56 per week** for a Cambridge claimant, against a national average of **£41** per claimant per week.

We have approximately **50** claimants between the age of 25 and 34 that will be affected by this change.

Local Housing Allowance - 30th Percentile Changes

There are currently **897** LHA claimants in Cambridge City, all of whom will be impacted by the changes to the LHA calculation, which is now based on the 30th percentile of the Broad Rental Market Area rates.

The Government's impact assessment showed that the average difference is **£25 per week** loss per Cambridge claimant, whereas the average national loss is **£9** per week per claimant.

Other Changes

Unfortunately, information about the impact in Cambridge in relation to forthcoming changes, such as the size-related criteria for social sector and the overall benefits cap, is currently unavailable.

The DWP are in the process of identifying those affected by the overall benefits cap and will provide this information to us in May 2012.

Currently, we do not hold the information relating to the number of bedrooms within a property that is required for the size-related reduction to benefit, and the DWP are looking into how this information is to be obtained.

Abolition of Council Tax Benefit 2013

From **April 2013** Council Tax Benefit will be abolished and Local Authorities will be responsible for defining a locally administered scheme for Council Tax support that is subject to a **10% reduction in funding** and must include protection for pensioners and the vulnerable.

For Cambridge as working age claimants make up **60%** of our caseload, this will potentially mean changes to their current level of support for Council Tax.

Technical Reforms of Council Tax

As well as the introduction of a localised scheme to support Council Tax, the Government is also intending to make a number of technical changes to the Council Tax exemptions and discount scheme, giving Billing Authorities new flexibilities in respect of the taxation of second homes and empty dwellings.

These changes come into force on 1 April 2013 and gives the Local Authority more say in the way in which Council Tax discounts and exemptions are administered.

We are awaiting the government response to the consultation on the proposed technical changes.

Modelling Software

CLG [Communities and Local Government] has indicated that they intend to make available a calculator, which will enable us to use our Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) data to assess the impact of changes in relation to levels of entitlement.

We are also in the process of securing some modelling software from Northgate that will help us provide more detailed information and data about the impact the abolition of Council Tax Benefit and its replacement of a localised scheme will have for the City.

We do not expect to be in a position to provide any modelling data until mid March/ early April 2012.

146 Programme Scheme List

| 146 Council New Build Programme | | Indicative Numbers - February 2012 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------|---|---|---|-------|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----|
| Site | Ward | A | | B | | C | | D | | E | | F | | G |
| | | Existing Affordable Units | 146 Programme Bid Estimate New Affordable Units | 146 Programme Bid Estimate New Affordable Units | Outturn Estimated New Affordable Units Feb 12 | Existing Bedspaces | 146 Programme Bid Estimated New Bedspaces | Outturn Estimated New Market Units Feb 12 | Outturn Estimated New Market Units Feb 12 | Notes | Outturn Estimated New Market Units Feb 12 | Outturn Estimated Total Feb-12 (C+F) | | |
| Seymour Court | Romsey | 50 | 21 | 20 | 74 | 50 | 74 | | | | | 15 | | |
| Latimer Close | Abbey | 16 | 12 | 16 | 53 | 20 | 53 | | | | | 11 | | |
| Barnwell Road | Abbey | 23 | 10 | 16 | 43 | 23 | 43 | | | | | 10 | | |
| Wadloes Road | Abbey | 0 | 7 | 7 | 29 | 0 | 29 | | | | | 6 | | |
| St Matthews Street Garages | Petersfield | 0 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 14 | | | | | 2 | | |
| Aylesborough Close | Arbury | 16 | 17 | 17 | 69 | 63 | 69 | | | | | 11 | | |
| Kendal Way | East Chesterton | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | | | | | 1 | | |
| Garage Sites | King's Hedges | 0 | 7 | 7 | 19 | 0 | 19 | | | | | 5 | | |
| | King's Hedges | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| | Cadwin Fields | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| | Markham Close | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| Colville Road | Cherry Hinton | 17 | 24 | 24 | ? | ? | ? | | | | | 16 | | |
| Campkin Road | King's Hedges | 40 | 26 | 19 | 116 | 40 | 116 | | | | | 13 | | |
| Water Lane | East Chesterton | 23 | 10 | 10 | ? | ? | ? | | | | | 7 | | |
| Anstey Way | Trumpington | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | | | | | 0 | | |
| Garage Sites | King's Hedges | 0 | 6 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 28 | | | | | 0 | | |
| | Cameron Road | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| | Wiles Close | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | | |
| | Uphall Road | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| TOTALS | | 185 | 146 | 142 | 453 | 196 | 453 | | | | | 98 | | 240 |

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