

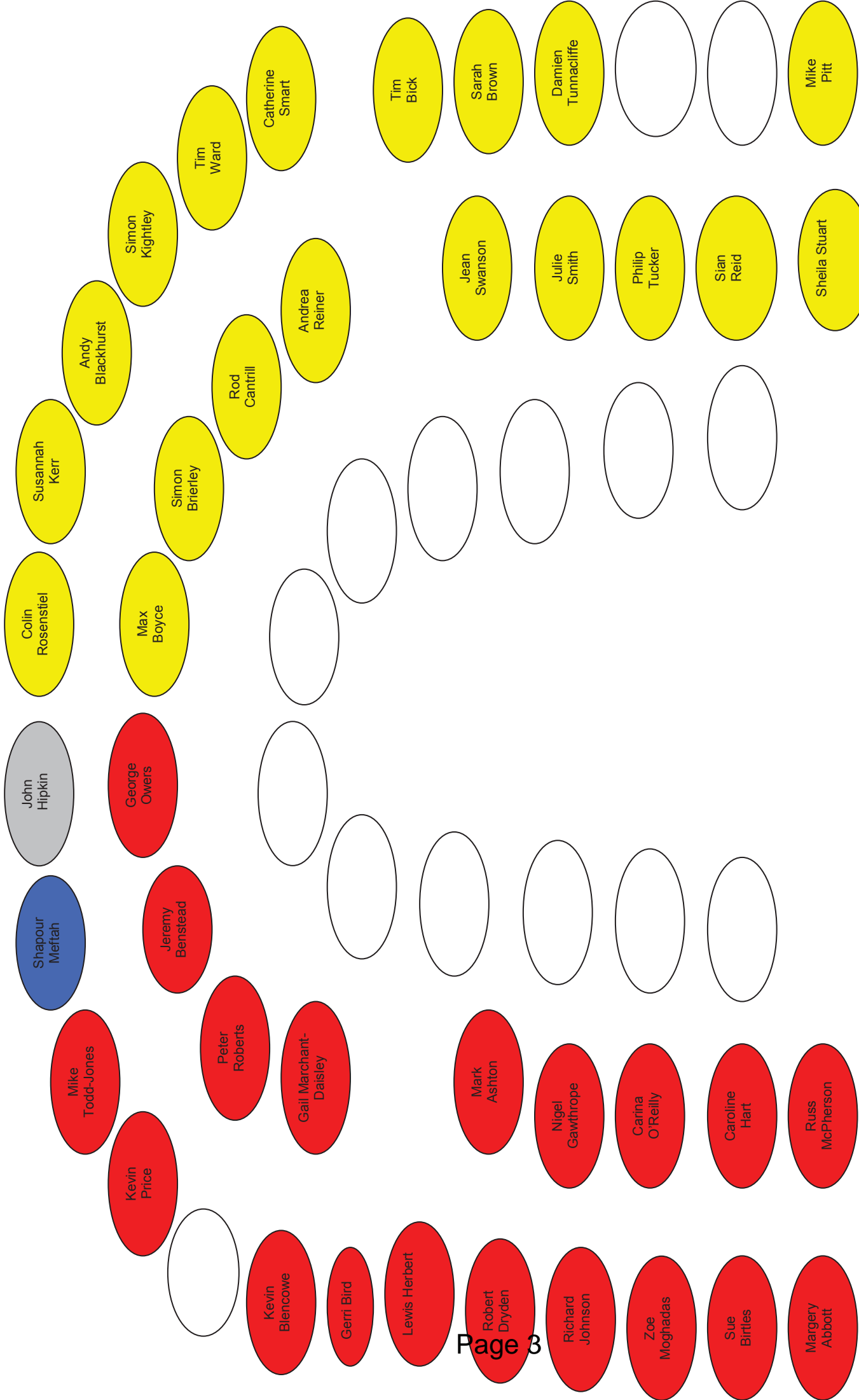


CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL

Council Information Pack 27 February 2014

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- The Chief Executive, Antoinette Jackson
- Head of Legal Services, Simon Pugh
- The Mayor Paul Saunders
- The Deputy Mayor George Pippas
- The Mayor's Chaplain

Agenda Item 4a: Housing Revenue Account – Budget Setting Report

Labour Group Amendment – proposed by Councillor Price

After Recommendation X. (page 38 of the agenda) add:

xi. Approve an in-depth review of the Housing Capital Investment Plan alongside the already planned update to the HRA Asset Management Plan, to identify capital funding for a significant citywide City Homes Estate Improvement Programme, including dealing with the estimated £1m backlog of fencing repairs required across our estates following years of under-investment.

Appendix B(b)

Council Tax Setting 2014/15

1. The Council calculated its Council Tax Base 2014/15 for the whole Council area as **38,675.1** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
2. The Council calculates that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 is **£6,702,010**
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|--|
| (a) | £173,622,350 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act |
| (b) | £166,920,340 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act |
| (c) | £6,702,010 | being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. [Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act] |
| (d) | £173.29 | being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by the amount at 1 above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. |

4. To note that Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2014/15 for each of the categories of dwellings in the Council's area.

Dwelling Band	City Council £	County Council £	Police and Crime Commissioner £	Fire & Rescue Authority £	Aggregate Council Tax £
A	115.53	747.96	120.90	42.84	1,027.23
B	134.78	872.62	141.05	49.98	1,198.43
C	154.04	997.28	161.20	57.12	1,369.64
D	173.29	1,121.94	181.35	64.26	1,540.84
E	211.80	1,371.26	221.65	78.54	1,883.25
F	250.31	1,620.58	261.95	92.82	2,225.66
G	288.82	1,869.90	302.25	107.10	2,568.07
H	346.58	2,243.88	362.70	128.52	3,081.68

6. The Council determines that, in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the basic amount of its council tax for 2014/15 is not excessive.

Appendix B(b)

[Labour Amendment]

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| (b) | £166,973,340 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act |
| (c) | £6,702,010 | being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. [Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act] |
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6. The Council determines that, in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the basic amount of its council tax for 2014/15 is not excessive.

Oral Questions for Council

1. Councillor Ashton to the Executive Councillor for Community Wellbeing

What is the Council doing to celebrate the 50th Folk Festival this year?

This event began as a local event and is now recognised as a National/International Event. Not only is it an event for all ages but has brought in considerable revenue over the years to this Council that has been used to subsidise other music events in the city.

It has been mooted for some kind of memorial to the local man who started it all off Ken Woollard. It would be a great injustice, after being recognised Nationally for an award to the Festival organiser and Ken's widow, if we as a Council did not publicly acknowledge this wonderful event.

2. Councillor Pippas to the Executive Councillor for Housing

How has the Single Homelessness Service done since it started last autumn?

3. Councillor Johnson to the Leader

On 6th November 2013, following an intervention from Labour Councillors, the Leader was quoted in the Cambridge News saying he would request that Clear Channel - whom the Council have a contract with to provide advertising in bus shelters across the city - remove advertising from payday lenders. Can the Leader update Council on this matter?

4. Councillor Pitt to the Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change

Could the Executive Councillor update us on progress on the 20mph project, in particular when will installation begin in north area, and when will the next round of public consultation begin?

Council 27 February 2014

Written Questions

1. Councillor Pippas to the Leader

Capital Variances

- (1) What is the financial value of proposed re-phased spending on the General Fund capital and revenue projects plan in the 2014/15 BSR at appendix G(C) compared with the previous BSR a year ago?
- (2) In the 2014/15 BSR, for each of the highest value re-phased items in the three categories (provisions, programmes and schemes), please advise the council:
 - (a) why hasn't the allocated funding been used according to plan?
 - (b) why couldn't this have been foreseen in the original plan?

COUNCIL – 27 February 2014.

Written Question to the Leader from Councillor George Pippas

Capital Variances

(1) What is the financial value of proposed re-phased spending on the General Fund capital and revenue projects plan in the 2014/15 BSR at appendix G(C) compared with the previous BSR a year ago?

ANSWER:

Rephasing 2012/13: £6,525,000

Rephasing 2013/14: £2,890,000

(2) In the 2014/15 BSR, for each of the highest value re-phased items in the three categories (provisions, programmes and schemes), please advise the council:

ANSWER:

Type	Capital Ref	Description	Re-phase Spend
Programme	PR017	Vehicle Replacement Programme	(225)
Programme	PR010	Environmental Improvements Programme	(193)
Programme	PR020	ICT Infrastructure Programme	(100)
			(518)
Project	SC579	Office Accommodation Strategy	(146)
Project	SC544	Coleridge Recreation Ground Improvements (S106)	(108)
Project	SC479	Abbey Pool Play Area Facilities (S106)	(83)
Project	SC560	Guildhall & Corn Exchange Cap Schemes RO AR9	(80)
			(417)
Provision	PV163	Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs)	(400)
Provision	PV526	Clay Farm Community Centre - Phase 1 (S106)	(353)
Provision	PV564	Clay Farm Community Centre -Phase 2 (Construction)	(250)
Provision	PV007	Cycleways	(236)
			(1,239)

- (a) Why hasn't the allocated funding been used according to plan?
- (b) Why couldn't this have been foreseen in the original plan?

Description	Re-phase Spend	Why hasn't the allocated funding been used according to plan?	Why couldn't this have been foreseen in the original plan?
PROGRAMMES			
Vehicle Replacement Programme	(225)	The allocated funds haven't been used according to the plan due to changes in service requirements.	The fleet replacement plan is completed six months prior to the start of each year. A consequence of basing the budgeted figure in this is that actual replacement requirements may change during the year.

Description	Re-phase Spend (193)	Why hasn't the allocated funding been used according to plan?	Why couldn't this have been foreseen in the original plan?
<p>Environmental Improvement Programmes</p>		<p>There will always be a significant proportion of projects delivered through the EIP Programme that have a duration for delivery that exceeds the end of the financial year. This year for example, new projects were not adopted until late summer, due to issues with the County Council LHI programme. This only left 6 months for completion before the end of the financial year.</p> <p>There are also a considerable number of schemes that have either been on hold for various reasons or have significant hurdles to overcome before they can be delivered. The allocated funding for these schemes often makes up the majority of the rephasing.</p> <p>There are currently 55 active EIP projects across the four area committees, which range in type and value considerably, making delivery a challenge.</p>	<p>The schemes that will be delivered by the programme are not known when the capital plan is finalised towards the end of the previous financial year, so the capital plan cannot be profiled to ensure full expenditure.</p>

Description	Re-phase Spend	Why hasn't the allocated funding been used according to plan?	Why couldn't this have been foreseen in the original plan?
<p>ICT Infrastructure Programme</p>	<p>(100)</p>	<p>The rephased funding relates to a series of projects to move from GroupWise to Exchange, and other related work. This is a complex programme involving several third parties. Some issues emerged before Christmas about the deliverability of the designs produced by specialist consultants and the decision was made to stop and review the planned approach. This review is now complete and the project is currently being re-planned. As e-mail is vital to the work of most of the Council it was felt preferable to ensure a safe implementation of a new system, in light of the level of risk associated with the initial design.</p>	<p>Assurances had been sought from Northgate that their specialists could deliver appropriate quality outputs within the required timeframe and cost, and timescales were based on the estimates provided by Northgate at the time. Northgate themselves recognised quality issues with the products delivered by some of the third parties and now have sought alternative suppliers.</p>

Description	Re-phase Spend	Why hasn't the allocated funding been used according to plan?	Why couldn't this have been foreseen in the original plan?
PROJECTS			
Office Accommodation Strategy	(146)	<p>The capital costs of the project relate to the refurbishment of the Guildhall Reception and rooms to the rear and the refurbishment of rooms in Mandela House to establish training facilities. The original project plan anticipated that these works would fall in the latter part of March 2014. The more detailed project planning, based on the development of the refurbishment brief, planning and listed building requirements and the availability of the spaces has established the best timescale for this work is between April and June 2014.</p> <p>The Office Accommodation budget funding is allocated over 2 financial years – 2013/14 and 2014/15 with a projected end date of 31 August 2014. Please note that the project is still on target to complete by the original timescale of 31 August 2014.</p>	<p>The best estimates for the timing of the project were originally made in July 2013. The precise timing for expenditure has been developed within each phase of the project plan and this has established the precise timing for the refurbishment of the two facilities.</p> <p>An alternative approach would have been to phase the refurbishment to start in 2014/15 this would also have been subject to rephasing based on detailed project planning.</p>
Coleridge Recreation Ground Improvements (\$106)	(108)	<p>Objections raised during planning application stage resulted in a revised scheme which required further consultation and a need to re-phase the timing.</p>	<p>This couldn't have been foreseen because objections only came forward later in the process.</p>

Description	Re-phase Spend	Why hasn't the allocated funding been used according to plan?	Why couldn't this have been foreseen in the original plan?
<p>Abbey Pool Play Area Facilities (\$106)</p>	<p>(83)</p>	<p>Abbey Pool Play Area was part of the ESPO framework that has delivered other key play areas at Petersfield, Jesus Green, Flower Street and Peverel Road. Abbey Pool Play Area was consulted upon and a preferred scheme agreed, on the same time line as those already completed.</p> <p>After the consultation was completed, there was opposition expressed to the type of equipment used, so much so, it was agreed to re-consider the aesthetics of the scheme and change metal equipment for wood. The change was deemed necessary to decrease the likelihood of objections to any Section 38 application, and therefore a significant delay in the project or stop.</p> <p>A Section 38 application and a Planning Application are now completed (which reflect the consultation changes) and is ready for submission w/c 13th January. Dependant on the turnaround of the applications, this scheme should have approval around the 10th March. The contractor is aware of this date and the need to achieve completion by the 31st March.</p>	<p>This couldn't have been foreseen because objections only came forward later in the process.</p>

Description	Re-phase Spend	Why hasn't the allocated funding been used according to plan?	Why couldn't this have been foreseen in the original plan?
Guildhall & Corn Exchange Cap Schemes RO AR9	(80)	Although we appointed a specialist architect, and engaged with the Planning Conservation Officer at the outset, it has proved very difficult to come up with meaningful improvements to the exterior of the Corn Exchange that would meet with planning approval. We are going ahead with the elements that have been agreed and continue to work on alternatives.	Recognition of the potential issue was the basis for appointment of a specialist architect. However it was not possible to identify an outcome acceptable to the Planning Conservation Officer.
PROVISIONS			
Clay Farm Community Centre - Phase 1 & 2 (\$106)	(603)	The scheme is funded from some borrowing but largely through contributions from partners and the site developer. Some of developer Section 106 funds have been paid over earlier than originally anticipated as they reached the trigger points on homes built.	The Council's ability to control the timing of the delivery of this scheme is heavily dependent the rate of the build-out by the developer.
Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs)	(400)	CPO funding is set aside to meet and allow a swift response to a funding request.	It has always been an on-demand project.

Description	Re-phase Spend (236)	Why hasn't the allocated funding been used according to plan?	Why couldn't this have been foreseen in the original plan?
<p>Cycleways</p>		<p>The funding is in the capital plan as a 'Provision' in case the money needs to be drawn down.</p> <p>The project relating to Green Dragon Bridge is a very sensitive project, and proposals to date have not generated a consensus. This will be time consuming and difficult to achieve, hence it has not been scheduled for completion this financial year. The Jesus Green project has also been delayed by the County Council's proposed works to the bridge at Jesus Green Lock. This was programmed by County structures and we were only made aware of it towards the end of last year, after our scheme had been programmed.</p> <p>The Rade Gund Road roundabout scheme has had a very protracted development phase, due to numerous changes to its scope following additional new funding that was secured by the County Council, who are leading on the project. This additional funding responds to the issues raised at the consultation stage and provides a much enhanced scheme, which is in some ways pioneering for this country in terms of infrastructure influenced by cycling need. Further new schemes have also only just been assigned to the programme and will not be completed within the programme year, a similar issue to the EIP Programme.</p>	<p>Again new projects are adopted part the way through the year as this is a capital programme. This makes it difficult to phase costs appropriately. It is also delivered in partnership with the County Council and is therefore dependent on its direction and agreement to when and how schemes are delivered.</p>