



Cambridge City Council

Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 18 July 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ

Contact: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk, tel:01223 457000

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of Cambridge City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ on Thursday, 18 July 2024 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 10 July 2024

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

Agenda

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Minutes | (Pages 15 - 50) |
| 2 | Mayor's announcements | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 4 | Public questions time | |
| 5 | To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption | |
| 5a | Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn Report 2023/24 (Executive Councillor for Housing) | (Pages 51 - 76) |
| 5b | Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report | (Pages 77 - 96) |

2023/24 (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)

5c 2023/24 General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources) (Pages 97 - 130)

6 To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption

6a Employment (Senior Officer) Committee - Potential Termination Costs of Chief Executive's Office & Corporate Group Design (Pages 131 - 138)

The confidential report to the Employment (Senior Officer) Committee contains exempt information during which the public is likely to be excluded from the meeting subject to determination by Council following consideration of a public interest test. This exclusion would be made under paragraph 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6b Civic Affairs Committee - Update on alternative options to Area Committees (Pages 139 - 192)

7 To deal with oral questions

8 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:

8a Councillor Tong - Hope for private renters

Background to motion

It is now nearly 5 years since the last government made a commitment to reform the private rental market and protect people from “no fault” evictions.

These evictions were introduced by s21 Housing Act 1988. They have created a climate of fear for private renters, which can inhibit them from asking for much needed repairs.

After much delay a Renters (Reform) Bill 2024 was drafted which would have reduced the scope of “no fault” evictions, but was halted by the announcement of the July 4 2024 General Election.

Since the announcement of the proposed reform, rates of s21 “no fault” evictions have risen sharply, with 900 s21 “no fault” evictions per week recorded in the UK. The true figure is likely to be higher because not all these evictions are recorded.

Active Motion

This Council notes:

According to the 2021 Census, 31% of Cambridge households were in private rental accommodation. The welfare of these residents is of great importance to our city.

When residents are made homeless, there can also be an obligation placed on the council (“homelessness duty”) A rise in private tenants made homeless is likely to increase the strain on council resources.

Re-introduction of the Renters (Reform) Bill to Parliament (preferably with the 81 amendments tabled by the then opposition parties) would protect private renters from unfair treatment and improve their quality of life.

Any delay in re-introducing this bill or a similar one leaves tenants exposed to s21 eviction.

It is accordingly important that this bill (or a similar bill) is made law at the earliest possible date.

The Council therefore resolves to write to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner, copying in our local MPs asking her to bring forward a new renters reform bill at the earliest possible date.

(At the time of drafting this motion, the Council is unaware of whether such a proposal will be included in the King’s Speech on 17 July 2024 and shall adjust the letter accordingly.)

The Council also proposes to require its private rentals team to consider whether support for private tenants can be increased in the short term before any increase in legal protection and bring a report to the appropriate council committee on its proposals in Autumn 2024.

The Council wishes particularly to require officers to report on whether it would be practical to introduce a local version of the measures introduced by the Mayor of London, including online resources Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker, Property Licence Checker and Report a Rogue Landlord tool.

Useful Links (not part of active motion)

We have included some background papers that we found useful.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/housing-and-land/improving-private-rented-sector/reforming-private-renting-london>

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10004/>

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/housing-and-land/improving-private-rented-sector/advice-renters>

We have also drawn upon the 2021 Census figures and the council's own Housing Facts.

8b Councillor Payne - Sewage Pollution in our water

Council notes the public outrage displayed in the general election about the pollution of rivers, waterways and beaches by sewage - an outrage which is shared locally in relation to the River Cam.

With the last government having been unwilling to take convincing measures to address this, council calls on the new government now to treat this as a priority for action, including introduction of criminal liability of water companies and suspension of executive bonuses for failure to meet performance targets.

Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the new Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs seeking the inclusion of legislation to appear in the very first King's Speech, and to both of Cambridge's MPs asking them to support this.

8c Councillor Lee - Our Voting System

The Council notes that the recent general election produced a new government with 100% of the power after winning two-thirds of the Parliamentary seats with only a third of the popular vote, when turnout was the lowest since 2001.

It considers that 'First Past The Post' is neither fair, inclusive, representative or popular and that it encourages voter disengagement, with surveys frequently showing that switching to a form of proportional representation is widely popular.

It calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister to express our dissatisfaction with the current electoral system, and our

belief that a better system is both possible and desirable, and to ask him to set up a Citizens' Assembly to explore a system of voting fit for the Twenty-First century, encompassing national, local and mayoral elections.

It also calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the city's two members of Parliament calling for their support for this request.

8d Councillor Glasberg - Declaration of a Water Emergency

This Council notes with concern the rapidly accelerating water crisis that we are facing. Cambridge experienced severe drought in 2022 and 2023, while recently we have seen some of the wettest six months on record in the UK, which have caused flooding in many parts of the city and surrounding areas, damaged agriculture, roads and other public infrastructure, and affected the lives of numerous residents.

We now have by turns either too much or too little water, as well as distressingly high levels of pollution. When residents see local flooding, they may think that our water shortage is over. Unfortunately, drought and flooding go hand in hand as dry hard soil fails to absorb water. Valuable rain fails to reach our chalk streams and instead contributes to flooding.

In 2019, the City Council declared biodiversity and climate emergencies. This helped to raise public awareness of these critical issues and influenced planning and other decisions.

We need a water emergency declaration for the same reasons.

This council recognises that other agencies are charged with water management. However, we acknowledge the impact of our own actions and decisions on our local water issues. We acknowledge that without broad engagement and co-operation that the chances of any improvement in our water situation is very limited.

This may be the longest motion that Greens have ever submitted to this council. We make no apologies for this. The scale of the crisis and the extent of the water supply gap is such that we consider that no prudent or responsible person can justify leaving any stone unturned to improve the situation

This council:

- Asserts that our water issues go wider than the supply and sewage problems that are the responsibility of the local water companies
- Resolves to take steps to ensure the public are aware of the full extent of our water supply gap by monitoring and republishing the information prepared by Water Resources East, the Environment Agency and others as appropriate and providing full and clear information on the extent of the water gap.
- Pledges to encourage all organisational departments, partners and our communities, businesses and residents to address the water crisis within Cambridge and the wider region, and
- To take a full and active part in that work ourselves and employ our “soft power” fully

(1) Declare recognition of the water emergency and the local impact this could have on the residents, communities and businesses we serve;

(2) Help reduce over-abstraction by:

- Giving full weight in planning applications for large-scale developments to the evidence of the Environment Agency as statutory consultee on water issues
- Writing to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner to request the withdrawal or amendment of the 8 May 2024 WMS (“Written Ministerial Statement”) on the Cambridge Delivery Group to be replaced with a new WMS requiring greater priority to be given to water issues in considering any local planning applications
- Writing to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner to request that planning matters in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire remain under the control of the local authorities
- Requiring the highest water efficiency standards for any new developments that are approved, including mandatory greywater collection and recycling;
- Undertaking a public information/education programme within the next year to encourage residents to use less water, using all communications mechanisms
- Continuing to engage with the water companies, alongside expert community groups, to accelerate solutions to over-abstraction, supporting those that are strategically planned, clearly costed and transparent, and compatible with commitments to reach net zero and halt biodiversity loss;

- Putting pressure on the water companies to take more concerted, urgent and innovative action to:
 - cap abstraction from the Chalk aquifer at today's actual levels;
 - manage demand more effectively through actions such as the prompt declaration of hosepipe bans, the accelerated introduction of universal metering and proactive encouragement of water collection and recycling e.g. water butt installation;
 - rapidly increase efforts to repair leaks.

(3) Reduce pollution by

- supporting the public's pressure on Anglian Water to invest urgently in updating its smaller, older sewage treatment works and to halt illegal dumping of sewage into rivers. All wastewater installations and infrastructure that discharges into chalk streams and rivers should be upgraded to this end.

(4) Mitigate flooding by:

- pushing for the prioritisation of nature-based solutions, including restoration of flood plain habitats and appropriate vegetation management to slow down surface run-off, reduce the risk of flash flooding and minimise pollution;
- promoting the concept of, and principles behind the 'sponge' city and region approach: i.e. the creation of places with multiple areas of greenery, trees, ponds, soakaways, pocket parks, rain gardens and permeable paving to allow water to drain away, and with measures to store rainwater and runoff (e.g. water butts).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The erratic weather patterns, generated by climate change, are well understood on paper by both the Cambridge Water Scarcity Group and the water companies. Cambridge Water, the water supply company for the city and parts of South Cambridgeshire, notes in its 2025-2030 business plan¹ that "*we are likely to see more extremes of weather, with 60% less rainfall in the summer and 30% more rainfall in the winter in our Cambridge region by the 2080s.*" In its draft Water Resource Management Plan, the company acknowledges clearly that, with current growth proposals and the need for licence caps on abstraction to protect the natural environment, the region will run into a water deficit by 2029/30.

¹ <https://www.south-staffs-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/business-plan-2025-2030>

Current plans for addressing this are wholly inadequate, and incompatible with the February 2024 government ‘guidance’ on water scarcity². Plans for large- scale development will increase the burden, causing over-abstraction and pollution with negative impacts on the quality of life for residents and further threats to our chalk streams, trees and natural vegetation as the water table falls and becomes more polluted. Information provided by the City Council on the water crisis is minimal: hidden within its webpage on recycling³

References:

1

<https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/bitstream/10044/1/111577/7/Scientific%20Report%20UK%20Storms.pdf>

¹ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/biodiversity-emergency>

¹ <https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=21684>

¹ <https://www.south-staffs-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/business-plan-2025-2030>

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures>

¹ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/reduce-your-waste>

[Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

8e Councillor Davey - Cambridge: Our Vision

Council notes:

- Cambridge is a vitally important city both to the region and to the country’s regeneration. There has always been government interest and investment in the Cambridge area, from Harold Wilson to Gordon Brown and more recently former Secretary of State Michael Gove’s 2050 proposals.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures>

³ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/reduce-your-waste>

- The City Council has and will continue to play an essential role in the running of the city, providing important democratic governance and local decision making.
- With renewed interest in the city, including from the new Labour government, it is important that the Council establishes its own vision for Cambridge's future, one which is led by residents, workers and businesses here.
- The Council's current vision was written and adopted in 2014/15, following Labour taking over control of the Council. Since then, the city has seen significant change, as it has continued to grow rapidly, and become more diverse.
- Cambridge and the council have lived through Brexit, Covid, cost of living crises and the impacts of conflict around the world.
- This vision has been informed by conversations with residents about what matters most to them now and in the future; by councillors in their roles as community champions; and by our staff and partners. This includes the 'Rich Picture', 'State of the City' and the 'Cambridge Conversations' led by Executive Councillors.
- The vision is high-level and accessible. Many council strategies, delivery plans and targets fall out of the vision and will be further developed and refined, ideally with partners and communities, to help shape a new corporate plan from 2025-2030.

Council believes:

- This vision reflects the values, aspirations and needs of our local communities based on these conversations and ongoing collaborations.
- This vision will help the council in conversations about the future of Cambridge. It will enable us to represent the views of our citizens and to assert the city's future needs in discussions we have with our partners and our recently elected Labour government.

Council resolves:

- To adopt the Vision statement which positions the Council as a place maker, convenor and community facilitator as well as

playing a core role in providing public services.

- To promote our vision and ambition for the future of Cambridge, building on our vision for One Cambridge, Fair for All, to underpin and direct the work of the council and our partnerships including the emerging Local Plan and Cambridge 2050.

Cambridge: Our Vision

One Cambridge, Fair for All

Where:

- **Residents enjoy a high quality of life and exemplar public services.** Cambridge is a place of high employment where everyone has a warm, safe, and affordable home, and beautiful open spaces to enjoy. Communities are thriving and empowered, supported by well-run public services, and drawing on shared prosperity with greater equality in health and educational outcomes.
- **Decarbonisation and sustainability are central to prosperity.** Cambridge is a net zero carbon city, where people and nature enjoy a clean river, clean air, and biodiverse green spaces. Strong nature networks are coordinated between relevant bodies to combat the impacts of social and climate injustice.
- **Innovation benefits people and planet.** Cambridge champions pioneering discoveries which shape a better future for people and planet. There is a lifelong citywide commitment to learning which enables every resident to develop their skills and fulfil their potential. Businesses are key to the success of a thriving local economy which benefits residents and workers.
- **Development is sustainable and inclusive.** High-quality social housing, sustainable public transport alongside key infrastructure is prioritised to ensure Cambridge is a vibrant and caring city. Cambridge's beautiful architecture and public realm, with well-used community spaces, promote pride and wellbeing and is accessible to all.
- **Arts, sports, and culture are thriving.** Cambridge celebrates the city's diversity through a vibrant arts and cultural scene, including music, festivals, sports, and food and drink. Accessible

arts, sports and culture provide spaces for people of all ages to come together to enjoy the city, both during the day and at night.

- **Democratic accountability is genuine and accessible.**

Residents actively participate in democratic life and transparent decisions are made by and for the people of Cambridge. There is genuine partnership between academic, business, and civic communities to enhance residents' prosperity. Local control, devolution, and community empowerment are championed through transparent and simplified local government.

8f Councillor A.Smith - TUC Volunteer Charter: Strengthening Relations Between Paid Staff and Volunteers

This Council Notes:

1. The key role volunteering plays both locally and nationally.⁴
2. Our gratitude to the many thousands of volunteers that do so much to enhance our city and, particularly, to support the most vulnerable. Our equal gratitude to our staff, who work so tirelessly for our council and our city.
3. The impact that the economic downturn and the cost-of-living crisis have had on our paid and voluntary sectors⁵.
4. The importance of sound core principles in enhancing relations between paid staff and volunteers.
5. That volunteering helps build social capital and community cohesion and plays an important role in the delivery of key public services. But that volunteers should not be a substitute for paid staff.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Affirm and adopt the TUC Volunteer charter principles as set out below.
2. Use these principles as a guide to review our more detailed policies

⁴ According to Support Cambridgeshire's 2023 State of the Sector Survey, approximately 2,100 charities operate in Cambridgeshire. These charities employ an estimated 5,300 people, with over 30,000 volunteers and nearly 11,000 trustees recorded with the Charity Commission. This does not include the many more people who give of their time through mutual aid.

⁵ Support Cambridge's 2023 State of the Sector Survey highlighted issues in the local voluntary sector. Increasingly, the voluntary sector is struggling to both recruit volunteers, trustees and staff. Lack of funding was the biggest issue raised.

and procedures, which reflect our local needs and circumstances. To do this in discussion with local union representatives and volunteering managers.

3. Encourage partner organisations to do the same, to make sure paid staff are protected and volunteers supported.

TUC Volunteer Charter⁶

Preamble

This Charter sets out the key principles on which volunteering is organised and how good relations between paid staff and volunteers are built. It has been developed jointly by Volunteering England (VE) and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and has been endorsed by the wider volunteering and trade union movements.

Its starting point is that volunteering plays an essential role in the economic and social fabric of the UK. It is estimated that some 22 million people volunteer each year, contributing around £23 billion to the economy. Volunteering helps build social capital and community cohesion and plays an important role in the delivery of key public services. Volunteering is also good for the volunteer: it helps improve health and wellbeing and provides opportunities for individuals to acquire skills and knowledge that can enhance career development or employment prospects.

This Charter demonstrates the value and importance that both organisations place on voluntary activity and the time, skills and commitment given by volunteers.

This Charter recognises that voluntary action and trade unionism share common values. Both are founded on the principles of mutuality and reciprocity, leading to positive changes in the workplace and community. The trade union movement itself is built on the involvement and engagement of volunteers.

Volunteering England and the TUC acknowledge that on the whole, relations between paid staff and volunteers are harmonious and mutually rewarding. They can, however, be enhanced by good procedures, clarity of respective roles, mutual trust and support. This Charter sets out the key principles to help underpin good relations in the workplace.

⁶ Source, <https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/charter-strengthening-relations-between-paid-staff-and-volunteers> (2009)

These principles should be used as a guide by individual organisations to develop more detailed policies and procedures, which reflect local needs and circumstances. This should be done, wherever possible, between local union representatives, employers and volunteering managers.

Paid work is any activity that is undertaken at the direction of an employer and is financially compensable.

Volunteering is freely undertaken and not for financial gain; it involves the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community.

Charter Principles

1. All volunteering is undertaken by choice, and all individuals should have their right to volunteer, or indeed not to volunteer;
2. While volunteers should not normally receive or expect financial rewards for their activities, they should receive reasonable out of pocket expenses;
3. The involvement of volunteers should complement and supplement the work of paid staff, and should not be used to displace paid staff or undercut their pay and conditions of service;
4. The added value of volunteers should be highlighted as part of commissioning or grantmaking process but their involvement should not be used to reduce contract costs;
5. Effective structures should be put in place to support and develop volunteers and the activities they undertake, and these should be fully considered and costed when services are planned and developed;
6. Volunteers and paid staff should be provided with opportunities to contribute to the development of volunteering policies and procedures;
7. Volunteers, like paid staff, should be able to carry out their duties in safe, secure and healthy environments that are free from harassment, intimidation, bullying, violence and discrimination;
8. All paid workers and volunteers should have access to appropriate training and development;

9. There should be recognised machinery for the resolution of any problems between organisations and volunteers or between paid staff and volunteers;
10. In the interests of harmonious relations between volunteers and paid staff, volunteers should not be used to undertake the work of paid staff during industrial disputes.

This Charter stands between Volunteering England and the TUC as a statement of principles and good practice. It is also a model for use by individual unions, volunteer involving organisations in the public, third and private sectors and other bodies in discussions around the use of volunteers.

9 Written questions

No discussion will take place on this item. Members will be asked to note the written questions and answers document as circulated around the Chamber.

10 To Note Record of Urgent Officer Decision

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|-----|---|-------------------|
| 10a | Appointment of Councillor representatives to the Conservators of the River Cam. | (Pages 193 - 194) |
| 11 | Notification of Appointment of S.151 Officer | (Pages 195 - 196) |

Information for the public

The public may record (e.g. film, audio, tweet, blog) meetings which are open to the public.

For full information about committee meetings, committee reports, councillors and the democratic process:

- Website: <http://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk>
- Email: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk
- Phone: 01223 457000

This Meeting will be live streamed to the Council's YouTube page. You can watch proceedings on the livestream or attend the meeting in person.

Those wishing to address the meeting will be able to do so virtually via Microsoft Teams, or by attending to speak in person. You must contact Democratic Services democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk by 12 noon two working days before the meeting.

The full text of any public question must be submitted in writing by noon two working days before the date of the meeting or it will not be accepted. All questions submitted by the deadline will be published on the meeting webpage before the meeting is held.

Further information on public speaking will be supplied once registration and the written question / statement has been received.

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COUNCIL

23 May 2024
11.00 - 11.05 am

Present: Councillors Ashton, Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Blackburn-Horgan, Carling, Clough, Davey, Divkovic, Dryden, Gawthrope Wood, Gilderdale, Glasberg, Griffin, Hauk, Healy, Holloway, Hossain, Howard, Lee, Lokhmotova, Martinelli, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Porrer, Pounds, Robertson, Smart, A. Smith, Swift, Thittala Varkey, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Tong, Wade and Young

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

24/33/CNL To consider the following recommendation of the Civic Affairs Meeting held on 13 May 2024: Honorary Freedom of the City

Resolved (unanimously):

That Cambridge City Council confers the Honorary Freedom of the City of Cambridge upon HMS Protector.

24/34/CNL To consider the following Honorary Councillor appointment

Resolved (unanimously):

- i. To appoint Tim Ward as an Honorary Councillor.

The meeting ended at 11.05 am

CHAIR

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COUNCIL

23 May 2024
11.05 am - 5.50 pm

Present: Councillors Ashton, Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Blackburn-Horgan, Carling, Clough, Davey, Divkovic, Dryden, Gawthrop Wood, Gilderdale, Glasberg, Griffin, Hauk, Healy, Holloway, Hossain, Howard, Lee, Lokhmotova, Martinelli, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Porrer, Pounds, Robertson, Smart, A. Smith, S. Smith, Thittala Varkey, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Tong, Wade and Young

Councillor Healy left the meeting before minute item 24/43/CNL.

Councillors A Smith and Todd Jones left the meeting before minute item 24/43/CNL.

Councillors Carling, Dryden and Howard left the meeting before minute item 24/54/CNL.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

24/35/CNL To elect a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25

Councillor S Smith proposed, and Councillor Moore seconded the nomination of Councillor Baiju Thittala as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

Resolved (unanimously) that:

Councillor Baiju Thittala be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

Councillor Baiju Thittala then made the statutory declaration of acceptance for the Office of Mayor.

24/36/CNL To elect a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25

Councillor Carling proposed and Councillor Bird seconded the nomination of Councillor Dinah Pounds as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

Resolved (unanimously) that:

Councillor Dinah Pounds be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

Councillor Dinah Pounds then made the statutory declaration of acceptance for the Office of Deputy Mayor.

24/37/CNL To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on the 15 February and 29 February 2024

The minutes of 15 February and 29 February 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

24/38/CNL To note the Returning Officer's Report that the following have been elected to the Office of Councillor

It was noted the following had been elected to the Office of Councillor

Abbey Ward: Naomi Bennett
Arbury Ward: Patrick Sheil
Castle Ward: Antoinette Nestor
Cherry Hinton: Mark Ashton
Coleridge Ward: Tim Griffin
East Chesterton Ward: Gerri Bird
King's Hedges Ward: Jenny Gawthrope Wood
Market Ward: Tim Bick
Newnham Ward: Hugh Clough
Petersfield Ward: Mike Davey
Romsey Ward: Dave Baigent
Queen Edith's Ward: Immy Blackburn-Horgan
Trumpington Ward: Nadya Lokhmotova
West Chesterton Ward: Sam Carling

24/39/CNL To Pass a Resolution of Thanks to the Outgoing Mayor

Resolved (unanimously) on the proposal of Councillor A Smith seconded by Councillor Davey

This Council expressed its appreciation of the manner in which duties of the Mayor and Mayor's consorts were discharged by Councillor Jenny Gawthrope Wood and consorts Nicholas Gawthrope, Saba Alai South, Hazel Maher and Cllr Dinah Pounds during their period of office.

24/40/CNL Mayor's announcements

The following announcements were made:

The Mott Sermon would take place at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 26 May at 9.30am.

Midsummer Fair Proclamation had been scheduled for Wednesday 19 June.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Flaubert, Payne, Sheil and Swift.

24/41/CNL Declarations of Interest

Name	Item	Interest
Councillor Healy	24/55/CNL	Personal: Member of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign
Councillor Bennett	24/54/CNL	Personal: Member of Disability Rights UK and Member of the Local Government Disability Champion Network.

24/42/CNL To elect from among the Members of the Council Four Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2024/25

Resolved (unanimously) to:

Appoint Councillors Gawthrope Wood, Dryden, McPherson, Blackburn-Horgan and Martinelli, Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

24/43/CNL To elect a Leader of the Council

On the nomination of Councillor Gilderdale and seconded by Councillor Bird it was **resolved** to:

Elect Councillor Mike Davey as Leader of Cambridge City Council.

24/44/CNL To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption

24/45/CNL Civic Affairs Committee - Committee Appointments

As there were two nominations for the role of Vice-Chair of Planning Committee, Council was asked to vote on these nominations before a vote on the Committee Appointments was taken.

Nomination: Councillor Porrer

5 votes to 20, with 1 abstention.

Nomination: Councillor Baigent
22 votes to 5 votes, with 8 abstentions

Resolved (unanimously) to:

Agree the appointments to city council committees and joint partner bodies and appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs below (as updated by the 'Update to Committee Appointments' document contained within the Information Pack).

Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Total: 5 Labour, 2 Lib Dem, 1 Green

Pounds (Chair), Nestor (Vice Chair), Swift, Divkovic, TBC

Payne, Hauk

Glasberg

Alternates: Griffin, Sheil, Martinelli, Flaubert, Tong

Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee

Total: 5 Labour, 2 Lib Dem, 1 Green

Nestor (Chair), Baigent (Vice Chair), Swift, Griffin, Divkovic

Porrer, Bick

Clough

Alternates: Pounds, Sheil, Lee, Lokhmotova, Bennett

Housing Scrutiny Committee

Total: 6 Labour, 2 Lib Dem, 1 Green

Griffin (Chair), Robertson (Vice Chair), Gawthrope Wood, Baigent, Swift,

Thittala Varkey

Martinelli, Lee

Tong

Alternates: Nestor, Pounds, Young, Porrer, Bennett

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Total: 5 Labour, 2 Lib Dem, 1 Green

Robertson (Chair), Gawthrope Wood (Vice Chair), Sheil, Baigent, Todd-Jones

Bick, Young

Bennett

Alternates: Griffin, Lab TBC, Porrer, Martinelli, Clough

Civic Affairs Committee

Total: 4 Labour, 1 Lib Dem, 1 Green)

McPherson (Chair), Gawthrop Wood (Vice Chair), Sheil, Robertson

Young

Bennett

Alternate: Holloway, Bick, Clough

Employment (Senior Officer) Committee

Total 6 Labour, 1 Lib Dem, 1 Green

Davey, Carling, Gilderdale, Moore

Bick

Bennett

Alternates: Thornburrow, Porrer, Clough

Licensing Committee

Total: 6 Labour, 3 Lib Dem, 1 Green

McPherson (Chair), Bird (Vice Chair), Moore, Griffin, Pounds, Wade

Bick, Blackburn-Horgan, Young

Clough

Alternates: Davey, Flaubert, Bennett

Planning Committee

Total: 6 Labour, 2 Lib Dem, 1 Green

Smart (Chair), Baigent (Vice Chair), Thornburrow, Gilderdale, Carling, Dryden

Porrer, Lokhmotova

Bennett

Alternates: Nestor, Todd-Jones, Flaubert, Young, Howard

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board

Total: 1 Labour

A.Smith

Alternate: Davey

Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Total: 2 Labour

Divkovic, Gilderdale

Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee

Total: 1 Labour

Todd-Jones,

Alternate: Carling

Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly

Total: 2 Labour, 1 Lib Dem

S.Smith, Thornburrow,

Bick

Joint Development Control Committee - Cambridge Fringes

Total: 4 Labour, 2 Lib Dem

S.Smith (Chair), Baigent, Smart, Thornburrow

Porrer, Flaubert,

Alternates: Gilderdale, Nestor, Young, Lokhmotova

Cambridge Joint Area Committee

Total: 4 Labour, 1 Lib Dem, 1 Green

Thornburrow, Robertson, Baigent, Moore

Young

Bennett

Alternates: Carling, Pounds, Martinelli, Tong

24/46/CNL Civic Affairs Committee - Governance Review Proposals

Resolved by (22 votes to 13, with 1 abstention):

- i. That the Council design and implement a revised 'Leader and Cabinet' model of decision making and authorises the Chief Executive to enable changes to be implemented from the Annual Council Meeting in May 2025.
- ii. To establish a member-officer design group with external technical support to develop a revised 'Leader and Cabinet' model with final proposals including an updated constitution being presented to the Civic Affairs Committee and then to full Council for adoption.

24/47/CNL Annual Statements

Group Leaders spoke on their Group's priorities for action and objectives for the forthcoming year.

24/48/CNL Public questions timeQuestion 2

Does the leader of the Council feel that the Council's equality and diversity policies could be improved to help further protect victims of discrimination from

facing harassment or victimisation after raising concerns about discrimination with the Council?

The Leader of the Council responded with the following:

- i. The Council had a comprehensive equality and diversity policy which outlined its commitment as an employer, service provider and community leader, promoting diversity equality and inclusion and all legal obligations under the Equality Act.
- ii. This policy as with all Council's policies was continually reviewed and updated.
- iii. As part of its legal obligations, the Council ensured harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equalities Act was eliminated for staff and residents.
- iv. If the public speaker had any further concerns or queries on this issue to contact the Council.

Public Supplementary Question

- i. Thanked the Leader for their response.
- ii. The Council deserved considerable credit for its commitment to promote equality and inclusion for all members of the community.
- iii. The Council's work on these issues was a model that other Local Authorities would do well to follow.

The Leader thanked the public speaker for their contribution and reiterated to contact the Council should there be any further queries on this issue which he would be happy to take forward.

Question 3

What progress has been made in providing Transit site/(s) in Cambridge?

- i. Four years after the rhetorical statement by the then Executive Councillor for Equalities, Anti-Poverty and Wellbeing on the impact of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill in criminalising the travelling way of life, the Council had still failed to provide any meaningful solution or change to their policy of eviction. We have argued that the threat of eviction is a blunt instrument when, under the new Police Act 2022,

Travellers could have their caravans seized and their children taken into care if they refused to leave. On the 14/5/24 in the case of Wendy Smith vs the King and Secretary of State for the Home Department, the High Court issued a declaration of incompatibility finding that provisions in the Police Act unlawfully discriminate against Gypsies and Travellers.

- ii. The decision was based on the lack of authorised transit site provision on which they could camp lawfully. We have continuously pointed this out while the Council have chosen instead to focus on a series of delayed and rejected GTANAs to tell them what was clearly right in front of their (collective) face: that it is the lack of transit sites that causes the greatest conflict between the Traveller and settled community. Now the High Court decision will force Parliament to review those provisions to ensure their compatibility with the ECHR. It seems incredible that the Council and partners have been unable to find a piece of ground for a transit site, roughly the size of a football pitch (1.6 acres). Such an area could accommodate 20 pitches based on government size design standards for permanent sites of 320sqm. The suggested number of pitches for transit sites is half that number.
- iii. Is this truly beyond the capability of the Council? English Romani and Irish Travellers have protected status under the ECHR which includes the right to a home.
- iv. Human rights are rights taken to be universal, of considerable importance, and relate to the individual and not collectively – rights that are denied Gypsies and Travellers under planning law. Now the High Court declaration of incompatibility further highlights the Council's failure to resolve this long-standing problem. Based on this new and compelling information, we ask you to provide a firm timetable for progress.

The Executive Councillor for Communities said the following:

- i. The Council's eviction policy for unauthorised encampments on Council land was only acted upon after an assessment had been undertaken which would take into consideration any welfare concerns.
- ii. The Council and neighbouring authorities had tried for many years to identify sites that could be potentially used for transit site provision, but due to multiple reasons, none of the identified sites had been able to be progressed.

- iii. Once the current Needs Assessment and report had been completed, the findings would be provided to the Strategic Steering Group, which would next meet in July.

Public Supplementary Question

- i. For the last four years the Council have been engaged in conversation regarding the lack of provision for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers in the City and Cambridgeshire.
- ii. The Council had failed in its responsibility to the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.
- iii. The High Court Case referenced in the original question stated that Local Authorities were ignoring the fact that they should not evict if there was no other provision.
- iv. The Council had shifted its position over time and had even spoken of a permanent site but what it did not recognise was the lack of transient sites which were the cause of the most conflict.
- v. The response just provided by the Executive Councillor had nothing to do with the issue raised in the original question, which has been highlighted repeatedly.
- vi. Now there was a legal requirement to address this issue immediately, a solution was required now.

The Executive Councillor responded with the following:

- i. Heard the frustration expressed and was aware that the matter had been going on for some time.
- ii. Was sorry had not given the answer that was wanted.
- iii. Once the current Needs Assessment and report had been read, would notify the public speaker to provide further information. The report would also refer to a permanent site as well as transitional.

Question 5

- i. For the first time global warming has broken the 1.5-degree limit set by the 2015 Paris Agreement over the course of an entire year. Cambridge has already passed the point of 'sustainable growth' and the 2030 Net Zero targets of Cambridge City Council are evidently out of reach. Our local water crisis has drawn the serious concern of the Environment

Agency who are sensibly stepping in to object to the placing of ever greater strain on our local resources.

- ii. Isn't it time that Cambridge City Council fully acknowledges the gravity of the climate breakdown accelerating around us and therefore adopts a realistic approach to planning for this city's future? We know that Mr. Gove is knocking on our door with completely unfeasible growth plans so now is the time to go firmly in a new direction. We need a new vision, a new attitude that sets out what we consider to be realistic limits to the city's growth. The current Government's plans serve corporate interests; they will not help our existing local communities to thrive in the coming years. We are in desperate need of strong local leadership that will help us all to get through the challenges that certainly lie ahead.
- iii. Would this City Council accept that 'sustainable growth' is an oxymoron, and will it say no to Mr. Gove's development plans, and politely suggest that he redirect his department's levelling up efforts towards those parts of the country who are crying out to have their brownfield sites developed in order to rejuvenate their own communities?

The Leader of the Council responded with the following response:

- i. In 2019, Cambridge City Council announced a climate emergency, shared a vision for Cambridge, developed a plan to become net zero carbon, accordingly, working with external partners.
- ii. The Council was now the second greenest District Council in the United Kingdom.
- iii. Work had begun to develop a sustainable vision for the future with South Cambridgeshire District Council. There were challenges which needed to be addressed such as the issue of water availability and housing.
- iv. The new Greater Cambridge Local Plan would include ambitions around climate change, improving accessibility and wellbeing for everyone in the city.
- v. Did not accept that 'sustainable growth' was an oxymoron. Sustainable growth was possible but had to be carefully considered and managed. Unless managed effectively there could be damage to the climate.
- vi. Without effective growth it would not be possible to significantly change what's better for the city and for the country.

- vii. The Council had developed several initiatives with external partners, particularly with Manchester City Council and Officers were working to deliver those initiatives.
- viii. In conclusion, there were parts of the question which could agree with, but other parts of the public question undermined what was possible for the city. The Council in conjunction with South Cambridgeshire District Council could achieve these possibilities through to 2050.
- ix. Did object to some of the proposals outlined by Mr. Gove's development plans, 250,000 new homes were not a feasible option. Work was needed to be undertaken to change that.
- x. How would the Council bring forward their vision. Had already began working with Peter Freeman (Chair of Homes England); the Council had established the first steps to address the water crisis.

Public Supplementary Question

- i. This week the Leader of the Council claimed that every action to Mr. Gove's growth agenda needed to be challenged and wanted to ensure that an alternative narrative was heard.
- ii. Agreed it was time for a new story and to shape this new narrative.
- iii. The citizens of Cambridge wanted to leave behind the environmentally damaging thinking that lead to growth at all costs.
- iv. Traditional economic thinking would do nothing to help survive the climatic changes that were already upon us. It also left no space for existing residents to thrive, for example, local people had said they were suffering in the inequality crisis which would not be remedied by a growth agenda.
- v. In this time of climate emergency, Cambridge City Council must lead; lead Cambridge in a transition away from the fixation on economic growth which did have a limit, the environment set those limits.
- vi. To halt further environmental degradation, the traditional economic theory and its linear way of thinking needed to be left behind.
- vii. The Council's priority must be to protect the city and the planet, not to support a fatally flawed philosophy wrapped up in such terms as 'fast growth cities, sustainable growth and good growth'.
- viii. Would the Council be willing to leave the green washing terminology of sustainable growth behind and focus on looking after the current residents of Cambridge.

- ix. Local people were already fostering a new mode of operating which embraced a cyclical circular economy.
- x. Urged to look at the Cambridge resilience website where 178 organisations could be found. These organisations were run by people of Cambridge for the people of Cambridge, who operated according to the principles of self-sufficiency, regeneration, conservation, community resilience and community care.

The Leader of the Council said:

- i. Agreed it was time to approach things differently and hoped a new Labour Government would be part of that process, if successful in the July elections.
- ii. Anticipated a Labour Government would look to make sure that Cambridge was used in a way that would be productive for the nation and that residents were part of that process and wealth was genuinely shared; the Community Wealth Building Programme was so important as it gave people back a resource of wealth from the city.
- iii. The work that had been undertaken with Manchester City Council provided a platform to genuinely level up across the nation. This could not be done without linking closely with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and other external partners to ensure that the relevant resources went back into the City.
- iv. As referenced, work had been undertaken and would continue which would start to become much more open about 2050 in the next few weeks. Had repeatedly gone back to Peter Freeman and Micheal Gove to stress the importance of the City Council representing the Community.
- v. The democratic responsibility of a Council was to speak on behalf of its residents, the core of this was to tackle inequality and make sure that the growth that came to Cambridge went into affordable homes, affordable council homes, all of which were sustainable, and jobs for local people, who for too long had not benefited from the wealth that was in the city.

The following two questions would receive a written response from the Executive Councillor as the members of public were not in attendance.

Question 1

- i. Would like to address the Council about the way in which the café at the Meadows Community Centre is run by the nominated charity-based company called: 'Royal Voluntary Services' (RVS).
- ii. As a member of the public, who has lived in Cambridge all my life and have visited the cafe numerous times over the past few months, I really think that a conscious review about how the RVS is suited to the long-term needs of the Meadows Community Centre and with the very lack of suitability, to have any external company running this centre?
- iii. Having the: 'Meadows Cafe', being run by its own staff and structure, seems to be the right way to go. It would bring in one hundred percent more revenue, because it would be controlled: "In-House". Which would give much more flexibility to the needs of the people living nearby. Even "Charity Companies", must make profit to sustain the expenses of catering laws and employing permanent staff, to run the company.
- iv. In conclusion I ask the Council to review this matter and allow the Meadows Cafe to be run internally and under its own needs that would greatly benefit the said communities of Arbury and Kings Hedges combined.

Question 4

At the most recent Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee meeting, the Executive Councillor for Communities stated in response to a public question:

– Council officers had received the first draft Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) report at the end of the previous week and were already working through the initial findings.

– A publication date for after the May elections would need to be agreed between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

This was two months ago. The May elections have come and gone. When will the GTANA report be published? Additionally, given that this GTANA is already coming four years late, will Cambridge City Council expedite the implementation of its findings?

24/49/CNL To deal with oral questions

Question 1

Councillor Hauk to Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety.

What does the Executive Councillor think inequality means for Cambridge, and what is she planning to do to address it?

The Executive Councillor responded with the following the comments:

- i. Inequality meant a lack of fairness and would point to the age of austerity under Central Government.
- ii. Under the Conservative Government, 800 libraries had closed, 1300 children centres and reportedly an extra 600,000 children were in poverty.
- iii. Would campaign to ensure the Conservative party would leave Government on July 4.
- iv. Would continue the hard work undertaken to make sure that residents accessed regular food via Cambridge Sustainable Food (CSF), obtained advice from the Citizen's Advice Bureau and had a warm place to visit via the Council's community centres.
- v. Would maintain the exemplar community grant funding. £1.5million had been awarded with the primary outcome to reduce social and economic inequality and empower residents. There was also a continuous emphasis to bring about improved health and wellbeing, bringing the community together.
- vi. Would continue to build on the Council's Youth Strategy so young people felt that Cambridge was for them.
- vii. Would continue to sustain the Council's Cultural Strategy and work with youth engagement.
- viii. Planned to consolidate the Community Wealth Building Strategy using the Council's resources, assets, and powers to build community wealth for a more inclusive sustainable economy enabling residents and communities.
- ix. In conclusion, if you compared what Council's Officers and Councillors had achieved in the last ten years for the residents of Cambridge, we should be running the Government.

Question 2

Councillor Glasberg to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

Cambridge Water were still unable to agree a Water Management Plan to ensure that we have drinking water without further adverse impact on the chalk streams and the environment. The proposed interventions cannot be delivered

until 2032 and 2036. Would the Executive Councillor update us on what representations the Council intends to make to the water authorities (OFWAT, Environment Agency and Water Resources East in particular) and on the Council's own assessment of the partial contribution that might be made to the Water Scarcity Group's proposed measures?

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

- i. This issue had been raised many times by the Labour Group over the last five years since the publication of the last Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP).
- ii. A second revision of the Cambridge Water Company's WRMP had been issued in February 2024. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs would determine whether it could be adopted, advised by the Environment Agency and the Office of Water Services (OFWAT).
- iii. The Council had responded to the earlier draft plan almost a year ago after consideration with members of the Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee. The Committee's joint response with South Cambridgeshire District Council was then published on the City Council's website.
- iv. It was simply not possible to use more water than was available, under the previous Labour Government, the Environment Agency had been well funded with plans and regulations to help achieve water neutrality. The last fourteen years with the Conservative Government had resulted in the current situation.
- v. The population increase was as expected, but the improvement required for the infrastructure had never been placed on a statutory basis and profits for developers had been put first.
- vi. There would be a long wait for the major interventions of a connection to resources at Grafham Water and the construction of the Fen Reservoir.
- vii. The Council were not waiting for the anticipated review of building regulations but were already seeking enhanced water saving measures in major schemes through the development management process.
- viii. The Council were aware of how to build in ways that reduced water usage and would continue to engage with the Water Scarcity Group.
- ix. Hoped that it was seen how seriously the matter was being taken but there were limits on what could be done. The right legislation and regulations were required, and the Council would press the next Prime Minister to make them a priority.

Question 3

Councillor Porrer to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

Could the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services please update members on progress on our policy, as agreed at Council in October 2021, to remove single use plastics from events on Council owned land.

The Executive Councillor said the following:

- i. The Council had made significant strides in implementing the removal of single use plastics from events on our land.
- ii. Following the Council's agreement in October 2021, clear guidelines and criteria for events held on Council-owned land had been established.
- iii. Event organisers were bound by the Council's terms and conditions of hire which required the elimination of single-use plastics from their activities.
- iv. Officers had engaged extensively with event organisers to communicate the new requirements and provide support in adopting them. This included offering and suggesting alternatives to single-use plastics, such as biodegradable or reusable options, and connecting organisers with suppliers who could meet these needs.
- v. When events were inspected, Officers checked that measures were in place to ensure compliance with the Policy. Council staff conducted spot checks and reviews of events to ensure single-use plastics were not being used.
- vi. Officers had confirmed that all events held on Council-owned land since the policy's implementation had successfully eliminated single-use plastics. Positive feedback had been received from both organisers and attendees, who appreciated the Council's commitment to sustainability.
- vii. Looking forward, the Council would continue to build on this progress by further refining the guidelines, enhancing support for event organisers, and exploring new ways to promote and facilitate sustainable practices.
- viii. The Council remained committed to its goal of making all events on Council-owned land free from single-use plastics and would keep all Members updated on the ongoing efforts and achievements.

Question 4

Councillor Blackburn-Horgan to Executive Councillor for Housing and Homelessness.

How, after the Council set up the private renters' forum, did the Executive Councillor believe the Council could influence the exorbitant costs of renting a single room in a small, licensed HMO, now reaching £1350 per month in Queen Edith's Ward?

The Executive Councillor said the following:

- i. Was acutely aware of the affordability challenge within the City, the Council were delivering one of the largest social housing building programmes in the UK.
- ii. Whilst work was undertaken to influence and enforce the standards of private rented properties, particularly HMO's across the City, the rent levels were not an area that the Council could influence.
- iii. The programme for affordable housing delivery remained ambitious which was the best way for the Council to make housing as affordable for as many people as possible.

Question 5

Councillor Young to The Leader of the Council.

How does the Council track officer's response times to Councillors emails? The target is a response within 5 working days. Is that target being met?

The Leader of the Council responded:

- i. As set out in the guidance document Officers had a commitment to ensure that all Councillors received a response within seven working days.
- ii. Officers did try to respond quicker than the seven-day deadline, particularly for specifically urgent issues or issues outlined as time sensitive.
- iii. The Council did not track Officer response time, but trust that Officers responded promptly.
- iv. Asked that if Councillors experienced issues with Officer's response times to highlight this and would bring this to the attention of the Chief Executive to remind Officers of their responsibility.

Question 6

Councillor Tong to Executive Councillor for Housing and Homelessness.

In their most recent dog awareness report, the Royal Mail published that over the previous year postal workers across the UK suffered 381 injuries from dogs biting at them through letterboxes. These attacks can cause serious harm, including permanent disability. Does Cambridge City Council currently have a policy regarding internal letterbox cages, and, if not, would it consider fitting all its new homes with them in future?

The Executive Councillor said the following:

- i. Was shocked to hear of the injuries that postal workers sustained while delivering mail.

- ii. The Council were always looking at ways to improve the design and standards of its housing, managing design standards and budget responsibly to ensure value for residents.
- iii. There was no policy for internal letter box cages for current properties or new build housing due to identity theft and was not currently being considered.
- iv. Internal letter box cages would not be applicable to the new build flats which made up most of the Council's housing delivery; letter boxes were protected from dog access as were either in a secured lobby or on a wall.
- v. Had carried out many deliveries around the City when campaigning, as all Councillors, and understood this issue. The best tool was to take a wooden spoon to aid with the deliveries of Councillor's leaflets!

Question 7

Councillor Bick to Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety.

What methods does the Council have at its disposal to require graffiti to be removed by owners or occupants from private buildings where it is disfiguring a neighbourhood (especially where it is in a conservation area) and acting as a magnet for further proliferation?

The Executive Councillor responded with the following:

- i. The Council could address graffiti on private buildings especially in conservation areas through the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- ii. The available powers could be used to remove existing graffiti and to put in place actions that property occupiers or owners had to take to manage future incidents of graffiti.
- iii. A Community Protection Warning (CPW) would first be issued to the occupier or owner of the property which outlined the matter and set out the requirements appropriate to remedy the detriment being caused by the graffiti. It was important to note the CPW did not carry a right of appeal.
- iv. If the occupiers or owners failed to comply the Council would then serve a Community Protect Notice (CPN). This legally required the occupier or owner to remedy the detriment of the graffiti. The CPN did come with a right of appeal.
- v. Failure to comply with a CPN was a criminal offence and further action could be taken by the Council such as issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecute. The Council also has the right to under the removal of the

graffiti without requiring permission, specifically to areas of the building adjacent to the public highway that were open to the air and could be accessed without entering the properties curtilage.

Question 8

Councillor Martinelli to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

Please could the Executive Councillor update us on the Council's commitment to No Mow May?

The Executive Councillor provided the following update:

- i. The Council recognised the importance of a healthy and biodiverse environment and supported No Mow May as part of promoting biodiversity. As stated when asked a question on this last year, it was a very worthy national campaign.
- ii. In 2022, the Council introduced the principles of No Mow May and the Plantlife Good Verge Guide into the Biodiversity Strategy to shape how public spaces were managed. Have since reduced the cutting schedule and designated more areas of long grass.
- iii. Whilst the Council supported No Mow May, there were times over the course of the month where Officers were required to maintain some mowing activity in parts of the city to ensure public spaces and County Highways verges were accessible and safe for all to use. This typically included areas around play equipment, designated amenity spaces such as picnic and event spaces or where critical traffic sight lines, footpaths or cycle ways were impacted by verge growth. Not doing so, would present a risk to residents and visitors.
- iv. To balance the commitment to biodiversity whilst ensuring that open spaces were safe and useable, cutting is kept to a minimum and only mowed where required.
- v. Through the management of the Council's parks, local nature reserves and tree stock we are supporting pollinators year-round and throughout their lifecycle. For example, by installing bee banks, bee hotels and deadwood features parks and local nature reserves as well as maintaining and planting a diverse range of flowering trees in our streets and open spaces.
- vi. Would finish by stressing again the usability point. Want to build a coalition of support behind the various things undertaken to support biodiversity, like the recent achievement of cutting herbicide use out of our regular operations. Leaving large, well-used public commons

completely unmown made them much less usable and risked damaging crucial public support.

The question from Councillor Flaubert would receive a written response as the time limit for the oral questions had been reached.

Question 9

Councillor Flaubert to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

Could the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces update us on the planned community clean-up days around Cambridge this year?

24/50/CNL To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:

24/51/CNL Councillor Bick - Vision for Cambridge

Councillor Bick proposed and Councillor Hauk seconded the following motion:

COUNCIL BELIEVES that ‘good growth’ in and around Cambridge is possible, if planned with care for sustainability. Evidence already gathered by local councils indicates that this should be provided for, in particular to alleviate poor housing conditions and rising costs, which are not only a source of division and inequality, but also jeopardise our vital public services and limit businesses which are directly or indirectly dependent on our unique concentration of research and innovation for advancement in the world.

WE POINT TO the records of parties which have recently led this council and South Cambridgeshire in delivering new communities meeting a wide spectrum of needs and means, and in nurturing the success of the local economy.

WE WELCOME a role for central government in addressing key factors beyond the scope of local councils, particularly in ensuring investment in water supply, transport infrastructure and social housing – the absence of which would result in unsustainable growth, which the city would not be able to support.

But WE ARE HUGELY CONCERNED by arbitrary government housing targets and unsubstantiated proposals for a development corporation and planning intervention, which cast locally elected representatives of residents as mere

outside advisors or minority participants in the shaping of the future of our own area in an accountable way.

WE RESOLVE to challenge this ‘power grab’ by central government; to seek instead a genuine partnership, and to strengthen the local democratic component of this by pursuing the creation of a unitary council which brings together most local decision-making and service provision into one new body.

And WE RECOMMIT to locally-led, evidence-based planning and to development that is above all sustainable, both socially and environmentally.

Councillor Carling proposed and Councillor Griffin seconded the following amendment to Motion 14a (deleted text ~~struckthrough~~ and additional text underlined)

Vision for Cambridge Sustainable Growth and Democratic Engagement in Cambridge

COUNCIL BELIEVES that ‘good growth’ in and around Cambridge is possible, if planned with care for sustainability. Evidence already gathered by local councils indicates that this should be provided for, in particular to alleviate poor housing conditions and rising costs, which are not only a source of division and inequality, but also jeopardise our vital public services and limit businesses which are directly or indirectly dependent on our unique concentration of research and innovation for advancement in the world.

WE POINT TO the records of parties which have recently led this council and South Cambridgeshire in delivering new communities meeting a wide spectrum of needs and means, and in nurturing the success of the local economy.

WE WELCOME a role for central government in addressing key factors beyond the scope of local councils, particularly in ensuring investment in water supply, transport infrastructure and social housing – the absence of which would result in unsustainable growth, which the city would not be able to support.

But WE ARE ~~HUGELY~~ CONCERNED by the lack of meaningful government engagement with elected representatives in Cambridge and surrounding areas about the future of our city, with details regarding the proposed development corporation still lacking and no evidence of appetite for meaningful discussion of alternative options. We note that the ruling Labour group, in partnership with the leadership of other relevant local authorities, have been clear about these concerns publicly – including through press statements – and that the Council’s political leadership is continuing to push for more information and stronger engagement (with elected representatives as well as other community voices) through all available channels. ~~arbitrary government housing targets and unsubstantiated proposals for a development corporation and planning intervention, which cast locally elected representatives of residents as mere outside advisors or minority participants in the shaping of the future of our own area in an accountable way.~~

WE RESOLVE to lobby this and any future government to engage genuinely with local representatives and seek a genuine partnership. We note that the complex local government environment around Cambridge is less than ideal for transparency and meaningful engagement and commit to continuing our exploratory work on how we might resolve this, including consideration of options around becoming a unitary authority. ~~challenge this ‘power grab’ by central government; to seek instead a genuine partnership, and to strengthen the local democratic component of this by pursuing the creation of a unitary council which brings together most local decision-making and service provision into one new body.~~

And WE RECOMMIT to locally-led, evidence-based planning and to development that is above all sustainable, both socially and environmentally

The amendment was carried by 20 votes to 13, with 1 abstention.

Resolved (by 29 votes to 4, with 1 abstention) that:

Sustainable Growth and Democratic Engagement in Cambridge

COUNCIL BELIEVES that ‘good growth’ in and around Cambridge is possible, if planned with care for sustainability. Evidence already gathered by local councils indicates that this should be provided for, in particular to alleviate poor

housing conditions and rising costs, which are not only a source of division and inequality, but also jeopardise our vital public services and limit businesses which are directly or indirectly dependent on our unique concentration of research and innovation for advancement in the world.

WE POINT TO the records of parties which have recently led this council and South Cambridgeshire in delivering new communities meeting a wide spectrum of needs and means, and in nurturing the success of the local economy.

WE WELCOME a role for central government in addressing key factors beyond the scope of local councils, particularly in ensuring investment in water supply, transport infrastructure and social housing – the absence of which would result in unsustainable growth, which the city would not be able to support.

But WE ARE CONCERNED by the lack of meaningful government engagement with elected representatives in Cambridge and surrounding areas about the future of our city, with details regarding the proposed development corporation still lacking and no evidence of appetite for meaningful discussion of alternative options. We note that the ruling Labour group, in partnership with the leadership of other relevant local authorities, have been clear about these concerns publicly – including through press statements – and that the Council's political leadership is continuing to push for more information and stronger engagement (with elected representatives as well as other community voices) through all available channels.

WE RESOLVE to lobby this and any future government to engage genuinely with local representatives and seek a genuine partnership. We note that the complex local government environment around Cambridge is less than ideal for transparency and meaningful engagement and commit to continuing our exploratory work on how we might resolve this, including consideration of options around becoming a unitary authority.

And WE RECOMMIT to locally-led, evidence-based planning and to development that is above all sustainable, both socially and environmentally.

24/52/CNL Councillor Moore - Climate & Ecology Bill

Under Council Procedure Rule 26, Members agreed to accept the altered motion as submitted by Councillor Moore (deleted text ~~struckthrough~~, additional text underlined).

Councillor Moore proposed and Councillor Nestor seconded the following motion:

Climate & ~~Ecology~~ Nature Bill

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and across the world. The average global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In addition, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

The Climate & ~~Ecology~~ Nature Bill (an updated version of the previous Climate & Ecology Bill and before that the CEE Bill), seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

The Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was a goal agreed to at COP15,); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21.

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills; reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

This council notes that:

- This council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019.
- This council declared a bio-diversity emergency in May 2019
- Cambridge is one of 119 Global Cities named Climate Action Leaders on the Carbon Disclosure Project 2023 A List. A-List cities are taking four times as many climate mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A Listers.

- Cambridge City Council is ranked second amongst all UK District councils by Climate Action Scorecards (run by Climate Emergency UK) on actions we have taken to reach net zero in 2023.
- In our Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 we set a target for the Council to be net zero carbon in our direct emissions by 2030 and our Carbon Management Plan explains how we plan to achieve it.
- Our Change Strategy 2021-2026 also sets out a vision for Cambridge City to be net zero carbon by 2030 but we need a more ambitious policy framework and increased investment from national government in order to achieve that.

The Climate & Nature Bill would require the UK Government to develop and achieve a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, and require a plan that considers both together;
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C to ensure emissions are reduced in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations;
3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Providing for re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative Climate & Nature Assembly, as part of creating consensus and ensuring that no one and no community is left behind.

This council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and ~~Ecology~~ Nature Bill;
2. Inform local residents and the local press of this decision;

3. Write to our MPs Daniel Zeichner & Anthony Browne to inform them ~~him~~ that this motion has been passed, and urge them both ~~him~~ to sign up to support the CE Bill.

4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing Cambridge City Council's support.

5. Write to Sir Keir Starmer MP expressing Cambridge City Council's support for the bill and requesting that it be upgraded from a private members' bill to a government bill should there be a Labour government after the next general election.

Councillor Glasberg advised that her amendment to the motion had been withdrawn.

Resolved (unanimously):

Climate & Nature Bill

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and across the world. The average global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In addition, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

The Climate & Ecology Nature Bill (an updated version of the previous Climate & Ecology Bill and before that the CEE Bill), seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

The Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was a goal agreed to at COP15,); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21.

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills; reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

This council notes that:

- This council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019.
- This council declared a bio-diversity emergency in May 2019
- Cambridge is one of 119 Global Cities named Climate Action Leaders on the Carbon Disclosure Project 2023 A List. A-List cities are taking four times as many climate mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A Listers.
- Cambridge City Council is ranked second amongst all UK District councils by Climate Action Scorecards (run by Climate Emergency UK) on actions we have taken to reach net zero in 2023.
- In our Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 we set a target for the Council to be net zero carbon in our direct emissions by 2030 and our Carbon Management Plan explains how we plan to achieve it.
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3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Providing for re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative Climate & Nature Assembly, as part of creating consensus and ensuring that no one and no community is left behind.

This council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Nature Bill;
2. Inform local residents and the local press of this decision;
3. Write to our MPs Daniel Zeichner & Anthony Browne to inform them that this motion has been passed, and urge them both to sign up to support the CE Bill.
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing Cambridge City Council's support.
5. Write to Sir Keir Starmer MP expressing Cambridge City Council's support for the bill and requesting that it be upgraded from a private members' bill to a government bill should there be a Labour government after the next general election.

24/53/CNL Councillor Glasberg - Climate and Nature Bill 2024

Under Council Procedure Rule 13.3.1 this motion was withdrawn.

24/54/CNL Councillor Bennett - Disability Rights UK 2024

Under Council Procedure Rule 26, Members agreed to accept the altered motion as submitted by Councillor Bennett (deleted text ~~struck through~~, additional text underlined).

Councillor Bennett proposed and Councillor Tong seconded the following motion:

The purpose of this motion is to raise awareness ~~and support the~~ of the developing 2024 Disabled People's Manifesto and to stand with disabled residents, their carers and their families in the face of the continuing national government's attack on their lives and rights.

The 2024 Disability Rights UK Manifesto is a four point plan to create a society where everyone has equal life chances and is valued and treated equally.

The four points are:

1. Representation and Voice

Removal of barriers for disabled people to participate in political and public life.

2. Rights

The full rights set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (“UNCRPD”)

3. Independence

The right to live independently with choice and control over the support given.

4. Inclusion

Plans for every aspect of life to address specific needs of disabled people from the outset.

Although Cambridge City Council is not a unitary authority and social services are provided by the county council, it is very much aware of the impact of the services that it does provide on the lives of disabled residents. Housing, the planning service and the public realm are critical to the life chances of disabled people. Even basic services such as contact with the public can present extra challenges to disabled people and carers.

The council accepts that it has an important part to play in supporting the lives of its disabled residents and indeed all the residents who are affected by their own or another person’s disability.

However, no council can do this work alone. Central government support is needed.

Accordingly, Cambridge City Council resolves to:

1. ~~Sign the Manifesto as an organisation~~ Refer the manifesto to the Council’s Equalities Panel for scrutiny and debate involving staff, resident representatives and councillors, and reporting back to the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee on their discussions;
2. Raise awareness of the Local Government Association Disability Champions Network with both council officers and councillors.
3. Write to Daniel Zeichner MP and Anthony Browne MP to inform them that this motion has been passed ~~and urge them to sign the Manifesto;~~

4. Write to Sir Keir Starmer MP asking him to confirm his party's support for the Manifesto and opposition to the current government's proposed attacks on the dignity and rights of Disabled People

Further Reading

Disability Rights UK

<https://www.disabledpeoplesmanifesto.com/manifesto>

Local Government Disability Champions Network ("LGDCN")

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/equalities-hub/local-government-disability-champions-network-lgdcn>

United Nations Convention On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd>

Resolved (unanimously) that:

The purpose of this motion is to raise awareness of the developing_2024 Disabled People's Manifesto and to stand with disabled residents, their carers and their families in the face of the continuing national government's attack on their lives and rights.

The 2024 Disability Rights UK Manifesto is a four point plan to create a society where everyone has equal life chances and is valued and treated equally.

The four points are:

1. Representation and Voice

Removal of barriers for disabled people to participate in political and public life.

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Although Cambridge City Council is not a unitary authority and social services are provided by the county council, it is very much aware of the impact of the services that it does provide on the lives of disabled residents. Housing, the planning service and the public realm are critical to the life chances of disabled people. Even basic services such as contact with the public can present extra challenges to disabled people and carers.

The council accepts that it has an important part to play in supporting the lives of its disabled residents and indeed all the residents who are affected by their own or another person's disability.

However, no council can do this work alone. Central government support is needed.

Accordingly, Cambridge City Council resolves to:

1. Refer the manifesto to the Council's Equalities Panel for scrutiny and debate involving staff, resident representatives and councillors, and reporting back to the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee on their discussions.
2. Raise awareness of the Local Government Association Disability Champions Network with both council officers and councillors.
3. Write to Daniel Zeichner MP and Anthony Browne MP to inform them that this motion has been passed.
4. Write to Sir Keir Starmer MP asking him to confirm his party's opposition to the current government's proposed attacks on the dignity and rights of Disabled People.

Further Reading

Disability Rights UK

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Local Government Disability Champions Network (“LGDCN”)

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United Nations Convention On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd>

24/55/CNL Councillor Gilderdale - Motion on Palestine-Israel

Councillor Gilderdale proposed, and Councillor Divkovic seconded the following motion:

This Council notes:

- a. The City Council’s three previous statements ([19th October](#), [15th February](#), [29th February](#)) which condemned the attack by Hamas on the 7th October and called for ‘an immediate ceasefire, the return of hostages, unfettered access for humanitarian aid, peace in the Middle East, international support for a two-State solution and the upholding of international law.’
- b. That since October 7th, according to the Gaza health ministry, the present Israeli Government has [killed over 34,000 Palestinians, with over 77,000 wounded](#) and [10,000 feared buried under the rubble](#) in Gaza.
- c. That the [UN Secretary-General](#), [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#) and others have said that Israel has committed grave violations of international law in its assault on Palestine. [The International Court of Justice](#) has ruled that there was a risk of irreparable harm to the Palestinian right to be protected from genocide.
- d. [UN experts including Special Rapporteurs Ben Saul, Margaret Satterthwaite and Independent Expert Cecilia Bailliet have warned](#) that ‘any transfer of weapons or ammunition to Israel that would be used in

Gaza is likely to violate international humanitarian law and must cease immediately’.

- e. That the UK continues to sell arms to Israel which are being used in the ongoing conflict. They may be used in a way that creates further human suffering and prolong the conflict. By providing arms and military support to Israel, the [UK Government could be complicit in this catastrophe](#).
- f. [That since 2015, the UK has licensed](#) at least [£474 million](#) worth of military exports to Israel, including components for combat aircrafts, missiles, tanks, technology, small arms and ammunition. The [UK provides approximately 15% of the components](#) in the [F-35 stealth bomber aircraft](#) currently being used in Gaza.
- g. In 2009, under a Labour government, [the UK suspended arms licenses for naval guns due to their use against civilians in Gaza](#). In 2014, under a Conservative-led government, the UK [said it would suspend licenses](#) if hostilities resumed in Gaza.
- h. [A cross-party group of 134 parliamentarians](#) have signed a letter to Foreign Secretary David Cameron and Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch MP, asking for them to immediately suspend export licenses for arms transfers to Israel.
- i. On 8th May 2024, [President Biden confirmed that the US had blocked an arms shipment](#) of thousands of heavy bombs to Israel over fears that they could be used during Israel’s military operation in Rafah. Following this news, [a former UK national security adviser has criticised Rishi Sunak](#) for failing to suspend arms sales to Israel.

This Council calls on the current and any future UK Government to:

- a. Press for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, Israel and the rest of Palestine and to make every effort to resume the peace process.
- b. Work to ensure that international humanitarian law is upheld and that civilians are protected in accordance with those laws.
- c. Work to ensure that civilians have access to humanitarian support, including unfettered access of medical supplies, food, fuel and water.
- d. To immediately revoke all licences for arms exports to Israel and suspend arms sales to Israel.

In addition, this Council will:

- a. Investigate the implications of stopping banking with Barclays - which is [known for investing over £2 billion in](#), and providing financial services to companies arming Israel worth £6.1 billion - and instead banking with an ethical bank.
- b. Continue to condemn all forms of Islamophobia and Antisemitism and work to champion a city free from hate, including in the Council's work to make Cambridge a City of Sanctuary.

Resolved (unanimously) to support the motion.

24/56/CNL Written questions

Members were asked to note the written questions and answers that had been placed in the information pack circulated around the Chamber.

The meeting ended at 5.50 pm

CHAIR

HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 June 2024

Present: Councillors Griffin (Chair), Robertson (Vice-Chair), Baigent, Gawthrope Wood, Lee, Martinelli, Swift, Thittala Varkey and Tong.

Executive Councillor for Housing: Councillor Bird

Tenant/Leaseholder Representatives: Diane Best, Harmony Birch, Diana Minns, Mandy Powell-Hardy and Justyna Ulman-Jaworska

Recommendation to Council

Executive Councillor for Housing

24/30/HSC Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn Report 2023/24

The report presented for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- A summary of actual income and expenditure compared to the final budget for 2023/24 (outturn position).
- Revenue and capital budget variances with explanations
- Specific requests to carry forward funding available from both revenue (confirmation of in principle decisions made in March 2024) and capital budget underspends into 2024/25.
- A summary of housing debt which was written off during 2023/24.

The Housing Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations by 6 votes to 0 with 3 abstentions.

Accordingly, Council is recommended to:

- i. Approve carry forward requests of £12,507,000 in HRA and General Fund Housing capital budgets and associated resources from 2023/24 into 2024/25 and beyond to fund re-phased net capital spending, as detailed in Appendix D and the associated notes to the appendix in the officer's report.
- ii. Approve a revised capital financing structure for 2023/24, utilising £8 million of capital reserves set-aside for either debt redemption

or re-investment, in place of borrowing and direct revenue financing of capital. This recognises the current high interest rates for borrowing and the need to maintain a prudent level of revenue reserves following the requirement to allow for payment of rent refunds arising from the rent regulation error.

2023/24 Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances – Housing Revenue Account

To:

Councillor Gerri Bird, Executive Councillor for Housing

Report by:

Julia Hovells, Head of Finance and & Business Manager

Tel: 01223 - 457248

Email: julia.hovells@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report presents, for the Housing Revenue Account:

- a) A summary of actual income and expenditure compared to the final budget for 2023/24 (outturn position)
- b) Revenue and capital budget variances with explanations
- c) Specific requests to carry forward funding available from both revenue (confirmation of in principle decisions made in March 2024) and capital budget underspends into 2024/25.

d) A summary of housing debt which was written off during 2023/24.

- 1.2 The final position for the HRA for 2023/24 is a reported net overspend of £859k before interest and appropriations. This position incorporates a significant overspend in repairs activity for 2023/24, which is partially offset by an over-achievement in income in the year and underspending in general management expenditure.
- 1.3 It should be noted that industry maintenance costs have increased significantly over the past two years, alongside the need for a greater level of investment in the housing stock to ensure compliance with current regulations. This is reflected in the detail of this report, where overspending is reported in these areas.
- 1.4 The budgetary performance across our repair and maintenance function should therefore be viewed in a national context, with the sector facing significant challenges over the past year, and Cambridge is no exception. This trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. A recent report shows that the 204 largest housing providers have seen a 35% increase in repair spending compared to pre-pandemic levels, translating to roughly £2.6 billion and last year a 20% increase (approximately £1.3 billion).
- 1.5 Several factors have contributed to the Council's overspend, high inflation (having peaked at 11.1% in October 2022), the ongoing pressure of tackling COVID-related backlogs and the urgent, unbudgeted need to address significant housing stock compliance issues. Our proactive approach to tenant engagement, including a dedicated team and a revamped reporting system, has led to a significant 77% increase in reported damp and mould (DCM) cases. These factors have combined to rapidly drive-up demand for goods and services and therefore cost.
- 1.6 Our commitment to improving tenant living conditions and reducing unacceptable wait times for tenants has required significant investments in repairs and maintenance. By strategically overspending, we've not only addressed essential needs but also improved the overall lived experience for our tenants:
 - Percentage of repairs completed within target timescale improving from 73.9% to 89.2%
 - Percentage of repairs completed at first visit from 66.8% to 72.1%

- Average time in days to repair a void (General Needs & Sheltered) from 50.1 days to 27.6 days

1.7 Following identification of two historic rent regulation issues, it was necessary to account for the estimated rent refunds due for 2023/24 within the financial year (£542k), and to reduce the opening balance for the HRA by the refund value up to 31/3/2023 (£3,827k). To ensure that the HRA could maintain the target level of general HRA reserves at 31/3/2024, taking account of these adjustments, and will still hold reserves well above the prudent minimum level after carry forwards are accounted for, a revised capital financing strategy was adopted in 2023/24. The use of Direct Revenue Financing of Capital (DRF) was reduced by £3,814k and instead capital expenditure was financed from the attributable debt set-side capital reserve.

1.8 Following these changes, the final position for the HRA, after capital financing, interest and appropriations, was a net underspend of £3,595k.

2. Recommendations

Under Part 1 of the Housing Scrutiny Committee Agenda, the Executive Councillor, is recommended, following scrutiny and debate at Housing Scrutiny Committee:

- To approve carry forward requests totalling £562,600 in revenue funding from 2023/24 into 2024/25, as detailed in **Appendix C**.

Under Part 2 of the Housing Scrutiny Committee Agenda, the Executive Councillor for Housing is asked to recommend to Council (following scrutiny and debate at Housing Scrutiny Committee):

- Approval of carry forward requests of £12,507,000 in HRA and General Fund Housing capital budgets and associated resources from 2023/24 into 2024/25 and beyond to fund re-phased net capital spending, as detailed in **Appendix D** and the associated notes to the appendix.
- Approval of a revised capital financing structure for 2023/24, utilising £8 million of capital reserves set-aside for either debt redemption or re-investment, in place of borrowing and direct revenue financing of capital. This recognises the current high interest rates for borrowing and the need to maintain a prudent level of revenue reserves following

the requirement to allow for payment of rent refunds arising from the rent regulation error.

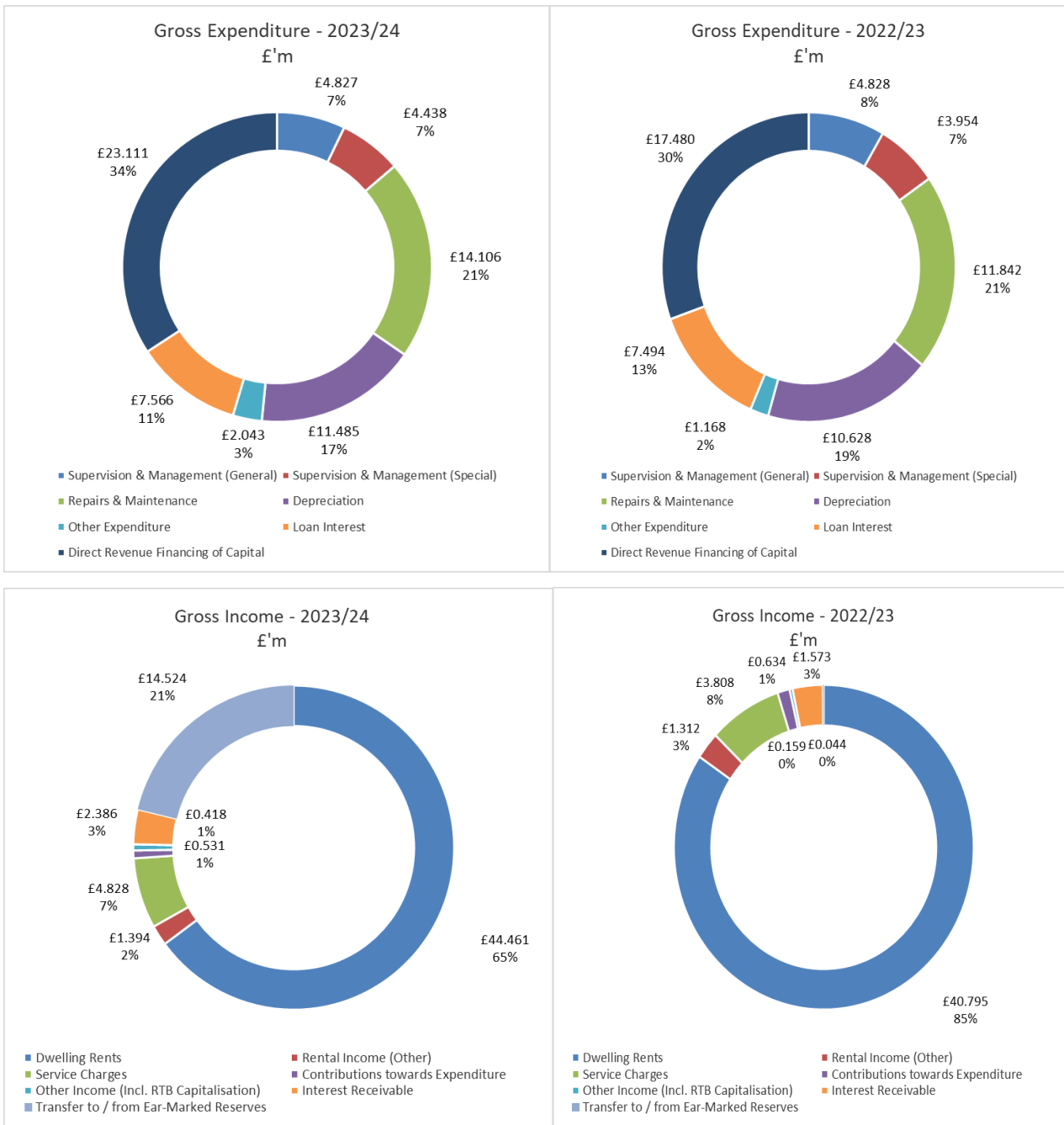
3. Background

Revenue Outturn

3.1 The overall revenue budget outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account is given in the table and charts below.

2022/23 £'000	Housing Revenue Account Summary	2023/24 £'000
1,029	Original Budget (HRA Use of Reserves)	6,185
12,562	Adjustment – Prior Year Carry Forwards	335
(4,444)	Adjustment – HRA MTFS or HRA BSR Approved	(3,891)
9,147	Final Budget	2,629
9,069	Outturn	(966)
(78)	(Under) / Overspend for the year	(3,595)
335	Carry Forward Requests	563
257	Resulting Variation for the HRA and (reduced) / increased use of reserves	(3,032)

Gross Expenditure and Income Charts – 2023/24 (and 2022/23 for comparison)



3.2 **Appendix A** shows original and final budgets for the year (with the movements summarised in the above table) and compares the final budget with the outturn position for the HRA for 2023/24. The original revenue budget for 2023/24 was approved by the Executive Councillor for Housing on 24 January 2023.

- 3.3 **Appendix B** provides explanations of the main variance.
- 3.4 **Appendix C** lists revenue carry forward requests.
- 3.5 The final outturn position for the HRA is a net underspend of £3,595k, which recognises a change to the structure of the capital financing for 2023/24, as outlined in the Capital Outturn section of this report.
- 3.6 Significant variances are as follows:

- General HRA Services; underspend of £677k due to the timing of investing the housing transformation funding and the abortive development cost funding approved for Ekin Road and air space development. A number of staff vacancies were also evident in the year and there is a deferred need for the welfare reform funding in City Homes. Of this, a carry forward of £388k is incorporated into this report.

Housing Transformation Funding was spent in 2023/24 as follows:

Area of Expenditure	2023/24 Expenditure
Housemark Subscription (recurring annual cost)	£10,550.00
Housing Maintenance Improvement Project	£52,789.72
Rent Regulation Error Project	£17,778.44
Total Expenditure	£81,118.16

- Special HRA Services; overspend of £123k due to increased utility costs in communal areas of flat blocks and spending on furniture and equipment in sheltered and temporary housing, which is fully funded from the ear-marked reserve for repairs and renewals.
- Repairs; overspend of £2,052k due to an increase in the volume and complexity of void properties and an increase in response repairs, with damp and mould and disrepair cases contributing to this. Sub-contractors were brought in to meet these demands. Additional investment in areas of compliance was also evident, with increased electrical inspections, fire inspections and asbestos surveys, all bearing a cost and giving rise to remedial works. Overspending was partially offset by underspending in smoke detector installations due to delays in the delivery of this programme as a result of access issues.

- Depreciation; underspend of £94k as a result of reduced depreciation in respect of infrastructure assets and plant and equipment (IT investment), where over time assets become fully depreciated.
- Other Expenditure; overspend of £63k, with an overspend in council tax in respect of void properties, where the number, and length of inoccupancy, of general voids was greater in 2023/24 and more homes were held vacant pending redevelopment.
- Income; over-achievement of £608k with service charge income being greater than anticipated as a result of increased temporary accommodation and recovery of higher utility charges. Garage and commercial property income over-achieved due to occupancy levels and favourable rent reviews. Other income also over-achieved, with an increase in the sum that was capitalised for the cost of administering the right to buy process and reimbursement of electricity costs towards the cost of producing heat in communal heat plants on new build sites.
- Interest Receipts; over-achievement of £155k due to a significant increase in the rates available to the authority for investments, particularly in the latter part of 2023/24.
- Appropriations / Other; underspend of £4,299k, with a reduced use of direct revenue financing of capital expenditure to maintain a minimum prudent general HRA reserve, income transferred from the ear-marked reserve for repairs and renewals to fund expenditure in 2023/24 and a lower interest cost than budgeted as a result of deferring the need to borrow externally in the HRA from 2023/24 to 2024/25.

Housing Revenue Account Reserves

3.7 The table below sets out the movement on the Housing Revenue Account reserve for 2023/24:

	2023/24 £'000
Original Budget – Contribution from HRA reserves	6,185
Adjustment – Prior Year Carry Forwards	335
Adjustment – HRA MTFS or HRA BSR Approved	(3,891)
Final Budget – Contribution from HRA Reserves	2,629

Net Variance for the Year	(3,595)
Total Contribution (to) / from HRA General Reserves – Draft Statement of Accounts	(966)
HRA General Reserve Balance - 1 April 2023	(10,521)
Adjustment to 1 April 2023 reserves balance for rent regulation error	3,827
2023/24 Contribution (to) / from HRA General Reserves – Draft Statement of Accounts	(966)
HRA General Reserves Balance - 31 March 2024	(7,660)

Capital Outturn

3.9 The overall capital budget outturn position for the Housing Capital Investment Plan (HRA and Housing General Fund) is provided in the table below. **Appendix D** shows the outturn position by programme with the associated notes providing explanations of variances.

2022/23 £'000	HRA Capital Summary	2023/24 £'000
97,104	Original Budget	122,943
19,287	Adjustments (Re-phasing – approved in June 2023)	14,329
(32,610)	Other Adjustments (Re-phasing and changes approved in HRA MTFS November 2023 and HRA BSR February 2024)	(52,410)
83,781	Final Budget	84,862
66,624	Outturn	71,502
(17,157)	(Under)/Overspend for the year	(13,360)
15,880	Re-phasing Requests	12,507
(1,277)	(Under) / Overspend	(853)

3.10 Spending in the Housing Capital Investment Plan in 2023/24 was below that originally anticipated, with reductions in the budget, particularly for new build and decent homes expenditure as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy in November 2023 and the Budget Setting Report in February 2024.

3.11 Significant variances are as follows:

- General Fund Housing; underspend of £384k in disabled facilities and repairs assistance works delivered through the Home Improvement Agency, with demand still at lower levels than experienced a number of years ago.
- Decent Homes; underspend of £5,959k due predominantly to subcontractor selection and capacity, access issues and tenant refusals.
- Other Spend on HRA Stock; underspend of £1,618k with the programme encountering the same issues as the decent homes programme, but with particular delays in works being delivered as part of the estate investment programme.
- New Build; underspend of £3,825k, with delays on a number of sites as a result of securing vacant possession and planning permission and in delivery on site in some areas. A number of schemes finalised with reported underspends.
- Acquisition; underspend of £1,271k, with an underspend in the demand led budget for buying homes on the open market where future development may be an option.
- Other HRA Capital Spend; underspend of £303k with no investment in commercial property in 2023/24, the last phases of the Orchard Housing Management System implementation delayed whilst additional development work is undertaken and the rollout of new corporate ICT hardware taking longer than planned.

3.12 The capital financing for 2023/24 has been amended to reduce the use of direct revenue financing to ensure that a prudent level of HRA general revenue reserves has been maintained despite the need to account for the estimated rent refunds due to tenants following identification of the rent regulation error. Financing has also been amended to remove the need to borrow externally during 2023/24, at a time of unusually high interest rates. These changes have been

facilitated by instead using £8 million of the attributable debt set-aside capital reserve, which can be used to redeem loans or alternatively can be used to re-invest, in this case in the delivery of new homes.

- 3.13 Permission is sought to re-phase the need to borrow to fund the re-phased capital expenditure identified in this report.

HRA Write Offs

- 3.14 In line with the revised process for the writing off of HRA debt, considered by Housing Scrutiny Committee in March 2015, this report also provides an appendix detailing write off of HRA debt during the financial year 2023/24. **Appendix E** includes a summary of debt written off by both category of write off and also value banding.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The variance from the final revenue budget (see above), results in a decreased use of Housing Revenue Account reserves after carry forwards of £3,032k. However, this is more than offset by the reduction of £3,827k in the opening balance on revenue reserves as a result of the need to account for rent refunds. For now, HRA revenue reserves remain above the target level and are forecast to remain above the prudent minimum level for the remainder of 2024/25, but a full review of the reserves position will be carried out as part of the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy.

A decision not to approve a carry forward request may impact on officers' ability to deliver the service or scheme in question and this could have staffing, equality and poverty, environmental, procurement, consultation and communication and/or community safety implications.

(b) Staffing Implications

There are no new direct staffing implications associated with this report.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

There are no new equality or poverty implications associated with this report.

(d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications

There are no new environmental implications arising from this report.

(e) Procurement Implications

There are no new procurement implications arising from this report.

(f) Community Safety

There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

5. Consultation and communication considerations

Tenant and leaseholder representatives are consulted as an integral part of the scrutiny process associated with this committee.

6. Background Papers

There were no specific background papers used in the preparation of this report. Data directly from the Council's financial management system was used in the report's preparation.

7. Appendices

- Appendix A – HRA Revenue Outturn 2023/24
- Appendix B – HRA Major Revenue Variance Explanations
- Appendix C – HRA Revenue Carry Forward Requests
- Appendix D – Housing Capital Investment Plan Outturn 2023/24
- Appendix D Notes – Notes to the Housing Capital Investment Plan
- Appendix E – HRA Write Offs 2023/24

8. Inspection of Papers and Queries

If you have a query on the report, please contact:

Julia Hovells, Head of Finance & Business Manager

Telephone: 01223 - 457248 or email: julia.hovells@cambridge.gov.uk.

Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Budget 2023/24 - Final Outturn

Service Grouping	Original Budget £000's	Final Budget £000's	Outturn £000's	Variation Increase/ (Decrease) £000's	Carry Forward Requests - see Appendix C £000's	Net Variance £000's
INCOME						
Dwelling Rents	(44,731)	(44,449)	(44,461)	(12)	0	(12)
Rental Income (Other)	(1,321)	(1,335)	(1,394)	(59)	0	(59)
Service Charges	(3,812)	(4,433)	(4,828)	(395)	0	(395)
Contributions towards Expenditure	(549)	(505)	(531)	(26)	0	(26)
Other Income (Incl. RTB Capitalisation)	(534)	(302)	(418)	(116)	0	(116)
Total Income	(50,947)	(51,024)	(51,632)	(608)	0	(608)
EXPENDITURE						
Supervision & Management (General)	5,694	5,504	4,827	(677)	388	(289)
Supervision & Management (Special)	4,267	4,315	4,438	123	20	143
Repairs & Maintenance	10,767	12,054	14,106	2,052	155	2,207
Depreciation	11,967	11,579	11,485	(94)	0	(94)
Other Expenditure	1,477	1,980	2,043	63	0	63
Total Expenditure	34,172	35,432	36,899	1,467	563	2,030
Net Cost of HRA Services	(16,775)	(15,592)	(14,733)	859	563	1,422
Interest Receivable (Interest on Balances & Item 8)	(670)	(2,231)	(2,386)	(155)	0	(155)
(Surplus) / Deficit on the HRA for the Year	(17,445)	(17,823)	(17,119)	704	563	1,267
Appropriations / Other Movement in the HRA Balance						
Loan Interest	8,889	7,941	7,566	(375)	0	(375)
Housing Set-Aside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Revenue Financing of Capital	29,446	26,925	23,111	(3,814)	0	(3,814)
Transfer to / from Ear-Marked Reserves	(14,705)	(14,414)	(14,524)	(110)	0	(110)
(Surplus) / Deficit for year	6,185	2,629	(966)	(3,595)	563	(3,032)
(Surplus) / Deficit b/f	(10,521)	(10,521)	(10,521)			
Adjustment to opening reserves to reflect rent regulation error	0	0	3,827			
Balance Carried Forward	(4,336)	(7,892)	(7,660)	0	0	0

Changes between original and final budgets may be made to reflect:

- portfolio and departmental restructuring
- approved budget carry forwards from the previous financial year
- technical adjustments, including changes to the capital accounting regime
- virements approved under the Council's constitution
- additional external revenue funding not originally budgeted

and are detailed and approved:

- in the January committee cycle (as part of the Budget-Setting Report)
- in the June/July committee cycle (outturn reporting and carry forward requests)
- in September (as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy - MTFS)
- via technical adjustments/virements throughout the year

Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Budget 2023/24 - Major Variances from Final Revenue Budgets

Service Grouping / Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £
Supervision and Management (General)		
HRA Departmental Overheads	Additional budget of £490,000 was approved to undertake feasibility studies at Ekin Road and property suitable for air space development. Not all of this funding was utilised in 2023/24 and a carry forward of £191,720 was provisionally approved at March HSC. This is reduced to a carry forward value of £108,750 based upon final spending for 2023/24. The underspend is also contributed to by a vacant post, which has proved difficult to recruit to.	(154,880)
Housing Transformation	The Housing Transformation Fund was increased in 2023/24 to allow the HRA to both prepare for housing regulation and contribute to the costs of corporate transformation. Although work has progressed in both areas, there is still a huge amount to complete. Early work has identified some regulatory concerns and data issues, which will also need significant resource to deliver the improvement required. As a result, a carry forward was approved in principle at HSC in March 2024 to supplement the fund already available in 2024/25 to ensure that improvements can be delivered as quickly as possible.	(239,852)
City Homes	City Homes cost centre underspent as a result of vacancies across the team, the majority of which have now been recruited to, with start dates pending. Funding to support tenants through the transition from housing benefit to universal credit was not fully utilised in 2023/24, with a carry forward approved in principle at HSC in March 2024, which is reduced in this report as some expenditure was incurred in 2023/24.	(191,079)
Other		(91,463)
Total		(677,274)
Supervision and Management (Special)		
Estate Management	Estate management costs exceeded the budget in 2023/24 as a result of increased electricity costs in communal areas of HRA flats.	70,360
R&R Fund Expenditure	Expenditure on furniture and equipment in temporary and sheltered housing. This expenditure is not budgeted for in year, but is fully funded from ear-marked reserves set-aside specifically for these purposes.	85,625
Other		(33,430)
Total		122,555
Repairs and Maintenance		
Responsive Repairs	The overspend relates to a significantly higher than budgeted use of external contractors (which more than offsets any underspending in the in-house workforce), some high value damp, condensation and mould works and a rise in disrepair claims.	633,146
Voids	Overspend in temporary accommodation void works with an increase in refugee voids in 2023/24 taking up greater resource. The overspend is caused by significant expenditure in external contractors, due to clearing of the remaining backlog from 2022/23 combined with the poor condition voids are being returned in.	618,528

Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Budget 2023/24 - Major Variances from Final Revenue Budgets

Service Grouping / Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £
Citywide Schemes	Underspend on smoke detectors and street lighting. The full smoke detector programme was given to the contractor, but due to access issues spend was below budget. Underspending in street lighting is as a result of the upgrade programme, which has reduced ongoing repairs.	(154,322)
Risk and Compliance	Overspend on lift and emergency lighting due to major failures occurring, with a high number of asbestos investigations carried out throughout the year. Furthermore, there has been a rise in unauthorised adaptations causing a major increase in electrical safety inspections and resulting spend. A slight underspend is evident in fire door inspections.	624,552
Heating and Hot Water Servicing	Overspend is the result of additional repairs required during the winter months, coupled with installation of CO2 detectors alongside the gas servicing.	236,444
Planned Revenue Repairs	There were a number of door canopies in Gray Road, Ward Road and St Thomas's Square, that were in an unsafe condition and could not be repaired / decorated, but had to be replaced.	89,590
Repairs Overheads	Recharges to the HRA for support services were marginally lower than budgeted for 2023/24 when adjusted based upon actual expenditure incurred in the year. ICT Services, the Assistant Director of Assets and Property and Procurement were the biggest contributors to the underspend, with this partially offset by increased costs from the Customer Service Centre.	(90,022)
Third Party Management Costs	Costs associated with third party management overspent in 2023/24 predominantly due to the costs of electricity at Dykes Bower Court, where there are concerns about how the communal heating system is currently operating.	98,923
Other		(5,225)
Total		2,051,614
Other HRA Expenditure		
Depreciation	Depreciation was lower in 2023/24 than anticipated, particularly in respect of the depreciation for infrastructure assets and plant and equipment (IT systems), as some assets become fully depreciated.	(94,665)
Council Tax	Council tax payments were greater than anticipated as a result of a higher level of general void properties for longer and the need to pay for homes vacated for re-development up to the point that the entire site is handed over.	97,928
Budget for business expansion costs	The budget included to recognise an increase in stock numbers was not fully allocated in 2023/24, but effectively offsets overspending elsewhere in the HRA.	(73,350)
Other		39,065
Total		(31,022)

Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Budget 2023/24 - Major Variances from Final Revenue Budgets

Service Grouping / Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £
HRA Income and Other		
Service Charge Income	Service charge income was over-achieved, predominantly in respect of temporary housing due to an increase in temporary housing stock which carry higher levels of service charge, an over-achievement in catering service charge income at Ditchburn Place as occupancy levels have been high, increased income in respect of recovering higher utility costs and recovery of the full costs of service provision to leaseholders.	(394,873)
Rental Income (Other)	Rent for both HRA garages and commercial property was marginally over-achieved in 2023/24, with favourable rent reviews more than offsetting the loss from continued vacant units at Akeman Street, which still prove difficult to let.	(58,907)
Other Income	Other income was over-achieved due to an over-achievement in income in respect of the capitalised costs of right to buy administration, coupled with the reimbursement of the cost of electricity used to produce heat for the communal heat systems at some of the more recent new build schemes	(116,613)
Other		(37,018)
Total		(607,411)
HRA Interest, Premiums and Appropriations		
Direct Revenue Financing of Capital (DRF)	There was a reduced use of direct revenue financing of capital expenditure in 2023/24, as a result of a revised capital financing strategy which was adopted to ensure that the general HRA revenue reserves did not fall below the prudent minimum despite the need to account for the value of estimated rent refunds due as a result of the rent regulation error.	(3,814,854)
Loan Interest	The cost of borrowing was less than anticipated, with slippage in the capital programme meaning that external borrowing was not required in 2023/24 as planned.	(374,013)
Transfer to or from Ear-Marked Reserves	A transfer from R&R fund reserves to finance the next phase of costs of the replacement Housing Management Information System (£13,258) was combined with also drawing from the reserve to fund expenditure in communal areas of sheltered schemes and temporary housing.	(109,830)
Interest Received	The interest due to the HRA for 2023/24 was significantly greater than anticipated due to an interest rate of over 5% being realised by the latter part of 2023/24, compared to an average rate of 2.04% in 2022/23.	(155,023)
Other		0
Total		(4,453,720)
Total for Housing Revenue Account		(3,595,258)

Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account
Revenue Budget 2023/24 - Carry Forward Requests

Final Request to Carry Forward Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets from 2023/24 into 2024/25

Item	Cost Centre	Contact	Final outturn variance position of cost centre (underspend) / overspend at year end prior to carry forward	March 2024 Carry Forward Request £	Final June 2024 Carry Forward Request £
Supervision and Management General					
1	6007	Julia Hovells	(194,395)	191,720	108,750
HRA Business Overheads - A budget for abortive HRA development fees exists to allow feasibility work to be undertaken on potential new build development sites. This budget was increased in 2023/24 to allow specific feasibility work at Ekin Road and in respect of rooftop (air space) development. Not all of this work was completed in 2023/24 and the balance of the budget is requested as a carry forward into 2024/25 to facilitate completion of the work.					
2	6008	Julia Hovells	(239,851)	229,200	239,850
Housing Transformation - The Housing Transformation Fund was increased in 2023/24 to allow the HRA to both prepare for housing regulation and contribute to the costs of corporate transformation. Although work has progressed in both areas, there is still a huge amount to complete. Early work has identified some regulatory concerns and data issues, which will also need significant resource to deliver the improvement required. As a result, a carry forward is requested to supplement the fund already available in 2024/25 to ensure that improvements can be delivered as quickly as possible.					
3	6012	Anna Hill	(191,079)	61,240	39,460
City Homes - Welfare Reforms - One-off funding is approved to support the transition between housing benefit and Universal Credit, particularly during the period where all remaining claimants who need to, are required to move between benefits. Some extra resource was deployed in 2023/24, leaving the balance available to support this task in 2024/25.					
Supervision and Management Special					
4	6104	Laura Adcock	(26,455)	20,230	20,220
Independent Living Service - Activity Co-Ordinator - Grant funding of £40,110 was received in 2023/24 to allow the employment of an Activity Co-Ordinator for sheltered and older person's housing on a fixed term contract for 12 months. The postholder was recruited and started during October 2023 and so will be in post until October 2024. Carry forward of the funding will allow the authority to fulfil the grant commitments and honour the fixed term contract.					
Repairs and Maintenance					
5	6205	John Conroy	(154,322)	229,130	154,320
Citywide Schemes - Smoke Detectors - Orders for the annual programme of smoke detector replacements were issued at the start of 2023/24, but due to access issues, the expenditure was well below budget. The need to replace these smoke detectors still exists, and therefore a carry forward is requested into 2024/25 to make further attempts to complete these works.					
Appropriations					
No carry forward items					
Other					
Additional carry forwards under £50,000 approved under delegation the the Chief Finance Officer					
Total Revenue Carry Forward Requests for Housing Revenue Account / Housing Scrutiny Committee				731,520	562,600

2023/24 Housing Capital Investment Plan - HRA & General Fund Housing

	Original Budget £000's	Current Budget £000's	Outturn £000's	Variance £000's	Re-phase Spend £000's	Notes	Re-Phasing Year				Budget
							2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	Post 2027/28 £000's	2024/25 Re-Stat'd £000's
General Fund Housing Capital Spend											
Investment in Non-HRA Affordable Housing	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Other General Fund Housing	945	1,003	619	(384)	0	1	0	0	0	0	1,003
Total General Fund Housing Capital Spend	945	1,003	619	(384)	0		0	0	0	0	1,003
HRA Capital Spend											
Decent Homes Programme	25,668	19,680	13,721	(5,959)	6,390	2	5,364	205	196	625	32,937
Other Spend on HRA Stock	5,771	5,582	3,964	(1,618)	1,748	3	1,748	0	0	0	5,294
HRA New Build	75,171	45,177	41,352	(3,825)	3,109	4	3,109	0	0	0	64,373
HRA Acquisition	9,943	12,765	11,494	(1,271)	1,047	5	1,047	0	0	0	1,047
Sheltered Housing Capital Investment	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Other HRA Capital Spend	460	655	352	(303)	213	6	213	0	0	0	567
Inflation Allowance	4,985	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	3,602
Total HRA Capital Spend	121,998	83,859	70,883	(12,976)	12,507		11,481	205	196	625	107,820
Total Housing Capital Spend	122,943	84,862	71,502	(13,360)	12,507		11,481	205	196	625	108,823
Housing Capital Resources											
Right to Buy Receipts (General Use)	(493)	(1,622)	(363)	1,259	0	7	0	0	0	0	(493)
Right to Buy Receipts (Retained for New Build / Acquisition)	(3,507)	(3,469)	(3,348)	121	0	7	0	0	0	0	(4,436)
Right to Buy Receipts (Debt Set-Aside)	0	0	(391)	(391)	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Other Capital Receipts (Shared Ownership)	(300)	(300)	(261)	39	0	8	0	0	0	0	(300)
Other Capital Receipts (Land and Dwellings)	(614)	0	(80)	(80)	0	8	0	0	0	0	(350)
MRA / MRR	(11,967)	(19,264)	(19,169)	95	0	9	0	0	0	0	(12,055)
Client Contributions	0	0	(283)	(283)	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Revenue Financing of Capital (Including R&R)	(29,446)	(26,925)	(23,111)	3,814	0	11	0	0	0	0	(10,035)
Other Capital Resources (Grants / Loan Repayments)	(16,691)	(17,824)	(17,983)	(159)	0	12	0	0	0	0	(6,744)
Prudential Borrowing	(59,925)	(15,039)	0	15,039	(12,507)	13	(11,481)	(205)	(196)	(625)	(73,562)
Total Housing Capital Resources	(122,943)	(84,443)	(64,989)	19,454	(12,507)		(11,481)	(205)	(196)	(625)	(107,975)
Net (Surplus) / Deficit of Resources	0	419	6,513	6,094			0	0	0	0	848
Capital Balances b/f	(24,456)	(24,456)	(24,456)								(8,174)
Use of / (Contribution to) Balances in Year	0	419	6,513				0	0	0	0	848
Set-aside for future Debt Redemption or Re-Investment	12,093	12,093	4,484								14
Ear-marked for specific Retained Right to Buy Receipts 1-4-1 Investment	5,608	5,608	5,285								
Residual capital resources remaining to fund future Housing Investment Programme	(6,755)	(6,336)	(8,174)								(7,326)

Notes to the Housing Capital Investment Plan

Note	Category	Spend / Income Area	Budget 2023/24	(Under) / Over Spend	Re-Phasing	Reason for Variance
1	General Fund Housing	Disabled Facilities Grants	808,000	(290,329)	0	Demand for DFG's was lower than budgeted in 2023/24, with £74k of additional DFG funding being passed across to Huntingdonshire District Council to ensure that it was spent in year.
1	General Fund Housing	Private Sector Grants and Loans	195,000	(93,706)	0	Underspend due to reduced demand as with DFG's.
2	Decent Homes	Officer's Fees	526,000	(25,174)	0	Decent Homes officers fees were marginally lower than budgeted, but with this offset by an overspend in officer's fees relating to other work to the stock.
2	Decent Homes	Insulation / Energy Efficiency	6,823,000	(3,530,113)	3,530,000	Energy works, to include both insulation works and full retrofit, have suffered some delay whilst the contractors were procured. Work is now well underway, but some re-phasing will be required.
2	Decent Homes	Central Heating / Boilers	2,354,000	1,761	0	Expenditure in respect of heating and boilers was broadly in line with the budget for 2023/24.
2	Decent Homes	Electrical / Wiring	608,000	(121,173)	121,000	The full year programme was placed with the contractor, but access issues resulted in an underspend being reported for the year.
2	Decent Homes	Roof Covering	1,702,000	20,245	0	There were a number of urgent re-roofing jobs in Nuns Way, with premature failures experienced, giving rise to an overspend..
2	Decent Homes	External Doors	472,000	(83,810)	84,000	The main planned maintenance contractor experienced issues with their sub-contractor, resulting in the need to procure a sub-contractor to deliver these works, resulting in delays in the programme.
2	Decent Homes	Kitchens	750,000	332,578	0	The annual programme was placed with the contractor, but additional kitchen replacements were required in void dwellings, causing an overspend in year.
2	Decent Homes	Bathrooms	594,000	(195,747)	196,000	Entire programme was ordered with contractor, but access has proven to be a significant issue. Additionally a limited number of bathrooms were fitted in voids.
2	Decent Homes	Roof Structure	62,000	26,659	0	Extra-ordinary costs incurred by appointing specialist surveyors to prepare specification and lodge an NHBC claim for the early failure of a new-build roof at Upperhall Court.
2	Decent Homes	Other Health and Safety Works	52,000	(52,000)	52,000	Budget held to tackle wall structure works, to pay for the works to flat blocks at Hanson/Nicholson/Walker.
2	Decent Homes	Chimneys	2,000	(2,000)	0	No work undertaken in 2023/24.
2	Decent Homes	HHSRS	520,000	(363,372)	363,000	Works on site to communal stairs were delayed, due to leaseholder complaints and requiring Building Control to confirm that proposed works were compliant.
2	Decent Homes	Wall Structure	1,896,000	(630,064)	630,000	Budget was increased to enable Bermuda Terrace structural works to be done. This project is delayed, currently being surveyed and works will not start until later in 2024/25.
2	Decent Homes	Contractor Overheads	1,361,000	(336,718)	337,000	Underspending in specific decent homes elements results in a corresponding under-spend in contractor overheads.
2	Decent Homes	PVCU Windows	1,061,000	(451,783)	452,000	Some budget was ear-marked to support window replacements in the external wall insulation works programme, but this wasn't utilised fully in year. Additionally the planned works main contractor had issues with their subcontractor resulting in the need to replace them, causing additional delay.

Note	Category	Spend / Income Area	Budget 2023/24	(Under) / Over Spend	Re-Phasing	Reason for Variance
2	Decent Homes	Other External Works	272,000	76,852	0	Additional timber cladding replacements at Ancaster Way / Trevone Place was paid for from this budget, resulting in an overspend.
2	Decent Homes	Decent Homes Backlog	625,000	(625,000)	625,000	This budget was not required in 2023/24 and will need to be re-phased into later years of the programme.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Disabled Adaptations	808,000	20,289	0	2023-24 has seen an increase in activity in respect of adaptations. with larger extension projects undertaken. The budget has been impacted by materials and labour cost inflation. Minor adaptations requests have increased, as have refurbishments of wet rooms, with many of these being requests from the repairs surveyors as part of damp and mould works.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Communal Areas Uplift	100,000	(5,471)	5,000	The programme was broadly completed in 2023/24, with a small underspend to be re-phased into 2024/25.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Officer's Fees	119,000	27,820	0	Other spend on HRA stock officers fees were marginally higher than budgeted, but with this offset by an underspend in officer's fees relating to decent homes work.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Asbestos Removal	52,000	74,145	0	The Risk and Compliance team have been proactively removing asbestos to reduce risk and this has resulted in an overspend
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Garage Improvements	104,000	(5,681)	0	Expenditure broadly in line with the budget for 2023/24.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Hard Surfacing	235,000	(7,959)	8,000	Expenditure broadly in line with the budget for 2023/24.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Communal Area Floor Coverings	104,000	13,704	0	The programme was delivered, but there were some extra works that resulted in a slight overspend.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Fire Prevention / Fire Safety Works	1,494,000	(379,927)	380,000	Fire safety works have been ordered in 2023/24 but not all works were completed at 31/3/24. Slippage is requested to be re-phased into 2024/25.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Lifts and Door Entry	49,000	(29,526)	30,000	Limited work was undertaken in relation to these workstreams during the year due to resource issues.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Contractor Overheads	438,000	(196,263)	196,000	Underspending in specific other spend on HRA stock work elements results in a corresponding underspend in contractor overheads.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Estate Investment	1,208,000	(630,276)	630,000	There is a planned programme of work to spend the remaining EIS budget, but a number of the schemes are still in design / consultation stage.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Communal Electrical Installations / Fire Systems	329,000	(289,686)	290,000	Limited work was undertaken in 2023/24 with work that was planned being re-phased into 2024/25. Work has been designed and priced and is undergoing leaseholder consultation.
3	Other Spend on HRA Stock	Communal Entrance / Enclosure Doors	542,000	(209,242)	209,000	Works delayed due to specification changes, and now expected to be delivered in 2024/25.
4	New Build	2015/16 Garage Sites	0	(6,210)	0	The scheme at Teddar Way has been aborted, with all costs, including prior year expenditure, being moved to revenue.
4	New Build	Unallocated Retained RTB Receipts	680,000	(680,000)	680,000	Funding for 10 Year New Homes Programme not yet allocated to schemes.
4	New Build	Hills Avenue	0	(35,468)	0	The new build scheme at Hills Avenue was aborted, with all prior year expenditure being moved to revenue. The scheme was replaced with a scheme to deliver POD Homes.
4	New Build	Kendal Way	169,000	(124,505)	125,000	Underspend due to delays in start on site as a result of boundary issues and cost concerns.

Note	Category	Spend / Income Area	Budget 2023/24	(Under) / Over Spend	Re-Phasing	Reason for Variance
4	New Build	Mill Road	232,000	(75,048)	0	The new build scheme at Mill Road is now complete, with final costs, inclusive of any variations being marginally lower than budgeted.
4	New Build	Cromwell Road Redevelopment (HRA)	590,000	(392,409)	0	The new build scheme at Cromwell Road is now complete, with the contingency aspect of the budget not required in full.
4	New Build	Teddar Way	0	(39,618)	0	The scheme at Teddar Way has been aborted, with all costs, including prior year expenditure, being moved to revenue.
4	New Build	Colville Road (Phase 2)	351,000	(185,764)	186,000	The remaining 4 units on the Colville II new build site are anticipated to hand over during 2024/25, with funding requiring re-phasing to facilitate this.
4	New Build	Clerk Maxwell Road	604,000	(172,751)	0	New homes on the Clerk Maxwell site handed over during 2023/24, with contingency budgets not required, resulting in an underspend on the scheme.
4	New Build	Meadows and Buchan Street	8,513,000	154,358	(154,000)	Progress in delivery of new homes on the Meadows and Buchan sites is marginally ahead of profile, with the need to re-phase budgets accordingly.
4	New Build	Campkin Road Phase 2	1,672,000	(75,930)	0	The scheme at Campkin Road completed in the summer of 2023, with contingency budgets not required in full, resulting in a underspend.
4	New Build	L2	7,346,000	(180,712)	0	75 new homes on the site at L2 were handed over in spring 2024, with the contingency budget not required in full, resulting in an underspend.
4	New Build	Colville Road III	6,759,000	(224,626)	225,000	Progress in the delivery of new homes on the site at Colville III is progressing well, with a small amount of resource requiring re-phasing into 2024/25 to complete the scheme.
4	New Build	Histon Road	1,661,000	(30,099)	0	The new homes on the Histon Road site were handed over in the summer of 2023, with the budget for contingency works not required in full.
4	New Build	Fen Road	1,625,000	185,118	0	New homes on this site were handed over in spring 2024, with allowance made for retention and anticipated variations, giving rise to a reported overspend as a result of higher than anticipated costs to deliver greater energy efficiency in these homes.
4	New Build	Ditton Fields	1,140,000	60,986	0	New homes on this site were handed over in spring 2024, with allowance made for retention and anticipated variations, giving rise to a reported overspend as a result of higher than anticipated costs to deliver greater energy efficiency in these homes.
4	New Build	Aragon Close	1,165,000	(311,079)	311,000	This scheme is on site, but has suffered some initial delay as a result of archaeological findings, resulting in the need to re-phase budget into 2024/25.
4	New Build	Sackville Close	1,242,000	(337,251)	337,000	This scheme is on site, but has suffered some initial delay as a result of archaeological findings, resulting in the need to re-phase budget into 2024/25.
4	New Build	Borrowdale	549,000	58,332	0	New homes on this site were handed over in spring 2024, with allowance made for retention and anticipated variations, giving rise to a reported overspend as a result of higher than anticipated costs to deliver greater energy efficiency in these homes.
4	New Build	Aylesborough Close	3,932,000	(431,312)	431,000	Work is on site for the scheme at Aylesborough Close, with earlier delays resulting in the need to re-phase a small proportion of the budget into 2024/25.
4	New Build	St Thomas's Road	188,000	(54,674)	55,000	This site is currently on hold, pending a review of the scheme design and unit numbers.
4	New Build	Paget Road	79,000	(3,337)	3,000	Planning has been submitted for this scheme with spending broadly in line with profile.

Note	Category	Spend / Income Area	Budget 2023/24	(Under) / Over Spend	Re-Phasing	Reason for Variance
4	New Build	Fanshawe Road	1,300,000	(250,871)	251,000	This scheme is slightly behind schedule due to delays in obtaining planning permission and securing vacant possession.
4	New Build	Princess and Hanover Court	4,467,000	(118,184)	118,000	The site at Princess and Hanover is currently being decanted to allow decisions to be made about future investment on this site. A small underspend is evident at 31/3/2024, which will require re-phasing.
4	New Build	East Road	120,000	(120,000)	120,000	No costs have been incurred on this site to date as a result of scheme design delays, with the need to re-phase budget into future years.
4	New Build	Hills Avenue POD Homes	20,000	(17,419)	5,000	Reduced legal fees led to underspend.
4	New Build	Eddeva Park	3,000	9,849	(10,000)	Initial legal and consultancy costs are now being incurred for this site, with costs marginally higher in 2023/24 than anticipated.
4	New Build	East Barnwell	758,000	(428,039)	428,000	Delay in expenditure due to programme delays.
4	New Build	Newbury Farm	12,000	(4,691)	5,000	Legal and consultancy fees are now being incurred for this site, with a marginal underspend in 2023/24.
4	New Build	ATS, Histon Road	0	7,049	(7,000)	Spend covers legal fees ahead of contractual expenditure
5	HRA Acquisition	Acquisition and Disposal	2,800,000	(1,046,928)	1,047,000	A small number of homes on the Ekin Road site were acquired during 2023/24, but not as many as the budget allowed for. Other strategic acquisition opportunities did not presented themselves in 2023/24.
5	HRA Acquisition	RSAP Acquisitions	517,000	(257,899)	0	All 14 homes for rough sleeper's have been acquired at a lower cost than anticipated originally.
5	HRA Acquisition	Local Authority Housing Fund Acquisitions	9,448,000	33,463	0	37 homes were acquired for accommodating refugees by 31/3/2024, which more than met the commitment to DLUHC, which required the acquisition of 34 homes for this purpose. A small overspend is evident due to the cost of works required to some of the homes to allow letting.
6	Other HRA Capital Spend	Shared Ownership Repurchase	300,000	(90,189)	0	One shared ownership home was re-purchased in 2023/24 to meet a specific identified need.
6	Other HRA Capital Spend	Commercial Property	88,000	(88,040)	88,000	The budget was allocated to meet fit out costs for the new commercial units at Akeman Street to aid letting and this is still under consideration. The budget will need to be re-phased into 2024/25.
6	Other HRA Capital Spend	Orchard Upgrade	87,000	(73,742)	74,000	Two of the Orchard modules have been delayed in implementation whilst MRI carry out further development of them to meet our organisational needs.
6	Other HRA Capital Spend	Estate Services Van	50,000	(196)	0	Estate Services Van delivered at the end of March 2024.
6	Other HRA Capital Spend	HRA Corporate ICT Contribution	130,000	(51,047)	51,000	The HRA has contributed to the corporate cost of IT hardware replacement and infrastructure investment in 2023/24, with some activity and laptop rollouts delayed until 2024/25.
7	Right to Buy Receipts	Cash Receipts	(5,091,000)	989,000	0	15 properties were sold in total during 2023/24. £363,000 of the capital receipt is available for general use (after all costs have been deducted from each receipt), while £391,000 of the overall capital receipt is identified as set-aside to be offset against the debt associated with the units no longer owned. A further £3,348,000 of right to buy receipts have been retained by the local authority in 2023/24, but must be re-invested now in financing up to 50% of additional social housing or shared ownership units, provided this is done within a 5 year time frame.

Note	Category	Spend / Income Area	Budget 2023/24	(Under) / Over Spend	Re-Phasing	Reason for Variance
8	Other Capital Receipts	Cash Receipts	(300,000)	(41,000)	0	A number of shared ownership housing transactions took place in 2023/24, with a net sum of £261,000 retained once any sums due to DLUHC had been paid. Capital receipts of £80,000 were recognised in 2023/24 in relation to the sale of HRA land.
9	MRA / MRR	MRA	(19,264,000)	95,000	0	The major repairs reserve was used in full to finance capital expenditure in the housing stock in 2023/24, including investment in decent homes work and other investment in the housing stock.
10	Client Contributions	Contributions	0	(283,000)	0	Income was recovered from leaseholders in 2023/24 in relation to their share of the cost of major improvements undertaken as part of the decent homes programme (£271,000) and was also received from private residents in relation to contributions towards DFG's or private sector housing repair grants (£12,000).
11	Direct Revenue Financing of Capital (Including R&R)	DRF	(26,925,000)	3,814,000	0	The use of revenue funding for capital purposes was less than budgeted in 2023/24 as a result of a revised capital financing strategy to ensure that a prudent minimum level of HRA general reserves could be maintained at 31/3/2024. Use of this resource was replaced with the use of the attributable debt set-aside capital reserve, which was used to fund new homes in place of DRF.
12	Other Capital Resources (Grants / Loan Repayments)	Grants and Other Resources	(17,824,000)	(159,000)	0	The balance of the Devolution Grant, which was received in full in 2020/21 was utilised in 2023/24. Homes England Grant was received for new build homes and SHDF grant to fund energy works in the existing stock. Additional DFG funding through the Better Care Fund was received in 2023/24, with this sum passed across to Huntingdonshire District Council to spend as demand in Cambridge was insufficient to utilise the resource in year.
13	Prudential Borrowing	Borrowing	(15,039,000)	15,039,000	(12,507,000)	Borrowing was not undertaken in 2023/24, with all available internal resource being utilised before borrowing due to the rates available currently being prohibitive. Borrowing will definitely be necessary in 2024/25.

HRA Debts Written Off in 2023/24Write Off Cases by Category

Write Off Category	No. of Cases	Value Written Off
Bankruptcy / Insolvency	0	0.00
Debt re-instated	0	0.00
Debt relief order	4	8,225.38
Debtor deceased	34	30,882.15
Debtor is residing outside the UK	0	0.00
Debtor untraceable	0	0.00
Imprisonment	1	4,457.42
Other special circumstances	4	3,784.41
Statute barred	16	4,219.46
Uneconomical to recover	9	713.03
Recovery Procedures Exhausted	17	24,652.86
Unable to Substantiate Debt	2	2,869.16
Court has refused to make and order	0	0.00
Balance of debt is small	18	90.97
Total Written Off (Net)	105	79,894.84

Write Off Value Band	No. of Cases	Value Written Off
Less than £100	35	1,008.31
£100.00 to £199.99	6	856.13
£200.00 to £299.99	6	1,529.75
£300.00 to £399.99	3	1,068.74
£400.00 to £499.99	5	2,244.35
£500.00 to £749.99	12	7,667.62
£750.00 to £999.99	7	6,052.15
£1,000.00 to £1,499.99	13	16,089.63
£1,500.00 to £1,999.99	11	19,076.96
£2,000.00 to £2,999.99	3	6,300.57
£3,000.00 to £3,999.99	1	3,258.41
£4,000.00 to £4,999.99	2	8,749.12
Greater than £5,000.00	1	5,993.10
Debt re-instated	0	0.00
Total Written Off (Net)	105	79,894.84

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STRATEGY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18 July 2024

Present: Robertson (Chair), Gawthrop Wood (Vice-Chair), Baigent, Bennett, Bick and Young

Apologies: Councillor Sheil and Mike Todd-Jones

Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources: Councillor S Smith

Recommendation to Council

Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

24/18/S&R Annual Treasury Management (Outturn) Report 2023/24

The Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury report reviewing treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for each financial year.

The report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2021 (the Prudential Code) in respect of 2023/24.

During 2023/24 the minimum requirements were that Council should receive the following reports in respect of treasury management for the financial year:

- i. An annual strategy in advance of the year.
- ii. A mid-year treasury update report; and
- iii. An annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report).

The Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations **unanimously**.

Accordingly, Council is recommended to:

- i. Approve this report, including Council's actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2023/24.

Item

Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Annual Treasury Management (Outturn) Report 2023/24

To:

Councillor Simon Smith, Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

Report by:

Jody Etherington, Chief Finance Officer

Date:

18 July 2024

Wards affected:

(All) Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury report reviewing treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for each financial year.

1.2 This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2021 (the Prudential Code) in respect of 2023/24.

1.3 Council have received the following reports in respect of treasury management for the 2023/24 financial year:-

- an annual strategy in advance of the year;
- a mid-year treasury update report; and

- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report).

1.4 All treasury management reports are presented to both Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee and to full Council.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is asked to recommend:-

2.1 This report to Council, which includes the Council's actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2023/24.

3. Background

3.1 This report summarises:

- capital expenditure and financing activity during the year;
- the impact of capital spending on the Council's 'need to borrow';
- the Council's compliance with prudential and treasury indicators;
- the treasury management position as at 31 March 2024 (Appendix A);
- the Council's treasury management advisors' view on UK interest and investment rates (Appendix B);
- the actual prudential and treasury indicators (Appendix C);
- the counterparty List (Appendix D); and
- a Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations (Appendix E).

4. Capital Expenditure and Financing 2023/24

4.1 The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, developer contributions, revenue contributions, reserves etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or

- if insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply other resources, the funding of capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

4.2 Actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

	2022/23 £'000 Actual	2023/24 £'000 Budget	2023/24 £'000 Actual
General Fund capital expenditure	30,704	66,098	36,543
HRA capital expenditure	65,926	83,859	70,883
Total capital expenditure	96,630	149,957	107,426
Resourced by:			
• Capital receipts	(14,355)	(13,441)	(16,016)
• Other contributions	(64,810)	(79,295)	(65,337)
Total available resources for financing capital expenditure	(79,165)	(92,736)	(81,353)
Financed from cash balances	17,465	57,221	26,073

5. Overall borrowing need and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement

5.1 MRP is the revenue charge that the Council is required to make for the repayment of debt, as measured by the underlying need to borrow, rather than actual debt. The underlying debt is needed to finance capital expenditure which has not been fully financed by revenue or capital resources. As capital expenditure is generally expenditure on assets which have a life expectancy of over one year it is prudent to charge an amount for the repayment of debt over the life of the asset or some similar proxy figure.

5.2 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations require local authorities to calculate for the financial year an amount of MRP which is considered to be 'prudent'.

- 5.3 The Council's MRP policy for 2023/24 was set out in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy agreed by Council on 23 February 2023. In accordance with this policy, the minimum revenue provision charged to the General Fund in 2023/24 was £314,000.
- 5.4 Local authorities are also permitted to make additional Voluntary Revenue Provision charges in order to accelerate the financing of underlying debt and reduce annual MRP charges in the future.
- 5.5 No Voluntary Revenue Provision charges were made during 2023/24. As at 31 March 2024, the cumulative total of Voluntary Revenue Provision charges made in previous years was £9,545,000.
- 5.6 During 2023/24, there was no requirement for external borrowing. Financing of capital expenditure from cash balances of £26,073,000 shown in the above table was met using internal borrowing. This includes amounts lent to the Cambridge Investment Partnership which will be repaid when the relevant housing schemes are completed and amounts relating to the Park Street redevelopment which will be externalised when the agreed loan facility is drawn down (commencing in 2024/25).

6. External Debt as at 31 March 2024

- 6.1 The table below shows the Council's outstanding debt and headroom (the amount of additional borrowing that is possible without breaching the Authorised Borrowing Limit) as at 31 March 2024:

	Principal (£'000)
Authorised Borrowing Limit (A) – agreed by Council on 23 February 2023	550,000
PWLB Borrowing (for HRA Self-Financing, B)	213,572
Headroom (A minus B)	336,428
External borrowing in 2012/13 to 2023/24	NIL
Total current headroom	336,428

6.2 As at 31 March 2024 the only debt held by the authority related to twenty loans from the PWLB for self-financing the HRA.

7. Treasury Position as at 31 March 2024

7.1 The Council's debt and deposit position is managed in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for deposits, and to manage risk in relation to all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through the application of approved Treasury Management Practices and regular reporting to Members.

7.3 The table below provides a comparison of deposit activity and outturn for 2023/24 against 2022/23:

Actual Returns Deposit Type	2023/24		2022/23	
	Average Deposits (£m)	Average Rate of Return	Average Deposits (£m)	Average Rate of Return
Fixed Short-Term (<365 days)	68.24	4.88%	96.82	2.07%
Call/Overnight Accounts	11.85	4.56%	14.05	1.16%
Enhanced Cash Funds	10.00	5.26%	14.53	1.27%
Fixed Long-Term (>365 days)	14.21	3.95%	5.84	2.55%
Money Market Funds	31.17	4.98%	33.09	2.22%
CCLA Local Authorities' Property Fund	14.46	1.38%	15.00	4.04%
Overall Deposit Return	149.93	4.48%	179.33	2.14%

7.4 Total interest on treasury investments and dividends from managed funds of £7.016 million have been earned on the Council's deposits during 2023/24 at an average rate of return of 4.48% (2.14% in 2022/23). (Note that the interest earned does not exactly equal the average rate of return multiplied by the average invested balance, as the rates of return above also take into account fair value movements

on the principal invested where applicable – these movements are reversed out of the General Fund under statutory requirements). This has resulted in an overall over-achievement on the budget of £4.966 million. This was substantially driven by continuing high interest rates and higher cash balances being held on deposit than assumed at the time the budget was set.

7.5 A summary of deposits is shown at Appendix A.

8. Interest Rate Update

8.1 Link Asset Services is the Council's independent treasury advisor. In support of effective forecasting the Council needs to be aware of the potential influence of market interest and investment rates. Link's assessment is presented at Appendix B, and provides an overview of current market conditions as at 31 March 2024 and trends observed in 2023/24.

8.2 The Bank of England's May 2024 Monetary Policy Report also provides additional information on growth, inflation and interest rates. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) noted that high interest rates are continuing to reduce inflation, with CPI reaching 3.2% by March 2024 from a peak of 11.1% in October 2022. However, inflation remained above the 2.0% target, so the MPC felt the time was not yet right to begin cuts to the base rate, which remains at 5.25%. Many commentators are anticipating rate cuts in the second half of the 2024 calendar year.

9. Prudential and Treasury Indicators

9.1 During the financial year the Council operated within the 'authorised' and 'operational' borrowing limits contained within the Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement. The outturn for Prudential and Treasury Indicators is shown in Appendix C.

10. Revisions to the Counterparty List

10.1 Link continues to revise its recommendations on counterparties and appropriate durations. The Council follows Link's recommendations as reflected in the current Counterparty List at Appendix D.

11. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Considerations

11.1 There continues to be considerable interest in the industry regarding how investors can best capture information regarding the extent to which their investment portfolio is consistent with the investor's stated ESG commitments and goals. Resource constraints within the Council have meant that officers have been unable to further develop these ideas into a detailed ESG strategy for Treasury Management. However, this will remain an area of focus moving forward.

12. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

Interest payable and receivable are reflected in the Council's existing budgets and reviewed appropriately.

(b) Staffing Implications

None

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

None

(d) Environmental Implications

None

(e) Procurement Implications

None

(f) Community Safety Implications

None

13. Consultation and communication considerations

None required

14. Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

15. Appendices

Appendix A – Treasury Management position as at 31 March 2024

Appendix B – Link's opinion on UK interest and investment rates

Appendix C – Prudential and Treasury Management indicators

Appendix D – Current Counterparty List

Appendix E – Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

16. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Jody Etherington
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TREASURY MANAGEMENT POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

CURRENT DEPOSITS

The Council's deposits as at 31 March 2024 are shown in the table below:

Counterparty	% Rate	Remaining Duration	Principal (£'000)
Fixed Term Deposits			
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	4.22	4 months	6,000
Aberdeen City Council	5.60	2 months	5,000
Kingston upon Hull City Council	5.75	3 months	5,000
Derby City Council	5.90	3 months	5,000
Blackpool Council	6.30	5 months	5,000
Northumberland County Council	5.55	6 months	5,000
Medway Council	5.85	7 months	5,000
Allia Ltd	2.20	32 months	2,800
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	5.70	6 months	2,500
Total Fixed Term Deposits			41,300
Counterparty	% Rate at 31/3/24	Minimum Duration	Principal (£'000)
Variable Rate Notice Accounts			
Barclays Bank PLC	4.75	Same day	8,891
CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund	4.40	90 days	15,000
Federated Prime Rate Sterling Liquidity 3	5.29	Same day	15,000
Payden Sterling Reserve Fund	N/A*	Same day	5,000
JP Morgan Managed Reserves Fund	N/A*	Same day	5,000
Total Variable Rate Notice Accounts			48,891
TOTAL			90,191

* These are accumulating funds which may also pay dividends periodically.

LINK'S OPINION ON UK INTEREST AND INVESTMENT RATES AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

UK Economy

Against a backdrop of stubborn inflationary pressures, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and war in the Middle East, UK interest rates have continued to be volatile right across the curve, from Bank Rate through to 50-year gilt yields, for all of 2023/24.

Markets have sought an end to central banks' on-going phase of keeping restrictive monetary policy in place on at least one occasion during 2023/24 but to date only the Swiss National Bank has cut rates and that was at the end of March 2024.

UK, EZ and US 10-year yields have all stayed stubbornly high throughout 2023/24. The table below provides a snapshot of the conundrum facing central banks: inflation is easing, albeit gradually, but labour markets remain very tight by historical comparisons, making it an issue of fine judgment as to when rates can be cut.

	UK	Eurozone	US
Bank Rate	5.25%	4%	5.25%-5.5%
GDP	-0.3%q/q Q4 (-0.2%/y/y)	+0.0%q/q Q4 (0.1%/y/y)	2.0% Q1 Annualised
Inflation	3.4%/y/y (Feb)	2.4%/y/y (Mar)	3.2%/y/y (Feb)
Unemployment Rate	3.9% (Jan)	6.4% (Feb)	3.9% (Feb)

The Bank of England sprung no surprises in their March meeting, leaving interest rates at 5.25% for the fifth time in a row and, despite no MPC members no longer voting to raise interest rates, it retained its relatively hawkish guidance. The Bank's communications suggest the MPC is gaining confidence that inflation will fall sustainably back to the 2.0% target. However, although the MPC noted that "the restrictive stance of monetary policy is weighing on activity in the real economy, is leading to a looser labour market and is bearing down on inflationary pressures", conversely it noted that key indicators of inflation persistence remain elevated and policy will be "restrictive for sufficiently long" and "restrictive for an extended period".

Of course, the UK economy has started to perform a little better in Q1 2024 but is still recovering from a shallow recession through the second half of 2023. Indeed, Q4 2023 saw negative GDP growth of -0.3% while y/y growth was also negative at -0.2%.

But it was a strange recession. Unemployment is currently sub 4%, against a backdrop of still over 900k of job vacancies, and annual wage inflation is running at above 5%. With gas and electricity price caps falling in April 2024, the CPI measure of inflation - which peaked at 11.1% in October 2022 - is now due to slide below the 2% target rate in April and to remain below that Bank of England benchmark for the next couple of years, according to Capital Economics. The Bank of England still needs some convincing on that score, but

upcoming inflation and employment releases will settle that argument shortly. It is noted that core CPI was still a heady 4.5% in February and, ideally, needs to fall further.

Shoppers largely shrugged off the unusually wet weather in February, whilst rising real household incomes should support retail activity throughout 2024. Furthermore, the impact of higher interest rates on household interest payments is getting close to its peak, even though fixed rate mortgage rates on new loans have shifted up a little since falling close to 4.5% in early 2024.

From a fiscal perspective, the further cuts to national insurance tax (from April) announced in the March Budget will boost real household disposable income by 0.5 - 1.0%. After real household disposable income rose by 1.9% in 2023, Capital Economics forecast it will rise by 1.7% in 2024 and by 2.4% in 2025. These rises in real household disposable income, combined with the earlier fading of the drag from previous rises in interest rates, means GDP growth of 0.5% is envisaged in 2024 and 1.5% in 2025. The Bank of England is less optimistic than that, seeing growth struggling to get near 1% over the next two to three years.

As for equity markets, the FTSE 100 has risen to nearly 8,000 and is now only 1% below the all-time high it reached in February 2023. The modest rise in UK equities in February was driven by strong performances in the cyclical industrials and consumer discretionary sectors, whilst communications and basic materials have fared poorly.

Despite its performance, the FTSE 100 is still lagging behind the S&P 500, which has been at an all-time high for several weeks.

USA Economy

Despite the markets willing the FOMC to cut rates as soon as June 2024, the continued resilience of the economy, married to sticky inflation, is providing a significant headwind to a change in monetary policy. Markets currently anticipate three rate cuts this calendar year, but two or less would not be out of the question. Currently, policy remains flexible but primarily data driven.

In addition, the Fed will want to shrink its swollen \$16 trillion balance sheet at some point. Just because the \$ is the world's foremost reserve currency (China owns over \$1 trillion) does not mean the US can continually run a budget deficit. The mix of stubborn inflation and significant treasury issuance is keeping treasury yields high. The 10 year stands at 4.4%.

As for inflation, it is currently a little above 3%. The market is not expecting a recession, but whether rates staying high for longer is conducive to a soft landing for the economy is uncertain, hence why the consensus is for rate cuts this year and into 2025...but how many and when?

EZ Economy

Although the Euro-zone inflation rate has fallen to 2.4%, the ECB will still be mindful that it has further work to do to dampen inflation expectations. However, with growth steadfastly in the slow lane (GDP flatlined in 2023), a June rate cut from the current 4% looks probable.

Link Group Interest Rate View		08.01.24											
	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
BANK RATE	5.25	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	4.80	4.30	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6 month ave earnings	5.20	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.70	3.30	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
12 month ave earnings	5.00	4.90	4.40	3.90	3.60	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20
5 yr PWLB	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10 yr PWLB	4.70	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70
25 yr PWLB	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
50 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90

PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

	Actual 2022/23 £'000	Budget¹ 2023/24 £'000	Actual 2023/24 £'000
PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS			
Capital expenditure			
- General Fund	30,704	66,098	36,543
- HRA	65,926	83,859	70,883
Total	96,630	149,957	107,426
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31 March			
- General Fund	54,988	81,240	67,157
- HRA	214,976	239,721	215,136
Total	269,964	320,961	282,293
Change in the CFR ²	(15,654)	51,012	12,329
Deposits at 31 March	164,953	126,495	90,191
External Gross Debt	213,572	238,317	213,572
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream			
-General Fund	(3.93%)	1.16%	(17.73%)
-HRA	12.69%	16.55%	10.09%
Net income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream			
-General Fund	10,809	11,078	10,626
-HRA	431	493	494
% of net revenue stream			
-General Fund	52.82%	41.82%	42.67%
-HRA	0.92%	0.97%	0.96%

1. As per Treasury Management Strategy report (TMSS) to full Council approved on 23 February 2023, after taking into account subsequent reprofiling of capital spend

2. After accounting for MRP charge and other financing of historic capital expenditure

	Actual 2022/23 £'000	Budget¹ 2023/24 £'000	Actual 2023/24 £'000
TREASURY INDICATORS			
Authorised limit			
for borrowing	450,000	550,000	550,000
for other long term liabilities	0	2,000	2,000
Total	450,000	552,000	552,000
Operational boundary			
for external borrowing	341,744	332,461	332,461
for other long term liabilities	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total	343,244	333,961	333,961
Upper limit for total principal sums deposited for over 364 days & up to 5 years	50,000	50,000	50,000
Upper limit for fixed & variable interest rate exposure			
Net interest on fixed rate borrowing/deposits	5,341	5,065	3,600
Net interest on variable rate borrowing/deposits	(163)	(2,258)	(3,122)
Maturity structure of new fixed rate borrowing	Lower Limit		
10 years and above (PWLB borrowing for HRA Reform)	100%	100%	100%

1. As per Treasury Management Strategy report (TMSS) to full Council approved on 23 February 2023.

Appendix D

Current Counterparty List

The full listing of approved counterparties is shown below, showing the category under which the counterparty has been approved, the appropriate deposit limit and current duration limits.

Link Group Colour	Council's Current Deposit Period	Category	Limit (£)
UK Banks and Building Societies: -			
Yellow	60 months	UK Banks and Building Societies	35m
Magenta	60 months	UK Banks and Building Societies	35m
Pink	60 months	UK Banks and Building Societies	35m
Purple	24 months	UK Banks and Building Societies	30m
Blue	12 months	UK Banks and Building Societies	30m
Orange	12 months	UK Banks and Building Societies	30m
Red	6 months	UK Banks and Building Societies	20m
Green	100 days	UK Banks and Building Societies	10m
No Colour	Not recommended	UK Banks and Building Societies	0m

Name	Council's Current Deposit Period	Category	Limit (£)
Specified Investments: -			
All UK Local Authorities	N/A	Local Authority	20m
All UK Passenger Transport Authorities	N/A	Passenger Transport Authority	20m
All UK Police Authorities	N/A	Police Authority	20m
All UK Fire Authorities	N/A	Fire Authority	20m
Debt Management Account Deposit Facility	N/A	DMADF	Unlimited

Name	Council's Current Deposit Period	Category	Limit (£)
Enhanced Cash Funds (Standard & Poor's: AAAf/S1, Fitch: AAA/S1)	Over 3 months and up to 1 year	Financial Instrument	10m (per single counterparty)
Enhanced Money Market Funds (not below AAf) - VNAV	Over 3 months and up to 1 year	Financial Instrument	5m (per fund)
Money Market Funds (AAAf) – CNAV, VNAV & LVNAV	Liquid Rolling Balance	Financial Instrument	15m (per fund) With no maximum limit overall
UK Government Treasury Bills	Up to 6 months	Financial Instrument	15m
Members of a Banking Group	Using Link's Credit Criteria	UK Banks and UK Nationalised Banks	40m
Non-Specified Investments: -			
All UK Local Authorities – longer term limit	Over 1 year and up to 5 years	Local Authority	Up to 35m (in total)
Cambridge City Council Housing (CCHC) Working Capital Loan	Up to 1 year	Loan	200,000
Cherry Hinton Community Benefit Society	Up to 1 year	Loan	50,000
CCHC Investment*	Rolling Balance	Loan (Asset Security)	7,500,000
Cambridge Investment Partnership (Mill Road)*	Rolling Balance	Loan (Asset Security)	17,800,000
Cambridge Investment Partnership (Cromwell Road)*	Rolling Balance	Loan (Asset Security)	48,300,000
Cambridge Investment Partnership (Orchard Park L2)*	Rolling Balance	Loan (Asset Security)	11,529,000
Cambridge Investment Partnership*	Rolling Balance	Loan (Asset Security)	33,940,000
CCLA Local Authorities' Property Fund	Minimum of 5 years	Pooled UK Property Fund	Up to 15m

Name	Council's Current Deposit Period	Category	Limit (£)
Certificates of Deposit (with UK Banking Institutions)	Liquid Rolling Balance	Financial Instrument	See limits above
Certificates of Deposit (with UK Building Societies)	Liquid Rolling Balance	Financial Instrument	See limits above
Certificates of Deposit (with Foreign Banking Institutions)	Liquid Rolling Balance	Financial Instrument	2m (per single counterparty)
Enhanced Cash Funds (Standard & Poor's: AAAs/S1, Fitch: AAAs/S1)	Over 1 year and up to 5 years	Financial Instrument	10m (per single counterparty)
Enhanced Money Market Funds (not below AAf) - VNAV	Over 1 year and up to 5 years	Financial Instrument	5m (per fund)
Commercial Property Investments funded from cash balances	Over 1 year	Commercial Property	25m (in total)
Municipal Bonds Agency	N/A	Pooled Financial Instrument Facility	50,000
Secured Local Bond – Allia Limited	N/A	Local Business Bond	Up to 5m in total
Supranational Bonds – AAA	Using Link's Credit Criteria	Multi-lateral Development Bank Bond	15m
UK Government Gilts	Over 1 year & up to 30 years	Financial Instrument	15m

Note: In addition to the limits above, the total non-specified items over 1 year (**excluding balances with related parties***) will not exceed £50m.

Treasury Management – Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
Authorised Limit for External Borrowing	Represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing
Capital Expenditure	Expenditure capitalised in accordance with regulations i.e. material expenditure either by Government Directive or on capital assets, such as land and buildings, owned by the Council (as opposed to revenue expenditure which is on day to day items including employees' pay, premises costs and supplies and services)
Capital Financing Requirement	A measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need, i.e. it represents the total historical outstanding capital expenditure which has not been paid for from either revenue or capital resources
Certificates of Deposit (CDs)	Low risk certificates issued by banks which offer a higher rate of return
CIP	Cambridge Investment Partnership
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
Corporate Bonds	Financial instruments issued by corporations
Counterparties	Financial institutions with which funds may be placed
Credit Risk	Risk of borrower defaulting on any type of debt by failing to make payments which it is obligated to do
Enhanced Cash Funds	Higher yielding funds typically for investments exceeding 3 months
Eurocurrency	Currency deposited by national governments or corporations in banks outside of their home market
External Gross Debt	Long-term liabilities including Private Finance Initiatives and Finance Leases
Government CNAV	Highly liquid sovereign stock based on a Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV)

Term	Definition
HRA	Housing Revenue Account - a ringfenced account for local authority housing where a council acts as landlord
HRA Self-Financing	A new funding regime for the HRA introduced in place of the previous annual subsidy system
Liquidity	A measure of how readily available a deposit is
Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV)	Highly liquid sovereign stock based on a Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV)
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee - The Bank of England Committee responsible for setting the UK's bank base rate
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	Revenue charge to finance the repayment of debt
Non Ring Fenced Bank (NRFB)	Government and Bank of England rules apply to all UK Banks which have to split their business into 'core' retail and investment units known as Ring and Non Ring Fenced Banks
Non-Specified Investments	These are investments that do not meet the conditions laid down for Specified Investments and potentially carry additional risk, e.g. lending for periods beyond 1 year
Operational Boundary	Limit which external borrowing is not normally expected to exceed
PWLB	Public Works Loans Board - an Executive Government Agency of HM Treasury from which local authorities and other prescribed bodies may borrow at favourable interest rates
Quantitative Easing (QE)	A financial mechanism whereby the Central Bank creates money to buy bonds from financial institutions, which reduces interest rates, leaving businesses and individuals to borrow more. This is intended to lead to an increase in spending, creating more jobs and boosting the economy
Ring Fenced Bank (RFB)	Government and Bank of England rules apply to all UK Banks which have to split their business into 'core' retail and investment units known as Ring and Non Ring Fenced Banks

Term	Definition
Sterling Over Night Index Average (SONIA)	SONIA is a widely used benchmark based on actual transactions and reflects the average of the interest rates that banks pay to borrow sterling overnight from other financial institutions and other institutional investors.
Security	A measure of the creditworthiness of a counter-party
Specified Investments	Those investments identified as offering high security and liquidity. They are also sterling denominated, with maturities up to a maximum of 1 year, meeting the minimum 'high' credit rating criteria where applicable
Supranational Bonds	Multi-lateral Development Bank Bond
UK Government Gilts	Longer term Government securities with maturities over 6 months and up to 30 years
UK Government Treasury Bills	Short term securities with a maximum maturity of 6 months issued by HM Treasury
Variable Net Asset Value	MMF values based on daily market fluctuations to 2 decimal places known as mark-to-market prices
Weighted Average Life (WAL)	Weighted average length of time of unpaid principal
Weighted Average Maturity (WAM)	Weighted average amount of time to maturity
Yield	Interest, or rate of return, on an investment



Item

Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

2023/24 Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances

To:

Councillor Simon Smith, Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

Report by:

Jody Etherington, Chief Financial Officer

Date:

18 July 2024

Wards affected:

(All) Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report presents, for all Portfolios:

- a) A summary of actual income and expenditure compared to the final budget for 2023/24 (outturn position);
- b) Revenue and capital budget variances with explanations;
- c) Specific requests to carry forward funding available from budget underspends into 2024/25.

1.2 The outturn report presented reflects the Executive Portfolios for which budgets were originally approved (which may have changed since, for example for any changes in Portfolio responsibilities).

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources recommends to Council:

- a) To approve carry forward requests totalling £2,959,740 of revenue funding from 2023/24 to 2024/25, as detailed in **Appendix C**. These are carry forward requests in excess of £50k. Requests up to and including £50k which total £153,720 are approved via delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer.
- b) To approve carry forward requests of £19,855,000 of capital resources from 2023/24 to 2024/25 to fund rephased net capital spending, as detailed in **Appendix D**.

3. Background

Revenue Outturn

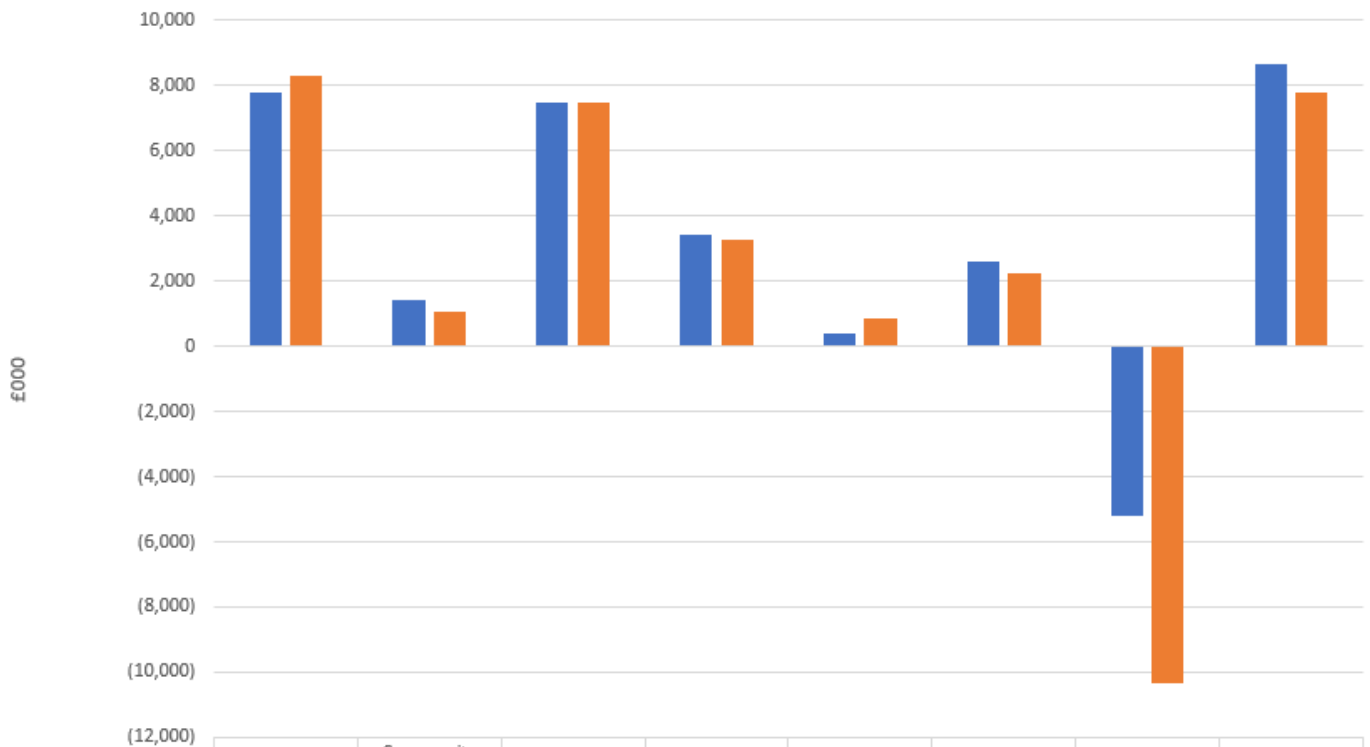
- 3.1 The overall revenue budget outturn position for all Portfolios is given in the table below. Detail, by service grouping, is presented in **Appendix A**.

2022/23 £'000	General Fund Revenue Summary	2023/24 £'000
24,253	Original Budget – Portfolios	25,788
925	Adjustment – Prior Year Carry Forwards	1,568
(5,418)	Other Adjustments	(694)
19,760	Final Budget – Portfolios	26,662
15,875	Outturn – Portfolios	20,655
(3,885)	(Under) / Overspend for the year – Portfolios	(6,007)
556	Carry Forward Requests – Portfolios	440
(3,329)	Net Variance on Portfolios	(5,567)
1,012	Carry Forward Request – Capital Financing	2,673
	Non-portfolio variances:	
(1,012)	Capital Expenditure Financed from Revenue	(2,673)
(3,376)	Other Non-Portfolio Variances*	(112)
47	Variance and (decreased) /increased use of General Fund Reserves	(5,679)

3.2 The original revenue budget for 2023/24 was approved by the Council on 23 February 2023. **Appendix A** shows original and final budgets for the year (with the movements summarised in the above table) and compares the final budget with the outturn position for all Portfolios for 2023/24. The following chart presents this comparison visually.

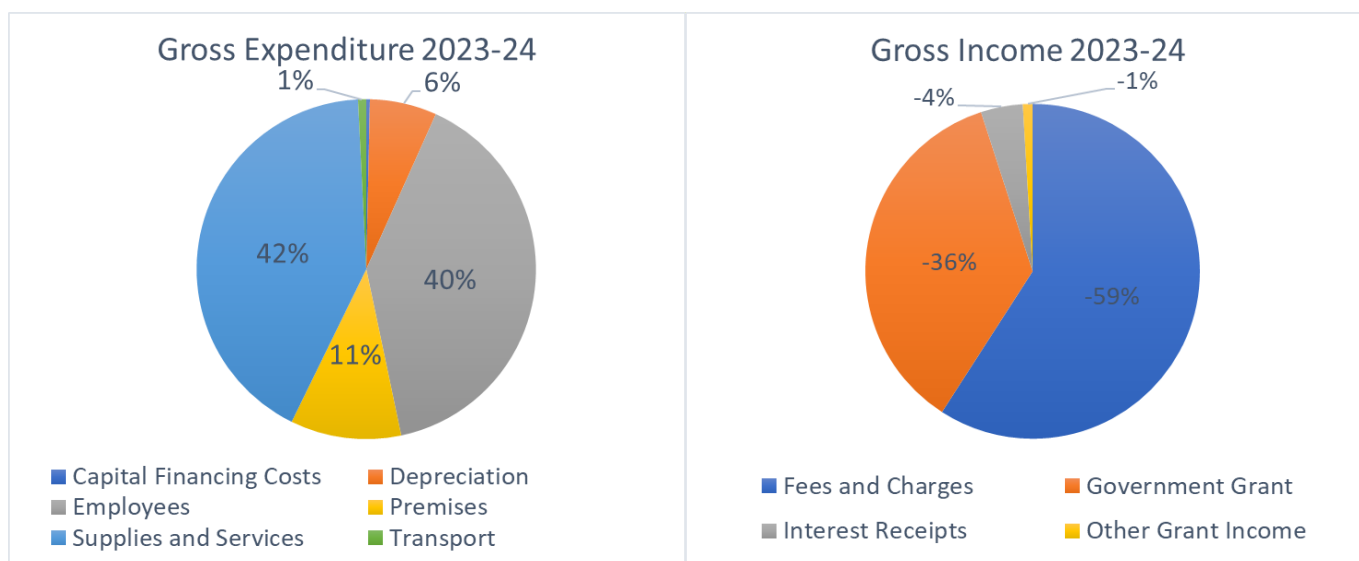
3.3

2023/24 Comparison of budget and outturn by portfolio



	Climate Action and Environment Portfolio	Community Wealth Building and Community Safety Portfolio	Communities Portfolio	Housing (GF) Portfolio	Open Spaces and City Services Portfolio	Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure Portfolio	Finance and Resources Portfolio	The Leader Portfolio
Final Budget 22/23	7,796	1,413	7,507	3,432	405	2,626	(5,197)	8,680
Outturn 22/23	8,291	1,050	7,483	3,263	850	2,241	(10,317)	7,795

3.4 The split of actual expenditure and income received in 2023/24 are shown in the pie charts below



3.5 **Appendix B** provides explanations of the main variances. The final outturn position for the General Fund portfolios is an underspend of £6,007,175 which represents 22.5% of the final net budget. Significant key variances are as follows.

- **Finance General:** Underspend £3,744k – This is mainly due to a substantial increase in interest earned as a result of sustained higher interest rates and higher than anticipated cash balances to invest.
- **Other Industrial Properties:** Underspend £464k. This is due to the receipt of backdated rental income.
- **Central Provisions to be allocated:** Underspend £457k. This is largely due to budget adjustments held centrally where unfavourable variances may exist elsewhere, and for support services costs which have not been fully allocated.
- **Corn Exchange and Guildhall Cultural Services and Events:** Underspend £279k. This is due to vacancies in year, and overachievement of income on external ticket sales and bar sales at the Corn Exchange.
- **Salary budgets:** Although any significant variances within General Fund salary budgets are included in Appendix B within cost centre variance explanations, the table below shows the overall position of permanent and temporary staffing budgets for 2023/24 for information. Permanent staff costs in the table include basic pay, National Insurance and pension budgets.

	Budget 2023/24	Actual 2023/24	Variance	%
	(£'000's)	(£'000's)	(£'000's)	Variance
Employee costs – All GF cost centres (including support services)				
Permanent Staff	32,508	29,982	(2,526)	(7.8%)
Temporary Staff	1,146	3,013	1,867	162.9%
Total	33,654	32,995	(659)	(2.0%)

3.6 **Appendix C** lists revenue carry forward requests.

Capital Outturn

3.7 The overall capital budget outturn position for all Portfolios is given in the table below. **Appendix D** shows the outturn position by scheme and programme with explanations of variances.

2022/23 £'000	General Fund Portfolio Capital Summary	2023/24 £'000	% Final Budget
121,661	Final Budget	65,096	100.0
29,278	Outturn	35,319	54.3
(92,383)	Variation - (Under)/Overspend for the year	(29,777)	(45.7)
81,444	Rephasing Requests	19,855	30.5
(10,940)	Net variance	(9,922)	(15.2)

3.8 The main requests for rephasing of budgets are as follows:

- Loans to CIP to purchase land south of Cambridge (£6,777k) – where the project has been hindered due to the delays in the planning application process.
- Sustainable Warmth Grant – Home Upgrade Grant 2 (£3,520k) – project is in progress and all money spent will be reclaimed from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- WREN solar project at Waterbeach (£1,389k) – Revaluation of project following change in design resulting in delay.

General Fund Reserves

3.9 The table below sets out the movement on the General Fund reserve:

	2023/24 £'000
Original Budget – Contribution to General Fund reserves	(8,332)
Adjustment – Prior Year Carry Forwards	1,568
Transfer Budget for the Greater Cambridge Impact Fund as per S & R July 2023	200
Transfer Budget for the Climate Change Fund as per S & R July 2023	80
Transfer Budget for the Place group staffing approvals S & R July 2023	218
Transfer budget to cover the costs of the Senior Management review	267
Transfer of budget for pay award – MTFS November 2023	651
Capital financing GF reserve adjustment	387
Final Budget – Contribution to General Fund reserves	(4,961)
Net Variance for the Year	(5,679)
Add Back Carry Forwards (to be recognised in 2024/25)	(3,113)
Total contribution to General Fund Reserves – Appendix A	(13,754)
General Fund Balance at 1 April 2023	(28,061)
General Fund Balance at 31 March 2024	(41,815)

- 3.10 The final budget for 2023/24 included a net contribution to General Fund reserves of £4,961k. Due to variances in year, the actual contribution is £13,754k, which will increase the General Fund balance to £41,815k at 31 March 2024.
- 3.11 However, it should be noted that £3,113k of this amount will be required to fund the specific carry forward requests set out within this report, should they be approved. In addition, the Council has made further commitments as part of 2024/25 budget setting to set aside £22,837k of General Fund reserves for specific purposes in 2024/25, including the transfer of £20 million to the Civic Quarter reserve. This means the actual unallocated General Fund balance as at 31 March 2024 is £15,865k.

4. Implications

- 4.1 A decision not to approve a carry forward request may impact on officers' ability to deliver the service or scheme in question and this could have financial, staffing, equality and poverty, environmental, procurement or community safety implications.

(a) Financial Implications

Any financial implications are included in the Appendices.

(b) Staffing Implications

Any staffing implications are included in the Appendices.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

Any equality and poverty implications are included in the Appendices.

(d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Any net zero carbon, climate change and environmental implications are included in the Appendices.

(e) Procurement Implications

Any procurement implications are included in the Appendices.

(f) Community Safety Implications

Any community safety Implications are included in the Appendices.

5. Consultation and communication considerations

Public consultations are undertaken throughout the year and can be seen at:

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/consultations>

6. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Closedown Working Files 2023/24
- Managers Variance Explanations – March 2024
- Budgetary Control Reports to 31 March 2024
- Capital Monitoring Reports – March 2024

7. Appendices

The following items, where applicable, are included for discussion:

Appendix		Included
A	General Fund Revenue Summary	✓
B	General Fund Revenue Major Variances for all portfolios	✓
C	General Fund Carry Forward Requests for all portfolios	✓
D	Capital Summary plus individual portfolio summaries	✓

8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Authors' Names: Karen Whyatt
Authors' Phone Numbers: 01223 - 458145
Authors' Emails: karen.whyatt@cambridge.gov.uk

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General Fund Overview Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Revenue Budget 2023/24 - Outturn

Portfolio / Service Grouping	Original Budget 23/24 £	Final Budget 23/24 £	Outturn 23/24 £	Variation Increase / (Decrease) £	Carry Forward Requests - See Appendix C £	Net Variance £
Climate Action and Environment Portfolio						
Environmental Health	2,251,160	2,163,540	2,059,160	(104,380)	0	(104,380)
Garage Services	235,300	293,020	646,695	353,675	0	353,675
Licensing	0	0	255,582	255,582	0	255,582
Licensing - Transfer to earmarked reserves	0	0	(97,668)	(97,668)	0	(97,668)
Head of Environmental Services - Environmental Services &	0	9,350	9,398	48	0	48
Markets & Street Trading	(416,180)	(441,950)	(306,624)	135,326	0	135,326
Streets and Open Spaces	(267,210)	2,873,350	2,831,593	(41,757)	0	(41,757)
Waste & Recycling	3,077,150	2,899,090	2,892,957	(6,133)	0	(6,133)
Total Climate Action and Environment Portfolio	4,880,220	7,796,400	8,291,093	494,693	0	494,693
Community Wealth Building and Community Safety Portfolio						
Community Safety	610,380	797,950	617,655	(180,295)	0	(180,295)
Voluntary Sector	177,670	253,230	236,618	(16,612)	0	(16,612)
Central Services	0	361,700	195,545	(166,155)	103,280	(62,875)
Tourism & City Centre R	176,390	0	0	0	0	0
Total Community Wealth Building and Community Safety Portfolio	964,440	1,412,880	1,049,818	(363,062)	103,280	(259,782)
Communities Portfolio						
Children and Youth	536,340	0	160,224	160,224	0	160,224
Community Centres	1,244,100	1,340,200	1,594,977	254,777	0	254,777
Community Development	1,331,640	1,443,700	1,304,597	(139,103)	25,000	(114,103)
Community Safety	0	2,290	2,294	4	0	4
Culture & Community	1,499,600	1,948,440	1,713,453	(234,987)	0	(234,987)
Sport & Recreation	2,765,420	2,742,250	2,677,175	(65,075)	0	(65,075)
Voluntary Sector	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0	0
Total Communities Portfolio	7,407,100	7,506,880	7,482,720	(24,160)	25,000	840
Housing (GF) Portfolio						
General Fund Housing	2,695,440	2,220,780	1,917,888	(302,892)	14,160	(288,732)
Environmental Health	410,970	513,020	558,042	45,022	0	45,022
Head of Environmental Services - Housing (GF)	0	(23,420)	(23,420)	0	0	0
Licensing	0	0	102,909	102,909	0	102,909
Homelessness	686,140	721,640	707,389	(14,251)	0	(14,251)
Total Housing (GF) Portfolio	3,792,550	3,432,020	3,262,808	(169,212)	14,160	(155,052)
Open Spaces and City Services Portfolio						
Bereavement Services	(676,010)	(690,010)	(112,812)	577,198	0	577,198
Bereavement - Transfer to earmarked reserves	0	0	(592,330)	(592,330)	0	(592,330)
Open Space Management	270	(21,860)	(21,858)	2	0	2
Parking Services	(2,815,260)	(3,126,440)	(3,121,558)	4,882	0	4,882
Streets and Open Spaces	7,885,340	4,243,800	4,698,737	454,937	0	454,937
Total Open Spaces and City Services Portfolio	4,394,340	405,490	850,179	444,689	0	444,689
Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure Portfolio						
Central Services	248,250	212,810	190,276	(22,534)	0	(22,534)
Development	91,200	91,190	91,484	294	0	294
Planning	2,100,920	2,022,460	1,574,179	(448,281)	0	(448,281)
Streets and Open Spaces	(117,300)	299,250	384,974	85,724	0	85,724
Total Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure Portfolio	2,323,070	2,625,710	2,240,913	(384,797)	0	(384,797)
Finance and Resources Portfolio						
Admin Buildings	45,980	39,610	14,378	(25,232)	0	(25,232)
Central Services	640,890	6,860,560	6,510,967	(349,593)	48,710	(300,883)
Customer Service	(21,710)	0	0	0	0	0
Finance General	(1,407,080)	(7,384,160)	(11,151,372)	(3,767,212)	0	(3,767,212)
Human Resources	18,970	0	2,718	2,718	0	2,718
Legal Services	(10)	0	0	0	0	0
Property Services - Other	(422,100)	(347,960)	(456,239)	(108,279)	0	(108,279)
Property Services - Properties	(6,822,740)	(6,733,100)	(7,463,737)	(730,637)	85,000	(645,637)
Revenues and Benefits	2,278,450	2,367,710	2,226,272	(141,438)	0	(141,438)
Total Finance, Resources and Transformation Portfolio	(5,689,350)	(5,197,340)	(10,317,013)	(5,119,673)	133,710	(4,985,963)

Portfolio / Service Grouping	Original Budget 23/24 £	Final Budget 23/24 £	Outturn 23/24 £	Variation Increase / (Decrease) £	Carry Forward Requests - See Appendix C £	Net Variance £
The Leader Portfolio						
Central Services	5,342,850	6,167,430	5,533,586	(633,844)	0	(633,844)
Chief Executives	0	0	(15,052)	(15,052)	0	(15,052)
Corporate Strategy	263,320	139,410	0	(139,410)	0	(139,410)
Democratic Services	504,710	538,420	638,485	100,065	0	100,065
Development	175,040	225,190	106,655	(118,535)	118,480	(55)
Strategic Director 1 - Strategy & Transformation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Voluntary Sector	1,429,610	1,609,860	1,530,983	(78,877)	45,850	(33,027)
Total The Leader Portfolio	7,715,530	8,680,310	7,794,657	(885,653)	164,330	(721,323)
Total for all Portfolios	25,787,900	26,662,350	20,655,175	(6,007,175)	440,480	(5,566,695)
Capital Accounting Adjustments	(6,336,490)	(5,721,370)	(5,793,498)	(72,128)	0	(72,128)
Capital Expenditure Financed from Revenue	1,570,000	2,873,780	200,795	(2,672,985)	2,672,980	(5)
Contributions to Earmarked Funds	995,450	8,542,990	8,624,990	82,000	0	82,000
Contributions to/(from) Reserves	8,332,000	4,961,250	13,754,082	8,792,832	(3,113,460)	5,679,372
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	(3,839,930)	(4,892,540)	(5,565,893)	(673,353)	0	(673,353)
	721,030	5,764,110	11,220,476	5,456,366	(440,480)	5,015,886
Net Spending Requirement	26,508,930	32,426,460	31,875,651	(550,809)	0	(550,809)
Financed By:						
Settlement Funding Assessment	(4,591,260)	(4,568,130)	(4,568,131)	(1)	0	(1)
New Homes Bonus	(53,480)	(53,480)	(53,476)	4	0	4
Locally Retained Business Rates – Growth Element/additional income	(7,400,000)	(6,347,190)	(6,530,430)	(183,240)	0	(183,240)
Other Government Grants	(4,633,520)	(4,656,120)	(3,919,428)	736,692	0	736,692
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	0	(6,970,880)	(6,970,871)	9	0	9
Council Tax	(9,830,670)	(9,830,660)	(9,833,315)	(2,655)	0	(2,655)
Total Financing	(26,508,930)	(32,426,460)	(31,875,651)	550,809	0	550,809
Net Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Changes between original and final budgets may be made to reflect:

- portfolio and departmental restructuring
- approved budget carry forwards from the previous financial year
- technical adjustments, including changes to the capital accounting regime
- virements approved under the Council's constitution
- additional external revenue funding not originally budgeted

and are detailed and approved:

- in the January committee cycle (as part of the Budget-Setting Report, BSR)
- in the June/July committee cycle (outturn reporting and carry forward requ
- in September (as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, MTFS)
- via technical adjustments/virements throughout the year

Climate Action and Environment Portfolio

Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Major variances (>£50k) from final revenue budgets

Service Grouping	Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £	Contact
Garage Services	Fleet Management - Operational	Overspend on agency and overtime £97k due to difficulty in recruiting. The posts are now all filled so this will improve in the next financial year. Overspend of £32k on urgent training of all the fitters on the workshops diagnostic machine to retain customers. Additional overspends on electricity (£9k) and heating oil (£12k) and on purchase of tools and equipment are the main reasons for the overspend	173,456	Peter Birch
Garage Services	Garage- External Work	The variance is largely due to an underachievement of income. There is an aging Council fleet as vehicles are no longer replaced after 7 years which means there is limited capacity for private work. One of our main customers are now using a competitor to provide maintenance for 12 vehicles reducing income. Another main customer replaced the majority of their refuse fleet and newer vehicles require less maintenance so this will be an ongoing concern for the next few years. Options for replacing that income are being reviewed.	227,240	Peter Birch
Markets & Street Trading	Markets	Reduction in Market income of £119k, 33% increase in Ground Rent for All Saints Garden (£5k) and unbudgeted Legal Fees (£10k) for tribunal costs. Overspent on tools & equipment of £18k for drains & canopies. Refuse costs have increased by £6k. There have been other minor underspends in the cost centre which help to reduce the overspend.	113,332	Tim Jones
	Other Variances		(123,894)	
Adjustments for the allocation of actual recharges			104,559	
Total variance Climate Action and Environment Portfolio			494,693	

Community Wealth Building and Community Safety Portfolio

Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Major variances (>£50k) from final revenue budgets

Service Grouping	Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £	Contact
Community Safety	CCTV	Net outturn variance is £108k underspend. £55k underspend is related to the historical unalignment of budget. We addressed this in the 24/25 BSR by savings bid S5227. £53k underspend due to increased income and fees and underspend on maintenance and installation costs.	(108,343)	James Elms
Central Services	Economic Development	The variance relates to spend against the Greater Cambridge Impact Fund and is subject to a carry forward request. The remaining budget will need to cover the Director salary and costs for next financial year. All costs have been approved by the GCI Board. The overspend on salaries was not budgeted for. This will impact the carry forward request and reduce the amount due to the guidance requiring overspends to be covered first. This will be mitigated in the Cost Centre budget for 2024/25.	(103,280)	Jemma Little
		Other Variances	(33,409)	
		Adjustments for the allocation of actual recharges	(118,030)	
		Total variance Community Wealth Building and Community Safety Portfolio	(363,062)	

Communities Portfolio

Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Major variances (>£50k) from final revenue budgets

Service Grouping	Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £	Contact
Community Centres	The Meadows Community Centre	Reduced income due to a prolonged opening period with limited hiring opportunities for the first three months. The car park has not been operational due to equipment issues, further reducing income. However we are now consistently meeting our monthly hire income targets. Business rates for the new centre are almost twice that of the old centre. Electricity costs are much higher than we had budgeted.	53,411	Richard Brown
Community Centres	Clay Farm Community Centre	Mechanical and electrical planned preventative maintenance costs have increased due to replacing items in the communal heating system, chiller units and upgrades to the evacuation lifts. Now that this work is complete costs are expected to return to budgeted levels for 24/25. Whilst we make recharges to the other leaseholders where possible, we are not able to disperse all of these additional costs to leaseholders.	60,087	Richard Brown
Sport & Recreation	Leisure Contract Client Costs	Less than expected spend on consultancy, water charges and purchase of equipment	(99,186)	Ian Ross
Head of Community Services - Communities	Communities Director	The overspend is due to the cost of agency staff to cover the interim period before the appointment of the Director of Communities	51,887	Sam Scharf
Culture & Community	Corn Exchange and Guildhalls Cultural Services and Events	The Corn Exchange saw an underspend due to staffing gaps, resulting in lower salary expenses. We had increased surplus in other areas, notably external ticket sales and the CX bar sales	(278,689)	Thomas Thurbon
Culture & Community	Folk Festival Cultural Services and Events	The predicted income on ticket sales was not achieved. The weather forecast was poor in the run up to the weekend resulting in lower late sales. Cost of living crisis was also a factor - we had not long seen an increase in fuel prices and predictions of further increases later in the year. The wider music industry is still in recovery post Covid and as such we have seen much higher price increases. Estimated costs went up due to unforeseen issues on site. There was additional pressure on the toilet system which resulted in issues that needed to be resolved immediately. Work is being done to overcome the low ticket sales in future. The marketing team are increasing the output email campaigns as it continues to prove to be the most effective and direct marketing channel and continues to provide the most return in investment. With the increase volume in emails, they are segmenting their emails with the focused segments as follows- Longstanding festival goers/ Families (30-40s)/ Residents/ Geotargeted campaigns/ Targeting specific Corn Exchange bookers with a history of crossover folk prefers and previous and current Folk Festival artists.	75,277	Rebecca Stewart
	Other Variances		(36,107)	
	Adjustments for the allocation of actual recharges		149,160	
	Total variance Communities Portfolio		(24,160)	

Housing (GF) Portfolio

Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Major variances (>£50k) from final revenue budgets

Service Grouping	Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £	Contact
Licensing	Miscellaneous Licensing Housing Portfolio	The salary spend that was allocated to this service was greater than the licensing income received. Accounting conventions mean that deficits cannot be allocated to an earmarked reserve unless there are funds available on the balance sheet. Work is currently being undertaken to review the allocations of salaries and other spend that we can recover by licence fees.	103,316	Claire Adelizzi
Homelessness	Homelessness Costs	This variance is due to the large costs we have experienced for legal fees as a result of homelessness decision challenges.	61,586	Simon Hunt
General Fund Housing	Housing Advice Service	Grant income received to contribute towards homelessness activities being carried out by staff. There have also been a number of vacancies in 2023/24. All posts are being filled, but as temporary resource was not deployed to cover the vacancies, this has resulted in an underspend to report at year end.	(172,692)	Simon Hunt
	Other Variances		(24,315)	
Adjustments for the allocation of actual recharges			(137,107)	
Total variance Housing (GF) Portfolio			(169,212)	

Open Spaces and City Services Portfolio

Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Major variances (>£50k) from final revenue budgets

Service Grouping	Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £	Contact
Parking Services	Grafton Centre East Car Park	Reduction in footfall figures at this shopping centre due to gradual closedown of most of shopping centre and change of use. Corresponding reduction in car park usage and income. Usage and revenue to be closely monitored and budgets reviewed in light of shopping centre closedown	63,207	Daniel Morgan
Streets and Open Spaces	Open Space Development	£30k overspend in consultancy for accurate costing for Growth Sites, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Ecological Records Centre & Cherry Hinton Caravan Club bank stability report, £23k spend on Enforcement Costs, £12k underachievement of advertising income.	65,251	Alistair Wilson
Streets and Open Spaces	Development Unit Salaries	£17k overspend on overtime & the remainder of the overspend is due to a lack of turnover in the team so the turnover allowance budget has not been achieved.	59,010	Alistair Wilson
Streets and Open Spaces	Operations Unit Salaries	£28k spend on a redundancy payment and the remainder of the overspend is due to a lack of turnover and agency staff being used when there are gaps so turnover allowance budget is not being achieved.	50,615	Don Blair
	Other Variances		121,073	
	Adjustments for the allocation of actual recharges		85,533	
	Total variance Open Spaces and City Services Portfolio		444,689	

Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure Portfolio

Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Major variances (>£50k) from final revenue budgets

Service Grouping	Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £	Contact
Planning	Building Control	The underspend within 3CBC was a result of careful management of a vacant post plus savings made through efficient delivery of services and service expenditure. Also a review of the fee earnings and non-fee earning formula has resulted in an underspend of £120k for each partner Council	(120,155)	Steve Fulcher
Planning	Greater Cambridge Planning Service	The end of year position has continued on its trajectory of an underspend of £243k. This is due to additional fee income from major site applications and the planning performance agreements/pre-apps transformation. This has resulted in more streamlined workflows, and packages which has increased income. In addition Central Government increased the statutory fees in December 2023. The service operates a continuous improvement model by all of the team and the managers and this has also resulted in a more effective and efficient service.	(243,780)	Stephen Kelly
Streets and Open Spaces	Project Delivery	£73k underachieved on recharging of project officer salaries. This is due to an outdated historical income target that has not been adjusted for changes in operating environment (e.g. structure, role and staffing changes, capital programme) and that has also had a circa 5% inflation increase applied annually since. Identify what realistic income target should be as City Services restructures (City Operations 2).	72,732	John Richards
	Other Variances		(32,721)	
Adjustments for the allocation of actual recharges			(60,873)	
Total variance Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure Portfolio			(384,797)	

Finance and Resources

Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Major variances (>£50k) from final revenue budgets

Service Grouping	Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £	Contact
Central Services	Assets & Property Assistant Director	The variance is due to the cost of interim cover pending a decision regarding the permanent recruitment to the lead of the Place Group.	51,865	Philip Taylor
Customer Service	Customer Access Strategy - Customer Service Centre	The reason for the overspend is threefold. A security guard was employed from September 2023 in response to a series of incidents in reception. This post was not budgeted for. ICT licenses increased over the budget allocation for these. The third factor in the overspend is the staff turnover budget deduction for customer services has not been achieved, consideration of an in year revenue bid will be made as the unbudgeted cost of the security guard will continue into 2024 - 2025	52,846	Clarissa Norman
Central Services	Central Provisions to be Allocated	This cost centre is used primarily for adjustments to budgets during budget setting and in-year. As a result, budgets on this code will vary from year to year.	(457,405)	Karen Whyatt
Property Services - Properties	Other Commercial Properties	The variance is primarily due to a minor over achievement of rental income - £28k, an underspend on consultancy fees -£24k and an unspent budget of £20k due to a delay in the progression of the Mill Lane Boathouse feasibility scheme for which a carry forward of budget to the 2024/25 financial year is requested.	(82,800)	Philip Taylor
Property Services - Properties	Other Industrial Properties	The main variance is due to the receipt of backdated rental income following the completion of rent reviews and ground rent reconciliations (for which we receive a percentage of income, but the properties are managed by others).	(464,342)	Philip Taylor
Property Services - Properties	4 Cyrus Way, Cygnet Park, Peterborough	The variance is primarily due to an unspent one-off budget of £65k for 4 Cyrus Way that has been ringfenced to be paid as a leasing incentive to a new tenant or for repairs to be undertaken. The carry forward of budget will assist with the re-letting of a void unit. A budget of £65k has been requested to be carried forward to the 2024/25 financial year.	(71,854)	Philip Taylor
Property Services - Other	GF Asset Management	The variance is due to a delay in the recruitment to the Retrofit Project Manager and Retrofit Project Officer (both General Fund) posts. Recruitment process has now commenced.	(70,410)	Will Barfield
Revenues and Benefits	Rent Allowances & Rent Rebates	The variance is primarily due to net subsidy differences of £217k (following submission of the final subsidy claim to the DWP) within overall expenditure of £28.579 million. The variance is partly offset by a positive variance of £86k with respect to the recovery of benefit overpayment from claimants that are no longer claiming benefit.	132,133	Naomi Armstrong
Finance General	Finance General	Includes £2.911m overachievement of treasury management interest income due to persistent high interest rates and higher than forecast cash balances following capital slippage. Also includes overachievement of interest income from CIP of £522k, and underspend of £281k on borrowing costs as capital slippage has meant the need to borrow which was anticipated in 2023/24 had not yet arisen."	(3,743,987)	Mathew Crosby
Central Services	Insurance Fund	The net underspend is due to lower than expected insurance claims.	(72,603)	Mark Pye
Central Services	Corporate Business Support	Underspend mainly due to a vacant post. Currently under review. In 2024 - 2025 10 months salary (to include pension and NI) to be transferred to the Communications Team to fund an ongoing Web Officer post until June 2025. A further review of the vacant post budget will take place after that.	(63,100)	Sharon Line
Central Services	IT Contract Costs	Shared Service underspend is £164k (of which Nutanix software £85k underspend), unused accrual from 22/23 estimated outturn £24k, unaligned budget due to 23/24 BSR inflation rate higher than HDC MTFS is £100k, Mandela House rent underspend is £5k, Business case and non-business case contingency (City only) for unexpected disaster recovery etc is £152k underspend, miscellaneous revenue projects withdrawn/delayed is £85k underspend. After 3C ICT service review and finalisation of cost saving agreement for 24/25 (and potentially 25/26), to streamline budget and remove inefficiencies from it for example unaligned budget due to inflation rate difference between City and HDC.	(530,176)	Michelle Lord
Central Services	Business Support - Centralised Overheads	Mainly due to underspend on postage (as a result of new contract and systems introduced), and office supplies / stationery.	(71,647)	Sharon Line
	Other Variances		(547,245)	
	Adjustments for the allocation of actual recharges		819,051	
	Total variance Finance and Resources Portfolio		(5,119,673)	

The Leader

Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Major variances (>£50k) from final revenue budgets

Service Grouping	Cost Centre	Reason for Variance	Amount £	Contact
Central Services	Emergency Planning	Notably, the variance in spending is primarily attributed to three key areas: staff salaries, consultancy fees, and purchase of equipment. • Staff Salaries: The budget allocation was based on hiring for a position at a higher salary scale. However, the post was filled at a lower scale point than anticipated, leading to a significant underspend in this category. • Consultancy Fees: Our expenditure on consultancy services was less than expected. This reduction is a result of more efficient internal management and a decreased necessity for external consultancy inputs. The majority of the costs are consumed in the first quarter for each financial year. • Purchase of Equipment: There was a reduction in spending on equipment, which contributed to the overall underspend. This occurred due to scaled-back office upgrades and the repurposing of existing furnishings. Its important to note also that there has been a substantial overachievement in recovering costs from other local authorities. This success is largely due to enhanced partnership working within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF), and increased work with SCDC being on a 4 day week which has proven both effective and economically beneficial to us.	(51,988)	Dean Feast
Development	Cambridge Northern Fringe East (CNFE)	The refined programme to enable the Area Action Plan to be better aligned to the Development Consent Order and Local plan processes and resource capacity has meant a delay to the progress on the Core site development to 2023/4. The funding carried over is for project management, legal costs and community engagement.	(118,485)	Fiona Bryant
	Other Variances		256,768	
	Adjustments for the allocation of actual recharges		(720,139)	
	Total variance The Leader Portfolio		(633,844)	

Cost Centre	Portfolio	Variance position of cost centre (underspend)/overspend at 31/3/24. Prior to carry forward	Cost Centre Description	Final Carry Forward Request £	Cost Centre Contact	Comments
1227	Community Wealth Building and Community Safety	(103,280)	Economic Development	103,280	Jemma Little	A £200,000 budget was agreed at Strategy and Resources in July 2023 and confirmed by the Council to cover the start up costs of the Greater Cambridge Impact Fund with the accompanying committee report covering an indicative 12 month budget making it clear that the costs were always envisaged to be incurred across 23/24 and 24/25 and that they include the appointment of an Executive Director for the Fund. This post was filled at the end of January 24 with a 12 month interim contract and the remaining budget will be used to cover the Exec Director's salary costs and other set up costs in 24/25, ahead of the Fund closing/securing the investment required and to cover ongoing management costs. This budget therefore needs to be carried forward in line with the council's commitment / decision in July and not doing so would be extremely damaging to the future of the Fund and the council's reputation.
1776	Finance and Resources	(71,854)	4 Cyrus Way, Cygnet Park, Peterborough	65,000	Philip Taylor	The carry forward request is in respect of an unspent one-off budget of £65,000 for 4 Cyrus Way that has been ringfenced to be paid as a leasing incentive to a new tenant or for repairs to be undertaken. The carry forward of budget will assist with the re-letting of a void unit.
2006	Finance and Resources	(2,672,983)	Project Plan Expenditure Charged to Revenue	2,672,980	Karen Whyatt	A request to carry forward unused budget for capital financing in 2024/25
1454	The Leader	(118,485)	Cambridge Northern Fringe East (CNFE)	118,480	Fiona Bryant	The refined programme to enable the Area Action Plan to be better aligned to the Development Consent Order and Local plan processes and resource capacity has meant a delay to the progress on the Core site development to 2023/4. The funding carried over is for project management, legal costs and community engagement.
				2,959,740	Total Carry Forwards	

Overview Capital Budget Outturn 2023/24

Appendix D

Portfolio	Original Budget	Final Budget	Outturn	Variance -	Rephase	Over / (Under)
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	compared to	Budget	Spend
	£000's	£000's	£000's	Final Budget	2024/25	£000's
				£000's	£000's	£000's
Climate Action and Environment	10,182	10,392	3,982	(6,410)	6,392	(18)
Communities Portfolio	3,258	3,793	1,978	(1,815)	1,776	(39)
Open Spaces and City Services	4,814	4,607	1,253	(3,354)	3,363	9
Housing (GF) Portfolio	472	472	488	16	24	40
Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	931	931	159	(772)	772	0
Finance and Resources Portfolio	39,491	44,901	27,438	(17,463)	7,528	(9,935)
Community Wealth Building and Community Safety	0	0	21	21	0	21
Total Portfolios	59,148	65,096	35,319	(29,777)	19,855	(9,922)

Changes between original and final budgets may be made to reflect:

- rephased capital spend from the previous financial year
- rephased capital spend into future financial periods
- approval of new capital programmes and projects

and are detailed and approved:

- in the June/July committee cycle (outturn reporting and carry forward requests)
- in September (as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, MTFS)
- in the January committee cycle (as part of the Budget-Setting Report, BSR)
- via technical adjustments/virements throughout the year

Capital Budget 2023/24 - Outturn

Capital Ref	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget 2023/24 £'000's	Final Budget 2023/24 £'000's	Outturn 2023/24 £'000's	Variance - Outturn compared to Final Budget £'000's	Rephase Spend 2024/25 £'000's	Over / (Under) Spend £'000's	Variance Explanation
100023 - PR035	Waste & Recycling Bins - New Developments (S106)	Bode Esan	0	210	37	(173)	173	0	S106 Contribution budget towards waste and recycling bin costs for new developments. It was underspent because of lower-than-planned drawdown and bin distribution. Rephase budget to 24-25.
Total Programmes			0	210	37	(173)	173	0	
100112 - SC645	Electric vehicle charging points - taxis	Jo Dicks	86	86	0	(86)	86	0	Final 2 sites are work in progress. Rephase remaining budget to 24/25
100280 - SC713	Replacement air quality monitoring equipment	Justin Smith	200	200	83	(117)	117	0	This project is still in progress and remaining budget needs to be rephased to 24/25
100282 - SC715	Additional refuse vehicle for property growth shared with SCDC	Bode Esan	420	420	0	(420)	420	0	Deferred until further along in the capital programme. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100292 - SC724	Residential electric charging points	Jo Dicks	60	60	0	(60)	60	0	County Pilot project complete but the remaining budget is currently uncommitted. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100332 - SC758	Charging infrastructure for electric vehicles - Cambridge City council only	Bode Esan	50	50	10	(40)	0	(40)	Outturn spend is on equipment necessary to charge electric vehicles. No further expenditure is predicted necessary.
100346 - SC772	Market Square project	Sarah French	214	214	44	(170)	170	0	Balance of budget required to meet spend requirements identified for the repair of the heritage elements in the Market Square which is to be undertaken this year. Delayed due to outstanding advice from conservation officer and preparation of specification by appointed heritage specialist. Specialist contractors and current costs being sought with procurement options requested to decide best delivery pathway. Listed Building Consent required. Intention to carry out repairs in 2024-25 financial year. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100368 - SC797	Waste - electric replacement vehicles	Bode Esan	970	970	564	(406)	406	0	Late delivery from manufacturer of a further electric vehicle - due to be delivered in Q1 of 2024/25. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100374 - SC803	Market Square electrics upgrade	Sarah French	52	52	1	(51)	51	0	Balance of budget required to undertake two identified stages of work. Urgent works for health and safety followed by work to enable increased capacity, enable lighting system and mechanism for introduction of PAYG charging at stalls. Brief to be developed with newly identified contractor who has experience in dealing with outside installations. Currently awaiting costs for first stage of urgent repairs that are required for health and safety reasons. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100397 - SC828	WREN solar project at Waterbeach	Bode Esan	1,493	1,493	104	(1,389)	1,389	0	There was a change in the design and construction team for WREN and so the project was re-validated which ultimately delayed the project which is now at the pre-tender stage for design and construction. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100401 - SC831	Sustainable Warmth Grant - Home Upgrade Grant 2	Justin Smith	4,500	4,500	980	(3,520)	3,520	0	The project is in progress. The reconciliation process ensures that all spend is reclaimed from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100409 - SC838	Refuse collection vehicle - replacement HVO	Bode Esan	400	400	429	29	0	29	Since the budget was approved general inflationary pressures have increased costs.
Total Projects			8,445	8,445	2,215	(6,230)	6,219	(11)	
Other closed schemes and those with a variance under 15%			1,737	1,737	1,730	(7)	(0)	(7)	
Total			10,182	10,392	3,982	(6,410)	6,392	(18)	

Changes between original and final budgets may be made to reflect:

- rephased capital spend from the previous financial year
- rephased capital spend into future financial periods
- approval of new capital programmes and projects

and are detailed and approved:

- in the June/July committee cycle (outturn reporting and carry forward requests)
- in September (as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, MTFS)
- in the January committee cycle (as part of the Budget-Setting Report, BSR)

Capital Budget 2023/24 - Outturn

Capital Ref	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget 2023/24 £'000's	Final Budget 2023/24 £'000's	Outturn 2023/24 £'000's	Variance - Outturn compared to Final Budget £'000's	Rephase Spend 2024/25 £'000's	Over / (Under) Spend £'000's	Variance Explanation
100256 - SC795	CHUB - community extension to Cherry Hinton library	Allison Conder	1,731	1,731	1,304	(427)	427	0	Project on programme to complete and handover 24th June 2024 Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100273 - SC708	Replacement plantroom at Jesus Green outdoor pool	Ian Ross	140	140	0	(140)	140	0	Ongoing project - scoping works to replace plantroom. Rephase of unspent budget is requested
100299 - SC731	Cambridge Food Hub	Vicky Haywood	100	100	0	(100)	100	0	Full quotes and feasibility report are expected by mid-May and spend will take place mid 2024-25. It is requested that the remaining budget is rephased to 2024-25
100307 - SC739	S106 Abbey Pool improvements	Ian Ross	27	27	11	(16)	0	(16)	New water slide and changing room improvements. Project Complete
100328 - SC754	Cambridge Corn Exchange - infrastructure improvements and upgrades	Frances Alderton	462	462	135	(327)	327	0	There has been spend on work on the dressing room toilets/screens /lift and boiler. Work has commenced on the house lights with progress on identifying suppliers for work on chairs/St Johns refurbishment and redecoration. Rephase of the remaining budget is requested to 24/25
100350 - SC780	S106 Darwin Green community centre equipment and furnishings	Vicky Haywood	11	11	9	(2)	2	0	The scheme is almost complete. The remaining budget will be spent on furniture for the community centre in the early part of 24-25. A request to rephase the remaining budget to 2024-25 is made
100381 - SC811	S106 Mill Road Centre fit out	Allison Conder	62	62	18	(44)	44	0	Project in progress, further invoices expected in 2024-25. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100382 - SC812	S106 Clay Farm community centre improvements	Richard Brown	6	6	1	(5)	5	0	This project has been paused whilst we adjust the project plan to better fit with the future direction of the centre. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100405 - SC834	Decarbonisation works - Abbey pool, Parkside pool, Cherry Hinton village centre	Ian Ross	159	159	24	(135)	135	0	Ongoing works to invest in Pools decarbonisation. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100406 - SC835	Recommended maintenance at Abbey pool, Parkside pool and Cherry Hinton village centre	Ian Ross	200	200	114	(86)	86	0	Ongoing works to replace end of life items within the pools and recreation facilities. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100420 - SC849	S106 Coleridge Rec outdoor kit fit	Ian Ross	75	75	18	(57)	57	0	New Fit Kit installation. Ongoing works onsite commence 8th May. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100430 - SC859	S106 grant for Netherhall sports gym: Cambridge Dive for specialist equipment for diving training	Ian Ross	9	9	0	(9)	9	0	Installation works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100432 - SC861	S106 Parkside Pool: grant to City of Cambridge Swimming Club for additional storage	Ian Ross	5	5	1	(4)	4	0	Works ongoing. Delivery of storage due May 2024. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100433 - SC862	S106 Meadows Community Centre: equipment for social events	Ian Ross	9	9	0	(9)	9	0	Works ongoing. Delivery of items awaited. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100442 - SC857	S106 Trumpington Village Hall: furniture provision	Ian Ross	0	9	0	(9)	9	0	New Project. Works to commence. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100443 - SC858	S106 Netherhall Sports Centre: outdoor court improvements	Ian Ross	0	40	0	(40)	40	0	New Project - awaiting delivery. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100444 - SC859	S106 Netherhall Sports Centre: fitness equipment provision	Ian Ross	0	10	0	(10)	10	0	Works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100445 - SC860	S106 Campkin Rd Community Centre: equipment and furnishings	Ian Ross	0	30	7	(23)	23	0	Works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100446 - SC861	S106 Squared Circle Boxing Club: storage and equipment	Ian Ross	0	5	0	(5)	5	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100447 - SC862	S106 St Matthew's Piece: basketball improvements	Ian Ross	0	18	0	(18)	18	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100448 - SC863	S106 Scotland Road Rec Ground: basketball improvements	Ian Ross	33	12	0	(12)	12	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25

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100449 - SC864	S106 Green End Road Rec Ground: basketball improvements	Ian Ross	0	14	0	(14)	14	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100450 - SC865	S106 Cambridge Dive Club: diving facility improvements	Ian Ross	0	16	0	(16)	16	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100452 - SC867	S106 Ross Street Community Centre: kitchen improvements	Ian Ross	0	28	0	(28)	28	0	Works ongoing for kitchen upgrades. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100453 - SC868	S106 Ross Street Community Centre: audio-visual (AV) equipment and storage	Ian Ross	0	10	0	(10)	10	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100454 - SC869	S106 The Junction: capital improvements and AV presentation equipment	Ian Ross	0	138	102	(36)	36	0	Works Ongoing - Partially completed. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100455 - SC870	S106 Christ The Redeemer Church: storage, furniture and equipment	Ian Ross	0	8	0	(8)	8	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100456 - SC871	S106 Coldham's Common: outdoor fit kit storage	Ian Ross	0	8	0	(8)	8	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100457 - SC872	S106 Abbey Pool Fitness Studio: gym equipment provision	Ian Ross	0	23	0	(23)	23	0	New Project. Works ongoing - range of equipment being ordered. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100458 - SC873	S106 St. Philip's School: community meeting area and canopy	Ian Ross	0	25	0	(25)	25	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100459 - SC874	S106 Cambridge United Foundation: AV equipment	Ian Ross	0	15	0	(15)	15	0	New Project & works ongoing. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100460 - SC875	S106 Kings Hedges Learner Pool: pool-based fitness equipment	Ian Ross	0	20	0	(20)	20	0	New Project. Works Ongoing for equipment orders. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100461 - SC876	S106 Christ's Pieces Tennis Courts: court improvements	Ian Ross	0	37	0	(37)	37	0	Works partially completed - Top resin court markings to be applied in June. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100462 - SC877	S106 Parkside Pools: pool water treatment upgrades	Ian Ross	0	74	0	(74)	74	0	GLL have ordered equipment - awaiting delivery & installation dates. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
Total Projects			3,029	3,536	1,744	(1,792)	1,776	(16)	
Other closed schemes and those with a variance under 15%			229	257	234	(23)	0	(23)	
Total			3,258	3,793	1,978	(1,815)	1,776	(39)	

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Open Spaces and City Services / Environment & Community Committee

Capital Budget 2023/24 - Outturn

Capital Ref	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget 2023/24 £'000's	Final Budget 2023/24 £'000's	Outturn 2023/24 £'000's	Variance - Outturn compared to Final Budget £'000's	Rephase Spend 2024/25 £'000's	Over / (Under) Spend £'000's	Variance Explanation
100002 - PR010b	Environmental Improvements Programme - South Area	John Richards	39	39	6	(33)	33	0	Programme delivery and spend back on track and catching up following 2020/21 pandemic initiated deferrals. Remaining funds to be re-phased to 2024/ 25 to enable delivery to continue.
100003 - PR010c	Environmental Improvements Programme - West/Central Area	John Richards	57	57	8	(49)	49	0	Programme delivery and spend back on track and catching up following 2020/21 pandemic initiated deferrals. Remaining funds to be re-phased to 2024/ 25 to enable programme delivery to continue.
100004 - PR010d	Environmental Improvements Programme - East Area	John Richards	24	24	4	(20)	20	0	Programme delivery and spend back on track and catching up following 2020/21 pandemic initiated deferrals. Remaining funds to be re-phased to 2024/ 25 to enable programme delivery to continue.
100259 - PR010	Environmental Improvements Programme	John Richards	73	73	(0)	(73)	73	0	Programme delivery and spend back on track and catching up following 2020/21 pandemic initiated deferrals. Remaining funds to be re-phased to 2024/ 25 to enable programme delivery to continue.
100399 - PR056	Chalk Streams projects in Cambridge	Guy Belcher	60	60	4	(56)	56	0	Business case developed into Full Project Plan. Project sites and locations identified. Deliver projects in 24/25 and 25/26. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100403 - PR057	Green Recovery Programme	Guy Belcher	75	75	6	(69)	0	(69)	Project complete
Total Programmes			328	328	28	(300)	231	(69)	
100154 - SC644	Acquisition of land adjacent to Huntingdon Road Crematorium	Daniel Morgan	36	36	0	(36)	36	0	The provision of lighting the entry road and pathway and for additional signage has been delayed. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100200 - SC654	Redevelopment of Silver Street Toilets	Declan O'Halloran	589	589	49	(540)	540	0	ROD approved. Project at Award stage, with RIBA 5 pre-contract work teed up to commence with supplier, including producing updated programme schedule. Discharge of conditions in progress. Still on track for Autumn 2024 delivery. Bulk of funds to be spent in 2024/25 financial year so a rephase of the remaining budget is requested.
100220 - SC651	Shared ICT waste management software - Alloy/Yotta	James Ogle	75	75	67	(8)	8	0	Ongoing spend on project development officer costs. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100236 - SC678	Crematorium - additional car park	Daniel Morgan	338	338	0	(338)	338	0	Project on hold as funds available for the New Cafe Project will not cover the costs. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100237 - SC679	Crematorium - cafe facilities	Daniel Morgan	283	283	0	(283)	283	0	Project on hold as budget will not cover the costs. Looking at options. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100279 - SC712	Automation of Bishops Mill sluice gate	Rachel Veysey	90	90	0	(90)	90	0	Legal revisions to Council contract terms and conditions have been required prior to consultant being able to undertake this work resulting in further delays. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100281 - SC714	Changing Places toilets	John Parrott	100	100	0	(100)	100	0	May not be able to use funding as one of the terms of the funding is not reducing standard cubical numbers. Project on hold. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100295 - SC727	Logan's Meadow vehicular access	Guy Belcher	293	13	0	(13)	13	0	Original bridge design proven too costly due to ground conditions. Awaiting Ordinary Watercourse Consent (OWC) for installation of a permanent culvert crossing. Awaiting quotes. Seeking to install by end of July 2024 to allow access for Logan's Meadow Wetland Creation project. Procure and install culvert, following OWC. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100309 - SC741	S106 Nightingale Rec Ground pavilion	Ian Ross	218	218	250	32	0	32	Project Delivered final landscaping works to conclude
100322 - SC752	S106 Byron's Pool ecological mitigations	Guy Belcher	165	165	158	(7)	7	0	Fish pass enhancement and ecological mitigation access enhancements complete. Woodland Management Plan approved for phased delivery. Procure phased woodland management. Rephase of remaining budget requested
100323 - SC753	S106 Nine Wells ecological mitigations	Guy Belcher	68	68	1	(67)	67	0	Woodland Management Plan approved. Rephase remaining budget to procure woodland management in 24/25.

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100327 - SC778	S106 Jesus Green ditch biodiversity improvements	Guy Belcher	6	6	9	3	0	3	Bird and bat boxes, deadwood feature and trial vegetated rafts installed. Install interpretation signs will take place in summer 2024
100333 - SC759	Creation of a new boat pumping station at Stourbridge Common	Anthony French	60	60	2	(58)	58	0	Project scope and benefits subject to review. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100334 - SC760	Investment programme for public toilet re-purposed property asset	Anthony French	532	532	40	(492)	492	0	Drummer Street contract £229k ordered and awaiting start date. Cherry Hinton Hall toilets are currently being refurbished at £298k cost. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100335 - SC761	Installation of cattle ramp on Midsummer Common	John Richards	44	44	0	(44)	44	0	Provision of an infrastructure solution unaffordable (construction tenders 2022 were roughly twice budget) so the project scope and business case were re-visited. An alternative technical solution is currently being trailed. Effectiveness of trial to be reviewed by service for further roll-out. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100338 - SC764	Environmental Improvements Programme (EIP) options	John Richards	505	505	89	(416)	416	0	Programme delivery and spend back on track and catching up following 2020/ 21 pandemic initiated deferrals. Remaining funds to be re-phased to 24/25 to enable programme delivery to continue and to consider a further tranche of new project allocations.
100339 - SC765	Introduction of car parking charges at Cherry Hinton Hall	Anthony French	19	19	0	(19)	19	0	Legally required public consultation completed March 2024 - now working towards early summer implementation with parking team input. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100349 - SC779	S106 Parker's Piece tree planting	Matthew Magrath	2	2	(2)	(4)	4	0	Signage at Parker's Piece will be completed in 24/25 so a rephase of the remaining budget is requested.
100355 - SC785	S106 The Art of Play	Nadine Black	3	3	0	(3)	3	0	Budget required to be rephased. Delays in permissions being granted to locate plaques, now approved, project to be completed early Oct 2024.
100362 - SC791	S106 Coldhams Common BMX track	Declan O'Halloran	76	76	0	(76)	76	0	Project in soft focus with founders to work up a new solution, with further meetings taking place in May 2024. Construction spends to take place in 2024/25. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100370 - SC799	Closed churchyard wall repairs	Anthony French	63	63	18	(45)	45	0	Both walls will be completed in Summer 2024. All consents are now acquired. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100384 - SC814	S106 public art grant for Solidarity and Community - The Pink Festival	Nadine Black	29	29	14	(15)	15	0	Budget required to be rephased. Delays due to staff changes and artist being unable to deliver stages of project on time due to personal circumstances.
100389 - SC820	Wetlands at Logan's Meadow LNR	Guy Belcher	280	280	4	(276)	276	0	Scheme revised due to Anglian Water concerns of failing sewers underneath the site. Revised Planning application submitted. Works due late summer/autumn 2024. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100392 - SC823	S106 public art grant for Cherry Hinton Brook mural	Nadine Black	2	2	1	(1)	1	0	Budget required to be rephased. A final invoice expected in 24-25.
100394 - SC825	S106 public art grant for Park Street Residents' Association Art	Nadine Black	11	11	0	(11)	11	0	Budget required to be rephased. Delays due to the residents currently reviewing the scope of the project.
100395 - SC826	S106 Midsummer's Common community orchard improvements - seating, bins, paths and raised beds (Market Ward)	James Ogle	18	18	10	(8)	8	0	Following first phase there is re-engagement with a community group to investigate further implementation items. Projected to spend and be complete in spring 2024 Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100396 - SC827	S106 Five Trees open space: wildflower and tree planting in East Chesterton	Matthew Magrath	15	15	7	(8)	8	0	Trees have been planted and the wildflower planting is progressing. Rephase of the unspent budget to 24/25
100407 - SC836	Essential repairs to Jesus Green river bank	Anthony French	125	125	8	(117)	117	0	Drainage Team have recently received underwater bank survey reports which have determined extent of problem and resolutions required. Project is currently being appraised for estimated costings. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100418 - SC847	Local Authority Treescape Fund - Round 1-2	Matthew Magrath	33	33	48	15	(15)	0	Round 1 (Tiny Forest) has 1 year left to run and Round 2 (Replacement Planting 1) has 2 years left to run. Project is progressing well. There is a time lag between spending the money and receiving the funds. Rephase overspend to 24/25 when funds will be received.
100419 - SC848	Urban Tree Challenge Fund	Matthew Magrath	17	17	25	8	(8)	0	Parker's Piece project is progressing well and there is 1 more year to go. Whitehill project is progressing well and there are 2 more years to go. There is a time lag between spending the money and receiving the funds. Rephase overspent to 24/25 when funds will be received.
100423 - SC852	National Lottery grant for DiversiTREE project	Matthew Magrath	42	42	11	(31)	31	0	24/25 is the final year of this project which is progressing well. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100424 - SC875	New EV vehicle to maintain growth sites	Alistair Wilson	31	31	27	(4)	0	(4)	Project complete - vehicle purchased.

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100434 - SC 863	Urban Tree Challenge Fund Treeing Up Round 5	Matthew Magrath	0	33	24	(9)	9	0	Project is progressing well. Budget rephased to complete the project in 2024/25
100435 - SC864	Coronation Living Heritage Fund grant - miniforest Nun's Way	Matthew Magrath	7	7	5	(2)	2	0	Project progressing well. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100436 - SC867	Local Authority Treescape Fund - Round 3 Replacements 2	Matthew Magrath	26	26	22	(4)	4	0	Round 3 (Replacement Planting 2) has 3 years left to run. Project is progressing well. Remaining budget is requested to be rephased
100439 - SC890	Cycle parking improvements at Queen Anne Terrace car park	Peter Mullord	0	0	6	6	(6)	0	Spend to date has been on design and printing of materials for public engagement (January to February 2024). Report on the findings of the engagement process available for public access (April 2024). Specification and drawings now being prepared for tendering the works. Overspend funded from 24/25 budget.
100463 - SC878	S106 Nightingale Rec: public art project	Nadine Black	0	40	0	(40)	40	0	Project approved in January to be started in May, due to elections the first stage was delayed. Budget required in 24-25.
100470 - SC885	S106 contribution - Silver St cycling & walking improvements	Tim Wetherfield	0	0	44	44	0	44	Payment to the County Council for a S106-funded project completed in previous years relating to a relevant historic S106 contribution. Although this spend was not included in the 2023/24 budget, the S106 funding for this spend was available and approved, so this does not cause any additional financial pressures.
100471 - SC886	S106-funded open space improvements in Cambridge City	Alistair Wilson	0	0	11	11	0	11	Projects eligible for S106 funding, transferred spend from EIP schemes in 23-24.
Total Projects			4,201	3,994	948	(3,046)	3,132	86	
Other closed schemes and those with a variance under 15%			285	285	277	(8)	0	(8)	
Total			4,814	4,607	1,253	(3,354)	3,363	9	

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Capital Budget 2023/24 - Outturn

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100258 - SC694	Meadows Community Hub and Buchan St retail outlet	Jake Smith	263	263	303	40	0	40	Costs exceeded budget due to additional EA/clerk of works fees. It is expected that there will in excess of £200k additional costs in 2024/25 without a budget. The overspend for the GF part of the project as a whole is expected to be about 4%. This is due to the incorrect split of the original budget between HRA and GF. This will be addressed in the forthcoming MTFS
100438 - SC853	East Barnwell new centre	Molly Savino	49	49	25	(24)	24	0	Underspend due to delay in programme Review expenditure in next period and reforecast spend. Request re-phasing.
Total Projects			312	312	328	16	24	40	
Other closed schemes and those with a variance under 15%			160	160	160	(0)	0	0	
Total			472	472	488	16	24	40	

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Capital Budget 2023/24 - Outturn

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100050 - PR039	Minor Highway Improvement Programme	John Richards	59	59	3	(56)	56	0	Continued liaison with County Highways colleagues around programme identification, selection, governance, delivery and contributions recharging. BSR item Feb/ March 2024 approved further budget of £35k/ annum to continue programme for period 2024/ 25 to 2028/ 29. Remaining budget to be re-phased to 2024/ 25.
Total Programmes			59	59	3	(56)	56	0	
100032 - SC590	Structural Holding Repairs & Lift Refurbishment - Car Parks	Daniel Morgan	199	199	90	(109)	109	0	Structural holding repairs for multi storey car parks. Project to improve health and safety issues has taken place in 2023/24. Remaining budget to be rephased to 24/25
100367 - SC796	Building Control software	Steve Fulcher	120	120	0	(120)	120	0	Due to a delay in procurement a rephase of the remaining budget to 24-25 is requested.
100421 - SC850	OZEV grant for electric charge points in Council car parks	Sean Cleary	199	199	66	(133)	133	0	OZEV Grant to fund electric charge points in Council off-street car parks Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
Total Projects			518	518	156	(362)	362	0	
100156 - PV007	Cycleways	John Richards	354	354	0	(354)	354	0	This budget includes credits received from the County Council towards the historic joint cycleways programme. It is now utilised towards complementing the separate programmes of the County Council and Greater Cambridge Partnership towards active travel. Currently, some £300k is provisionally allocated towards two projects - Four Lamps roundabout/ Maids Causeway, and Snakey Path, improvements - both of which have dependencies on County and GCP works under development and consequently have thus far been unable to proceed. In the interim spend has therefore focused on what we can deliver within our own control. Remaining funds to be re-phased to 2024/ 25 to enable this to continue. Continued liaison and engagement with County Highways and GCP around project delivery, that is dependent on their works.
Total Provisions			354	354	0	(354)	354	0	
Total			931	931	159	(772)	772	0	

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100275 - PR053	Commercial property repair and maintenance	Will Barfield	400	400	172	(228)	186	(42)	Programme of works are in development. Request for a re-phase of budget of £186k for identified works - contribution to fit out for shops at High Street, Cherry Hinton (Colville 3) - £136k and fit out for commercial units at Hobson Square- £50k.
100276 - PR054	Administrative buildings maintenance	Will Barfield	166	166	145	(21)	21	0	Programme of works are in development. Request to rephase unspent budget to 24/25.
100358 - PR055	Depot Relocation programme to create Operational Hub	Sean Cleary	705	705	424	(281)	281	0	New operational hub design and build project is in progress. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
Total Programmes			1,271	1,271	741	(530)	488	(42)	
100109 - SC627	Guildhall Large Hall Windows refurbishment	Will Barfield	101	101	0	(101)	101	0	Project on hold until Office Accommodation Strategy is finalised. In addition, the work is likely to fall within the remit of the Civic Quarter project. Request for budget to be re-phased.
100243 - SC684	Property Management software	Christopher Davey	42	42	8	(34)	34	0	Commercial property modules are fully live. Implementation with regard to the remaining property assets is nearing completion and the software is expected to be fully live by the end of July 2024. Budget remaining of £34k is requested to be re-phased to the 2024/25 financial year.
100253 - SC689	Income management software	Clarissa Norman	52	52	16	(36)	36	0	The invitation to tender process has begun. The evaluation of potential suppliers is expected to be completed by the end of Q2 2024 - 2025. Once a supplier is chosen - the procured system will be implemented within 18 months of the contracts being signed off. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100254 - SC690	Secure phone payments	Clarissa Norman	24	24	0	(24)	24	0	This project is dependent on the Income Management System re-procurement which is in progress. It is anticipated that our supplier will be chosen by the end of Q2 2024 - 2025 - the procured system will be implemented within 18 months of the contracts being signed off. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100260 - SC695	Cromwell Road Redevelopment - equity loan to CIP	Jody Etherington	5,350	5,350	0	(5,350)	0	(5,350)	All housing schemes are complete and the land has been paid for. No budget required in 24-25.
100261 - SC696	Cromwell Road Redevelopment - development loan to CIP	Jody Etherington	4,600	4,600	0	(4,600)	0	(4,600)	All housing schemes are complete and the land has been paid for. No budget required in 24-25.
100300 - SC732	Park Street car park development	Fiona Bryant	11,295	11,295	12,114	819	(819)	0	Project is generally progressing well. Sectional completion of the car park is forecast to take place in July/August 2024. One risk to completion on time is being assessed at the moment. Completion of the aparthotel is forecast to take place in March/April 2025. Rephase of the overspend in the current year to be covered by budget in 24/25.
100330 - SC756	EV infrastructure at the Cambridge City Council depot	Sean Cleary	57	57	0	(57)	57	0	EV infrastructure for new operational hub and fleet vehicles. Equipment to be ordered and installed when new Hub becomes operational. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100342 - SC768	Extend data capacity in shared data centre	Michelle Lord	11	11	0	(11)	11	0	Project has been delayed due to additional needs coming from DC project, due for completion Q2 24/25. The project is to improve the data centre's management and assist with the preparation for the new data centre, additional capacity will be created within the data centre by splitting out the management cluster. Rephase budget to 24-25.
100343 - SC769	Network equipment refresh	Michelle Lord	65	65	2	(63)	63	0	The replacement of end of life network switches will enable delivery of the data network (including phone) and Wi-Fi services to the end user. Additional sites have been discovered this year. Rephase remaining budget to 24-25.
100347 - SC773	Colville Rd Phase 3 - replacement of commercial units	Kathy Murray	427	427	363	(64)	64	0	Scheme relates to cost of new units as part of the wider development. Tenants are now in occupation of their temporary units. A building contractor has been engaged for the works. Budget remaining of £64k will need to be re-phased to the 2024/25 financial year in order for the scheme to be completed.

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100375 - SC804	ICT & Digital Capabilities	Debbie Penglis	155	155	0	(155)	155	0	Budget will be spent as part of Our Cambridge programme by December 2025. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100379 - SC808	Our Cambridge transformation - Office Accommodation Strategy	Debbie Penglis	53	53	26	(27)	27	0	This budget is being spend on improvements to the current accommodation before the decant to The Guildhall. This spend will be ongoing during that period. Rephase unspent budget to 24/25
100391 - SC822	Loan to CIP to purchase land south of Cambridge	Jody Etherington	15,139	15,139	8,362	(6,777)	6,777	0	Progress of work on this development site has been hindered due to delays in the planning application process. Payments are linked to the planning application which is now targeting September 24 and therefore rephase of the remaining budget is required
100410 - SC839	Laptop and desktop replacement	Michelle Lord	200	200	101	(99)	99	0	This is an ongoing laptop replacement project. There was £100k budget from the previous year's revenue underspend, and a further £100k from BSR Capital Bid for 2023/24. Laptop replacement was lower than planned due to a delay in the autopilot software project. Rephase remaining budget to 24-25. £199k in 24-25 and £100k per year for future years.
100411 - SC840	Pathfinder House data centre equipment replacement - racks, power and cooling systems	Michelle Lord	110	110	0	(110)	110	0	Underspend because of a delay in procurement. Rephase budget to 24-25.
100412 - SC841	Sand Martin/Pathfinder House data centre refresh to hybrid environment	Michelle Lord	215	215	169	(46)	46	0	Anticipated budget underspend as software charged to revenue as replacement to current provider. Project slip due to supplier not meeting deadlines for migration plan. Rephase budget to 24-25.
100413 - SC842	Windows 2012 server replacement	Michelle Lord	30	30	16	(14)	14	0	Plan was to go with cloud strategy, but cost was greater than budgeted. Requesting that the underspend is to be rephased to begin discovery work and replacement of Windows 2016 Servers due next year. Rephase budget to 24-25.
100414 - SC843	Wireless access point	Michelle Lord	75	75	56	(19)	19	0	Eastnet partnership resulted in economies of scale for the purchase and installation of the Wi-Fi Access Points which was not anticipated in the original bid. Rephase budget to 24-25.
100415 - SC844	Uninterruptible power supply replacement	Michelle Lord	35	35	2	(33)	33	0	Underspend because of delay in procurement and competing priority. Budget is expected to be fully spent in 24/25. Rephase budget to 24-25.
100417 - SC846	Contribution to GF from HRA for corporate IT investment	Michelle Lord	(130)	(130)	(79)	51	(51)	0	HRA Corporate IT Contribution 23%. Rephase budget to 24-25.
100437 - SC868	SPF-UK Green Business Grants	Jemma Little	106	106	0	(106)	106	0	The Grant programme has not yet been launched so all capital expenditure will now take place in 24/25 and all budget to be rephased.
100440 - SC855	Mill Road Phase 2 - community centre costs payable to CIP (S106 funded)	Jaques van der Vyve	0	488	572	84	0	84	S106 payment made to CIP as per S106 agreement dated 19 August 2019 for the onsite Mill Road developments. Validated against incurred expenditure. Account to be closed as at 31 March 2024.
Total Projects			38,012	38,500	21,728	(16,772)	6,906	(9,866)	
100020 - PV554	Development Of land at Clay Farm	Philip Taylor	181	181	47	(134)	134	0	A contractual agreement is in place whereby we contribute 7% of the net costs incurred in respect of the Collaboration Agreement with Countryside Properties. Rate of invoices from Countryside Properties relate directly to rate of house-building which is variable and beyond our control. Forecast end date for the scheme is currently June 2025. Rephase the unspent budget to 24/25.
Total Provisions			181	181	47	(134)	134	0	
Other closed schemes and those with a variance under 15%			27	4,949	4,922	(27)	0	(27)	
Total			39,491	44,901	27,438	(17,463)	7,528	(9,935)	

Changes between original and final budgets may be made to reflect:

- rephased capital spend from the previous financial year
- rephased capital spend into future financial periods
- approval of new capital programmes and projects

and are detailed and approved:

- in the June/July committee cycle (outturn reporting and carry forward requests)
- in September (as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, MTFS)
- in the January committee cycle (as part of the Budget-Setting Report, BSR)

Capital Budget 2023/24 - Outturn

Capital Ref	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget 2023/24 £'000's	Final Budget 2023/24 £'000's	Outturn 2023/24 £'000's	Variance - Outturn compared to Final Budget £'000's	Rephase Spend 2024/25 £'000's	Over / (Under) Spend £'000's	Variance Explanation
100324 - SC775	City centre recovery - Combined Authority grant funding	John Richards	0	0	21	21	0	21	Project completed. Some overspend against grant budget allocated but within tolerance levels. No further spend or funding requirement anticipated.
Total Projects			0	0	21	21	0	21	
Total			0	0	21	21	0	21	

Changes between original and final budgets may be made to reflect:

- rephased capital spend from the previous financial year
- rephased capital spend into future financial periods
- approval of new capital programmes and projects

and are detailed and approved:

- in the June/July committee cycle (outturn reporting and carry forward requests)
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Present: Councillors Davey (Chair), Bennett, Bick, Carling and Gilderdale

Chief Executive's Office and Corporate Group Design – Consideration of Termination/ Exit Costs

FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL

The Committee received a report from the Chief Executive and Head of People. The report set out recommendations with regards to Chief Executive's Office and Corporate Group Design.

Resolved (4 votes for, 0 votes against, 1 abstention) to recommend that Council:

- a. approve termination costs over £100k arising from the Chief Executive's Office and Corporate Group Design due to contractual severance.

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Cambridge City Council Employment (Senior Officer) Committee

Date: Tuesday, 18 June 2024

Time: 11.15 am

Venue: Committee Room 1 - The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ

Contact: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk, tel:01223 457000

Agenda

- 1 Appointment of Chair
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 Exclusion of the Public & Press
The meeting will contain information during which the public is likely to be excluded from the meeting subject to determination by the Committee following consideration of a public interest test. The exclusion would be made under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972
- 5 Potential Termination Costs of Chief Executive's Office & Corporate Group Design
To consider potential termination costs of the Senior Management Review and recommendations to Council on 2 March 2023. (Report to follow).
- 6 Interview and Selection Process for Director of Place & Economy Post
To consider the assessment, interview and selection process for Director level posts. (Report to follow).
- 7 Date of Next Meeting
To note the next meeting is scheduled for XXXXX to interview and select candidates for the proposed Director role.

Employment (Senior Officer) Committee Members: Bick, Bennett, Carling, Davey, Gilderdale and Moore

Committee Terms of Reference are:

Appointed by:	From time to time in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.
Membership:	6 members allocated between political groups in accordance with the rules on political balance set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
Chair/Vice Chair:	To be appointed by the members of the Committee.
Decision making:	By the majority of members present and voting. The Chair has a casting vote if required.
Terms of Reference:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To deal with the recruitment to the post of Chief Executive and to recommend a selected applicant to Council for appointment. 2. To recruit, appoint, take disciplinary action against and dismiss Directors. 3. To suspend and keep under review the Chief Executive, Directors, the Monitoring Officer or section 151 Chief Finance Officer whilst an investigation takes place into alleged misconduct. 4. To take disciplinary action short of dismissal against the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer or section 151 Chief Finance Officer. 5. To consider and if necessary recommend to Council to dismiss or terminate the employment of the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer or section 151 Chief Finance Officer. 6. To make recommendations to Council with regard to proposals for salary or severance packages of £100,000 or more

Note: The committee will be governed by the provisions contained within Part 4I of the Constitution (Officer Employment Procedure Rules)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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UPDATE ON ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO AREA COMMITTEES

To:

Civic Affairs Committee 10/07/2024

Report by:

Andrew Limb, Assistant Chief Executive

Tel: 01223 - 457004 Email: Andrew.Limb@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected: All

1. Introduction / Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the follow-up to a report brought to Civic Affairs Committee in October 2023, as requested by the Committee at that time. It provides an update on work carried out in accordance with that report's recommendations to explore alternatives to Area Committees.
- 1.2 The report proposes a direction of travel and emerging ideas for more meaningful forms of democratic and civic engagement with local communities, building on earlier feedback from councillors and others.
- 1.3 Many other progressive councils are testing and learning from different ways to engage communities, building on the Covid experience. Cambridge has made a positive start on this journey. The Council should continue to work with local communities to develop more diverse, community-centred approaches that enable richer and more meaningful conversations than traditional council committees.

2. Recommendations

To recommend to Council:

- That Area Committees be paused for the remainder of the municipal year, 2024/25, while pilot work on alternatives continue and while more detailed proposals are developed for implementation from the start of the municipal year 2025/26.

3. Background

Process and findings of the review to date

- 3.1 The City Council commissioned the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) to advise on governance arrangements at the Council in the Autumn of 2021. The CfGS surveyed councillors and officers on various issues and reported their findings in early 2022.
- 3.2 With regard to Area Committees, the CfGS noted that “There was a strong view that Area Committees need a complete overhaul – that they are no longer fit for purpose...Area Committees should integrate better with existing community engagement activities and the Council should give consideration as to whether they need to be formal committees.”
- 3.3 The CfGS recommended: “Consider pausing Area Committees while a review is undertaken, releasing officer and member resource to focus on developing a new approach which forms part of the Council’s community engagement strategy.”
- 3.4 In the summer of 2023, the Council determined to undertake a review of governance arrangements, responding to key recommendations of the CfGS. A member Governance Reference Group (GRG) was formed to take this forward.
- 3.5 In October 2023, the GRG reiterated the need for change from Area Committees as they had lost direction and purpose, were poorly attended, and did not make good use of officer or councillor time and resources. The desire to hear from communities more effectively, and to hear different voices, was a key theme for members.

- 3.6 Via a report to Civic Affairs, Council agreed to pause Area Committees for two cycles and asked officers to report back in July 2024 as outlined in this report.
- 3.7 To support the process of review, the social enterprise New Local was engaged to identify alternative approaches. New Local interviewed a number of City Councillors, a small number of officers and community representatives. New Local also reviewed approaches to local democratic engagement in other councils.
- 3.8 From their interviews with Cambridge councillors and community representatives, New Local heard further views on the limitations of Area Committees and the desire for more informality, dynamism, inclusivity and co-ordination with existing activity (as well as some reflections on when Area Committees had worked best, which included occasions when contentious issues had led to greater attendance, and when decisions had been taken at the committees).
- 3.9 New Local also identified the broad range of other channels and fora by which Cambridge residents and communities contact or engage with the City Council, after officers undertook a mapping exercise over the winter. See Appendix B.
- 3.10 From their research on other councils, New Local identified different approaches taken in various councils – they reported that there was not a single approach that had been proven to “work”, and a number of councils were going through similar trials of new approaches.
- 3.11 Some of these seemed to fit closer with the aspiration of Cambridge councillors to be more informal and engaging, and responsive to differing issues and needs within their areas (e.g. aspects of the approach taken by places like Test Valley and Oxford City). Here, a “portfolio” approach (a variety of types of engagements adapted for different local needs) allowed different types of engagement best suited to different needs and issues, but included informal forms of local engagement which put councillors in a more “community councillor” or “community champion” role.
- 3.12 New Local presented their initial findings and thinking to the Governance Reference Group in April 2023, and heard responses and reflections that broadly reiterated the focus going forward on hearing resident voices on their own terms and hearing from a wider cross-section people.

- 3.13 New Local reflected this feedback in their final report, which was submitted to the Council in May 2023 (Appendix A). The report included five recommendations:
1. Take a portfolio approach to member-resident engagement rather than returning to the Area Committee structure.
 2. New activities should explicitly prioritise open-ended resident voice and relationship-building in dynamic, informal settings.
 3. Member-resident engagement should build on existing community-led structures and activity, wherever possible.
 4. Consider opportunities to increase / better signpost the number of opportunities for residents to meaningfully influence decision-making such as through tenant reps.
 5. Consider the opportunity of the grants review to explore participatory budgeting.
- 3.14 In addition to New Local's report and the internal officer discussions and mapping process, a number of other relevant strands of work have started since the decision to pause Area Committees was made (some of which were not foreseen or planned at that point).
- 3.15 Firstly, the Council has developed and adopted a Community Wealth Building Strategy, with unanimous support at committee. This strategy sets a new direction for the Council in seeking to collaborate with communities to build social and other forms of capital in the city's communities. This includes an ambition to build community power (community-led agency over more decisions and initiatives).
- 3.16 Secondly, the new Director of Communities joined the Council in November and has been working with colleagues to develop new ideas. This will include a redesign of the Communities Group and a transformation of our ways of working with communities.
- 3.17 Thirdly, as part of this evolution in ways of working, the Council has initiated a new approach to community engagement in East Barnwell, under the "Shaping Abbey" banner. This cross-council initiative has sought to put community-led discussions and community voice at the heart of a more co-ordinated approach to the Council's activity and engagement in that community.

- 3.17.1 Abbey is an area set to receive over £100m investment over the next few years with significant regeneration, new community and sports facilities as well as additional key infrastructure coming forward. With this pilot, the Council is taking a place-based approach and putting residents at the heart of its engagement, seeking to ensure those who live in Abbey have a greater say about things that affect their lives and their community and building stronger relationships with the Council.
- 3.17.2 Activity has included community conversation and listening events in March, June and another planned in October. Officers are testing new methods of engagement as well as cross service and organisational working. Learning from this will influence future engagement plans as they emerge.
- 3.18 Finally, the Council has agreed to undertake a programme of work to design and implement a revised Leader and Cabinet model of decision making and to revise its constitution.
- 3.19 All of these processes and initiatives have started and are underway, but not yet concluded. They are all part of a piece, around listening, engaging and participating with communities in a richer and more meaningful way, to enable the Council to play a modern, convening, enabling and empowering role in the city.
- 3.20 In this context, officers recommend pausing Area Committees to the end of the current municipal year (2024/25), while these initiatives (including the Shaping Abbey pilot) progress and evolve, allowing officers and members time and space to learn and reflect further, and to crystallise a new approach that could be implemented from the start of the 2025/26 municipal year.

Looking ahead – options to develop

3.21 Current thinking on what that approach could look like, taking account of the New Local report as well as the city council-led initiatives mentioned above, is as follows.

- 3.21.1 In 2-3 areas of the city, the Council might take forward the “Shaping neighbourhoods” approach that is being piloted in East Barnwell. This would best suit those areas of the city where the council has a number of different but related projects or areas of activity, and might include for instance

(in addition to parts of the East area of the city) neighbourhoods in the north of the city where there are particular challenges around life chances as well as opportunities arising from regeneration or growth; and neighbourhoods in the south of the city where growth and change are also presenting opportunities and challenges that would merit closer community engagement as well as stakeholder co-ordination.

- 3.21.2 Exactly what this might look like needs to be worked up as further learning from the Abbey experience emerges.
- 3.21.3 Complementing this richer, more intense approach in this limited number of neighborhoods, officers are thinking that there would be a “universal” approach in all areas (probably ward based) which would feature the kind of informal, community-led engagement activities seen in Test Valley and elsewhere.
- 3.21.4 These might be characterized as “Cambridge Community Conversations”, and could take place perhaps once or twice per year (depending on local community demand / need / capacity). They would provide spaces for the community (probably convened/represented by key local community groups where these exist) to set the agenda, and to share with councillors their key ideas, aspirations, concerns and challenges.
- 3.21.5 As per the New Local recommendation, they would build on existing community groups and activities and events wherever possible, so that the Council would, through ward councillors, be engaging on communities’ terms, and in formats that residents felt comfortable with. This should make it more likely for residents to feel able to voice their thoughts, ideas and concerns. It would place local councillors in a community champion role.
- 3.21.6 Officers envisage that training/development activities could be provided for councillors to help them develop their skills and confidence in this more active role, where appropriate (recognizing that many councillors already have great skills and experience in this territory).

- 3.21.7 The Community Councillor role could potentially include promoting the new small community grants proposed in the recent Community Grants Review. See para 3.25 below.
- 3.21.8 In many parts of the city, there are existing residents' / community groups that could be encouraged / supported / empowered to play an active role in convening and enabling such "community conversations".
- 3.21.9 In those places where such social capital is less well developed, the Council's Communities team may be able to play a supporting role, subject to the outcomes of the Communities redesign project.
- 3.22 As the thinking on all of these initiatives and approaches is set to evolve over the next six months, it is proposed that the Director of Communities bring a report to the Environment & Communities scrutiny committee in March 2025 setting out details of the proposals. Any consequent changes to the constitution would be brought back to the subsequent Civic Affairs Committee.
- 3.23 Officers believe this approach would fit well into an emerging strategic approach to stakeholder and community engagement under the "Cambridge Conversations" banner.
- 3.23.1 The Leader's / Executive's annual/biannual briefing might be seen as the pinnacle of this approach;
- 3.23.2 the thematic partnerships and events that the Council is involved in or convenes being an intermediate tier of "thematic Cambridge conversations".
- 3.23.3 the neighbourhood-based approach outlined in this paper forming the foundation level "Cambridge Community Conversations".
- 3.24 Again, this is emerging thinking which hasn't been fully worked up yet, but is shared here to give greater context to the proposals in this paper.
- 3.25 In the meantime, where councillors and local community groups or organisations have or are able to agree arrangements for such community-led conversations in the remainder of this year, officers see no reason why these shouldn't go ahead as part of the piloting / learning process.

- 3.26 The other fora and channels for community and resident engagement are expected to continue (albeit there may be ways to improve or review these in due course). This includes some specific place-based initiatives including the “Community Forums” that exist to bring residents together with the councils and developers to plan and manage new communities most effectively.
- 3.27 In terms of other activities that previously took place under the auspices of Area Committees, as mentioned above, Area Committee grants are now being replaced by Small Community Grants [subject to Executive decision on 27th June]. This should ensure that the Council’s grant funding is more focused on the greatest need, and recognises that communities are best placed to define what ‘community’ means to them, whether that be a community of place, identity or interest.
- 3.28 The current Environment Improvement Programme has no further capital budget allocation beyond this year. Officers are currently focusing on catch-up and delivery of existing commitments, taking stock of what funding might be left over from current allocations and whether there may be potential to consider further applications later in the year. Officers will share project proposals with ward councillors for comment prior to decisions on any new allocations being taken by the Executive Councillor.
- 3.29 Crime data and issues affecting residents are now managed directly by the police, and all councillors and residents are invited to attend the Cambridge Community meetings that the police arrange.
- 3.30 Some environmental data will be published on the council webpages by ward on an annual basis, allowing councillors and residents to see trends in the data and to inform any issues they may wish to raise with officers or the executive councillor. This could be discussed, for instance, at the Cambridge Community Conversations, if local residents wished.
- 3.31 In these ways, the business of the Council can continue to have a locality focus in a more efficient and engaging way. Officers do not believe it would be appropriate to re-start Area Committee meetings for two cycles during the remainder of this municipal year. Re-starting these meetings would not seem to be a good use of public resource, officer or member time, given the feedback received from councillors and others through the CfGS and New Local surveys.

Officer teams across the council, including the Democratic Services team, are going through redesign and restructure processes, and/or are facing capacity challenges and constraints.

3.31 Finally, as the thinking on this approach to engagement develops alongside the work to design a new governance system, we anticipate there will be ways to link the two.

3.32 For instance, councillors could bring the insights into community concerns that they might glean through community conversations back into the Council's policy-making, decision-making and scrutiny processes, potentially. This could help ensure that those processes are informed by that greater understanding of communities and residents' issues that would emerge from the richer conversations that we anticipate would take place.

Conclusion

3.33 In conclusion, officers believe there are exciting new ways for councillors and officers and the council more broadly to engage in their communities.

3.32.1 For individual councillors, we believe this approach would put them more firmly and visibly at the heart of their communities as community councillors and champions.

3.32.2 For the Council as a whole, this approach seems to fit well with the underlying aspirations of the Community Wealth Building strategy, to be empowering and listening to communities, and giving them more of a voice and a say.

3.34 While the details are still to be worked through, we believe this sets a positive and progressive direction of travel.

6. Implications

a) Financial Implications

The budget allocation for Area Committee venues and audio (around £6,000) would not be spent, although this has tended to be subsumed by pressures in the democratic services budget arising from additional member support costs.

Going forward, officers do not anticipate a significant budgetary impact from the proposals outlined in this paper, although detailed plans for new engagement methodologies will need to consider financial resources required including associated costs for training of members and officers.

b) Staffing Implications

Pausing Area Committees for the remainder of the municipal year would mean committee managers would have some additional capacity to continue streaming other committee meetings, and to engage in the review of their team that will accompany the governance review. The recent resignation of one committee manager means the team will be at three quarter capacity in this summer/autumn.

The future proposals outlined in this paper may have implications for staff in other teams including the Communities Group, subject to the detailed proposals to be worked up and brought forward by the Director of Communities alongside his Group redesign project.

c) Equality and Poverty Implications

No significant equalities or poverty impacts have been identified. These factors (including accessibility to any new types of engagement) will be considered as the detailed proposals are developed.

Officers anticipate that there will be positive impacts from the Council shifting resource and focus to more intentionally hear from seldom-hear communities and residents whose voices have not always been well-represented in more traditional consultation processes.

d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications

No impacts have been identified.

e) Procurement Implications

N/a

f) Community Safety Implications

Policing and community safety data and priorities will continue to be managed by the police through their events, which are open to all.

7. Consultation and communication considerations

Members of the Governance Reference Group or their nominees, plus a small number of officers and community representatives were interviewed by New Local as part of this process. New Local presented their initial findings to the GRG and took on board GRG members' feedback in finalizing their report.

The Council's website will be updated to reflect the position on Area Committees if this recommendation is agreed.

Community groups will be engaged informally as the thinking on the new approaches develop in the coming months.

8. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Review of Governance – [Recommendations from Governance Reference Group 9/10/23](#)

Cambridge City Council [Community Wealth Building Strategy](#)

9. Appendices

Appendix A – Fora and channels for community and resident engagement

Appendix B - Local Democratic Engagement in Cambridge (New Local)

10. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Andrew Limb, Assistant Chief Executive, tel: 01223 - 457004, email: andrew.limb@cambridge.gov.uk

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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL CHANNELS & FORA FOR COMMUNITY & RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT (as at Spring 2024)

- Community Forums (growth sites – Cambridge East; Northwest & West Cambridge; North East Cambridge)
- Development Control Forum
- Formal consultations (via CitizenLab and other means)
- Resident (tenant & leaseholder) engagement, including:
 - Residents Panel
 - HSC tenant reps' meetings
 - Estate Improvement Schem consultations
 - Resident Involvement newsletter
 - Open Door
 - Sheltered Housing magazine
 - Tenant survey
- Community Clean Up Days
- Ward Walk-about
- Leaseholder Forum
- Member & Officer attendance at Residents' Association / Friends of meetings
- Community Development newsletter & social media pages
- Youth Engagement Scheme (GCSPS)
- Shared Planning Forums
- Place/project-specific events such as Shaping Abbey pilot, Darwin Green meetings
- Council corporate communications including:
 - Cambridge Matters
 - City Council website

- Press releases
- City council social media channels
- Committee & Council meetings – petitions & public questions
- Customer complaints and feedback
- Direct contact with councillors including through canvassing, surgeries, casework

Local Democratic Engagement in Cambridge

Page 157

Contents

1. Project overview and summary recommendations
2. Context: National trends
3. Possible functions of local democratic forums
4. Reporting back on interview outcomes
5. Learning from elsewhere
6. Governance Reference Group discussion notes
7. Recommendations

Project Overview and Summary Conclusions

Project Overview: Local Democratic Engagement in Cambridge

Project objectives:

- Support reflection on existing local democratic arrangements and consider future options for Cambridge
- Share insight and good practice from elsewhere

Project Activities

1. Research on key relevant local policies and national good practice
2. 10 interviews:
 - 5 x Officers
 - 6 x Councillors (Labour, Lib Dem, Green)
 - 4 VCS / resident representatives
3. Mapped potential priorities & functions
4. Selected contrasting good practice from around the country
5. Presentation to Governance Reference Group to inform final report
6. Preparation of recommendations and implementation options

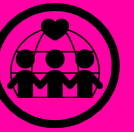
Summary Conclusions

- Across 10 interviews, diverse stakeholders reflected on the strengths and weaknesses of Area Committees. While the importance of visible opportunities for councillors to meet with residents and play an active role in the community was strongly reaffirmed, there was wide agreement that the format was not working effectively.
- Interviews suggest that there is a wide range of potential desirable objectives for any new activities. We recommend that the objectives of any activity are well-focused and explicit to ensure that they meet resident expectations.
- Our research suggests that experiences in Cambridge are consistent with wider trends in both council area-working structures, and democratic engagement in general.
- Councils are broadly responding in one of two ways: re-committing to traditional structures with specific innovations to tackle the problems, or moving to more flexible activities distributed across different levels of council working.
- Based on the interviews we conducted and the preferences of the Governance Reference Group, we recommend the latter approach. In-depth recommendations are presented on the next slide, along with a potential formats for implementation (end of report).

Recommendations

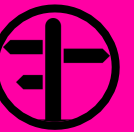
1. Take a **“portfolio approach” to member-resident engagement** rather than returning to the Area Committee structure. This will allow limited resources to be focused on those functions which are currently missing and/or higher impact. This will require that the (already wide) range of opportunities for engagement and for meeting other objectives are clearly signposted to both members and residents.

2. Any new activities should explicitly prioritise **open-ended resident voice and relationship-building in dynamic, informal settings** (in contrast to consultation on specific council activities). This will also encourage a spirit of early consultation and input. Given diverse community preferences, these functions are likely to lend themselves more to a series of decentralised activities. This is likely to require a degree of experimentation and ongoing review. Members might benefit from additional training and support to execute this role.



3. Wherever possible, additional member-resident engagement activities should build on **existing community-led structures and activities**. Where possible, **community-led activities should be proactively supported** to support this kind of engagement.

4. As part of the review of the wider engagement portfolio, consider opportunities to increase / better signpost the **number and impact of opportunities for residents to meaningfully influence decision-making**, noting existing successful examples in Cambridge (e.g. Tenant Residents' Group).



5. In particular, consider the opportunity of the grants review to explore **participatory budgeting**, given the strong stated resident interest, tangibility of impact, clear link to the principle of resident-voice, and positive track record in other places.



Context: National Trends

Wider National Context: Recent Trends

Our interviews in Cambridge and wider work across the country suggest that several national trends are also relevant in Cambridge. They provide useful context to understand both the status quo and choices about the way forward.

Diversification of info & engagement mechanisms

There is rapid **proliferation of new communities receive information** (e.g. offline / online), coupled with a **decline in the reach of mainstream media** resulting in fewer shared sources of information.

There is **diversification of communities' abilities, preferences and habits** in engaging with authorities and each other.

Wider democratic challenges

National / international trends are often also undermining local working (polarisation over specific issues; misinformation e.g. about council schemes; general institutional distrust).

NB: Local government remains more trusted than national government

Covid effect

The **impact of the pandemic** is still evolving, but seems to be affecting trends in engagement: e.g. proliferation of informal activity; some traditional engagement routes apparently struggling (e.g. formal volunteering).

Diverging choices for councils

In response to both these trends and local circumstances, we see diverging responses:

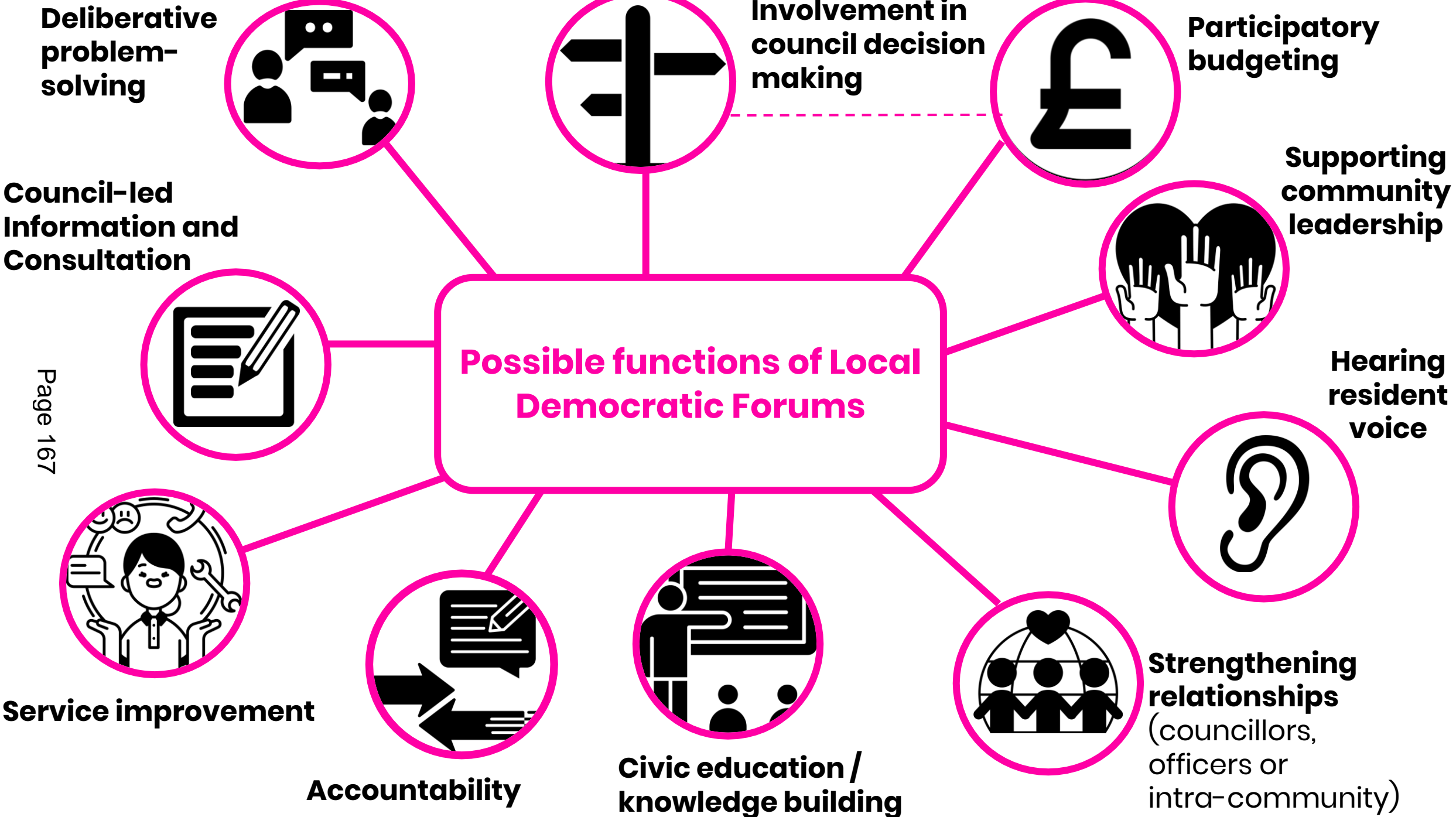
- **Some councils abandoning traditional local coordination structures** in favour of cross-area, community-driven activities;
- **Some re-committing** by improving traditional models with additional resources / new methods

Possible Functions of Local Democratic Forums

Developing a clear focus

- Local democratic forums can be used to achieve a **very wide range of objectives** – overleaf are those which came up as desirable in Cambridge.
- While several of these are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, it's **very difficult to achieve all objectives to a high quality** without significant complexity and resource investment.
- Having clear and publicly shared objectives will ensure that residents, officers and members have **shared expectations** about what their involvement will and won't achieve. This is important to building trust for any additional activities.
- We therefore **recommend being explicit about the purpose** of different activities, while signposting to other opportunities and activities across the council. This will allow residents to make informed and meaningful choices about where and how they engage.

Possible functions of Local Democratic Forums



Reporting Back on Interviews

Summary of Interview Outcomes

1. Current format not working: There was strong consensus that Area Committees have not been functioning as an effective democratic engagement mechanism, or a good use of time /resources. While many interviewees were appreciative of the original intent, common problems have included poor, unrepresentative attendance, an unclear / mismatched remit, and an unengaging format.

2. Successful engagement elsewhere: There was awareness and appreciation of a wide range of other successful community engagement activity, including council-led, community-led and partnerships between the two.

3. Ambitions for the future – Function: The top stated objectives for any new activities were

- Hearing resident voices more widely / openly
- Strengthening of relationships
- Participatory budgeting (if possible)

4. Ambitions for the future – Format: Top stated priorities for the format for any new activities were:

- Informal / dynamic
- Inclusive
- Coordinated with existing (community) activity

Experiences of Area Committees: Appreciation & Bright Spots

Appreciation of Key Elements / Intent

- Good to listen to & **build relationships** with councillors / officers / residents in person
- Good to **involve residents in decision-making**
- Useful opportunity for **officer-councillor working**

When it worked....

- **Contentious issues** drove high attendance
- Some success when focused on **planning**
- **Experimentations** with format (North Area pilot 2011/2012)

Experiences of Area Committees: Challenges

Lack of clear & compelling purpose

- Unclear what the purpose was, and who the committee was supposed to be useful for
- “Talking shop”; no meaningful ability to hold power to account (particularly after transition online)

Experiences often neutral / negative

- Felt bureaucratic and uninspiring
- Discussion often dominated by concerns that didn't motivate wider audience
- For some: Felt like a political platform for attending councillors

Attendance: Limited and unrepresentative

- Attendance overall was often very poor
- Of those attending, poorly representative of wider Cambridge population
- Limited awareness in wider community; poorly advertised

Mismatched remit

- Geographic remit not matching resident experiences of issues – often not relevant
- Mismatched expectations because of confusion re levels of government

Issues with format

- Generated significant officer workload for little obvious effect
- Timing inconvenient for many

What Activities, Channels and Groups Are Succeeding in Securing Engagement from Cambridge Communities?

Council-led

Page 172

Tenant Panel
Growth Community Forums
Environmental Improvement Programme

- Community engagement team activities: volunteering; litter-picking / community clean-up days
- Pop-up consultations e.g. housing redevelopment
- Ward walkabouts
- Some individual councillor engagement

Collaborations

- Food Poverty Alliance
- Piggy-backing / bolting on to existing activities e.g. food-hub & warm-hub connection
- Pop-ups: Ukraine, cost-of-living.
- Community groups
Whatsapp group
- Fairs & events e.g. volunteer fair.

Community-led

- Residents' Associations (variable)
- Community groups e.g. Abbey People, Queen Edith's Forum
- Mobilisation around one-off concerns
 - But doesn't sustain
- Civic education classes
- Faith groups

Aspirations for the Future: Function

Leading priorities

Clarity of objective

Considered important regardless of what it is



Resident voice
(on their own terms) being heard by councillors and officers



Participatory budgeting



Strengthening relationships
(particularly councillors, also officers)

Several mentions

Page 173



Involvement in council decision making



Early-stage consultation & input into council decisions

Also mentioned



Civic education / knowledge building



Deliberative problem-solving



Service improvement

Aspirations for the Future: Form

Leading priorities

**Informality /
Dynamism**

Inclusivity

**Piggy-backing /
coordinated with
existing activities**

Several mentions

**Agenda set by
residents**

In-person

Welcoming setting

**Agenda,
advertising,
follow-up**

**Hyper-
local**

Also mentioned

**“Managing out
the politics”**

**Also
online**

**Managing
expectations**

**Balance of
council sharing
info & reacting
to info**

**Key tension:
Routine &
regular vs.
occasional**

Existing Engagement Activity

- There is already a **wide range of existing council-led engagement activity** occurring (see next slide). Coordinating well with existing activities / giving members the opportunity to engage in these activities will both allow an efficient use of resources / minimise duplication and streamline residents' ability to engage effectively.
- A sample of potential **existing activities to further strengthen / align with** is shown below.

Page 175

Aspirations

Existing Activity / Opportunities

Voice and decision-making

Grant programme review

Residents' Panel on Housing Scrutiny

Growth Community Forums

Using existing opportunities & networks

Youth Assembly

VCS whatsapp

Accessible & inclusive formats

Abbey Ward Pilot

Appreciative Enquiry



**Existing Council-led
Engagement Activity**

Community Engagement WhatsApp group

New Community Steering groups

Petition Scheme

Community Centre User Groups

Development Control Forum

Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service

Online consultations and engagement

Youth Advisory Board

Formal Committee meetings

Tenant reps meeting

Tenants' survey

Leaseholder Forum

Ward Walk-about

Network Lunches

Residents Panel

Page 76

Community Clean Up Days

Growth Community Forums

Housing Scrutiny Committee elections

Volunteer recruitment and training support

Residents meetings

Ward Walk-about

Community Right to Bid

Grants

Appreciative Enquiry

Resident association Grants

Resident inspectors meeting

Community Safety Partnership

Governance Reference Group Discussion Notes

Headline notes from Governance Reference Group Meeting 15/4/2024

- The group shared their own experiences of **challenges** of Local Area Committees, and agreed that the format wasn't working effectively
 - The group agreed with wider interviewees that **hearing resident voices** on their own terms, and hearing from a **wider cross-section of people**, should be a priority of the revised arrangements
- Page 178
- It was noted that it's important to allow for **significant diversity between and within wards** – uniform arrangements are unlikely to be successful
- It was noted that there was a **particular benefit to reinstating some form of in-person contact** / opportunity for relationship-building, while noting that some residents prefer / require online opportunities.
 - It was acknowledged that any arrangements should be **consistent with / complementary** to the Council's wider ambitions around **community power, community wealth building and revised governance arrangements**
 - The group therefore encouraged the **exploration of more innovative models** from around the country to meet specific Cambridge circumstances.

Learning from Elsewhere

Contents:

- Different approaches to consider
- 3x Thematic Spotlights
- 5x Geographic Deep Dives

Scope / Footprint of Engagement Activities

Councils' engagement activities – whether member or officer-led – might be organised around a range of potential scopes / footprints. The examples we include consider a range of options.

Council-wide activities / programme

Scope

Responsive to community issues & identities

Around administrative boundaries e.g. wards

e.g. Cam Area Committees

Three Categories of Case Studies

There are 2 broad approaches to structuring democratic engagement arrangements: those councils continuing with / deepening their locality-focused structures around administrative boundaries, and those taking a more mixed portfolio approach (separate functions are distributed across different footprints i.e. ward-level; issue/community-specific; council-wide). There are also councils experimenting with novel engagement formats in general, although these are not always focused on regular councillor activities. As requested, we have focused research on portfolio approaches and innovative formats (including one innovative locality-focused option).

Iterations on locality-focused structures

1x Deep Dive (DD)

- Durham
- Stevenage
- Bolton (DD)
- Sheffield

Portfolio approach

4x Deep Dive (DD)

- Oxford (DD)
- Barking & Dagenham (DD)
- Test Valley (DD)
- Norwich
- Adur & Worthing (DD)

Innovating away from traditional formats

3 x Thematic spotlights

- Hearing Resident Voices
- Engagement via Partnerships
- Engaging Formats

Pros: Easy-to-understand; lend themselves to some formal decision-making.

Cons: Common problems with attendance & inclusivity; often resource-intensive to do well.

Pros: Offers greater flexibility to appropriately engage with diverse issues and communities

Cons: Greater complexity; some residents prefer traditional format

Pros: Novel formats are showing early success in improving inclusion and engagement

Cons: Approaches are emergent and require more development / adjustment

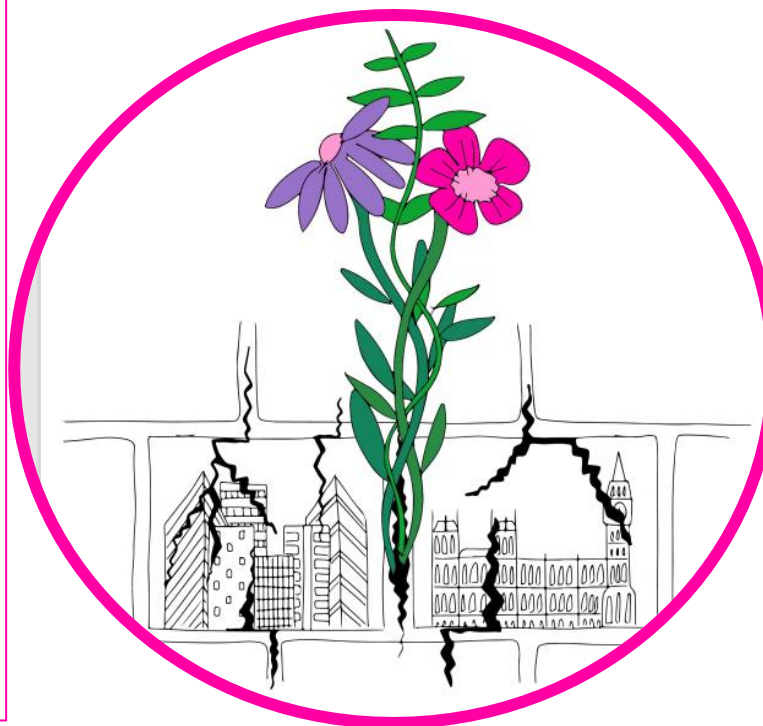
Spotlight on: Hearing Resident Voice

Southwark

- Proactive outreach in a specific neighbourhood to build social capital, connection and problem-solving capacity around specific issue (food inequality), with target of speaking to 80% of the neighbourhood
- Mixed stakeholder working groups hosted seven mass engagement events and on-street 1:1 conversations.

Useful links:

- [Case Study](#)



Wakefield

- Wakefield Council had a Big Conversation with residents, training 100 ‘conversationalists’ (including councillors and officers) to have over 1,300 face-to-face conversations with people across the district to find out what they like about their area and what would make things better.

Useful links:

- [Case Study](#)

Worthing

- Emergent approach, rooted in becoming a listening ‘council for the community’.
- Kicked off via new participation activities including a “Big Listen” campaign to understand how to deliver this agenda, with teams (including councillors) popping up around the town with big red deck chairs.
- **Useful Links:** [The Big Listen](#); *(Also features in Deep Dive)*

Spotlight on: Engagement Via Partnerships

Barking and Dagenham

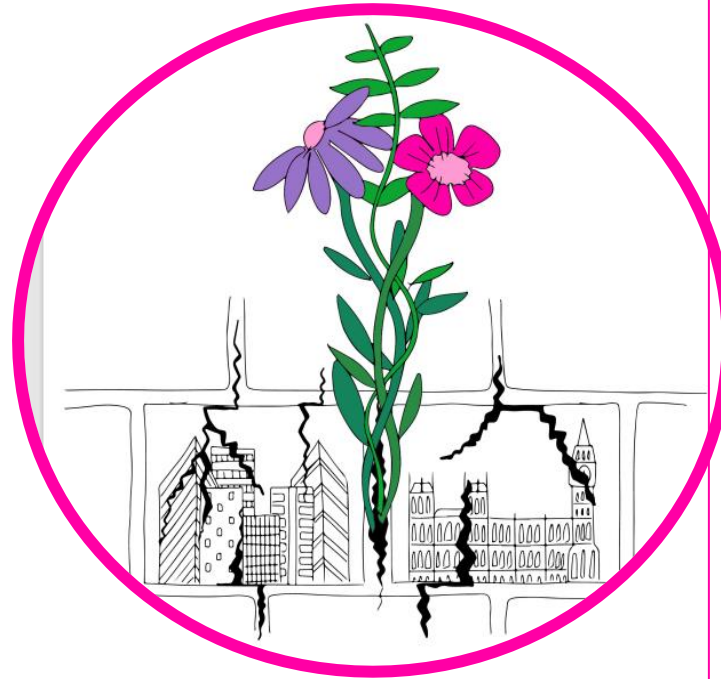
Several cross-borough initiatives heavily focused on mobilising and partnering with community groups, through which programmes are delivered.

Councillor role in building and maintaining key relationships:

• [Citizens' Alliance Network](#) to coordinate resident voice and action at neighbourhood level

• [BD Collective](#) to foster VCSE network & collaboration

(Also features in Deep Dive)



Test Valley (Romsey)

- Members are supported by officers to engage in rolling meetings with local groups and residents, with a particular focus on the role of the “community councillor”
- To tackle a contentious town centre development process, Test Valley ran a Citizens’ Assembly to build a vision from a deliberative, citizen-led starting point. The Assembly provided the starting point for a wider partnership to support ongoing collaborative working

Useful links:

- [Romsey Future & Podcast](#)
(Also features in Deep Dive)

Bolton

- New approach in development creating informal networks of local residents, voluntary groups and businesses (also seen as a replacement for area forums).
- Supporting residents to connect better with each other and build on existing approaches.
- **Useful links:** [Community Alliances](#); *(Also features in Deep Dive)*

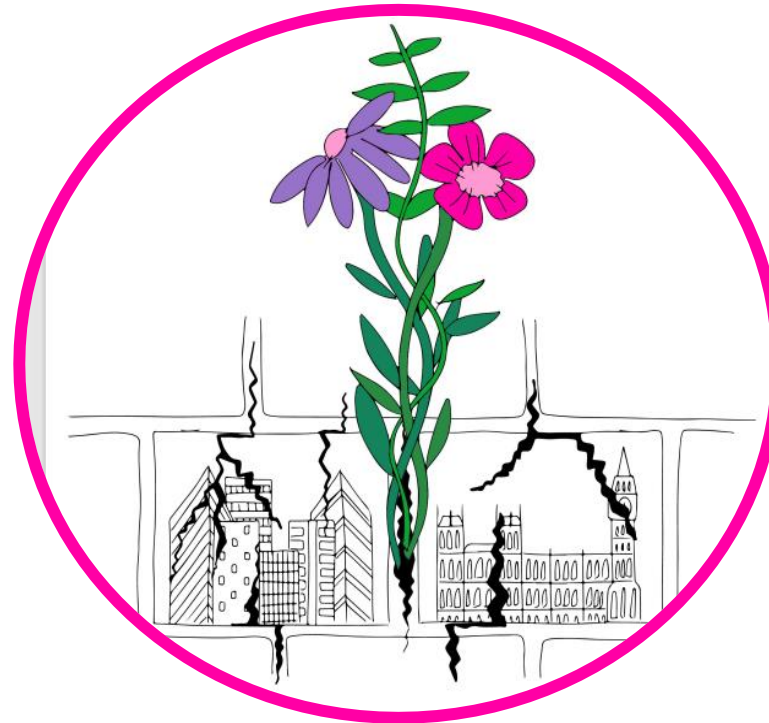
Spotlight on: Engaging Formats

Hounslow

- Hounslow Council is running a Citizens' Jury to explore how residents can get more involved in council decision-making

Useful links:
[Citizens' Jury](#)

Page 184



Manchester

- Greater Manchester Combined Authority co-created the Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Strategy via a “Legislative Theatre” approach
- 35 residents came together to create original plays based on their experiences of homelessness services. These plays, performed to decision-makers were used to explore and drive decision-making.

Useful links:

- [Case Study](#)

World Café Method

- A method making use of an informal cafe setting for participants to explore an issue by discussing it in small table groups.

Useful links:

- [World Café](#)

Surrey

- Surrey County Council wanted to better engage residents they didn't normally hear from. They ran an event series called “Let's Talk Surrey”, focused on creating safe spaces for residents to talk to the council in an engaging and innovative way.
- One particularly successful activity involved an “escape room” consultation, which reached young people who had not previously been engaged.

Useful links: [Case Study](#)

Deep Dive: Test Valley

Overview: Portfolio approach which prioritises building members' role as "community councillor", and investing ad hoc in specific in-depth engagement and deliberative processes when needed; no formal neighbourhood forums

Where, when, what:

- In order to maximise the democratic involvement of all councillors, the council outlines distinct functions according to role (i.e. executive / backbencher), with an explicit development of the "community councillor" as a key part of the council's approach
- Community Development Team supports councillors to build relationships and meet informally with a wide range of residents and groups around particular local priorities
- Training for councillors in how to play this role well, with ongoing support from officers to focus their energies on key issues, and how to navigate to particular parts of the council
- A cross-party group with leadership representation works together on an ongoing basis to continue to build and develop the role of councillors in council working
- Occasional heavy investment in both engagement processes (e.g. around council plan) and deliberative decision-making processes (e.g. around development). Resource: [Podcast](#)

Strengths & limitations:

- ✓ Agile, flexible approach enables engagement with a wide range of residents, while limiting constraints posed by bureaucratic structures
- ✓ Balances investment in localised relationships with the ability to invest more significant resources into structured issue- or community-specific activities when needed
- ~ No formal regular space for localised decision-making
- ~ Relies on individual councillors to engage positively with the approach

Impact

- The team credit the approach with improving the democratic legitimacy of the councillors' roles in the eyes of residents



Role of councillors:

- Meeting informally with residents / groups as needed, in response to the needs and circumstances of their ward; supported by Community Development Team in identifying contacts and issues
- Councillors have small discretionary budget for distribution in ward, associated with wider dialogue / work with CDT

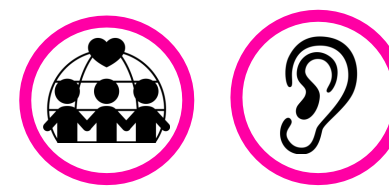
Resourcing:

- Community Development Team of c. 8-10 with some level of local focus
- Small budgets (low £000s) for individual councillors

Governance and control:

- No formal decision-making power via local structures
- Significant use of deliberative processes for other key decisions

Deep Dive: Oxford



Overview: Portfolio approach to engagement (i.e. some local, some issue-specific, some council-wide) with local focus via 4 Quadrants

Where, when, what:

- *Ward-level:* Traditional case work; Ward level budgets available to councillors
- *Quadrant-level:* Officer-led Locality teams x 4 working on coordinating local Thriving Communities work with focus on tackling inequalities, including signposting and coordinating partners to provide support; officers support councillor engagement in a locally tailored way; officers support access to centralised [grants programme](#); fortnightly [learning sessions](#) with guest speakers.
- *Cross-council / issue-based:* Several issue-specific partnerships e.g. health and wellbeing partnerships, youth partnerships operating across whatever footprint makes sense to that issue; Some specific engagement projects e.g. [Community Champions](#) programme (focused on health, based in anchor organisations and driving community-led approaches - DLUHC funded); [Barton Health New Town](#) (NHS funded); [Community Insight Profile](#) grants to support community-led activity,

Strengths & limitations:

- ✓ Quadrants are based on recognisable community identities rather than administrative boundaries; creates structure for a range of council activities
- ~ Officer resource can be spread quite thin; dependent on individual councillor engagement & responsiveness

Impact & insights

- Portfolio / Quadrant approach allows council to target resources to particularly needed issues / communities, while taking advantage of the benefits of some locality-based working for all areas

Role of councillors:

- Work with Quadrant Manager to build relevant local relationships and identify / respond to local needs
- Small budget available for localised expenditure

Resourcing:

- 4 Quadrant Managers with senior coordinating responsibility, matrix management approach to incorporating both community development team and colleagues from other services – c. 10-12 people in each wider Quadrant team
- Ward budgets: (£1000/councillor + top-ups where available from the Community Infrastructure Levy)

Governance and control:

- No formalised local decision-making structure

Deep Dive: Barking and Dagenham



Overview: Portfolio approach with particular focus on supporting community leadership & community networks; some light-touch neighbourhood focus.

Where, when, what: Range of activities operating over different footprints.

- [Citizens' Alliance Network](#) to coordinate resident voice and action at neighbourhood level x7; online collation of opportunities / activities; also acts as consultation hub
- [BD Collective](#) "network of networks" to foster VCSE collaboration in order to work with council on Borough Manifesto aims; run by external partner via tendered contract
- Participatory grant-making via [NCIL](#), allowing residents to direct resources to community groups (£300k/year; outreach via sortition; aims to connect resources from regeneration to activities where residents have voice / experience tangible benefit)
- [CAN DO Fund](#): £250 grants to support community-led events to bring people together
- Some issues/community specific projects (with resources) e.g. [Your Estate Your Call](#) to generate community-led ideas for funded improvements; voted on by community

Strengths & limitations:

- ✓ Broad range of opportunities for residents to get involved supports diverse participation
- ✓ Strong relationships with VCS community underpins other activities
- ✓ Participatory budgeting is well established and involves a high degree of resident voice
- ~ Elements of approach have not been sustainable financially e.g. Participatory City
- ~ Neighbourhood level activity limited to online coordination
- ~ The iterative process meant that some projects were undermined by newer ones

Impact

- Culture of participation core to council's way of operating
- The team credit the approach with enabling their quick and effective covid response, as community networks were already engaged and mobilised
- Once people engage via NCIL, they tend to go on to other engagement opportunities

Role of councillors:

- No formal, regular LAC-type structure
- Particular focus on councillors playing stronger relationship-building role and supporting participatory processes
- During key projects (e.g. [Borough Manifesto](#)) councillors drop into key community venues / activities in order to seek input

Resourcing:

- Citizens' Alliance Network has officer team of 2
- BD Collective core £100k/year contract; 2FTE
- NCIL is key to delivering the participatory budgeting activity

Governance and control:

- Variable by activity as outlined

Deep Dive: Bolton



Overview: Community Alliance model – innovation on traditional locality structure – Informal network of local residents, voluntary groups and businesses

Where, when, what:

- Recent move away from Area Forums, new approach called “Community Alliances” currently being rolled out, with initial activity in 7 areas
- Significant focus on communities leading activities according to their own preferences about issues tackled, and format, frequency and location of activities
- Officers support the Alliances by making connections between groups and people to collectively tackle local issues. Their aim is to discover individuals and groups who might want to be involved, connect them to each other and support them to mobilise themselves to deliver solutions.

Rationale:

- Build on existing locality-focused structures and identities, but move towards a more flexible, community-leadership focused approach within those activities

Strengths & limitations:

- ✓ Highly responsive to community preferences
- ~ Risk of approach preferencing communities with greater existing social capital and resources; equitable access likely to require proactive and ongoing community development activity via the Area Working Coordinator

Impact & insights

- Approach still being rolled out

Role of councillors:

- Supported by Area Working Coordinator to play an active role in the Community Alliances
- *NB: Still emergent*

Resourcing:

- 5 x Area Working Coordinators, each with responsibility for 4 wards
- £15,000 per wards, of which £7,500 per ward to be allocated to community group projects to generate and increase social action for the benefit of residents in the ward

Governance and control:

- No formal governance structures or decision-making responsibility

Deep Dive: Adur & Worthing

Overview: Portfolio approach with particular focus on listening and community participation; investing ad hoc in specific in-depth engagement processes when needed; no formal neighbourhood forums

Where, when, what:

NB: Some similarities with Test Valley approach; here spotlighting distinct elements

- Ongoing experimentation being used to develop approaches
- Kicked off via town-wide [The Big Listen](#)
- Localised projects: Use of a participatory process to build consensus around the [future of Lancing](#); Start of the process was members identifying key data points (e.g. about economy; data points used to open up wider conversations with wider groups; members and community groups then reflected on these stories to identify priorities for the future.
- Similar approach taken to project where community was [frustrated about development delay](#); members supported a process to overcome delays by bringing together developers and community to co-design development

Rationale:

- Key principle to “make the place the client” with cross-party action to engage community

Strengths & limitations:

- ✓ Experimentation with new formats in small areas then builds competence and confidence
- ~ No formal regular space for localised decision-making

Impact & insights

- Approach still in development but indicating early successes in building new and effective councillor roles



Role of councillors:

- Supporting and convening engagement activities as “learning spaces”
- “Community connectors”, connecting residents to council projects, and to each other

Resourcing:

- Officer resourcing not known
- Local funding as below

Governance and control:

- As determined by requirements of projects
- [NCIL Fund](#) distributed via panels where members and community representatives engage on equal footing; distributed via “CIL areas” or clusters of wards

Recommendations & Implementation Options

Recommendations

The following 5 recommendations respond to the shared priority that councillors play an active, visible and effective role in supporting Cambridge's diverse communities to engage with the issues, changes and choices which affect their lives and the city's future.

1. Take a “portfolio approach” to member-resident engagement rather than returning to the Area Committee structure. This will allow limited resources to be focused on those functions which are currently missing and/or higher impact. This will require that the (already wide) range of opportunities for engagement and for meeting other objectives are clearly signposted to both members and residents.

2. New activities should explicitly prioritise **open-ended resident voice and relationship-building in dynamic, informal settings** (in contrast to consultation on specific council activities). This will also encourage a spirit of early consultation and input. Given diverse community preferences, these functions are likely to lend themselves more to a series of decentralised activities. This is likely to require a degree of experimentation and ongoing review. Members might benefit from additional training and support to execute this role.

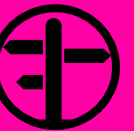


Recommendations

3. Wherever possible, additional member-resident engagement activities should build on **existing community-led structures and activities**. Where possible, **community-led activities should be proactively supported** to support this kind of engagement.

Page 192

As part of the review of the wider engagement portfolio, consider opportunities to increase / better signpost the **number and impact of opportunities for residents to meaningfully influence decision-making**, noting existing successful examples in Cambridge (e.g. Tenant Residents' Group).



5. In particular, consider the opportunity of the grants review to explore **participatory budgeting**, given the strong stated resident interest, tangibility of impact, clear link to the principle of resident-voice, and positive track record in other places.



Key Questions to Consider Regarding Implementation

- What are the **priorities** for practical implementation?
- What **resources** are available to implement the different elements of these recommendations?
- What **additional training and support** might be required for councillors and/or officers to focus on these priorities? How can an innovative, decentralised approach be **best supported**?
- How can **existing activities and opportunities** be better signposted or amplified, both to councillors and residents?

Illustrative Implementation Options: Core Activities

Responsive: Issue / Community- Specific Engagement & Decision-making opportunities

Bespoke activities according to specific community need / challenge / opportunity e.g. Shaping Abbey Pilot, Tenants' Resident Group

Anchor Activity: Annual Event – The Local Listen

- Informal & fluid drop-in event
- Ward / Area Committee boundaries depending on resource
- Focus: Build relationships; encourage questions; hear resident voice; promote engagement opportunities.

Ongoing Satellite Meetings Via Community Organisations

- Format flexible according to needs of group
- Light-touch conversations focused on establishing regular agenda-free dialogue
- Flexes up / down according to Member capacity
- Officer support to set-up / coordinate meetings

Optional: Cross-City Participatory Budgeting

- Can include ward level focuses set via Local Listens / Satellite Events

Illustrative Implementation Options: Training and Support

New Resource for Councillors: Resident Engagement Guide

- Outline of different activities
- Articulation of approaches (including light-touch skills building)
- Key methods and templates for activities
- Signposting of other resident engagement & support opportunities

Training & Support

- Opportunity for councillor training in engagement & listening
- Engagement Innovation Group: Action Learning Set (or similar) for engaged councillors to trial and develop new approaches, for circulation to wider group

More Details on Individual Options

Activity	Rationale	Councillor Role	Other considerations
Issue / Community-Specific opportunities (responsive)	Ensuring that council activities are well tailored to the diverse range of places, communities and issues in Cambridge; flexibility to respond	Engaging with affected / interested residents, tailored to issue / community in question	Councillors & officers would work together to identify which issues require additional in-depth engagement
Anchor Activity: Annual Event – The Local Listen	Offer a baseline, open-access, community-wide opportunity to engage informally with local councillors	Meet with / hear from residents without fixed agenda; signpost to relevant activities / opportunities (with officer support)	Events can be more or less ambitious according to resource available
Ongoing Satellite Meetings Via Community Organisations	By engaging in light-touch meetings which are both more proactive and informal than Area Committees, councillors can hear a wide range of voices	Meeting with key groups to build council's knowledge, insight and ability to respond	Officer resource would be key to supporting councillors effectively; capacity needs to be considered / planned
Cross-City Participatory Budgeting	Strong resident interest, clear / compelling link to high-impact decision-making	Encourage & build cross community support for applications	<i>Remit for this sits with Grants team; review of activities ongoing</i>
New Resource for Councillors: Resident Engagement Guide	Ensure all councillors have clear overview of activities and their role, with support for implementation	Resource would ideally be co-created together with a group of councillors	Resource would need to be regularly updated
Training & Support incl. cross-party innovation group	Ensure all councillors feel confident in listening / convening approaches; encourage those with particular interest to lead the development of new approaches	All to engage with training opportunities; most engaged to champion ongoing experimentation and development	Training in “community champion” role increasingly common; resource implications.

CIVIC AFFAIRS10 July 2024
5.30pm - 6.39 pm

Present: Councillors McPherson (Chair), Bennett, Gawthrope Wood, Robertson, Sheil and Young

FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL**24/26/Civ – Civic Affairs: Update to Alternative Options to Area Committees**

The report provided the follow-up to a report brought to Civic Affairs Committee in October 2023, as requested by the Committee at that time. It provides an update on work carried out in accordance with that report's recommendations to explore alternatives to Area Committees.

Resolved (unanimously) to recommend to Council:

- i. That Area Committees be paused for the remainder of the municipal year, 2024/25, while pilot work on alternatives continue and while more detailed proposals are developed for implementation from the start of the municipal year 2025/26.

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Cambridge City Council

Record of Officer Urgent Decision

Appointment of Councillor representatives to the Conservators of the River Cam.

Decision taken: To appoint Councillor Rachel Wade to the Cam Conservators and to confirm the continuing appointment of David Levien (former councillor) until their term ends on 31 December 2024.

Decision of: Chief Executive

Reference: 24/OfficerUrgent/E&C/02

Date of decision: 3.6.24 and published 4.6.24

Matter for Decision: To appoint Councillor Rachel Wade to the Cam Conservators and to confirm the continuing appointment of David Levien (former councillor) until the Councillor term ends on 31 December 2024.

Any alternative options considered and rejected: None

Reason for the decision including any background papers considered: The appointment of councillor representatives to the Cam Conservators is a Council appointment on the recommendation of the relevant Executive Councillor. The next meeting of Council is on 18 July 2024. An urgent decision under Section 9 paragraph 2, Council Procedure Rules is necessary to enable the councillor appointments to attend meetings and represent the council on the Cam Conservators before the next Full Council meeting.

Conflict of interest and dispensation granted by Chief Executive: None.

Comments: The Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services and the Chair of the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee confirmed their support for the decision.

Contact for further information: Robert Pollock, Chief Executive.

Robert.Pollock@cambridge.gov.uk

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NOTIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT TO CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (S.151)

The recruitment and selection campaign for the Chief Finance Officer took place between November 2023 and February 2024 which comprised of a full recruitment process to engage a permanent Officer to the role.

Jody Etherington was appointed Chief Finance Officer (section 151 Officer) by the Chief Operating Officer and commenced in post on 28 May 2024.

Council is therefore asked to:

- a. Note the appointment of Jody Etherington as the S.151 Officer for Cambridge City Council.

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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION PACK

Date: Thursday, 18 July 2024

- 1** **AGENDA ITEM 4 - LIST OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS** *(Pages 5 - 10)*
- 2** **AGENDA ITEM 6B - CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - UPDATE ON ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO AREA COMMITTEES** *(Pages 11 - 12)*
- 3** **AGENDA ITEM 7 - ORAL QUESTIONS** *(Pages 13 - 20)*

- 4 **AGENDA ITEM 8A - COUNCILLOR HOLLOWAY AMENDMENT TO MOTION 8A** *(Pages 21 - 24)*
- 5 **AGENDA ITEM 8B - COUNCILLOR THORNBURROW AMENDMENT TO MOTION 8B** *(Pages 25 - 26)*
- 6 **AGENDA ITEM 8C - COUNCILLOR DAVEY AMENDMENT TO MOTION 8C** *(Pages 27 - 28)*
- 7 **AGENDA ITEM 8D - COUNCILLOR THORNBURROW AMENDMENT TO MOTION 8D** *(Pages 29 - 34)*

Council Meeting – 18 July 2024

Public Questions

Question 1

Question on behalf of council tax payers and leaseholders of Parkside Place Cambridge for the meeting of Cambridge City Council in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall Cambridge on Thursday 18th July 2024 at 6pm.

Background

Parkside Place is an estate developed in 2012/2013 in the centre of Cambridge by Grosvenor Developments Ltd, a company that is part of Grosvenor Estates, the family company of the Duke of Westminster. The development is a mixed development comprising private apartments, Affordable Housing Units (AFUs) and **Cambridge Fire Station**. In gaining planning consent for the development, Grosvenor entered into a S106 agreement with Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and The Fire Authority. Under this agreement Grosvenor were obliged to ensure that the service charges of the AFUs did not increase annually by a figure in excess of retail price index (RPI).

Grosvenor, by seemingly calculated alteration of the final leases entered into with the residential leaseholders and the Fire Authority, (without any transparency or prior agreement), placed the obligation to pay any excess charge over RPI for the AFUs on the residential leaseholders and the Fire Authority.

To date the excess service charges for the AFUs amounts to over £320,000 of which in excess of £50,000 has been borne by the Fire Authority and therefore charged to council tax payers under the precept. Residential leaseholders are taking legal action against Grosvenor - quite clearly a civil matter. The question below is raised by council tax payers in relation to the burden of additional costs on the Fire Authority.

The Question

a) Does the council feel it appropriate for council tax payers to bear part of the costs of a developer's obligation under a S106 agreement. (£50,000 to date and increasing annually)

b) If it is felt that this is inappropriate behaviour by the developer, will the council make representations to Grosvenor on behalf of council tax payers.

c) Should Grosvenor feel that there is no obligation to recompense the Fire Authority and therefore council tax payers, will the council acknowledge that this behaviour should be taken into account in any future planning application by Grosvenor Estates or their subsidiary companies.

Connected questions were placed before the Fire Authority at their meeting on June 20th 2024 at Shire Hall. The Chief Fire Officer has indicated that legal advice is being taken on their position.

Question 2

The Federation of Cambridge Residents Associations would like to ask the following question at the Full Council meeting, 18 July.

Question

The Federation of Cambridge Residents Associations (FeCRA) shares the concerns of experts that Cambridge will soon run out of water

The East of England is low-lying, and one of the driest places in the UK. Water sources are under pressure meaning people, plants and animals are competing for the same precious resources. With climate change, drought is set to become more common amid hotter, drier summers, and intense rainfall events more frequent.

Many residents are very concerned about this and about the impact on the Cam chalk streams and the wildlife that depends on them.

Several solutions have been put forward including new reservoirs, water transfer pipelines and stringent water efficiency measures but these steps are urgently needed in any case to ensure there will be enough water for existing users and the developments that already have planning permission.

Cambridge's MP Daniel Zeichner Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is on public record as saying that growth in this region can't wait for reservoirs but the Environment Agency has objected to developments such as Bourn and Darwin Green on the grounds that they are not sustainable because there is not enough water.

Our petition to the Environment Agency supports these objections and asks that they continue to protect the environment by opposing major developments in this region until there is clear evidence that there is enough water to support them.

It has now been signed by almost 1000 residents - will the Council back the petition and ensure sufficient water can be provided **before** planning approval is given to further large-scale developments?

<https://www.change.org/p/save-our-chalk-streams-petition-to-the-environment-agency>

Chair, FeCRA

www.fecra.org.uk

www.facebook.com/CambridgeRAs

www.twitter.com/fecra2

Question 3

We are residents of Scholars Court, a block of council flats that rely on communal heating and hot water provided by Switch2. Since the construction of these flats, Switch2 has been our sole provider. Recently, Switch2 has notified us of an immediate doubling of their charges, which is placing significant financial strain on many vulnerable tenants.

Could the City Council review this situation and consider finding a more affordable alternative provider for our communal heating and hot water services?

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Question 4

For how much longer will the Council fail to deliver on its promise to provide this marginal, but very real, community with a safe, legal place to stop?

Why do I have to continue to ask the same question and receive the same irrelevant answer from a Council, which, like the election result, has had an overall Labour majority for several years, yet has failed to come up with a tiny plot of ground – the size of a football pitch – for a transit site? This is much more than an oversight. It is a blatant example of discrimination towards a protected ethnic minority, clearly expressed in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010¹. Provisions of the Police Act 2022 further victimised this community but resulted, on the 14/5/24, with an issuance by the High Court of a declaration of incompatibility finding that provisions in the Police Act unlawfully discriminate against Gypsies and Travellers.² The decision was based on the lack of authorised transit site provision on which they could camp lawfully. The Council have protested that they await the second of two GTANAs, which have taken over 4 years and counting to produce and are, in any event, totally immaterial to the issue of transit sites. On the same day as I was raising this question at the May full council meeting, Council enforcement officers were threatening Travellers with eviction notices at an unauthorised encampment at Arbury Town Park³. The Council state they do needs assessments, while ignoring the pre-eminent ‘need’ of this community — their deep-seated cultural way of life. They

travel and leave a very light footprint on the landscape, while holding on to their abiding belief in their right to roam. They may have 'need' of social support when they stop, but to focus on this is a racist endeavour. Like all other citizens, they have a human right to a home or place to stop, just as the Council have a duty to advance equality of opportunity; foster good relations and remove and minimise disadvantages.

For how much longer will the Council fail to deliver on its promise to provide this marginal, but very real, community with a safe, legal transit site?

Notes

1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 stated 14 years ago that public bodies should have regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; foster good relations; to remove and minimise disadvantages suffered by those due to their protected characteristics; and to encourage them to participate in public life. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/>

2 <https://www.judiciary.uk/judgments/smith-v-secretary-of-state-for-the-home-department/>

3 [Travellers asked to leave 'unauthorised encampment' at Cambridge park](#)

Question 5

Motion 8e calls for the city council:

"To adopt the Vision statement which positions the Council as a place maker, convenor and community facilitator as well as playing a core role in providing public services"

With the above in mind:

What discussions will the council have with partner organisations to organise, co-ordinate, and sequence consultation events for future proposals that affect the future of our city and beyond, and what actions could the council take including but not limited to:

- A shared single meetings/consultations calendar for public sector organisations (such as local councils which can scrape calendar data)
- Annual 'societies fairs' similar to the students unions freshers fairs for societies
- civic education for adults mindful of some of the questions that were put to the general election candidates that indicated a collective lack of knowledge on how our city functions and malfunctions
- Developer-funded events that bring together multiple proposals for residents to look at in the round rather than piecemeal and at short notice as at present.

Question 6

Developers are describing the lakes adjacent to Snakey Path and Cherry Hinton Brook as 'just amazing' but proposals for their opening as an urban country park, as part of the Mission Street science centre planning application mean they will soon become very ordinary. The lakes are a designated City Wildlife Site, home to chalk grassland wildflowers, orchids and numerous birds. But the plans include lakeside paving, unregulated access throughout much of the area, and three new access points via the Tins, a pedestrian and cycle path currently beset by many problems. Somewhat naively, the developers consider that the annual hot weather anti-social behaviour will be managed by 'passive surveillance'. Would Councillors consider delaying decisions about this component of the application until adequate consultation has been held with local residents and environmental groups, workable solutions developed for public access and health and safety issues, and mechanisms found to safeguard the important biodiversity of the area?

CIVIC AFFAIRS

10 July 2024
5.30pm - 6.39 pm

Present: Councillors McPherson (Chair), Bennett, Gawthrope Wood, Robertson, Sheil and Young

FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL

24/26/Civ – Civic Affairs: Update to Alternative Options to Area Committees

The report provided the follow-up to a report brought to Civic Affairs Committee in October 2023, as requested by the Committee at that time. It provides an update on work carried out in accordance with that report's recommendations to explore alternatives to Area Committees.

Resolved (unanimously) to recommend to Council:

- i. That Area Committees be paused for the remainder of the municipal year, 2024/25, while pilot work on alternatives continue and while more detailed proposals are developed for implementation from the start of the municipal year 2025/26.

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Oral Questions for Council 18 July 2024

1. Councillor Porrer to Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing.

Could the Executive Councillor please update council on how noisy and antisocial driving is being dealt with throughout the city?

2. Councillor Dryden to Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment.

How well are the bin collection rounds going following the implementation of the 4 day week trial?

3. Councillor Shiel to Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing.

Could the Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing update us on what is being done to support women experiencing homelessness in Cambridge?

4. Councillor Todd-Jones to Leader of the Council.

Given the gravity of the previous government's proposals set out in the 'Case for Cambridge', how will the Leader be engaging in discussions on this with the new Labour government?

5. Councillor Flaubert to Executive Councillor for Housing.

Does the Exec Cllr believe that its letting policy and Home Link application system is fit for purpose?

6. Councillor Divkovic to Executive Councillor for Housing.

Could the Executive Councillor for Housing give us an update on our tenant audits?

7. Councillor Bennett to Leader of the Council.

Please can the leader explain what his plans are to improve the sustainability and quality of Cambridge tourism given the failure of the tourist tax vote?

8. Councillor Clough to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

While supportive in principle of the Voi trials there are a number of concerns about the parking arrangements for the bikes and scooters. In some places, such as the Grantchester St/Driftway junction they are blocking the footpath and are a hazard for pedestrians and cyclists.

They appeared without notice overnight so my questions is:

Who decided these designated drop/off and collect locations were suitable, why was there no consultation with local councillors and residents and what action will be taken to remove them urgently from dangerous locations?

9. Councillor Young to Leader of the Council.

What does the Executive Councillor foresee as the role of the Council in the resettlement and rehabilitation of the prisoners released early which has just been announced by our National Government?

10. Councillor Baigent to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

Could the Executive Councillor update Council on steps being taken to promote our work on herbicide reduction both to Cambridge residents and more broadly in order for other local authorities to share in what we've learnt?

11. Councillor Howard to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

The City Council manages 12 of the 26 allotment sites in Cambridge. Many/all of these sites are supplied with troughs and standpipes supplying mains water for watering. Some plot holders are unaware that this is drinking water supplied by Cambridge Water and many still do not have water butts to collect rain water. Would the Council consider launching a project this coming year to assist with (a) the installation of rain water collection systems in all the allotments it manages, and (b) provision of education/awareness materials to encourage plot holders to reduce their use of mains water.

12. Councillor Blackburn-Horgan to Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing.

Does the Exec Cllr believe that the council is doing everything possible to ensure that our young people have safe recreational youth spaces around the city?

13. Councillor Bick to Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control & Infrastructure.

Is the Executive Councillor happy with the government's intention to impose a centrally determined target for new housebuilding on Cambridge, when this council and its partner in South Cambridgeshire have a good record of taking ownership for determining their own target, after analysis of forecasts for the economy and future demand, assessment of local constraints and opportunities and exercising our duty to co-operate with neighbouring councils - and then delivering sustainable new homes?

14. Councillor Lee to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

Could the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services let us know when the public toilets in Nightingale Park are due to open to the public and post opening hours since the council website says there are public toilets they never seem to be unlocked for the public?

15. Councillor Payne to Executive Councillor for Communities.

The roll out of the 4G network by mobile phone companies such as Vodafone this year means that residents with 3G phones are not able to access mobile data unless they purchase a new mobile phone. Can the Executive Councillor tell us about what actions the Council will be taking to support more vulnerable residents to prevent them from becoming digitally isolated?

16. Councillor Griffin to Executive Councillor for Communities.

What improvements are being undertaken to City Council pools/sports facilities?

17. Councillor Pounds to Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources.

Can the Executive Councillor confirm progress with the Council's Park Street development?

18. Councillor Robertson to Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing.

In light of several recent shop break-ins, what is being done to support and protect local businesses and shop workers?

19. Councillor Hauk to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

Can the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services please update us on the planned community clean-up days around Cambridge this year?

20. Councillor Martenelli to Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control & Infrastructure.

The council partners within the GCP have agreed to develop an Integrated Parking Strategy in order to reduce private traffic within the city and encourage use and viability of sustainable alternatives. After the agreed reduction in provision of off-street parking at the Park Street car

park, what further steps is the Council considering to assist the preparation of the Strategy and on what timescale?

21. Councillor Tong to Executive Councillor for Communities.

The Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller (GRT) community do not receive the support they need around Cambridgeshire, including within the city of Cambridge. At present, there are not enough pitches available on dedicated sites for short-term stays. Will Cambridge City Council commit to urgently investigate the viability of short-term stopping places for members of the GRT community, inspired by the work of Leeds City Council, noting that Cambridge is of immense importance to some members of this community due to family ties and the traditional Midsummer Fair.

22. Councillor Gawthrop Wood to Executive Councillor for Housing.

Could the Executive Councillor for Housing let us know how successful she feels the new council housing on Campkin Rd in King's Hedges has been in terms of integrating new council tenants with the local community?

23. Councillor McPherson to Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources.

Can the executive councillor confirm the team appointed to undertake the next stage of the civic quarter project and the proposed engagement process?

24. Councillor Nestor to Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control & Infrastructure.

How has the Shared Planning Youth Engagement Service been working with schools in our City? How many schools and children have been engaged?

25. Councillor Lokhmotova to Executive Councillor for Housing.

The Council's Climate Change strategy set an ambitious goal to become net zero by 2030.

Reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions from existing council homes is one of the key pathways to net zero.

The council owns over 7,100 homes, a vast proportion of which have poor energy efficiency.

Could the Executive Councillor for Housing please provide an update on the progress of the retrofit programme, how many existing houses are net zero ready, and what's the vision for the next five years?

26. Councillor Glasberg to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

In November 2022, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority approved a grant of £420,000 for the Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream project, which is a joint initiative between Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge Water. Cambridge City Council is responsible for implementing the project, using recommendations in the 2020 Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams Audit report.

Please could the Council provide a full update on (a) the activities undertaken, (b) the collaboration that has been undertaken with local groups and residents, and (c) provide a breakdown of the funding spent on this project since the beginning of 2023, given that the response to a similar question asked in November last year was inadequate?

27. Councillor Anna Smith to Leader of the Council.

Following the general election result on 4th July, can the Leader of the Council give us an update on how the Council will be working with the new Labour government and local partners to further support our work in the City?

28. Councillor Hossain to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

I would like to raise an important issue regarding the lack of public toilet facilities in Cambridge City, particularly during our busy weekend nights.

Every weekend, approximately five thousand people gather in our city for nights out, supported by five hundred professional taxi drivers working through the night. However, there are no public toilet facilities available at all. As a result, many people are forced to relieve themselves outside churches, shops and on footpaths, leading to unsanitary conditions.

Additionally, all the public toilets in our parks and on busy roads such as Mill Road have been permanently closed. This severely impacts visitors, especially children and individuals with special physical needs who require frequent access to toilets. By closing these facilities, the council is forcing our children and residents to relieve themselves in open spaces, which is both unsanitary and undignified.

This situation is not the fault of the individuals but rather a failure of this council to provide adequate public toilet facilities. I urge the council to address this issue urgently to improve the hygiene and dignity of our city's public spaces.

Moreover, Cambridge attracts around eight million visitors every year, and the lack of public toilet facilities significantly detracts from their experience. Therefore, I would like to ask the leader of the council: what major steps are you taking to ensure the environmental safety and well-being of our visitors and residents in Cambridge City?

29. Councillor Swift to Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control & Infrastructure.

What is the status of the Design Code Trial in north Cambridge, and how is this going to be taken forward?

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Councillor Holloway proposed the following amendment to motion 8a. (Deleted text ~~struckthrough~~, additional text underlined.)

Background to motion

It is now nearly 5 years since the last government made a commitment to reform the private rental market and protect people from “no fault” evictions.

These evictions were introduced by s21 Housing Act 1988. They have created a climate of fear for private renters, which can inhibit them from asking for much needed repairs.

After much delay a Renters (Reform) Bill 2024 was drafted which would have reduced the scope of “no fault” evictions, but was halted by the announcement of the July 4 2024 General Election.

Since the announcement of the proposed reform, rates of s21 “no fault” evictions have risen sharply, with 900 s21 “no fault” evictions per week recorded in the UK. The true figure is likely to be higher because not all these evictions are recorded.

Active Motion

This Council notes:

According to the 2021 Census, 31% of Cambridge households were in private rental accommodation. The welfare of these residents is of great importance to our city.

In October 2022, the Council passed a motion (<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=29659>) resolving to, among other things, set up a private renters’ forum, to re-consider the need for a Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme, and to ensure that all HMOs in the city are inspected, improved if needed, and licensed. The Council is taking a proactive approach to private tenant engagement, with a presence in supermarkets and at events such as ARU Property Fair and the Big Lunch, as well as monthly drop-in sessions.

The Council has an HMO licensing scheme, and rogue landlords can be reported to the Council.

When residents are made homeless, there can also be an obligation placed on the council (“homelessness duty”). A rise in private tenants made homeless is likely to increase the strain on council resources.

Re-introduction of the Renters (Reform) Bill to Parliament (~~preferably with the 84 amendments tabled by the then opposition parties~~) or a similar bill would protect private renters from unfair treatment and improve their quality of life.

Any delay in re-introducing this bill or a similar one leaves tenants exposed to s21 eviction.

It is accordingly important that this bill (or a similar bill) is made law at the earliest possible date.

~~The Council therefore resolves to write to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner, copying in our local MPs asking her to bring forward a new renters reform bill at the earliest possible date.~~

The Labour Party's 2024 manifesto states: 'We will immediately abolish Section 21 'no fault' evictions, prevent private renters being exploited and discriminated against, empower them to challenge unreasonable rent increases, and take steps to decisively raise standards, including extending 'Awaab's Law' to the private sector.'
(<https://labour.org.uk/change/break-down-barriers-to-opportunity/>)

This Council resolves:

To welcome the Labour Party's commitment to immediately abolishing Section 21 evictions and to introducing other measures to support private renters, including setting up a National Landlords Register.

To keep under review how the Council can use and work within the framework of any new national legislation to further support private renters.

~~(At the time of drafting this motion, the Council is unaware of whether such a proposal will be included in the King's Speech on 17 July 2024 and shall adjust the letter accordingly.)~~

~~The Council also proposes to require its private rentals team to consider whether support for private tenants can be increased in the short term before any increase in legal protection and bring a report to the appropriate council committee on its proposals in Autumn 2024.~~

~~The Council wishes particularly to require officers to report on whether it would be practical to introduce a local version of the measures introduced by the Mayor of London, including online resources Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker, Property Licence Checker and Report a Rogue Landlord tool.~~

Useful Links (not part of active motion)

We have included some background papers that we found useful.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/housing-and-land/improving-private-rented-sector/reforming-private-renting-london>

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10004/>

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/housing-and-land/improving-private-rented-sector/advice-renters>

We have also drawn upon the 2021 Census figures and the council's own Housing Facts.

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Agenda Item 5

Councillor Thornburrow proposed the following amendment to motion 8b. (Deleted text ~~struckthrough~~, additional text underlined.)

Council notes the public outrage displayed in the general election about the pollution of rivers, waterways and beaches by sewage - an outrage which is shared locally in relation to the River Cam.

Council further notes that change has begun, and endorses the statement made by the Secretary of State, Steve Reed, that “We will never look the other way while water companies pump sewage into our rivers, lakes and seas.”

Finally, we welcome the support for the actions taken by the new Labour government by people like Feargal Sharkey, our perfect campaigner who has been giving us Labour kicks by recommending Labour as the political party he believes can deliver meaningful change to improve the environment.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Steven Reed, thanking him for the action he has already taken against the polluting water companies by

- Writing to Ofwat to ask them to make sure funding for vital infrastructure investment is ring-fenced and can only be spent on upgrades benefiting customers and the environment
- Asking water companies to place customers and the environment at the heart of their objectives, demonstrating this by updating their ‘Articles of Association’ to make the interests of customers and the environment a primary objective
- Giving consumers new powers to hold water company bosses to account through powerful new customer panels with. For the first time in history, customers will have the power to summon board members and hold water executives to account.
- Strengthening protection and compensation for households and businesses when their basic water services are affected

and asking him to continue to deliver the change Labour has promised.

~~With the last government having been unwilling to take convincing measures to address this, council calls on the new government now to treat this as a priority for action, including introduction of criminal liability of water companies and suspension of executive bonuses for failure to meet performance targets.~~

~~Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the new Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs seeking the inclusion of legislation to appear in the very first King's Speech, and to both of Cambridge's MPs asking them to support this.~~

Agenda Item 6

Councillor Davey proposed the following amendment to motion 8c. (Deleted text ~~struckthrough~~, additional text underlined.)

The Council ~~notes that~~ welcomes the result of the recent general election which delivered a Labour Government for the first time since 2010. However, low turnout remains a persistent issue in national and local government elections with participation reducing again at the most recent City Council elections in May 2024. Political engagement is perceived to be particularly low among those aged under 30 and that the lack of engagement from young people is something which should be of concern for all political parties. ~~produced a new government with 100% of the power after winning two-thirds of the Parliamentary seats with only a third of the popular vote, when turnout was the lowest since 2001.~~

This Council believes that electoral reform can help to improve both engagement and tackle polarisation within our political system and will therefore:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Government asking it to re-introduce proportional voting systems for the elections for Police and Crime Commissioners and Directly Elected Mayors during this parliament, at the same time expressing regret that the single transferrable voting system was removed from these elections in the first place.
- Ask the relevant Officers at the City Council to develop a plan, working with partners at the County Council (who passed a similar motion earlier in the year) to encourage greater understanding of the role of the different tiers of local government here in Cambridge, and in particular to bring forward proposals about how we can work to better engage with younger people in Cambridgeshire to increase participation in local elections.

~~It considers that 'First Past The Post' is neither fair, inclusive, representative or popular and that it encourages voter disengagement, with surveys frequently showing that switching to a form of proportional representation is widely popular.~~

~~It calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister to express our dissatisfaction with the current electoral system, and our belief that a better system is both possible and desirable, and to ask him to set up a Citizens' Assembly to explore a system of voting fit for the Twenty-First century, encompassing national, local and mayoral elections.~~

~~It also calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the city's two members of Parliament calling for their support for this request.~~

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Agenda Item 7

Councillor Thornburrow has proposed the following amendment to motion 8d.

(Deleted text ~~struckthrough~~, additional text underlined.)

This Council notes with concern the rapidly accelerating water crisis that we are facing and it further notes that, following the declarations of a climate emergency and a biodiversity emergency in 2019, actions have been taken across the Council in relation to this issue, many in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council as part of our Shared Planning service, including:

- Responding to public questions with the Water Crisis Forum 2019
- An Integrated Water Management Study - the Stantec Report 2020
- The Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams Report 2020
- A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2021
- The Council Rivers, Safe Swimming and Sewage Motion 2022
- The Council Stop Dumping Sewage in our River and Chalk Streams Motion 2023
- A Water awareness campaign in 2022
- A Biodiversity Strategy 2022 – 2030
- Appointment of Chalk Stream Officer 2023
- A Designated Bathing Water area of the Cam 2024

And work to ensure that our emerging shared local plan has the highest proposed standards of water sustainability measures, including drainage, grey and rain water reuse.

Council resolves to continue to provide support for the ongoing work of the Water Scarcity Group in both its focus on new supply side measures to ensure timely progress with new pipelines and reservoirs for new sustainable developments, and also to ensure that future measures for water credits, grey and rain water recycling and retrofitting linked to new and existing developments in and around the Greater Cambridge area are robust and evidenced.

Council also resolves to hold Cambridge Water and Anglian Water to their commitment to a public information/education programme that will help residents and businesses use less water.

Council believes that, within the powers available to us, we are responding to the water emergency that faces us, working to ensure the sustainable development of thriving communities in Cambridge.

Council therefore resolves to continue to do so, confident that the newly elected Labour government will provide legislative, practical and financial support for local authorities as we deal with these pressing issues.

~~Cambridge experienced severe drought in 2022 and 2023, while recently we have seen some of the wettest six months on record in the UK, which have caused flooding in many parts of the city and surrounding areas, damaged agriculture, roads and other public infrastructure, and affected the lives of numerous residents.~~

~~We now have by turns either too much or too little water, as well as distressingly high levels of pollution. When residents see local flooding, they may think that our water shortage is over. Unfortunately, drought and flooding go hand in hand as dry hard soil fails to absorb water. Valuable rain fails to reach our chalk streams and instead contributes to flooding.~~

~~In 2019, the City Council declared biodiversity and climate emergencies. This helped to raise public awareness of these critical issues and influenced planning and other decisions.~~

~~We need a water emergency declaration for the same reasons.~~

~~This council recognises that other agencies are charged with water management. However, we acknowledge the impact of our own actions and decisions on our local water issues. We acknowledge that without broad engagement and co-operation that the chances of any improvement in our water situation is very limited.~~

~~This may be the longest motion that Greens have ever submitted to this council. We make no apologies for this. The scale of the crisis and the extent of the water supply gap is such that we consider that no prudent or responsible person can justify leaving any stone unturned to improve the situation~~

~~This council:~~

- ~~• Asserts that our water issues go wider than the supply and sewage problems that are the responsibility of the local water companies~~
- ~~• Resolves to take steps to ensure the public are aware of the full extent of our water supply gap by monitoring and republishing the information prepared by Water Resources East, the Environment Agency and others as appropriate and providing full and clear information on the extent of the water gap.~~
- ~~• Pledges to encourage all organisational departments, partners and our communities, businesses and residents to address the water crisis within Cambridge and the wider region, and~~
- ~~• To take a full and active part in that work ourselves and employ our “soft power” fully~~

~~(1) Declare recognition of the water emergency and the local impact this could have on the residents, communities and businesses we serve;~~

~~-~~

~~(2) Help reduce over-abstraction by:~~

- ~~• Giving full weight in planning applications for large-scale developments to the evidence of the Environment Agency as statutory consultee on water issues~~
- ~~• Writing to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner to request the withdrawal or amendment of the 8 May 2024 WMS (“Written Ministerial Statement”) on the Cambridge Delivery Group to be replaced with a new WMS requiring greater priority to be given to water issues in considering any local planning applications~~
- ~~• Writing to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner to request that planning matters in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire remain under the control of the local authorities~~
- ~~• Requiring the highest water efficiency standards for any new developments that are approved, including mandatory greywater collection and recycling;~~
- ~~• Undertaking a public information/education programme within the next year to encourage residents to use less water, using all communications mechanisms~~
- ~~• Continuing to engage with the water companies, alongside expert community groups, to accelerate solutions to over-abstraction, supporting those that are strategically planned, clearly costed and transparent, and compatible with commitments to reach net zero and halt biodiversity loss;~~
- ~~• Putting pressure on the water companies to take more concerted, urgent and innovative action to:
 - ~~○ cap abstraction from the Chalk aquifer at today’s actual levels;~~
 - ~~○ manage demand more effectively through actions such as the prompt declaration of hosepipe bans, the accelerated introduction of universal metering and proactive encouragement of water collection and recycling e.g. water butt installation;~~
 - ~~○ rapidly increase efforts to repair leaks.~~~~

~~(3) Reduce pollution by:~~

- ~~• supporting the public’s pressure on Anglian Water to invest urgently in updating its smaller, older sewage treatment works and to halt illegal dumping of sewage into rivers. All wastewater installations and infrastructure that discharges into chalk streams and rivers should be upgraded to this end.~~

~~(4) Mitigate flooding by:~~

- ~~• pushing for the prioritisation of nature-based solutions, including restoration of flood plain habitats and appropriate vegetation management to slow down surface run-off, reduce the risk of flash flooding and minimise pollution;~~
- ~~• promoting the concept of, and principles behind the ‘sponge’ city and region approach: i.e. the creation of places with multiple areas of greenery, trees, ponds, soakaways, pocket parks, rain gardens and permeable paving to allow water to drain away, and with measures to store rainwater and runoff (e.g. water butts).~~

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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The erratic weather patterns, generated by climate change, are well understood on paper by both the Cambridge Water Scarcity Group and the water companies. Cambridge Water, the water supply company for the city and parts of South Cambridgeshire, notes in its 2025-2030 business plan^[1] that “we are likely to see more extremes of weather, with 60% less rainfall in the summer and 30% more rainfall in the winter in our Cambridge region by the 2080s.” In its draft Water Resource Management Plan, the company acknowledges clearly that, with current growth proposals and the need for licence caps on abstraction to protect the natural environment, the region will run into a water deficit by 2029/30.

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Current plans for addressing this are wholly inadequate, and incompatible with the February 2024 government ‘guidance’ on water scarcity^[2]. Plans for large-scale development will increase the burden, causing over-abstraction and pollution with negative impacts on the quality of life for residents and further threats to our chalk streams, trees and natural vegetation as the water table falls and becomes more polluted. Information provided by the City Council on the water crisis is minimal: hidden within its webpage on recycling^[3]

References:

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[1] <https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/bitstream/10044/1/111577/7/Scientific%20Report%20UK%20Storms.pdf>

[1] <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/biodiversity-emergency>

[1] <https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=21684>

[1] <https://www.south-staffs-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/business-plan-2025-2030>

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures>

[1] <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/reduce-your-waste>

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[Written statements – Written questions, answers and statements – UK Parliament](#)

[1] <https://www.south-staffs-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/business-plan-2025-2030>

[2] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures>

[3] <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/reduce-your-waste>

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