

## **COUNCIL**

22 May 2025  
Times Not Specified

**Present:** Councillors Ashton, Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Blackburn-Horgan, Clough, Dalzell, Davey, Dryden, Flaubert, Gardiner-Smith, Gawthrope Wood, Glasberg, Griffin, Hauk, Holloway, Hossain, Howard, Illingworth, Lee, Lokhmotova, Martinelli, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Porrer, Pounds, Robertson, Sheil, Smart, A. Smith, S. Smith, Swift, Thittala, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Tong, Wade and Young

<b>FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL</b>
---

### **25/38/CNL To elect a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26**

Councillor Davey proposed, and Councillor Gardiner-Smith seconded the nomination of Councillor Dinah Pounds as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

**Resolved** (unanimously) that:

Councillor Pounds be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

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

### **25/39/CNL To elect a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26**

Councillor S Smith proposed, and Councillor Nestor seconded the nomination of Councillor Richard Swift as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

**Resolved** (unanimously) that:

Councillor Swift be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

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

### **25/40/CNL To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 24 February 2025 and 17 March 2025**

The following amendments were made to the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March, (deleted text to be ~~struck through~~, additional text underlined).

25/32/CNL, page 52 of the agenda pack:

Councillor Ashton proposed and Councillor Moore seconded a motion of ~~no~~ confidence in the Mayor.

25/26/CNL, page 35 of the agenda pack:

Declaration of Interest, Councillor Bennett - Member of the Low-Income Tax Reform Group, which had a large involvement in ~~career~~ carer issues.

The minutes of the meetings on 24 February and 17 March 2025, including the Extraordinary Meeting, were then confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**25/41/CNL To note the Returning Officer's Report that the following have been elected to the Office of Councillor**

Jamie Dalzell (West Chesterton Ward)

Bob Illingworth (East Chesterton Ward)

**25/42/CNL To Pass a Resolution of Thanks to the Outgoing Mayor**

**Resolved** (unanimously) on the proposal of Councillor Davey seconded by Councillor Holloway.

This Council expresses its appreciation of the manner in which the duties of the Mayor and Mayor's consorts were discharged by Councillor Baiju Thittala and consort Ancy Thittala during their period of office.

**25/43/CNL Mayor's announcements**

- The Mott Sermon would be held at Holy Trinity Church on 25<sup>th</sup> May which was a key tradition in the city and continued as part of the Mayoral Civic Service.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup> May, Memorial Day (wreath laying) ceremony at the American Cemetery, Madingley, in memory of the US military who lost their lives in the two world wars.
- The Opening ceremony of the Cambridge Chinese Dragon Boat Festival would take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June at Jesus Green.
- The Proclamation of Midsummer Fair, in partnership this year with the Cambridge Rutherford Rotary Club would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Apologies were received from Councillor Payne and Councillor Divkovic

### **25/44/CNL Declarations of Interest**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Bennett	25/57/CNL	Personal: Disabled and have family members who received disability benefits. Local Government Disability Champion. Affiliated with the Low-Income Tax Reform Group. Also received training from Disability Rights Uk
Baigent	All	Personal: Member of Cambridge Cycling Campaign.

### **25/45/CNL To elect from among the Members of the Council Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2025/26**

**Resolved** (unanimously) to:

Appoint Councillors Gawthorpe Wood, Dryden, McPherson, Blackburn-Horgan and Illingworth, Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

### **25/46/CNL To elect a Leader of the Council**

On the nomination of Councillor Davey and seconded by Councillor Wade it was **resolved** to:

Elect Councillor Cameron Holloway as Leader of Cambridge City Council.

### **25/47/CNL Notification of Cabinet Portfolio Holders**

Councillor Rachel Wade  
(Vice-Chair) Deputy Leader

Councillor Gerri Bird  
Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Rosy Moore  
Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment

Councillor Antoinette Nestor  
Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills

Councillor Martin Smart  
Cabinet Member for Nature, Open Space and City Services

Councillor Anna Smith  
Cabinet Member for Communities

Councillor Simon Smith  
Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

Councillor Katie Thornburrow  
Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport

Councillor Mike Todd-Jones  
Cabinet Member for Safety, Wellbeing and Tackling Homelessness

**25/48/CNL To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption**

**25/49/CNL Civic Affairs Committee - Cambridge City Council Constitution**

Councillor Porrer proposed the following amendment to the Constitution, seconded by Young (Deleted text struck through, additional text underlined).

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

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

The amendment was lost by 17 votes to 22, with 1 Abstention.

**Resolved** (21 Votes to 5, with 14 Abstentions) to:

- i. Approve the draft Constitution, which includes the LGA model Code of Conduct, and for it to come into effect at the Annual Council meeting in May 2025.

- ii. Note the Monitoring Officer has responsibility to ensure the Constitution is up to date and lawful, including by making 'housekeeping changes' to ensure it is comprehensible and consistent as required.
- iii. Note that the Constitution will be reviewed within nine months and any further changes to be adopted through the correct channels

### **25/50/CNL Civic Affairs Committee - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

**Resolved** (38 votes, with 1 abstention) to:

- i. Consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in Appendix 1. 2 of the report.
- ii. Agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as outlined in 8.2 of the cover report and for the recommendations to be reviewed in the 2025-26 municipal year.

### **25/51/CNL Civic Affairs Committee - Table of Appointments**

**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).

#### **Performance, Assets & Strategy Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

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

Gawthrope-Wood (Vice-Chair), Griffin, Baigent, Davey, Sheil

Porrer (Chair), Dalzell

Clough

Alternates

Labour x 2 TBC, Martinelli, Bick, Bennett

#### **Services, Climate and Communities Scrutiny Committee**

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

Beth Gardiner-Smith (Vice-Chair), Pounds, Baigent, Divkovic

Labour TBC,

Young (Chair), Hauk, Payne

Glasberg

Alternates

Tim Griffin, Labour TBC, Martinelli, Bick, Tong

**Civic Affairs and Audit Committee**

Standards Sub Committees will be set up on an ad hoc basis as and when required comprising three

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

McPherson (Chair), Gawthroe-Wood (Vice Chair), Robertson, Sheil

Dalzell, Bick

Bennett

Alternates

Davey, Labour TBC, Young, Clough

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

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

Membership 10 (nb. 10 is the statutory minimum number for a Licensing Committee) +3 alternates

(6 Labour + 3 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Russ McPherson (Chair), Bird (Vice Chair), Swift, Wade, Moore, Divkovic

Blackburn-Horgan, Lokhmotova, Bick

Clough

Alternates

A Smith, Illingworth, Flaubert, Bennett

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

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

Smart (Chair), Baigent (Vice Chair), Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Dryden

Flaubert, Illingworth

Howard

Alternates

Ashton, Gawthroe-Wood, Porrer, Lokhmotova, Bennett

**25/52/CNL Appointments to Outside Bodies & Working Groups**

**Resolved** unanimously to approve the following appointments:

Outside Bodies:

The Junction (Observer Status), 1 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat

Councillors Nestor and Blackburn-Horgan

Cambridge BID, 1 Labour  
Councillor – Cabinet Member

Adults and Health Committee, 1 Member, 1 Alternate member  
Councillor – Cabinet Member, Alternate Councillor - TBC

Cambridge Community Safety Partnership, 1 Labour, 1 Alternate  
Councillor A Smith, Alternate Councillor – TBC

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate  
Councillor A Smith, Alternate Councillor – TBC

Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors,  
1 Labour  
Councillor Todd-Jones

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Military Covenant Board, 1 Labour  
Councillor Davey

Clay Farm Advisory Group, 1 Labour, 1 Lib Dem  
Councillors Wade and Hauk

Recycling in Cambridge and Peterborough (RECAP), 1 Labour  
Councillor – Cabinet Member

Cambridge Airport Consultative Committee, 1 Member  
Councillor Robertson

Members Active Travel Steering Group, 5 Labour, 3 Liberal Democrat  
Councillors Thornburrow, Baigent, Pounds, Nestor, S Smith, Lee, Dalzell and Hauk

East West Main Line Partnership Board, 1 Labour, 1 reserve  
Councillor Thornburrow, Reserve Councillor – TBC

EWR Eastern Section Board, 1 Labour, 1 reserve  
Councillor Thornburrow, Reserve Councillor – TBC  
Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate  
Councillor Holloway, Alternate – Councillor Baigent

Water Resources East Strategic Advisory Group, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate  
Councillor Thornburrow, TBC

Flood & Water Partnership, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate  
Councillor Thornburrow, TBC

Local Government Information Unit, 1 Labour  
Councillor Griffin

East of England Local Government Association, 1 Labour  
Councillor Simon Smith

LGA General Assembly, 1 Labour  
Councillor – Leader

Horizons Board, 1 Labour  
Councillor Robertson

Cambridge Investment Partnership, 2 Labour  
Councillors Bird and S Smith

District Councils Network, 1 Labour  
Councillor – Leader

Advisory Council - Cambridge Growth Company (Homes England), 1 Labour  
Councillor - Leader

#### Working Groups & Sub Committee's

Joint Staff Employment Forum, 3 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat, 2 Alternates  
Councillors Bird, Moore, S Smith, Wade, Hauk, Flaubert  
Alternate Councillors – TBC, Bick, Martinelli

Equalities Panel, 3 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat  
Councillors Smart, Wade, Bird, Porrer, Martinelli  
Alternate Councillor TBC, Flaubert, Lokhmotova

Housing Board\* (Numbers to be confirmed by Leader), 5 Labour, 2 Lib dem, 1  
Green + 6 elected tenant / leaseholders reps  
Councillors – Robertson (Chair), Griffin (Vice-Chair), Thittala, Gardiner-Smith,  
Gawthroe-Wood, Martinelli, Lokhmotova, Green  
Alternate Councillor – TBC, Lee, Blackburn-Horgan, Bennett

Employee Appeals Sub Committee, 4 Labour, 2 Lib Dems  
Councillors Wade, Davey, Gardiner-Smith, TBC, Flaubert, Martinelli

Chief Officer Appointments Sub Committee (must include one Cabinet Member)

Membership to be drawn from Employment Committee on ad hoc basis

Investigating and Disciplinary Sub Committee (must include one Cabinet Member)

Membership to be drawn on ad-hoc basis from membership of whole council

Chief Officer Appeals Sub Committee (must include one Cabinet Member)

Membership to be drawn on ad-hoc basis from membership of whole council

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Committees

CPCA Environment & Sustainable Communities, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate  
Councillor Moore, Councillor Todd-Jones

CPCA Skills & Employment, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate  
Councillor Nestor, Councillor Divkovic

CPCA Transport & Infrastructure, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate  
Councillor Thornburrow, Councillor S Smith

CPCA Investment Committee, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate  
Councillor S Smith, Councillor Robertson

CPCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate, 1  
Green, 1 Green Alternate  
Councillor Davey, Alternate Labour TBC, Councillor Clough, Alternate Green,  
Councillor Tong.

CPCA Audit and Governance, 1 Labour, 1 Labour Alternate  
Councillor Divkovic, Councillor Todd-Jones

**25/53/CNL Annual Statements**

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

**25/54/CNL Public questions time**

**Question 1: Cambridgeshire Action**

Over the past several years, two consecutive governments have outlined extremely ambitious plans for growth in Greater Cambridge.

Meanwhile, the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has persisted in advancing plans for busways that demonstrate extremely poor benefit-cost ratios and that still fail to provide adequate capacity for transport to key destinations such as the city centre and Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

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

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

In response the Leader of the Council said the following:

- i. Recognised that Cambridge and the surrounding area had a crucial role in the regional and national economy.
- ii. The Council did support additional housing and infrastructure for the area if it was well planned and a sustainable way.
- iii. Was aware that residents did worry about the sustainability of growth in the area.
- iv. The Council supported initiatives to promote world-leading research and innovation in Cambridge that benefited people globally, but this should not come at the expense of residents.
- v. Enhanced transport links could play a vital role in reducing existing inequalities. It was important that new investments benefited all communities rather than deepening social divide.
- vi. Improving transport infrastructure was essential to meet the needs of both current and future residents.
- vii. There was not a simple dichotomy between busways and light rail. Busways created transport corridors that could in future be converted into light rail.
- viii. There had been technical issues with the existing busway but when done right they were a clever piece of infrastructure which could transport many people quickly while retaining a level of flexibility.
- ix. The busway was able to go around the town and villages that the light railway system could not necessarily access.
- x. The busway would be cheaper than the light rail for users.

- xi. The preparatory work of the busway was more advanced and the cost of infrastructure significantly cheaper.
- xii. Would welcome further conversations regarding light rail but it had to be accepted it was a higher cost and a longer-term solution.
- xiii. Busways could provide vital transport links which could be install while considering what might come next.

### **Supplementary Question**

The CSET (Cambridge Southeast Transport Scheme) busway which was intended to accommodate current and future travel demands to the Cambridge biomedical campus due to be completed before 2029 at the earliest.

According to the GCP's own forecast peak capacity of the busway which was 600 passengers per hour was likely to be exceeded in the morning rush hour as early as 2036.

Did the Leader of the Council have any reservations about spending £162million of public funds on a transport infrastructure that was expected to provide insufficient capacity after seven years.

Before wasting yet more public funds on two public inquiries, was it not time for the GCP to admit that the organisation busway proposals required a rethink?

The Leader responded:

- i. If the busway did not to go ahead the issues outlined would get worse.
- ii. While it was important to explore alternative solutions such as light rail, abandoning the busway project at this stage would risk deterioration to any existing problems.
- iii. There was the potential for both a busway and light rail.
- iv. The busway could have a positive impact and provide significant benefits.
- v. The public inquiry would provide an opportunity for residents to have their say and express any concerns.

### **Question 2: Unitaries and local government reform Cambs Unitaries Campaign**

The Campaign for Unitary Authorities in Cambridgeshire, has written to all councillors to set out some suggested principles for determining how the new unitaries should be formed: [www.cambsunitaries.org.uk/principles](http://www.cambsunitaries.org.uk/principles)

The key points are:

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

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

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

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

The Leader of the Council replied with the following comments:

- i. Thanked the public speaker on their work to develop these principles and on the campaign which was a valuable contribution to the debate. It was a very timely matter which started before the current proposals came in

from Government and was grateful for the detailed engagement on this issue.

- ii. The Government had set out the criteria for local government reorganisation. Some of the principles reflected the feedback that had been collected last year on the Council's public engagement on the future of local government in Cambridge.
- iii. The public statement had highlighted the importance of democratic engagement, putting residents first and making sure that any unitary council covered a functional economic geography. It also gave concern that a larger unitary authority could feel distant from residents. These were all matters that been raised in the public engagement.
- iv. Agreed with the principles underpinning the Government's criteria, including the importance of democratic accountability, coherence within economic areas, and consideration of transport and local identity. Additionally, it was recognised that high-quality service delivery and sustainable growth were essential, and that unitary authorities would be of a sufficient size to remain resilient in the face of financial challenges.
- v. The City Council would advocate for a unitary council that at its core was designed to improve the lives and life chances of the residents.
- vi. Wanted to manage expectations about this process, a solution was needed that worked for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and would work with Council Leaders to achieve that goal.
- vii. The preference would be for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as an area to put forward a single proposal for local government reorganisation. If this was not feasible the Council would make a case for the option best placed for the Cambridge area.

### **Supplementary Question**

As Cambridge City Council could not stand on its own it was important to look at the wider area. Would joining with the East Cambridgeshire area which had large rural areas, not subjected to the pull of Cambridge and all its growth-related issues, lead to a Council looking in multiple directions than being focused?

The Leader responded with the following:

- i. Agreed that the majority of debate focused on specific geography of the council and how many unitaries there were likely to be.
- ii. Had not yet spoken with all the other Local Authority Leaders but would be working together to reach a solution and would reiterate if this would not be feasible, the Council would make a case for the option best placed for the Cambridge area.
- iii. It was important for there to be further public consultation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The government has consulted the Israeli embassy about the prosecution of British protestors<sup>[10]</sup>. British journalists have been persecuted for critical reporting of Israel's actions<sup>[11]</sup>. Despite the International Court of Justice finding it plausible that Israel's acts could amount to genocide<sup>[12]</sup> — and the obligation

of parties to the Genocide Convention to take measures to prevent such acts — our government continues to maintain that there is a “tenable view that no genocide has occurred or is occurring,” regardless of overwhelming evidence of the deliberate targeting of civilians, including children<sup>[13]</sup>.

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

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

Will the Council:

- Reaffirm its demand that the UK government immediately revoke all licences for arms exports to Israel and to suspend all arms sales.
- Publicly condemn the government’s failure to act decisively in the face of mass killings, forced displacement, deliberate starvation in Gaza, and continuing violence, land theft, and demolitions in the West Bank.
- Raise concerns about the undue influence exerted by the Israeli government and its lobbyists on British political and legal institutions.
- Strengthen the Council’s ethical procurement and investment policies, reaffirming its commitment to human rights and international law, by ensuring the Council does not invest in or trade with entities involved in:
  - state violence, occupation, or repression involving grave violations of international law, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide.
  - the production of weapons, weapons components, or military equipment where there is a credible risk of such violations;
  - the extraction, processing, or trade of fossil fuels.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [5] <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-289-west-bank>  
<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-take-full-control-land-registry-area-c-annexation>
- [6] <https://www.icjpalestine.com/2025/05/08/ground-breaking-report-reveals-evidence-suggesting-uk-is-continuing-to-export-military-goods-to-israel-despite-arms-ban/>  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/664aed65d320123f2b3ab647/t/681b13a2197d634a11d746c0/1746604963269/REPORT-ExposingUKArmsExportsToIsrael-05072025.pdf>
- [7] <https://www.declassifieduk.org/britain-sent-over-500-spy-flights-to-gaza/>
- [8] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/23/criminal-complaint-alleges-uk-politicians-complicity-in-israeli-war-crimes> Page 26
- [9] <https://www.thenational.scot/news/25165991.labour-see-massive-increase-uk-military-equipment-sent-israel/>
- [10] <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/apr/29/police-and-prosecutors-details-shared-with-israel-during-uk-protests-inquiry-papers-suggest>
- [11] <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20241018-uk-police-raid-home-of-journalist-exposing-israeli-crimes-and-weaponisation-of-anti-semitism/>
- [12] <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/01/gaza-icj-ruling-offers-hope-protection-civilians-enduring-apocalyptic> <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>
- [13] <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/harrowing-gaza-testimonies-describe-children-shot-through-heart-britain-defends-arms>
- [14] <https://www.caabu.org/news/press-release/caabu-press-release-new-poll-shows-sustained-british-public-support-immediate>  
<https://bylinetimes.com/2024/04/03/brits-want-the-uk-to-ban-arms-sales-to-israel-but-its-political-parties-arent-listening/>
- [15] <https://www.declassifieduk.org/israel-lobby-funded-a-quarter-of-british-mps/>  
<https://www.>

The Leader replied with the following:

- Thanked the public speaker for attending the meeting.
- The scenes witnessed in the last year and half in Gaza had had been unbearable.
- No one, especially children should be left without food, forced into starvation and no innocent civilian should be killed.
- The Council had been calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and across the Middle East for a long time; this was even more urgent now.

- Many people in Cambridge had been very deeply and personally affected by this war.
- Agreed with the joint statement that was put out on Monday by the Leaders of the UK, France and Canada which stated:

“We strongly oppose the expansion of Israel’s military operations in Gaza. The level of human suffering in Gaza is intolerable. Yesterday’s announcement that Israel will allow a basic quantity of food into Gaza is wholly inadequate. We call on the Israeli Government to stop its military operations in Gaza and immediately allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. We call on Hamas to release immediately the remaining hostages they have so cruelly held since 7 October 2023.

[Joint statement from the leaders of the United Kingdom, France and Canada on the situation in Gaza and the West Bank - GOV.UK](#)

- iv. The Council passed a Motion calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank and for the suspension of all UK armed sales to Israel.
- v. The Council stood by the Motion and reaffirmed its call.
- vi. The Council had, through cross party statements read out by the Mayor, repeatedly condemned the horrific attack by Hamas on the 7<sup>th</sup> October and called for an immediate ceasefire, return of the hostages, unfettered access for humanitarian aid, peace in the Middle East, international support for a two-state solution and the upholding of international law.
- vii. The Council did not trade with international entities, suppliers involved in military equipment and did not work with petrochemical companies.
- viii. The Council held high standards of procurement in line with the Procurement Act and the Modern Slavery Act.
- ix. The Council proudly championed human rights, social justice and equality.

### **Supplementary Question**

What is the Council’s position on the undue influence exerted by the Israeli Government on British legal and political institutions? And could the Council review its ethical procedures to ensure it is not complicit in the occupation of Palestine?

The Leader of the Council responded with the following:

- i. Whilst acknowledging that no foreign government should have influence on British politics, the Leader is in no position to rule or form a judgement on that.

- ii. Repeated assurances that the Council did not trade with international entities, suppliers involved in military equipment and did not work with petrochemical companies.
- iii. The Council held high standards of procurement in line with the Procurement Act and the Modern Slavery Act.

## **25/55/CNL To deal with oral questions**

### Question 1

Councillor Tong to the Leader

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People has reported that more than 50% of people over age 55 will suffer from hearing loss, rising to 80% of people over the age of 70. As such, it is immensely important that we work to accommodate these individuals, pushing for local democracy in Cambridge to be as transparent and open as possible. Visitors to this chamber have reported to me that, after being invited to tune their hearing aids into an audio induction loop, they were unable to, harming their ability to take part in the democratic process. Is this due to a fault, and, if so, is work being done to rectify it?

The Cabinet Member responded: In relation to induction loops and hearing aids in the chamber and in the committee rooms it's important all members of the public feel they could take part in the democratic process and interact with the Council. Officers were working with the suppliers of the audiovisual kit the Council used to ensure all avenues were explored to make sure the system worked as well as it possibly could so the Council could allow members of the public to take part in the democratic process. Was aware there were occasions when the audiovisual kit had technical issues, but the team were working to keep these to a minimum and the system was regularly tested and updated to ensure this software was in the best possible condition.

### Question 2

Councillor Robertson to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

Describe the consultation process for Civic Quarter.

The Cabinet Member wished to encourage residents, visitors and stakeholders to respond to the latest consultation on the civic quarter. This would be live until the 22nd of July.

To take part in the events program please register your interest at [cambridge.gov.uk](http://cambridge.gov.uk).

It was worth taking part because responses to last year's consultation helped to shape civic quarter design.

The Council wanted to hear residents' voices. A few examples of how the Council responded were reported to the November 2024 meeting of the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee:

- i. Opinion was divided on the market canopy and there was strong support for more seating so with the close involvement of the market traders current plans show a much smaller canopy over a dedicated seating area.
- ii. There was strong support to retain the seven days a week market - this council was committed to do just that.
- iii. Calls to reduce antisocial behaviour on the market - the current plans provide for more permanent stalls which could be secured.
- iv. There was strong support for making the Guildhall more welcoming and more open to the community. The plans provide for a large open entrance area with a cafe and other facilities.

### Question 3

Councillor Dalzell to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport

With regard to the proposed redevelopment of Arbury Court shopping centre, and in the context of the broader 'Shaping North Cambridge' consultation, could the Executive Councillor outline what specific measures are being taken to ensure that:

- local residents' concerns about maintaining essential retail services during any construction period are being addressed;
- the final development will enhance rather than diminish the community hub function that Arbury Court currently serves;
- small independent businesses currently operating in the area will be protected from unsustainable rent increases following redevelopment?"

The Cabinet Member for Housing responded instead of the Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport.

Cambridge City Council was asking local people to feed into the new framework for change in North Cambridge.

It was a long-term plan to guide investment in the area looking at older council housing estates, green spaces, streets, shops and community facilities in Arbury, Kings Hedges and Chesterton.

No decision had been made and there were no specific proposals for redevelopment. The Council was starting with the assumption that if there were to be a future decision to redevelop Arbury Court, the Council would ensure shops were able to continue trading during any development.

Residents were invited to provide feedback on the priorities through the online survey at any time before the 18th of June they could contact [cambridge.gov.uk/ncf](http://cambridge.gov.uk/ncf). Hard copy surveys were available Arbury Court Library, Meadows Community Centre and at all drop-in events.

#### Question 4

Councillor Blackburn Horgan to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

With the council having a local building, 100 Blinco Grove, offered for purchase from Cambridgeshire County Council, which is set within the community by schools and families of a growing population, why is it not being purchased and repurposed as a much-needed youth and community centre to meet the identified needs of QEW?

The Cabinet Member responded the County Council had offered the property to the City Council on commercial terms.

The questioner's proposal would amount to an out of cycle unfunded pressure on the capital and revenue budgets. Referred to the current year's budget making process when 44.9 million pounds of additional income and savings were identified to balance the budget, in other words to fulfil our strategy duty.

To balance the budget these and other previous savings the councils had to make have been a direct consequence of 14 years austerity. It was Liberal Democrats who put this policy in place with the Conservative Government from 2010 to 2015. It was Liberal Democrat ministers who took an active part in the joint enterprise of austerity. Austerity had brought public services to their knees and created an infrastructure deficit that would take billions and years to put right. Perhaps Liberal Democrats in this chamber were now facing up to the party's role in this?

Liberal Democrat County Councillors would be making difficult decisions to balance the County Council budget. Queried what details relating to this would appear in Liberal Democrat political leaflets.

This was a matter for the County Council not the City Council to answer.

Question 5

Councillor Clough to the Leader // Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy & Skills

The recent ICAEW survey shows that confidence among small retail businesses has fallen to its lowest level for two years. What support will the council offer to support these small businesses that make such a positive contribution to making our city a special place.

The Cabinet Member responded the spirit of our old city – “*In Calculabilis Calculandi Artu Examinio Wumbo*” - the infinite examination of the mysterious art of accounting and *Wumbo*. To clarify the acronym was not a Latin word but it stands for institute of charter accountants in England and Wales so language should be also accessible to everyone so when asking questions.

The Council hugely values its small businesses and was acutely aware of the challenging circumstances retail businesses face. The Council works with partners including the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Cambridge Business Improvement District to ensure the city was a supportive environment for growing businesses.

Question 6

The Mayor spoke on behalf of Councillor Divkovic to the Cabinet Member for Climate Action & Environment

Is there provision for recycling batteries?

The Cabinet Member responded that batteries should not be put in bins. When they go in the bin lorry and get crushed with other rubbish it could create a spark and there had been repeated fires in bin lorries. Luckily none of our fire crews had been harmed but they had to empty out the burning rubbish onto the road and then put out the fire. This was distressing to waste operatives and residents.

Request people use rechargeable batteries where possible and recharge with caution using the correct equipment.

Residents who owned their own home could make use of a weekly small household battery collection service. Batteries could be tied in a bag to the bin handle (green bin, black bin or blue bin). If people lived in a flat or had communal bins there were plenty of other places to take batteries such as

supermarkets, electrical shops or the City/County Council household recycling centres.

Larger batteries could be taken to electrical recycling points around the city. Locations were shown on the council website.

#### Question 7

Councillor Tong spoke on behalf of Councillor Howard to the Cabinet Member for Communities

Given the recent changes proposed by the ruling group's colleagues in national government that many refugees arriving in the UK should NEVER be eligible for British Citizenship and the inflammatory remarks made by Keir Starmer - how can this City still claim to be "City of Sanctuary" to those fleeing conflict, persecution and desperation?"

The Cabinet Member responded the question had several elements and in order to do justice to all of those elements as they could not be answered effectively in two minutes would focus on answering the substantive part of the question which was about Cambridge as a city of sanctuary but proposed to work with officers to add a politically neutral informative that gave clarity to the question's preamble around the current and proposed legislative and guidance framework.

The Council had welcomed and supported refugees to rebuild their lives in Cambridge for over a decade and it's one of the many reasons she was proud to be a Cambridge City Councillor.

The Council had, and would continue to work with, different parties both locally and nationally to ensure the safe resettlement of people affected by war into our city of sanctuary.

In March this year the Council unanimously approved our resettlement pledge for 2025 to 2030 continuing our strong commitment to support those seeking sanctuary and committing a minimum of four council houses per year to help deliver our resettlement pledge.

Over the past five years the Council had supported hundreds of refugees to rebuild their lives and thrive in our city supporting them to access safe homes, school places, healthcare, English classes, benefits and employment. The people of Cambridge had also opened their homes and their hearts to

refugees fleeing war including the war in Ukraine via the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Over £270,000 had been awarded through the Ukraine fund and it was estimated that every Ukrainian refugee had been able to benefit from around six projects each. Looking to the future the Council intended to expand that grant fund enabling communities to support anyone seeking asylum or with refugee status in the city.

The Council would be marking this commitment in June during refugee week collaborating with Cambridge libraries with a community event. The theme of refugee week this year would be community was a superpower and the Council wished to demonstrate the strength of community in Cambridge working with several local charities such as the Kareem Foundation and the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign.

#### Question 8

Councillor McPherson to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy & Skills

Could the new CM outline her priorities for year ahead?

The Cabinet Member responded that she was excited to champion a strategic, inclusive and place-based approach to our city's cultural life over the next year. Her focus would be on delivering real impact across three pillars:

- i. Growing our creative economy.
- ii. Ensuring access and equity in cultural participation.
- iii. Embedding culture into the development of place.

The Council would continue to deliver the priorities set out in the cultural strategy while aligning work with broader council strategies including community wealth building and youth engagement. This meant supporting neighbourhood projects and landmark events like firework night and the out of the ordinary festival while expanding access for young people and marginalized communities.

A major priority was navigating the short and long-term implications of the civic quarter project. The Council would ensure our cultural voice was heard in the development of the Guild Hall, Corn Exchange, market square and the surrounding public space.

The Council was also finalising a cultural infrastructure strategy that would guide investment and planning across the city and wider region. This tied

closely with Council involvement in developments like the Leisure Park and Cambridge Junction where the Council was advocating for culture to be integrated into how new communities were shaped.

The Council was building regional capacity too, establishing a film office for Cambridge to support creative industry and attract external investment. The Council was proud to be part of Create Cambridge to ensure collaborative leadership in the sector.

A full list of oral questions including those not asked during the meeting can be found in the Information Pack, which is published on the meeting webpage [Agenda for Council on Thursday, 22nd May, 2025, 11.00 am - Cambridge Council](#)

**25/56/CNL To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:**

**25/57/CNL Councillor Tong - Proposed cuts to disability benefits and Access to Work Funding**

Councillor Bennett proposed and Councillor Tong seconded the following motion:

### **Background**

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

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

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

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

These cuts are not just cruelty but stupid cruelty.

## Active Motion

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

- Local health services - one in 7 hospital beds are already occupied by patients who no longer have a medical need but are trapped in hospital because care is not available.
- The immediate local economy – disabled residents spend most of their income in local shops and on local services.
- Increased rent arrears among council tenants.
- Increased pressure on social services - the county council has the same statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 but residents' ability to contribute to care costs is reduced.
- Increased pressure on county council finances - adult social care has to be prioritised by law so funds available for other services are reduced.
- Increased use of food banks and food hubs - 75% of food bank visits are from households with one or more disabled members.

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

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

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

## Background Notes

### Access to Work ("AtW")

- 1 The Access to Work scheme is intended to help people with disabilities or long term health conditions get work and stay in work. Full details of the scheme are here: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>
- 2 Critics of the Access to Work scheme have drawn attention to the long wait for scheme payments and unexpected refusal of funding. The target time to process new schemes is 4 weeks but the average wait is now 12 weeks, up from 8 weeks at the 2024 General Election.
- 3 It is now proposed that the type of equipment that can be funded, the duration of awards, the use of support workers and the pay rate for support workers will be reduced.

- 4 It has been claimed that some of these changes have already been put into practice even though the disability consultation is still open.
- 5 It seems clear that the cuts to Access to Work will make it harder for people to get and keep jobs or achieve self employment.

### Personal Independence Payments (“PIP”)

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

Councillor Wade proposed and Councillor Smart seconded the following amendment to motion (deleted text struck through and additional text underlined):

### **Background**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Active Motion**

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

~~— Local health services — one in 7 hospital beds are already occupied by patients who no longer have a medical need but are trapped in hospital because care is not available~~

~~— The immediate local economy — disabled residents spend most of their income in local shops and on local services~~

~~— Increased rent arrears among council tenants~~

~~— Increased pressure on social services — the county council has the same statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 but residents' ability to contribute to care costs is reduced~~

~~— Increased pressure on county council finances — adult social care has to be prioritised by law so funds available for other services are reduced~~

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

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

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

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

~~Background Notes~~

### ~~Access to Work ("AtW")~~

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

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

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

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

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

### ~~Personal Independence Payments ("PIP")~~

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

- ~~a. A long term health condition or disability; and~~
- ~~b. Difficulty doing essential every day tasks or getting around because of that condition~~

~~2 PIP is not means tested and 1 in 6 PIP claimants are in paid work.~~

~~3 20 % of UK residents has a disability or long term health condition but only 8% claim PIP~~

~~4 PIP is a working age benefit although 15% of claimants are over working age. This is because if PIP is awarded before retirement, entitlement continues afterwards. The increase in pension age has meant that more people are able to claim.~~

~~5 PIP is considered to be a hard to get benefit. The success rate is 52 % and the fraud rate is 0.02 per cent.~~

~~6 PIP replaced a previous benefit called Disability Living Allowance ("DLA"). The transition is still ongoing and some Cambridge residents are still on DLA not PIP.~~

~~7 Residents who lose out on PIP also lose access to blue badges, free bus passes, discounted rail travel and carer's allowance and make it harder to access other disability services and concessions.~~

~~8 Cambridge has one of the lowest rates of PIP claims in the UK at 4%, compared to 7% for East of England and 8% for the UK. This may reflect a healthier, more youthful population or simply that many residents are still on DLA. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-data-personal-independence-payment-2>~~

~~9 However, even in Cambridge, there are 4,300 residents receiving PIP expected to lose a total of £7.5 million in PIP from the proposed changes. This~~

~~is based on 87% of people on standard PIP and 13 % of people on enhanced PIP losing PIP which is in turn based on FoI figures produced by DWP. <https://www.healthequitynorth.co.uk/app/uploads/PIP-REPORT-1.pdf>  
10 The National Audit Office July 2024 report estimates that £870 million in PIP goes unclaimed every year.~~

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

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

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

This Council notes that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council resolves to:

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

The amendment was carried by 22 votes to 14.

**Resolved (by 22 votes to 0 with 14 abstentions) that:**

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

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

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

This Council notes that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council resolves to:

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

**25/58/CNL Councillor Martinelli - Housing Associations in Cambridge**

Councillor Martinelli proposed and Councillor Lokhmotova seconded the following motion:

Council **NOTES** that:

In addition to our own provision of over 7000 council homes in Cambridge, there are estimated to be over 30 housing associations operating in the social housing sector in the city, providing a further 6000 homes for our residents, though not directly the responsibility of this council;

Potentially because of the emergence of a stronger financial driver in the sector, together with considerable consolidation among housing associations in recent years, ward members of this council are increasingly approached to support their tenants to resolve issues connected with many aspects of housing management in a way they would already expect in relation to city council housing. This is especially important where it involves vulnerable people who lack a voice and because many housing association organisations are not now based in Cambridge and seem remote to tenants.

Council **BELIEVES** it would be beneficial to those of our residents who are tenants of housing associations if they were able to approach their ward councillors in the expectation that councillors would be recognised as agents of problem solving by housing associations in support of existing organisation-specific procedures. It may also be beneficial to housing associations to assist the avoidance of problems, and the unnecessary elevation of issues to the Ombudsman.

Building on the city council's existing relationship with housing associations through Homelink, and its statutory environmental health responsibilities, council **CALLS ON** the Executive Councillor for Housing to:

- Explore the feasibility of convening a written voluntary code for the recognition of ward city councillors in support of the resolution of matters that arise from time to time for their tenants
- Support this by maintenance of up-to-date records of local properties, appropriate contact details for all Housing Associations operating in the city and details of customer service access and internal resolution procedures.

Brief all councillors on those situations for which City Council staff have either an established role in enforcement in relation to housing association tenancies and a housing advisory role with their tenants.

**Resolved** (by 12 votes to 22) to support the motion so it was lost.

**25/59/CNL Councillor Simon Smith - Retrofit Dividends Cheaper Heating, Lower Emissions, Healthier Lives**

Under Council Procedure Rule 26.1, with the consent of Council, Councillor Moore proposed and Councillor Smith seconded the following altered motion:

This council notes;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Responding to the cost-of-living crisis through lower energy bills
- Mitigating climate change through lower fossil fuel emissions
- Adapting to climate change and creating resilient homes by keeping homes cooler during our more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improving quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,
- Improving public health with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.
- Creating conditions for new businesses to grow and build the skilled workforces needed to scale-up retrofit, across the City and elsewhere. A skilled workforce is essential for delivering an effective and sustainable retrofit programme

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

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

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

1. Building capacities and skills to get the job done:

- Partnership for Government energy efficiency and retrofit funding: The Council has invested in professionals who have in turn built and led the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) which as a grant application and delivery vehicle has attracted over £25m in energy efficiency and retrofit programmes. The latest 2023-2025 £8.6m programme retrofitting 494 low energy efficient homes owned by low-income households across the County. This equated to an estimated 490

tonnes of CO2 saving. This was achieved through a combination of government grant funding and funding awarded by CPCA.

- Partnership for Government water retrofit programme: The shared planning service is leading a £5m a programme to reduce water consumption in Council homes across the City and South Cambridgeshire
- On the supply side, CERP procurement for a pipeline of energy efficiency and retrofit works has enabled contractors to invest in their business and critically apprenticeships and skills across the full range of trades.
- On the demand side, the Council has published a 'how to' retrofit guide for different housing archetypes for the construction industry and 'able/willing to pay' households which the CPCA is extending and promoting across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The newly developed guide will highlight homes which are "heat pump ready."
- The 3C Building Control service has launched a building regulations advisory service for applicants retrofitting houses and listed buildings
- To encourage retrofit at scale and pace, some of the wider work of Cambridge City Council include collaborating on a research piece with the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leaders, which is expected to be released in the Summer: "RetroFit For Future: Scaling building decarbonisation across Greater Cambridge. The aim of this piece will be to identify and detail an array of practical levers for us to encourage retrofit and the co-benefits, such as supporting the increase of green skills, supporting the growth of the local economy, and developing access to finance mechanisms for those that don't meet grant criteria.
- City Council has created a new "Energy and Retrofit" team which has pulled together colleagues and expertise from across the organisation who work on energy and retrofit across our council owned homes, private housing and our own corporate, commercial and community properties into a new centre of excellence. The team will seek funding and partnership opportunities to support and deliver our commitments to decarbonise homes and businesses across Cambridge with an invigorated streamlined approach.

- CERP are currently seeking endorsement to create a retrofit strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. With no national strategy in place to look at retrofit holistically there is a requirement to support local economy, market capacity and upskilling and leverage of private finance – a clear strategic local approach and long-term vision for delivery is important to ensure these can be reconciled.

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

- ~~Council home retrofit comprising external wall insulation, improved ventilation in wet rooms, door undercuts and when required, replacement windows, rear doors and top-up loft insulation to 300mm. To date 225 homes refitted since December 2023, with funding in place for 370 more retrofits~~
- We have two principal projects underway. Using a mix of our own funds and central government grants we have so far retrofitted 225 homes to EPC C standard. We have recently received funding for a further 370 council homes over the next two years with support from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 (£2.26m) and the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund Wave 3 and a further 130 properties in 2027/28. The funding focuses on external wall insulation, ventilation through extractor fans and indoor air quality, but general improvements such replacing windows and doors when they are near to end of life and top-up loft insulation to 300mm are incorporated as much as possible.
- ~~Net zero carbon pilot: Comprehensive retrofit of 50 Council homes~~ The second project is a net-zero home pilot on Ross Street and Coldhams Grove to net zero carbon standards, with monitoring results and practical lessons learned and monitoring to inform future retrofit works. investing up to £5m to retrofit fully 50 homes to net zero carbon standards. Monitoring and evaluating results are key to this project to inform future retrofit projects and outcomes.

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

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

### 3. Retrofitting private sector homes

- ~~— We are delivering government funded projects to support those on the lowest income with retrofitting their homes to reduce their bills and ensure they are in warm and effect homes, funded through the Warm Homes grant~~
- ~~— The contractors' framework agreement is also accessible to residents, helping homeowners who are in a position to navigate the market for suppliers and find contractors to do the retrofit work~~
- ~~— The Council also developed a retrofit guide to provide homeowners and landlords in Cambridge with practical information on how to retrofit their homes to make them more energy efficient. The guide sets out a whole house approach to retrofitting, based on the most common archetype of housing in the city.~~

- Cambridge City Council acts as Lead Authority delivering government-funded capital retrofit programmes across Cambridgeshire – operating as a partnership between all the Cambridgeshire authorities including Peterborough City Council and CPCA. Having successfully delivered over £9m of energy efficiency and clean heat measures through the Home Upgrade Grant 2, we have recently secured a further £8.5m from the Warm Homes: Local Grant to continue delivery for the next 3 years. These grants are designed to support low income, fuel poor households who live in the most inefficient, poorly performing homes.
- In partnership with the CPCA, the City council was awarded a further £950,000 to complete retrofit upgrades across the County.
- Cambridge City Council also participates in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) administered by Ofgem, which focusses on supporting low-income, vulnerable and fuel poor households through installation of insulation and heating measures.
- The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) operating under the brand of ‘Action on Energy,’ provides communities with advice on how to maximise energy efficiency within homes, save money on energy bills, cut carbon emissions and support to find accredited installers.
- The contractor’s framework agreement for the provision of energy efficiency works is also accessible to residents across Cambridgeshire, helping homeowners who are able or willing to pay for measures to navigate the market for suppliers and find accredited contractors to do retrofit work.
- With the framework in place, we have been able to develop the social benefits of the retrofit work. Contractors are offering their skills, volunteering and funding projects through “Match my Project.” This process is demonstrating strong community value in the stimulation of the retrofit market.

#### 4. Retrofitting non-domestic building stock

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

~~This Council will ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Milliband, and the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, to ask them to replace the current retrofit and energy efficiency funding programmes that are intermittent, short term and uncertain due to wasteful competitive bidding and hard to meet ring fenced eligibility criteria with~~

~~consistent long-term funding to give confidence to local government to plan for large scale retrofit programmes and their contractors and firms in the supply chain to invest in apprenticeships and skills training.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Councillor Dalzell proposed and Councillor Porrer seconded the following amendment to motion (deleted text ~~struck through~~ and additional text underlined):

This council notes;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Responding to the cost-of-living crisis through lower energy bills
- Mitigating climate change through lower fossil fuel emissions
- Adapting to climate change and creating resilient homes by keeping homes cooler during our more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improving quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,
- Improving public health with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.
- Creating conditions for new businesses to grow and build the skilled workforces needed to scale-up retrofit, across the City and elsewhere. A skilled workforce is essential for delivering an effective and sustainable retrofit programme

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

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

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

1. Building capacities and skills to get the job done:

- Partnership for Government energy efficiency and retrofit funding: The Council has invested in professionals who have in turn built and led the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) which as a grant application and delivery vehicle has attracted over £25m in energy efficiency and retrofit programmes. The latest 2023-2025 £8.6m programme retrofitting 494 low energy efficient homes owned by low-income households across the County. This equated to an estimated 490 tonnes of CO2 saving. This was achieved through a combination of government grant funding and funding awarded by CPCA.
- Partnership for Government water retrofit programme: The shared planning service is leading a £5m a programme to reduce water consumption in Council homes across the City and South Cambridgeshire
- On the supply side, CERP procurement for a pipeline of energy efficiency and retrofit works has enabled contractors to invest in their business and critically apprenticeships and skills across the full range of trades.
- On the demand side, the Council has published a 'how to' retrofit guide for different housing archetypes for the construction industry and 'able/willing to pay' households which the CPCA is extending and promoting across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The newly developed guide will highlight homes which are "heat pump ready."
- The 3C Building Control service has launched a building regulations advisory service for applicants retrofitting houses and listed buildings
- To encourage retrofit at scale and pace, some of the wider work of Cambridge City Council include collaborating on a research piece with the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leaders, which is expected to be released in the Summer: "RetroFit For Future: Scaling building decarbonisation across Greater Cambridge. The aim of this piece will be to identify and detail an array of practical levers for us to encourage retrofit and the co-benefits, such as supporting the increase of green skills, supporting the growth of the local economy, and developing access to finance mechanisms for those that don't meet grant criteria.

- City Council has created a new “Energy and Retrofit” team which has pulled together colleagues and expertise from across the organisation who work on energy and retrofit across our council owned homes, private housing and our own corporate, commercial and community properties into a new centre of excellence. The team will seek funding and partnership opportunities to support and deliver our commitments to decarbonise homes and businesses across Cambridge with an invigorated streamlined approach.
- CERP are currently seeking endorsement to create a retrofit strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. With no national strategy in place to look at retrofit holistically there is a requirement to support local economy, market capacity and upskilling and leverage of private finance – a clear strategic local approach and long-term vision for delivery is important to ensure these can be reconciled.

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

- We have two principal projects underway. Using a mix of our own funds and central government grants we have so far retrofitted 225 homes to EPC C standard. We have recently received funding for a further 370 council homes over the next two years with support from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 (£2.26m) and the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund Wave 3 and a further 130 properties in 2027/28. The funding focuses on external wall insulation, ventilation through extractor fans and indoor air quality, but general improvements such replacing windows and doors when they are near to end of life and top-up loft insulation to 300mm are incorporated as much as possible.
- The second project is a net-zero home pilot on Ross Street and Coldhams Grove investing up to £5m to retrofit fully 50 homes to net zero carbon standards. Monitoring and evaluating results are key to this project to inform future retrofit projects and outcomes.

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

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

### 3. Retrofitting private sector homes

- Cambridge City Council acts as Lead Authority delivering government-funded capital retrofit programmes across Cambridgeshire – operating as a partnership between all the Cambridgeshire authorities including Peterborough City Council and CPCA. Having successfully delivered over £9m of energy efficiency and clean heat measures through the Home Upgrade Grant 2, we have recently secured a further £8.5m from the Warm Homes: Local Grant to continue delivery for the next 3 years. These grants are designed to support low income, fuel poor households who live in the most inefficient, poorly performing homes.
- In partnership with the CPCA, the City council was awarded a further £950,000 to complete retrofit upgrades across the County.
- Cambridge City Council also participates in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) administered by Ofgem, which focusses on

supporting low-income, vulnerable and fuel poor households through installation of insulation and heating measures.

- The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) operating under the brand of 'Action on Energy,' provides communities with advice on how to maximise energy efficiency within homes, save money on energy bills, cut carbon emissions and support to find accredited installers.
- The contractor's framework agreement for the provision of energy efficiency works is also accessible to residents across Cambridgeshire, helping homeowners who are able or willing to pay for measures to navigate the market for suppliers and find accredited contractors to do retrofit work.
- With the framework in place, we have been able to develop the social benefits of the retrofit work. Contractors are offering their skills, volunteering and funding projects through "Match my Project." This process is demonstrating strong community value in the stimulation of the retrofit market.

#### 4. Retrofitting non-domestic building stock

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Creates conditions for new labour-intensive businesses to grow, build the skilled workforces and finance products needed to scale-up retrofit across the UK.
3. Request Government to give local government confidence to plan for large scale retrofit programmes and their contractors and firms in supply chains to invest in apprenticeships and skills training by:
- i) Replacing the previous Government's grant making regimes with one that is:
    - consistent and long term (instead of intermittent and short term),
    - allocated against deliverable programmes (in place of wasteful competitive bidding) and
    - flexible (in place of hard to meet ring fenced eligibility criteria)
  - ii) Incentivising employers to invest in workforce skills recruitment and development as a well-trained workforce is essential for delivering an effective, sustainable retrofit programme.
  - iii) Requiring independent regulation of retrofit work with quality assurance standards alongside robust monitoring and measurement of effectiveness and value of retrofit dividends.
  - iv) Facilitating investment across all tenures from registered providers, afford to pay owner occupiers and private rented sector.
4. Request Government to require in the forthcoming Future Homes Standard to require installation of solar panels, set higher ventilation and building fabric standards and progress approaches to reducing embodied carbon in new buildings, noting that because the last Government scrapped Labour's zero-carbon home standard, 1.35m homes built since 2016 will have to be retrofitted at a cost of up to £2bn.

**Further more:**

This Council further notes that:

- 1. Despite the valuable work underway locally, Cambridge's retrofit program could be significantly accelerated with proper support from central government.
- 2. The council's own Housing Revenue Account Budget Setting Report acknowledges that the current target of 2035 for bringing all homes to EPC 'C' standard is five years behind the government's 2030 requirement, potentially requiring £20 million in additional borrowing without committed government funding.

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

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

Therefore, this Council additionally resolves to:

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

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

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

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

The amendment was lost 9 votes to 19 with 2 abstentions.

Councillor Clough proposed and Councillor Tong seconded the following amendment to motion (deleted text ~~struck through~~ and additional text underlined):

This council notes;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Responding to the cost-of-living crisis through lower energy bills
- Mitigating climate change through lower fossil fuel emissions
- Adapting to climate change and creating resilient homes by keeping homes cooler during our more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improving quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,
- Improving public health with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.
- Creating conditions for new businesses to grow and build the skilled workforces needed to scale-up retrofit, across the City and elsewhere. A

skilled workforce is essential for delivering an effective and sustainable retrofit programme

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

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

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

1. Building capacities and skills to get the job done:

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

promoting across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The newly developed guide will highlight homes which are “heat pump ready.”

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

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

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

Homes Social Housing Fund Wave 3 and a further 130 properties in 2027/28. The funding focuses on external wall insulation, ventilation through extractor fans and indoor air quality, but general improvements such replacing windows and doors when they are near to end of life and top-up loft insulation to 300mm are incorporated as much as possible.

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

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

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

### 3. Retrofitting private sector homes

- Cambridge City Council acts as Lead Authority delivering government-funded capital retrofit programmes across Cambridgeshire – operating as a partnership between all the Cambridgeshire authorities including Peterborough City Council and CPCA. Having successfully delivered over £9m of energy efficiency and clean heat measures through the Home Upgrade Grant 2, we have recently secured a further £8.5m from the Warm Homes: Local Grant to continue delivery for the next 3 years. These grants are designed to support low income, fuel poor households who live in the most inefficient, poorly performing homes.
- In partnership with the CPCA, the City council was awarded a further £950,000 to complete retrofit upgrades across the County.
- Cambridge City Council also participates in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) administered by Ofgem, which focusses on supporting low-income, vulnerable and fuel poor households through installation of insulation and heating measures.
- The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) operating under the brand of 'Action on Energy,' provides communities with advice on how to maximise energy efficiency within homes, save money on energy bills, cut carbon emissions and support to find accredited installers.
- The contractor's framework agreement for the provision of energy efficiency works is also accessible to residents across Cambridgeshire, helping homeowners who are able or willing to pay for measures to navigate the market for suppliers and find accredited contractors to do retrofit work.
- With the framework in place, we have been able to develop the social benefits of the retrofit work. Contractors are offering their skills, volunteering and funding projects through "Match my Project." This process is demonstrating strong community value in the stimulation of the retrofit market.

#### 4. Retrofitting non-domestic building stock

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ii) Incentivising employers to invest in workforce skills recruitment and development as a well-trained workforce is essential for delivering an effective, sustainable retrofit programme.
  - iii) Requiring independent regulation of retrofit work with quality assurance standards alongside robust monitoring and measurement of effectiveness and value of retrofit dividends.
  - iv) Facilitating investment across all tenures from registered providers, afford to pay owner occupiers and private rented sector.
4. Request Government to require in the forthcoming Future Homes Standard to require installation of solar panels, set higher ventilation and building fabric standards and progress approaches to reducing embodied carbon in new buildings, noting that because the last Government scrapped Labour's zero-carbon home standard, 1.35m homes built since 2016 will have to be retrofitted at a cost of up to £2bn.

The amendment was lost by 5 votes to 26.

**Resolved (by 26 votes to 0 with 5 abstentions) that:**

This council notes;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Responding to the cost-of-living crisis through lower energy bills
- Mitigating climate change through lower fossil fuel emissions
- Adapting to climate change and creating resilient homes by keeping homes cooler during our more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improving quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,
- Improving public health with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.
- Creating conditions for new businesses to grow and build the skilled workforces needed to scale-up retrofit, across the City and elsewhere. A skilled workforce is essential for delivering an effective and sustainable retrofit programme

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

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

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

1. Building capacities and skills to get the job done:

- Partnership for Government energy efficiency and retrofit funding: The Council has invested in professionals who have in turn built and led the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) which as a grant application and delivery vehicle has attracted over £25m in energy efficiency and retrofit programmes. The latest 2023-2025 £8.6m programme retrofitting 494 low energy efficient homes owned by low-income households across the County. This equated to an estimated 490 tonnes of CO2 saving. This was achieved through a combination of government grant funding and funding awarded by CPCA.
- Partnership for Government water retrofit programme: The shared planning service is leading a £5m a programme to reduce water consumption in Council homes across the City and South Cambridgeshire
- On the supply side, CERP procurement for a pipeline of energy efficiency and retrofit works has enabled contractors to invest in their business and critically apprenticeships and skills across the full range of trades.
- On the demand side, the Council has published a 'how to' retrofit guide for different housing archetypes for the construction industry and 'able/willing to pay' households which the CPCA is extending and promoting across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The newly developed guide will highlight homes which are "heat pump ready."
- The 3C Building Control service has launched a building regulations advisory service for applicants retrofitting houses and listed buildings
- To encourage retrofit at scale and pace, some of the wider work of Cambridge City Council include collaborating on a research piece with the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leaders, which is expected to be released in the Summer: "RetroFit For Future: Scaling building decarbonisation across Greater Cambridge. The aim of this piece will be to identify and detail an array of practical levers for us to encourage retrofit and the co-benefits, such as supporting the increase of green skills, supporting the growth of the local economy, and developing access to finance mechanisms for those that don't meet grant criteria.

- City Council has created a new “Energy and Retrofit” team which has pulled together colleagues and expertise from across the organisation who work on energy and retrofit across our council owned homes, private housing and our own corporate, commercial and community properties into a new centre of excellence. The team will seek funding and partnership opportunities to support and deliver our commitments to decarbonise homes and businesses across Cambridge with an invigorated streamlined approach.
- CERP are currently seeking endorsement to create a retrofit strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. With no national strategy in place to look at retrofit holistically there is a requirement to support local economy, market capacity and upskilling and leverage of private finance – a clear strategic local approach and long-term vision for delivery is important to ensure these can be reconciled.

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

- We have two principal projects underway. Using a mix of our own funds and central government grants we have so far retrofitted 225 homes to EPC C standard. We have recently received funding for a further 370 council homes over the next two years with support from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 (£2.26m) and the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund Wave 3 and a further 130 properties in 2027/28. The funding focuses on external wall insulation, ventilation through extractor fans and indoor air quality, but general improvements such replacing windows and doors when they are near to end of life and top-up loft insulation to 300mm are incorporated as much as possible.
- The second project is a net-zero home pilot on Ross Street and Coldhams Grove investing up to £5m to retrofit fully 50 homes to net zero carbon standards. Monitoring and evaluating results are key to this project to inform future retrofit projects and outcomes.

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

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

### 3. Retrofitting private sector homes

- Cambridge City Council acts as Lead Authority delivering government-funded capital retrofit programmes across Cambridgeshire – operating as a partnership between all the Cambridgeshire authorities including Peterborough City Council and CPCA. Having successfully delivered over £9m of energy efficiency and clean heat measures through the Home Upgrade Grant 2, we have recently secured a further £8.5m from the Warm Homes: Local Grant to continue delivery for the next 3 years. These grants are designed to support low income, fuel poor households who live in the most inefficient, poorly performing homes.
- In partnership with the CPCA, the City council was awarded a further £950,000 to complete retrofit upgrades across the County.
- Cambridge City Council also participates in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) administered by Ofgem, which focusses on

supporting low-income, vulnerable and fuel poor households through installation of insulation and heating measures.

- The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) operating under the brand of 'Action on Energy,' provides communities with advice on how to maximise energy efficiency within homes, save money on energy bills, cut carbon emissions and support to find accredited installers.
- The contractor's framework agreement for the provision of energy efficiency works is also accessible to residents across Cambridgeshire, helping homeowners who are able or willing to pay for measures to navigate the market for suppliers and find accredited contractors to do retrofit work.
- With the framework in place, we have been able to develop the social benefits of the retrofit work. Contractors are offering their skills, volunteering and funding projects through "Match my Project." This process is demonstrating strong community value in the stimulation of the retrofit market.

#### 4. Retrofitting non-domestic building stock

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Creates conditions for new labour-intensive businesses to grow, build the skilled workforces and finance products needed to scale-up retrofit across the UK.
3. Request Government to give local government confidence to plan for large scale retrofit programmes and their contractors and firms in supply chains to invest in apprenticeships and skills training by:
- i) Replacing the previous Government's grant making regimes with one that is:
    - consistent and long term (instead of intermittent and short term),
    - allocated against deliverable programmes (in place of wasteful competitive bidding) and
    - flexible (in place of hard to meet ring fenced eligibility criteria)
  - ii) Incentivising employers to invest in workforce skills recruitment and development as a well-trained workforce is essential for delivering an effective, sustainable retrofit programme.
  - iii) Requiring independent regulation of retrofit work with quality assurance standards alongside robust monitoring and measurement of effectiveness and value of retrofit dividends.
  - iv) Facilitating investment across all tenures from registered providers, afford to pay owner occupiers and private rented sector.
4. Request Government to require in the forthcoming Future Homes Standard to require installation of solar panels, set higher ventilation and building fabric standards and progress approaches to reducing embodied carbon in new buildings, noting that because the last Government scrapped Labour's zero-carbon home standard, 1.35m homes built since 2016 will have to be retrofitted at a cost of up to £2bn.

### **25/60/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 6:30pm

**CHAIR**