



Cambridge City Council Cabinet

Date: Tuesday, 13 January 2026

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ [access the building via Peashill entrance]

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

Agenda

This meeting is open to any member of the Council who wishes to ask questions of the Executive on items included on this agenda. Could members please notify the Committee Manager if they wish to attend and speak.

1	Apologies	
2	Declarations of Interest	
3	Minutes	(Pages 3 - 14)
4	Public Questions	

KEY DECISIONS

5	Community Grants 2026-27	(Pages 15 - 76)
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NON-KEY DECISIONS & MONITORING REPORTS

6	Homelessness Prevention Grants to Agencies	(Pages 77 - 100)
7	Transformation and Re-investment Fund Update	(Pages 101 - 110)
8	RECAP Resources and Waste Strategy 2025 - 2031	(Pages 111 - 120)
9	RECAP Waste Design Guide	(Pages 121 - 130)

Cabinet Members: Holloway (Chair), Wade (Vice-Chair), Bird, Moore, Nestor, Smart, A. Smith, S. Smith, Thornburrow and Todd-Jones

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

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

Cabinet

Cab/1

Tuesday, 25 November 2025

CABINET

25 November 2025

5.30 - 7.09 pm

Present: Councillors Holloway (Chair), Wade (Vice-Chair), Bird, Moore, Nestor, Smart, S. Smith, Thornburrow and Todd-Jones

Other Councillors present:

Councillor Katie Porrer

Other Councillors in attendance virtually:

Councillors A Smith, Bennett, Bick and Clough

South Cambridgeshire District Councillors present:

Bridget Smith Leader of the Council (Chair)

Brian Milnes Deputy Leader of the Council

Henry Batchelor Lead Cabinet Member for Communities (remotely)

John Batchelor Lead Cabinet Member for Housing

Dr Tumi Hawkins Lead Cabinet Member for Planning

Peter McDonald Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development

John Williams Lead Cabinet Member for Resources

Officers Present:

Chief Executive, South Cambridgeshire District Council: Liz Watts

Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development, Greater Cambridge

Shared Planning: Stephen Kelly

Assistant Director and Head of Legal Practice, 3C Shared Legal Practice: Tom Lewis

Monitoring Officer, South Cambridgeshire District Council: Nurainatta Katevu

Planning Policy Manager: Jonathan Dixon

Team Leader, Strategy & Economy, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning: Terry De Souza

Team Leader, Strategy & Economy Greater Cambridge Shared Planning: Max Laverack

Team Leader, Strategy & Economy, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning: Stuart Morris

Team Leader, Strategy & Economy, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning: Lauren Wilkinson

Team Leader, Strategy & Economy, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Lizzie Wood

Political Assistant – Liberal Democrats South Cambridgeshire District Council: James Green

Democratic Services Officer, South Cambridgeshire District Council: Habbiba Peacey

Democratic Services Officer, South Cambridgeshire District Council: Sarah Steed

Deputy Democratic Services Manager, Cambridge City Council : Claire Tunnicliffe

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

25/46/Cab Apologies

No apologies were received.

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor Natalie Warren-Green had sent apologies for absence.

25/47/Cab Suspension of Standing Orders

Before the start of the Joint Cabinet Meeting with South Cambridgeshire District Council, Councillor Cameron Holloway, Leader of Cambridge City Council, formally moved the following motion:

“To suspend Cambridge City Council’s Standing Orders for the duration of the meeting to enable a joint discussion on the Local Plan to commence.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Wade

Resolved by Cambridge City Council Cabinet Members.

- i. To suspend it’s standing orders for the duration of the meeting.

A similar motion had been put forward by the Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Milnes. The motion was agreed by South Cambridgeshire District Council

Councillor Bridget Smith then stepped back in as Chair of the meeting.

25/48/Cab Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

No declarations were received from South Cambridgeshire District Councillors.

25/49/Cab Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25/50/Cab Public Questions

First asked at the meeting at the Performance, Assets, Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, November meeting, 4/11/25, 5:30pm.

Please could the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service consider commissioning an academic who has researched neuroarchitecture at the University of Cambridge and how building facades impact the physical and mental health of people who live and work in the built environments of such places. (See <https://www.ribaj.com/products/facade-design-psychology-neuroscience> as an example).

Please also invite Humanise at <https://humanise.org/> (working in a similar field) to submit evidence on their research and how it might apply to a growing Cambridge.

Given the pioneering research they are doing in the growing sphere of neuroarchitecture, I believe having evidence bases them would have a positive impact on the development of the emerging Local Plan and result in new buildings, developments, and urban spaces that were less mentally harmful than the ones constructed in recent years.

Supplementary Question

The question basically picks up on a whole series of new research that was coming out of the pioneering field of neuroarchitecture.

Concerned that the documentation contains little reference to recent findings on the mental and visual distress caused by contemporary architecture in Cambridge. Research now demonstrates that scientists can measure changes in brain activity and chemistry in response to these environments, highlighting their impact on well-being.

A recent presentation given in Seoul at the end of September highlighted the following:

1. People with neurodiverse dispositions were visually more likely to be mentally and visually distressed by being in these sorts of built environments.
2. There were now case studies where architectural firms were getting complaints from their clients because the staff of the clients were refusing to work in these new spaces, as they were causing migraines, headaches and quite dangerous for people with epilepsy.

The risk for Cambridge is that we start building all these new buildings, homes and offices and end up again creating extra cost and extra work for the Council and for industry because building were being designed and built that were making people ill.

Given the research, especially that some of the research had come from the University based in our city, this should be looked at.

- i. Thanked the speaker for highlighting this fascinating area of research.
- ii. It was clear from the sources referenced that they had a passion for creating great places for all members of the community. These suggestions had been passed on to the Urban Design Team.
- iii. Had sought to create policies through the draft local plan that would shape great places and capture a range of issues that contribute to this.
- iv. Creating healthy places was a golden thread that would run though the whole Local Plan.
- v. Members of the public and the groups that had been quoted would be invited to make comments on the consultation, and feedback would be welcomed on the range of design related policies that had been published.

25/51/Cab Greater Cambridge Local Plan – Draft Regulation 18 plan for consultation and updated Local Development Scheme

Councillor Tumi Hawkins, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cabinet Member for Planning introduced the report which set out a number of long-term plans to meet development needs in the period to 2045 and beyond. Several themes had been incorporated within the draft plan, which included climate change, social inclusion, biodiversity and green spaces with planning policies designed to guide such developments.

Reference was also made to the proposed development needs of the area for homes and jobs and how they would be met. The plan also included transport

infrastructure proposals for Cambourne and in the corridor south of Cambridge where homes were proposed in a new settlement close to the research parks and well connected to the biomedical campus. A new East West Rail Station was also being proposed which had also been incorporated into the plan.

Next steps would be to take the draft plan out to public consultation prior to its submission to the Government in 2026. The Lead Cabinet Member for Planning welcome public comments on the proposals and encourage the Cabinet to endorse it for public consultation commencing 1 December 2025.

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport at Cambridge City Council was then provided with an opportunity to add her introductions to the report.

Both Cabinets concurred with the view that a shared Local Plan was the right decision for the residents of Greater Cambridge. She then went on to pass her thanks to Officers for their hard work and efforts in producing the draft plan. In noting that 8,000 responses had been received in the last consultation, Cabinet Members were informed that artificial intelligence technology would be used for the proposed consultation which would seek to provide an efficient and effective solution to responding to comments.

In her concluding remarks, Councillor Katie Thornburrow reported that the policies proposed were progressive and reflective of the climate and nature emergencies declared by both authorities.

A detailed presentation was then delivered by Jonathan Dixon, Planning Policy Manager providing an overview of the proposals. The presentation covered the following:

- i. What the consultation would include.
- ii. The vision and objectives for Greater Cambridge.
- iii. Development strategy.
- iv. Spatial strategy.
- v. Development and transport strategy.
- vi. Edge of Cambridge site allocations and policy areas.
- vii. Proposals for Cambourne.
- viii. Proposals for land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm.
- ix. Industrial and warehousing A14 sites;
- x. Development management policies; and
- xi. Draft plan of timings.

Councillor Katie Porrer, Chair of Cambridge City Council's Performance, Assets and Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following comments on behalf of its members:

- i. There was strong support for policy areas relating to biodiversity, climate change, green spaces and social inclusion.
- ii. The availability of hardcopies for residents and the community to ensure accessibility to the consultation.
- iii. The importance of youth engagement during the consultation period.
- iv. Overview and Scrutiny members would be monitoring the conditions around water and sustainability as this was not just relevant to post occupancy rates. The desire was for this to be ongoing.
- v. In respect of the biomedical campus, communities were keen to be made aware of the timescales for this masterplan. No date had been mentioned to date and there was a desire for this to be known prior to building out parts of that site and maintaining active travel loops.

Councillor Graham Cone, Chair of South Cambridgeshire's Scrutiny and Overview Committee confirmed there was nothing further he wished to add.

Stephen Kelly, Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development drew the Cabinets' attention to Appendix K, which outlined actions identified by both Scrutiny Committees and the proposed modifications to the draft Local Plan. He acknowledged the point which had been raised around the biomedical campus and advised that Officers would be determining an appropriate trigger point within the plan with the matter being kept under review. In respect of post occupancy water management, this would be difficult to implement as both Councils would not want to be seen to withhold water from its residents. It was however suggested that this might be a question to be raised with communities as part of the consultation.

Cabinet Members from both authorities raised the following points during consideration of the report which were responded to at the meeting:

- i. Councillor Brian Milnes, Deputy Leader for South Cambridgeshire District Council commented that he wouldn't not want the Government to stifle the growth anticipated in Greater Cambridge owing to a lack of utilities and systems for e.g. transport, water and electricity.
- ii. Councillor Gerri Bird, Cabinet Member for Housing, Cambridge City Council queried the number of wheelchair adapted homes proposed within the draft plan, which was responded to by Councillor Katie

Thornburrow, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport, Cambridge City Council.

- iii. In response to a question raised by Councillor Cameron Holloway, Leader of Cambridge City, it was reported that the plan was in a position to go out for public consultation with relevant criteria met.
- iv. Councillor Rosy Moore, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment, Cambridge City Council commended the plan for incorporating non-fossil fuels. In response to a question whether the benefits of the draft plan could be achieved sooner rather than later, it was confirmed that whilst some weight could be attached to the draft plan now, it would not be possible to enforce changes until the Local Plan was adopted by both Councils.
- v. Councillor Martin Smart, Cabinet Member for Nature, Open Space and City Services, Cambridge City Council, commented upon the concerns of residents relating to growth and acknowledged the efforts which had been made to acknowledge these concerns and encourage individuals to feed into the planning process.
- vi. Councillor Peter McDonald, Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development, South Cambridgeshire District Council, referred to two studies which had recently been undertaken relating to jobs and the economy. Greater Cambridge was a growth area in this respect, and he welcome the balance which had been struck to achieve this whilst protecting green belt space.
- vii. Councillor Simon Smith, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Cambridge City Council, echoed the concerns which had been raised previously by Councillor Katie Porrer, Chair of Cambridge City Council's Performance, Assets and Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee around strategic masterplans and the need for landowners, developers and investors to work collaboratively together to deliver shared infrastructure.
- viii. Councillor John Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, South Cambridgeshire District Council, drew the Cabinets' attention to the recent press release relating to the Development Corporation Cambridge Growth Company. Stephen Kelly, Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development responded that the Chair of the Cambridge Growth Company had made it clear that the Development Corporation would build on the current Local Plan process and not undermine it. Additionally, the Development Corporation would enable discussion on key infrastructure to take place.
- ix. Councillor Antoinette Nestor, Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills, Cambridge City Council queried what would happen to temporary artist studios. A response was received from Councillor Katie

Thornburrow, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport, Cambridge City Council who highlighted the need for temporary spaces, referred to as “meanwhile spaces” whilst developments came forward. Examples of others included skate parks and allotments.

- x. A further question was then raised by Councillor Antoinette Nestor, Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy & Skills, Cambridge City Council on climate change and whether adaptations would be required. It was responded that policies proposed within the draft Plan would support both Councils in achieving this ambition with changes to building regulations also supporting this change.
- xi. Councillor John Batchelor, Lead Cabinet Member for Housing, South Cambridgeshire District Council welcomed the draft plan and commented upon the current practice of the Council to buy housing stock from developers after planning applications had been agreed. He expressed that the view that this should be included within the draft plan so that it was a requirement going forward.
- xii. Councillor Rachel Wade, Deputy Leader of Cambridge City Council received a response to a question raised which had been raised around the provision for gypsy and traveller communities. Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport, Cambridge City Council reported that the draft plan incorporated 150 new pitches with a further 20 areas identified for travelling show people.
- xiii. Having queried the planning policy for gypsy and travellers proposed within the draft plan, Stephen Kelly, Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development responded that the policy would now be to optimise the existing sites by upgrading amenities and increasing pitch sizes. He further commented upon the desire to actively manage these sites to prevent abuse of allocations.
- xiv. A question was raised by Councillor Rosy Moore, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment, Cambridge City Council on how “hard to reach” groups, such as the gypsy and traveller community, would be engaged with as part of the consultation and engagement process. Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport, Cambridge City Council responded that Members from both authorities had a role to play in contributing to this with training being arranged for Members to take place within the next week.
A briefing pack was currently being produced to support Members with their public engagement and contact with local communities and groups. Lizzie Wood, Team Leader (Strategy and Economy) advised that the briefing pack would include a list of events, which included drop-in sessions for the gypsy and traveller communities.

Additionally, it was noted that pre-engagement sessions had already been held at local Universities and that a further 100 events had been identified to take place during the consultation period.

Councillor Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, South Cambridgeshire District Council highlighted the importance of Ward Members engaging with their communities and encouraged Members to reach out to herself and Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport, Cambridge City Council if they required further help and support.

In response to questions from non-Cabinet Members, the following points were raised:

- i. Councillor Anna Bradnam, South Cambridgeshire District Council commended the work of the Youth Engagement Service which provided an excellent remit for engaging with young people. This was echoed by Councillor Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport, Cambridge City Council.
- ii. In response to a question raised by Councillor Naomi Bennett, Cambridge City Council on behalf of Councillor Elliot Tong, Cambridge City Council, Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport, Cambridge City Council undertook to discuss the matter of support in Abbey Ward outside of the meeting. Stephen Kelly, Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development advised that an FAQ document would be included within Members' briefing packs.
- iii. Councillor Tim Bick, Leader of the Main Opposition, Cambridge City Council placed on record his thanks to the Liberal Democrat Group for their work in supporting the draft Local Plan. He commented upon the many obstacles inherent within the draft plan which remained a challenge that both Councils firmly intended to resolve and accomplish. Reference was made to increasing the number of homes and jobs within the Greater Cambridge area to which Councillors Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Katie Thornburrow, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transport, Cambridge City Council acknowledged.
- iv. Councillor Hugh Clough, Cambridge City Council raised a question about how Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plans would transition over to the draft Local Plan. Jonathan Dixon, Planning Policy Manager responded that the former would transfer across immediately but that the latter would require updating with changes being made by parishes with Neighbourhood Plans in place.

At this point during the meeting (7:05pm), Councillor Peter McDonald vacated his seat and left the room during deliberations on this item.

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport moved the recommendations. The recommendations were seconded by the Leader, Councillor Cameron Holloway.

For South Cambridgeshire District Council, Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning moved the recommendations. The recommendations were seconded by the Leader, Councillor Bridget Smith.

RESOLVED that Cambridge City Cabinet has:

- a. Agreed the Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) for Public Consultation (Appendix A), subject to amendments proposed in Appendix K.
- b. Noted the Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix B) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appendix C) and agree them as supporting documents that will also be subject to public consultation.
- c. Agreed to the publication of the following supporting documents to the public consultation:
 - i. Topic papers for each theme (including responses to First Proposals consultation comments) (Appendix D);
 - ii. Statement of Consultation (Appendix E);
 - iii. Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance (Appendix F);
 - iv. Draft Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground (Appendix G);
 - v. Equalities Impact Assessment (Appendix H);
 - vi. Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (Appendix I)
- d. Agreed the Update to the Local Development Scheme (Local Plan Timetable) (Appendix J)
- e. Agreed that any subsequent material amendments to be made to the plan prior to consultation commencing will be approved by the Lead Member for Planning and Transport in Cambridge City Council and Lead Cabinet Member for Planning at South Cambridgeshire District Council; and
- f. Agreed that any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes that do not materially affect the content be delegated to the Joint

Director of Planning in consultation with the Lead Members for Planning.

The meeting ended at 7.09 pm

CHAIR

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REPORT TITLE: Community Grants 2026-27 & the Evolution of the Programme

To:

Cllr Anna Smith, Cabinet Member for Communities

Cabinet 13 January 2026

Report by:

Julie Cornwell, Strategic Community Investment Lead

Tel: 01223 457885 Email: julie.cornwell@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Director Sam Scharf confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the Community Grants to voluntary and community organisations for 2026-27, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, subject to the budget approval in February 2026 and any further satisfactory information required of applicant organisations.2. Approve the expanded direction of travel for the Community Grants Programme, using a 3-Tier approach starting 1 April 2027 as set out at 4.6 and at Appendix 2.3. Approve an additional multi-year grant for Food Poverty Infrastructure starting 1 April 2026, as set out at 4.5 of the report.

Purpose and reason for the report	
2.1	<p><u>Community Grants 2026-27</u></p> <p>Grant funding decisions where the award is over £5,000 must be made by Cabinet. Therefore in order to award and process the community grant funding for 2026-27 by 1 April 2026, the Community Investment team need Cabinet approval of the recommendations at Appendix 1 in January 2026.</p> <p><u>Moving to a 3 Tier Community Grants programme from 2027</u></p> <p>In recognition of the benefits of multi-year funding and that Cambridge City Council is a signatory to the Cambridgeshire Compact¹, in June 2024 Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee agreed that it would pilot the introduction of multi-year grants for 2025-28² for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>VCSE infrastructure</u>: Cambridge CVS and Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum • <u>Advice & advocacy</u>: Cambridge Citizens Advice, delivering aligned legal, housing, and welfare rights support & Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum for CHESS (Cambs Human Rights and Equality Support Service). <p>The 2024 report also set out the intention to phase more groups into multi-year funding agreements and this report sets out the proposed model for how this will work.</p> <p>Moving to the proposed 3 Tier model which will see an increased commitment to multi-year funding and core funding, requires Cabinet approval as this model will require long term budget commitments beyond the Council's annual budget cycle. Similarly, the proposal to introduce a further multi-year grant³ for 2026-29 to support Food Poverty</p>

¹ The Cambridgeshire Compact is a partnership agreement between statutory bodies and the voluntary and community sector, designed to improve relationships and establish shared principles for collaboration, funding, and service delivery. It promotes mutual understanding, fair processes, and coordinated efforts to better serve local communities across Cambridgeshire.

² [Agenda for Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 27th June, 2024, 6.00 pm - Cambridge Council](#)

³ Cambridge and District Citizens Advice Bureau (CCAB), Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services (CCVS)/Support Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) have multi-year grants for 2025-28.

	<p>Infrastructure is a budget commitment beyond the Council's annual budget cycle.</p> <p>A further motivator for evolving the Community Grants model is the Cambridgeshire Poverty Strategy Commission Report which has called for longer term funding to strengthen VCSE capacity and partnership working, which the Council is committed to responding to.</p> <p>Multi-year grants are already in use by many local authorities including South Cambs District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. A mix of project and core funding is offered by both authorities, and our evolution would be a step towards aligning grant funding principles with some of our likely LGR partners.</p>
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	<p>The recommended 3 Tier model builds on the committee report taken to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee in June 2024, where Members agreed (and the Exec Cllr for Communities subsequently approved) that the Council would introduce multi-year funding agreements to improve the stability of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE), whilst maintaining a funding scheme for smaller grant applications that was responsive to emerging needs, welcoming innovation and supporting developing community groups. Therefore, the considerations are not about <i>whether</i> the Council introduces multi-year funding, but rather <i>how</i> this can be delivered within budget in a way that meets the needs of the VCSE.</p>
3.2	<p>The recommended 3 Tier approach goes further than the introduction of multi-year funding for specific activities: it recognises the value of the key local voluntary and community groups delivering services that closely align to City Council priorities and would see those groups being awarded unrestricted funding to spend as needed to deliver against those priorities. Unrestricted funding has been identified as key for increasing the stability of the sector and making the move to primarily multi-year funding – some of which is unrestricted funding where appropriate - is an opportunity to demonstrate our trust in and commitment to the sector.</p> <p>Appendix 2 sets out the proposed criteria for the programme.</p>

4.	Background and key issues
4.1	<p><u>Community Grants 2026-27</u></p> <p>The 2026-27 Community Grants scheme opened for applications on 1 August 2025 and closed on 17 September 2025. Promotion and publicity of the grant fund included a press release, social media posts, newsletter articles, emails, posters in areas of the City with the highest levels of deprivation and targeted conversations. We received 37 applications for funding for 2026-27 with a value of £5,000 or over. The total amount requested was £1,014,519.92 against an available budget of £530,840. This illustrates that the demand for Community Grant funding remains very high, and not all applications can be successful or funded at the level requested. Funding is frequently awarded at a proportion of the amount requested, sometimes due to limited funds or the need to support multiple projects. While partial funding enables more groups to benefit, it can also result in financial shortfalls that are challenging for organisations to absorb.</p> <p>It should be noted that we are already committed to the funding for the initial three groups (that will be entering year 2 of their multi-year grants) to a total value of approximately £510,000 for 2026-27 which has been budgeted for separately.</p> <p>A range of activities were undertaken to support organisations to understand the funding criteria and requirements needed for a successful application, and how to use the new grants portal including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in person 1:1 group advice sessions held jointly with CCVS and Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum • attending organisation's committee meetings, one-to-one meetings • a webinar held jointly with CCVS • application Guide and Help Notes detailing the priorities, outcomes and eligibility criteria and giving guidance on requirements, question by question • funding templates and signposting to other funding providers <p>The new digital grants portal was implemented ready for the launch of the Community Grants scheme (and the Resettlement Community Grant Fund, the Homelessness</p>

	<p>Prevention and Sustainable City Grant schemes). The portal is proving easy to use by officers and applicants alike. We requested feedback from applicants and grant assessors and have been able to make improvements for future schemes already and have more improvements in train as soon as the platform provider is able to implement them.</p> <p>All applications were assessed by 'subject matter experts' within the Council alongside Community Investment officers, against an assessment matrix developed around the scheme priorities and outcomes, ensuring a consistent approach. These assessments were then moderated in assessment meetings, all of which informed the award recommendations detailed in Appendix 1. The Cabinet Lead for Communities attended a further meeting with officers to review the recommendations.</p> <p>Those applicants where no award is recommended will receive feedback and signposting to alternative funding and support.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Discretionary Rate Relief</u></p> <p>As of 2026-27 Discretionary Rate Relief applications will be considered by the Business Rates Team who already assess Mandatory Rate Relief applications. This is in line with the approach taken by other local authorities and is anticipated to make the application process quicker and easier for applicants. The Community Investment team will still be on hand to offer advice to the Business Rate team about the eligibility of groups applying for DRR as needed and will signpost any community groups to the Business Rates team.</p>
4.3	<p><u>2026-27 £5k and under grants</u></p> <p>As with 2025-26 we will have two grant rounds for groups wishing to apply for a £5k and under grant. It is not yet possible to provide a summary of the funding allocation for the first round of Community Grants with a value of £5,000 or less, as the application window closed on 13 January 2026 and assessments have not been completed. The second round of grant funding for 2026-27 will open on 21 April 2026. We anticipate that we will award approximately £70,000 of the £120,000 budget in Round 1 as we expect the majority of applications to be received in the first round.</p>
4.4	<p><u>Update on the 3 Multi-year grants for 2025-28</u></p> <p>The first three multi-year grants are reaching the end of their first year. Feedback from</p>

	<p>the 6-month monitoring reports is very positive, with the clear impacts already being felt:</p> <p><i>“Moving to a three-year funding cycle has had a significant impact on staff retention and financial planning. Knowing we have longevity of funding has allowed us to assure staff their roles will be maintained for three years which has reduced the impact of staff starting to look for other jobs towards the end of the funding. Additionally, being able to forecast our budgets and spending over a longer period has provided greater certainty for longer term spending”. Helen Cook, CEO, Cambridge and District Citizens Advice Bureau.</i></p> <p>The approach of holding partnership meetings to compliment written monitoring reports for these groups is also working well, with productive conversations which are identifying opportunities for partnership working, resolving issues promptly and generally improving communication and building up trust. We intend to build on this approach for those organisations that will be in receipt of core funding under the new model.</p>
4.5	<p><u>Proposed additional multi-year grant for 2026-27</u></p> <p>There is a pressing need for food justice work to be progressing effectively in the city, and as such it is proposed that a further multi-year grant be offered to Cambridge Sustainable Food to take this work forwards.</p> <p>This grant will build resilient community infrastructure by facilitating networks, running community programmes and delivering practical food solutions. It will support behaviour change through climate-friendly food education, tackle food waste via surplus redistribution, and run food access projects across Cambridge. If this recommendation is approved, the grant would run for three years from April 2026 but be incorporated into the new model along with CCVS/Support Cambs, CCAB and CECF who already have multi-year grants.</p>
4.6	<p><u>Introduction of a 3 Tier Community Grants programme for 2027-30</u></p> <p>The evolution of the grants programme is intended to reduce administrative burden, promote trust-based funding, and support high-performing organisations to lead and adapt over time. Multi-year funding should enable organisations to plan with confidence and manage resources more effectively, reduce the risk of service disruption due to funding gaps and support organisations to plan long-term employment</p>

and enable staff retention. Our aim is also to encourage organisations to focus on long-term outcomes rather than short-term outputs, facilitate deeper, systemic change in communities and allow for more meaningful monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

The Community Grants budget is approximately £1,110,000⁴. This needs to be used in a way that balances the needs of very small grass roots organisations, much larger established groups and new groups keen to grow. Therefore a 'tiered' grant scheme is proposed to respond to the different needs of the sector.

Alongside this, a risk-based approach is required to ensure that we are managing public funds responsibly and proportionately. This includes:

- assessing the stability and effectiveness of an applicant group through reviewing group governance and finances, track record of delivery, organisational staff capacity
- maintaining our model of payment in advance that reflects the risk and size of grant
- a staggered response to monitoring, proportionate to the value of the grant and previous grant management. Monitoring is outcomes focused in all cases but for Tier 3, the focus would be on organisational outcomes, contribution to system change, and learning not directly attributable to a specific project.

The evolution of the grant programme aligns with the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy where the Council recognises the value of locally based organisations and encourages investment in them.

The tiered approach reflects a shift from solely annual project-by-project funding towards sustained investment in trusted VCSE partners who align with the Council's strategic outcomes and deliver measurable impact. Organisations benefitting from the new unrestricted (core) grants will be assessed based on their contribution to strategic outcomes, not individual projects.

⁴ Subject to CPI

4.7

Community Grant programme outcomes

All applications will have to demonstrate how they meet one or more of the Communities Groups outcomes – developed from the agreed purpose statement set out in transformation for the Communities Group⁵.

The Communities Group Impact Framework has the following outcomes:

1. **Happy and Healthy Lives** – residents report feeling happy and healthy and are able to thrive and fulfil their potential, where we address inequalities where we have influence
2. **Safe and Pleasant Places** - residents feel their neighbourhood is a safe and pleasant place to be, to move around in, and feel proud to live there
3. **Belonging and Connection** - people feel a sense of belonging in Cambridge, where diversity is valued and there is a reduced sense of isolation among those at greatest risk
4. **Information, Support and Confidence** - individuals and communities have access to the right services, information and support, if and when they need it, providing those most vulnerable with the tools and confidence to manage challenges

These outcomes have been developed to reflect key Council strategies, built on local evidence, and existing data sources. The aim is to ensure the work of the Communities Group is purpose driven, with the needs of our residents at its heart.

Realigning the Community Grant outcomes to the Communities Group outcomes will ensure that they remain reflective of community needs and Council priorities. The revised Community Grant Scheme outcomes will continue to focus on ensuring that residents have equality of opportunity, with 'One City – Fair for All' at the heart.

The revised outcomes are broader than those of the current Community Grant scheme, which means a wider range of VCSE organisations are likely to be eligible for funding. It is also likely that all groups who currently benefit from Community Grant funding will still be eligible to apply.

⁵ As set out in the report presented to Strategy and Resources Committee, 30 Sept 2024
[240930SRReportfinal-OurCambridge.pdf](https://www.cambridgenc.gov.uk/documents/240930SRReportfinal-OurCambridge.pdf)

4.8	<p><u>Implementation of the new model</u></p> <p>As with our current Community Grants programme, all applicant groups would be required to meet basic eligibility criteria. Additional criteria and a description of the purpose of each funding Tier would be set out for potential applicants. The proposed criteria are set out at Appendix 2⁶.</p> <p><u>Tier 1</u>- is activity/project based and mirrors the current '£5k and under Community Grant scheme' and will not require any changes to current criteria. However, if the overall value of the Community Grants pot remains at around £1,110,000.00 and we wish to move towards multi-year funding, we will need to reduce the value of the grant pot available for small grant applications, compared to 2025-26. It is likely that the majority of groups will request multi-year funding so we do not anticipate this causing an issue, but we will reserve the right to move funds between the three tiers to best meet the demand.</p> <p><u>Tier 2</u> – is project/activity based, as the Council would not be proposing to fund the core costs of organisations not focusing the majority of their delivery in the city, where their whole organisational aims do not align with Council priorities or where we were not confident of the groups capability to sustain consistent delivery over time.</p> <p>Tier 2 would be open to groups that do not employ staff and therefore do not have the continuity and stability that this brings and may not generally have the organisational infrastructure at this point to be eligible for unrestricted funding. Having completed an early equality impact review on the proposal, it identified that this is particularly true of many of the BME groups that are currently in receipt of Community Grant funding. Introducing a middle tier enables these groups to benefit from multi-year funding alongside an offer of ongoing support to grow as organisations, if this is what they want. This tier would also apply to applicant groups who are not primarily delivering their services in the City but may be proposing to deliver an activity that is not being provided by a local group.</p>
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⁶ But may be subject to change after consultation with the VCSE infrastructure groups and continued financial modelling.

	<p><u>Tier 3</u> – offers unrestricted funding for established locally based groups delivering the majority of their services in the City.</p> <p>The funding will not be tied to the delivery of activities, and it will therefore not be possible to place a financial value on the grant in the way that is possible for project-based funding.</p> <p>Given that rent in Cambridge is very high, any criteria would need to recognise that some groups may be based outside of the City for financial reasons but still be delivering the majority of their work in the City.</p> <p>It is likely that the final Tier 3 criteria will need to allow for discretionary flexibility as some of the Councils primary delivery partners would not meet all of the eligibility criteria. We would also wish to award higher grants in critical service areas.</p>
5.	<p>Corporate plan</p>
5.1	<p>The Community Grants programme supports the delivery of Priority 2 of the Corporate Plan: tackling poverty and inequality and helping people in the greatest need⁷. The Community Grants programme has an overarching scheme requirement that the proposed activity must reduce social and/or economic deprivation for resident residents with the greatest need. Currently applicants must meet one or more of the scheme outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping people be more active • improving access to arts and culture • bringing communities together • reducing poverty • reducing loneliness and social isolation • employment and skills support <p>For every £1 awarded as a Community Grant, approximately £4-£5 of income is raised by the groups through additional fundraising. Combined with the value of the volunteer</p>

⁷ [Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council](#)

	<p>hours and other in-kind contributions, this means that the total value of the scheme far exceeds £5 million per annum and makes a significant contribution towards the councils Corporate Plan.</p> <p>The proposed new Community Grant Scheme outcomes set out at 4.7 above will also align with the Corporate Plan and it is expected that the total value of the scheme will be in line with or exceed current levels.</p>
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	<p>With regards to the 2026-27 Community grant funding, applicants were notified when this report was published detailing recommended awards, giving an indication of proposed funding from April 2026. This adhered as closely as possible to the Compact framework to give three months' notice of funding changes. Officers will continue the process of award notification, signposting and support, and implementing and monitoring awards.</p>
6.2	<p>A meeting was held with representatives from the VCSE infrastructure support groups and those already in receipt of multi-year funding, to sense check the proposals around the introduction of further multi-year grants and unrestricted funding. Cross departmental conversations within the City Council and with colleagues from other local authorities, have also taken place to assist in the development of the model.</p> <p>If the recommendation to implement the 3 Tier model is approved, work will begin on communicating the changes to potential grant applicants. This will be through a mix of webinars, mailings, social media, in person group meetings, and attendance at multi-agency meetings. The timeline at Appendix 3 illustrates that the changes will be communicated several months prior to any funding changes for applicant groups.</p>
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	<p>The benefits of multi-year funding and unrestricted grants is set out in Appendix 4.</p> <p>We will measure the impact of multi-year and unrestricted funding to the organisation through the addition of questions on the grant monitoring report template. This will be reported back via the Community Grants Annual Report and incorporated into the</p>

	<p>Councils Performance Management Framework.</p> <p>The impact of specific activities or projects delivered by funded groups will be captured in their grant monitoring reports. Impact is increasingly being demonstrated through case studies, photographs and story telling in addition to the results of beneficiary surveys. A collection of some of this will be presented in an Annual Report.</p>
8.	Implications
8.1	Relevant risks
	<p>There is a reputational risk for taking no action and continuing with annual grants only. The benefits of multi-year and unrestricted funding are well demonstrated, and the Council has committed to the Cambridgeshire Compact and delivering against the Poverty Commission Action Plan. If we do not move to a tiered model that reflects need and aligns with other local authorities in our area, we will lose credibility as a funder and risk damaging our relationship with the VCSE sector.</p> <p>However, there are also risks associated with introducing unrestricted funding in particular. There is a risk that the introduction of Tier 3 will raise expectations amongst eligible groups around the level of funding that can be applied for and will be awarded. This can be mitigated in a number of ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through the introduction of an upper funding cap (to be decided as part of the ongoing modelling work, but likely to be between £35-40k). (Note: Whilst setting an upper limit manages expectations generally, this would raise expectations for some eligible groups who have previously received a much smaller level of funding for specific activities. This would have to be carefully managed through clear communications and potentially an 'Expression of Interest' stage). 2. Through the introduction of a percentage cap based upon the annual turnover of the applicant group. 3. Restricting the funding to groups with an annual turnover of less than £2m. 4. Awarding grants based on the proportion of city residents that benefit from the applicant groups overall offer.

	<p>Even with these potential mitigating criteria, there will be increased pressure on the budget as groups previously not funded by the Council, but who do meet the criteria, are likely to be attracted by this funding stream given how few opportunities there are to secure unrestricted funding.</p> <p>There is also a risk that by giving core grants our funding may not be used for activities specifically related to Council priorities and outcomes. This can be mitigated through ensuring that at application stage we establish the organisations core purpose and values and only funding those groups where there is close alignment.</p> <p>All successful applicants would have to sign and abide by a grant agreement and complete 6 month and 12-month monitoring, alongside regular partnership meetings. Ultimately, the very nature of unrestricted funding is that the Council needs to trust the grantees and be satisfied that so long as the group continues to deliver against its core purpose and values, our grant has been well spent.</p>
8.2	<p>Financial Implications</p> <p>Moving to multi-year funding agreements will have financial implications as the Council will be committing a significant level funding beyond the annual budget setting process. Whilst Directors have authority within the Councils financial regulations to create commitments in future years, it will be important to be mindful of this when agreeing the Councils budget.</p> <p>An inflationary uplift will be added to all multi-year grants so this should also be taken into account when agreeing the Councils budget.</p>
8.3	<p>Legal Implications</p> <p>The Council uses grant agreements which set out the requirements of funded groups to ensure the grant is spent appropriately. Grants with a value of £40,000 and over are sealed as deeds after being checked by a member of Legal Services. There are no proposals to change this approach.</p>

	<p>If the recommendations are approved, the Legal Services Team will review the Grant Agreements to ensure they reflect the implications of LGR, although we fully expect that the new authority will wish to continue its support of the VCSE.</p>
	<p>Equalities and socio-economic Implications</p>
8.4	<p>The Community Grants programme's primary aim is to reduce inequality experienced by city residents. However, it is recognised that how we deliver this programme may have unintended consequences and therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 5.</p> <p>In summary, organisations who receive funding over £5,000 are required to have (or be developing) a policy in place which demonstrates the group is aware of its obligations around equality and diversity.</p> <p>The '£5k and under community grants' guidelines (and Tier 1 of the new scheme) will contain a statement reminding applicants of their duties around equality and diversity. Although not a requirement, applicant groups will be invited to submit any relevant policies should they have them. The contact details for Support Cambridge and Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum will be included to signpost any organisation seeking support to develop an equal opportunities policy or to improve their equalities and diversity practices generally.</p>
	<p>Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications</p>
8.5	<p>Implementing the recommendations in this report are expected to result in a zero-climate change rating.</p> <p>Organisations in receipt of a Tier 2 or Tier 3 Community Grants award would be expected to have or develop an environmental policy.</p> <p>As indicated to Members in the Community Grants Review paper presented at Community and Environment Scrutiny Committee in June 2024, a new question has been added to community grant application form requiring groups to set out what specific actions and mitigations they will take to reduce the carbon footprint of the proposed activity.</p>

	Procurement Implications
8.6	The Council's approach to grant aid through the Community Grants programme is via an application process rather than through the direct commissioning of services.
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	<p>Some of the funded projects are likely to have a positive impact on perceptions of community safety generally, and the introduction of the Community Group outcomes includes one that specifically mentions safety:</p> <p>Safe and Pleasant Places - residents feel their neighbourhood is a safe and pleasant place to be, to move around in, and feel proud to live there</p> <p>Therefore it can be expected that some applications may be specifically targeted at improving community safety or perceptions of community safety.</p>
9.	<p>Background documents</p> <p>Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</p>
9.1	None.
10.	Appendices
10.1	<p>Appendix 1: 26-27 (Over £5k) Community Grant Recommendations</p> <p>Appendix 2: Community Grants Eligibility Criteria</p> <p>Appendix 3: Timeline for implementation of 3 Tier Community Grants Programme</p> <p>Appendix 4: Benefits of Multi-year and Core grants</p> <p>Appendix 5: Equality Impact Assessment</p>
	<p>To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:</p> <p>Julie Cornwell, Strategic Community Investment Lead</p> <p>Tel: 01223 457885 Email: julie.cornwell@cambridge.gov.uk</p>

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Appendix 1 – Community Grants Funding Recommendations 2026-27

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Abbey People CIO - run and facilitate activities and events; networking; responding to identified needs within the local community.	Community support projects. Access to affordable food and essentials. Housing, benefits and wellbeing support, signposting, referrals. 150+ Food Hub sessions. 40+ drop-in advice sessions and Circles of support. Weekly Community Coffee Mornings. Gardening group. 100+ Christmas Hampers to individuals and families. Weekly Youth Clubs. (740:740 city bens).	68,944	38,000	28,000	27,000	25,252		Also in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief. Council officer time provided with planning / prep for the handover of new community centre, support re temp use of premises, regular support from Community Development officers for events / programmes
Cambridge Acorn Project - therapeutic and structural support to children and families affected by trauma, abuse, and financial hardship.	A programme to provide long-term, therapeutic support for children and young people affected by trauma and domestic abuse through a set of targeted interventions. (150:150 city bens).	24,939.00	17,293.00	8,646.00	5,000.00	5,000.00		
Cambridge City Foodbank (The) - provides emergency food parcels and affordable food through Foodbank Welcome Centres and Fairbite Food Clubs, working with local partners to tackle the root causes of poverty and build community resilience.	Funding for a volunteer development coordinator (20 hrs p/w) for 12 months. To improve volunteer management, training and widen participation for 220 Cambridge City Foodbank volunteers. (220:176 city bens).	45,546.00	20,000.00	16,962.00	-	NEW	Poor alignment with grant scheme outcomes and/or priorities not adequately met	Regular mtgs with officers. Funding from the sharing prosperity fund to focus on capacity building and connections across voluntary sector support network

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Cambridge Hindu Association - provides religious, social and cultural activity.	Over 50s Club. Fortnightly sessions. Chair-based exercises, informative talks and leisure trips. (65:53 city bens).	12,480	8,730	4,540	1,800	1,650		
Cambridge Housing Society Ltd (The) - social enterprise and charitable housing association.	3 social and leisure activities per week, and 10 pieces of one-to one support (2 and 5 sessions). Activities to improve the wellbeing of women supported by other housing providers. Social engagement and creative activities, leisure outings. Allotment project. (30:27 city bens).	26,900	11,900	10,000	5,000	5,000		Also in receipt of a Homelessness Prevention Grant
Cambridge Online - promotes digital inclusion by providing access to technology, training, and support—especially for disabled, disadvantaged, and older people—to help them gain essential digital skills and stay connected.	Digital inclusion and support projects. For elderly, low income / unemployed, and those with additional needs. (780 beneficiaries) Remote support and drop-ins, online webinars. Confidential support for individuals requiring specialist advice (phishing, online scams, etc.) (1,000 beneficiaries). Free digital equipment and resources to those in need: mobile phones, tablets and laptops, MiFi and SIM cards. (280 beneficiaries). (2,060:2000 city bens).	72,000	40,000	35,000	35,000	25,000		

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Cambridge Sustainable Food CIC - works to create a fair, environmentally responsible, and inclusive local food system by promoting healthy eating, reducing food waste, tackling food poverty, and supporting sustainable food businesses and community initiatives.	<p>Infrastructure Support. Supporting and amplifying the work of over 100 partners.</p> <p>Holiday Lunch Programme. 2,500+ meals to families through direct delivery and support for four local providers. 4 network meetings to evaluate and strengthen future provision.</p> <p>Annual Food Justice Conference. Continuing coordination of the Food Justice Alliance. Networks for food justice and sustainability in the city. Citywide 'Food Ladders' approach, engaging members in food justice and resilience.</p> <p>Quarterly learning sessions on priority issues (e.g., youth, cost of living).</p> <p>4 Food Partnership network meetings to strengthen collaboration among volunteers and community food organisations.</p> <p>Distribution of surplus food to social projects; reducing food waste and improving access to healthy, affordable food.</p> <p>Provision of warehouse and delivery services.</p> <p>Volunteer Network.</p>	277,631	66,283	-	42,283	33,500		<p>£42,283 plus £24k from Com Dev budget = total £66,283.00 per year for 3 years starting 2026/27</p> <p>Also in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief</p> <p>Also in receipt of a Sustainable City Grant</p> <p>Officer time provided related to project management of new capital kitchen scheme at meadows</p> <p>Officer time provided for food justice alliance work programme. In kind time and venue support for conference</p> <p>Cambridge Sustainable Food is receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity North Cambridge project</p>

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
	Creation of a volunteer 'leadership training' pathway and a youth volunteering scheme.							
Cambridge Vietnamese Refugee Community - supports Vietnamese refugees and their families by preserving cultural heritage, fostering community integration, and providing social and educational assistance to help them rebuild their lives in the UK.	Social and cultural events for the Cambridge Vietnamese community. Mid-Autumn and Tet Lunar New Year celebrations. Social engagement and leisure outings to reduce social isolation and promote community connectedness. (250:130 city bens).	18,993	11,127	5,083	1,500	-		
Cambridge Women's Resources Centre - provides a safe, trauma-informed space offering education, training, emotional and practical support to empower women—particularly those affected by domestic abuse, poverty, or involvement with the criminal justice system—to create positive change for themselves and their families.	Inclusion and equality projects for women to improve wellbeing, reduce poverty, increase confidence and employability: 48 one-to-one tailored employment support sessions; 10 walking groups; 16 allotment sessions (approximately 50 women.); 48 weekly yoga sessions (approximately 60 women); 48 art group sessions; 39 crochet sessions; 10 collaborative art projects (approximately 120 beneficiaries); 48 Sewing 'Make and Mend' sessions; Free Shop: offering pre-loved	41,715	41,715	34,135	35,000	33,000		Also in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief, a Homelessness Prevention Grant and a Resettlement Community Grant Fund award

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
	clothing, toiletries and sanitary products. (250:213 city bens).							
Centre 33 - provides free, confidential emotional and practical support to young people up to age 25—covering mental health, housing, sexual health, caring responsibilities, and more—through drop-in hubs, outreach, and digital services to help them achieve and fulfil their potential.	Someone To Talk to service for young people aged up to 25 years. Information, advice and guidance for a wide range of emotional and practical needs. Assessment and advocacy services via open access telephone. Video, in-person drops ins and one-to-one appointments. (2,270:1,500 city bens).	142,475	94,033	65,000	55,000	50,000		Also in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief and a Homelessness Prevention Grant
Connected Lives - strengthens family wellbeing by offering early intervention, attachment-based parenting courses, stay-and-play sessions, and community hubs to build resilience, healthy parent-child relationships, and social connections.	Sustaining of the current provision of the stay and play session and baby clothes hub. Development of the 8 weeks parenting course. Equipping the baby clothes hub in new storage boxes. Funding of the "Connected Teens" programme, focusing on understanding and raising teenagers. (584 city bens).	33,935	20,760	15,840	10,620	5,000		supported provided by com dev / community centres relating to the work being delivered holistically at Trumpington pavilion

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Fitness Rush Community CIC uses a mobile fitness facility to deliver free, tailored exercise and wellbeing support to individuals and communities facing barriers such as financial hardship, isolation, or homelessness—helping improve physical health, mental wellbeing, confidence, and access to fitness qualifications.	52 weekly drop-in exercise sessions with resistance bands. Mobile fitness van for the first 8 sessions. (30:25 city bens).	8,540	8,540	4,270	-	-	Organisation was ineligible Concerns regarding quality/viability /poor level of detail provided about the activity	
Home-Start Cambridgeshire - provides free, confidential, practical and emotional help to families with at least one child under five—addressing challenges like isolation, mental health issues, postnatal illness, bereavement, and poverty—so children can have the best possible start in life.	38 weekly group sessions for families facing challenges. Families at least one child under five. (42:35 city bens).	12,157	7,500	6,963	7,000	7,100		Receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity north Cambridge project
Inspire 2 Ignite CIC - provides hands-on industry experiences, entrepreneurial programmes, and partnerships with local businesses to young people aged 12 - 24, helping them build	6 one-day Industry Experience sessions. For 16–24-year-olds who are NEET, or at risk of becoming NEET. Connecting participants with employers and 'real-world' workplaces. To raise aspirations, build	15,955	10,000	5,000	-	-	Organisation was ineligible	

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
skills, confidence, and pathways into meaningful careers.	confidence, and improve pathways into employment, training, or entrepreneurship. (84:60 city bens).							
Junction CDC Limited - operates a vibrant venue for live music, theatre, comedy, and creative learning, working with young people and communities to deliver inclusive cultural experiences while reinvesting event income into its social mission. 19 37	Free creative projects tackling social exclusion, and referrals for young people with complex needs. 21 sessions: 'Total Arts'. 16 participants per session. 21 Total 'Mini-Bytes' sessions. Fortnightly creative workshops for disabled children. 6 participants per session. 20 sessions: Contemporary Youth Choir (CYC) for under-represented young people aged 11-25. 24 participants per session. 1-hour weekly sessions. Travel bursaries. (67:41 city bens). 14 Beats, Trials & Tribulations ('Open Mic Club') sessions: 21 participants per session. Project for young aspiring musicians. Collaborations with industry professionals, performance skills development. (67:67 city bens).	138,692	40,667	40,667	34,687	40,000		Rent concession and is in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Kettle's Yard - a space for art, music, learning and research. Exhibitions, concerts, collections and engagement.	To support 'Your Kettle's Yard': an inclusive and creative programme of activity to enable the most vulnerable and disenfranchised members of our local community to build cultural capital in partnership with Kettle's Yard. This programme will specifically seek to engage those within the community who face significant barriers to accessing art including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'at risk' children, young people and their families• people experiencing isolation or loneliness• the long term unemployed (2366:2130 city bens).	57,573	15,000	13,500	13,500	13,500		
Kings Hedges Family Support Project (The) - provides free drop-in sessions, parenting advice, and practical support for families with young children— helping to reduce isolation, build confidence, and promote healthy family relationships through play, social connection, and access to community resources.	50 family support drop-in sessions. 3 days a week. Supporting families in the most deprived wards. Family support workers and trained play workers. Socialising and play provision for parents and children. Parental support, signposting and referrals for a wide range of issues, including: housing, financial advice and mental health issues. (762:685 city bens).	135,896	60,000	48,500	22,000	20,126		Receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity north Cambridge project

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Kite Trust (The) - promotes the wellbeing and creativity of LGBTQ+ young people through support groups, individual mentoring, training, and education, while building inclusive communities to tackle inequalities and empower youth.	LGBT+ activities: 1-1 support for young people. Online sessions for intersecting identity groups (neuro-diverse and trans/non-binary). Signposting, support, information. 39 weekly youth group sessions (13-18 and 18-25 years). 10 monthly sports, arts and cultural activities. (200:100 city bens). 1-1 sessions for young people expressing need 39 weekly online groups. 200:100 city bens). 4 quarterly Forums for stakeholder organisations and individuals to foster greater connectedness and increase the impact of activities. (20 participants). (220:200 city bens).	62,000	31,000	20,000	24,000	24,000		
Living Sport Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sports Partnership Limited - works to improve health and wellbeing by increasing opportunities for physical activity and sport, connecting communities, influencing policy, and delivering inclusive programmes.	4, 6-week courses. Introductory strength and balance courses for older residents. Functional fitness MOT. To improve health, wellbeing and mobility. (40:40 city bens).	9,712	9,352	4,676	-	-	Concerns regarding quality/viability /poor level of detail provided about the activity	

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Makani Cambridge CIC - spaces for racialised and marginalised communities to heal, thrive, and lead through cultural activities, leadership programmes, and participatory research—centering collective care, equity, and social transformation.	36 community activities such as 12 Dabekh and Drumming circles, movie nights, mate lounges, Eid party and Summer celebration party. Specialised assistance to children and young people (aged 9 to 19) diagnosed with autism and attending mainstream schools in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. (200:150 city bens).	10,130	10,130	6,050	-	-	Organisation was ineligible	
Meadows Children and Family Wing (The) - provides family support, drop-in sessions, confidence-building courses, and domestic abuse recovery programmes—creating a safe, welcoming space where families and women can access practical help, social connection, and activities to reduce isolation and improve wellbeing.	51, 2-hr weekly face-to-face specialist drop-in sessions providing support for 30 women and child survivors of domestic abuse. Creche. 3 12-week 'Freedom' courses for up to 12 women and approximately 12 children. Recovery from trauma, learning, improving safety, general health and wellbeing, inclusion and a sense of belonging. 3 10-week 'Freedom Forever' courses for up to 12 women and approximately 12 children. 'Moving forward', improving safety, general health and wellbeing, inclusion. 51 2 hr weekly therapeutic 'Together Group' sessions	105,512	83,354	55,849	18,000	18,000		Rent concession & receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity north Cambridge project

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
	for up to 72 women and child survivors of domestic abuse. 51 weeks of phone support for a total of 276 women with 252 children between them. (720:482 city bens).							
Meadows Children and Family Wing (The) -	51 twice weekly family support drop-in sessions. To improve social and economic equality, general health, wellbeing, inclusion and a sense of belonging. 3 8-week 'All About Me' courses for up to 12 local women. To improve health and wellbeing, increase skills and confidence for progression into volunteering, training, education or employment. (269:185 city bens).	85,068	62,950	48,884	35,000	35,000		Receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity north Cambridge project

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Move2Mingle CIC - promotes physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing through inclusive yoga, Pilates, and nutrition programmes, while fostering social connection and support among participants.	Fitness programme delivering two scheduled daily sessions tailored to different fitness levels. Sessions in CB1 community centres to ensure local engagement. Yoga, relaxation, pilates, mindfulness, group check-ins, nutrition coaching and cooking demonstrations. (250:200 city bens).	84,400	25,000	15,000	-	-	Organisation was ineligible	
Museum of Cambridge - dedicated to preserving and sharing over 300 years of local social history through a collection of everyday objects and stories that reflect the lives of ordinary people in Cambridge and the surrounding Fens.	A year-long programme of creative heritage workshops for city residents. Museum-based and outreach activities. Exploring local history, and promoting a sense of belonging. To improve social and economic equality. Exhibition to mark the 90th anniversary of the Museum using stories from their collection. '90 Years of Cambridge History' (match-funded by the Art Funds Reimagine programme). (1760:1560 city bens).	62,691	33,730	30,515	30,515	30,974		Rent concession and Discretionary Rate Relief
New International Encounter - creates innovative performances and participation projects using physical theatre, live music, storytelling, and multilingual ensembles, while	Tales from the Edge of Town. Co-creation and story-writing with Year 5 school pupils who may experience barriers to arts and culture. 4 x 2 hr taster workshops at two schools; 8 x 2 hr workshops outside school	28,701	12,000	7,000	12,000	6,000		

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
engaging local communities and young people through collaborative cultural initiatives.	hours for targeted children; 4 performances by professional actor/musicians for participants and the local community; 8 x 2 hr workshops at targeted extra-curricular clubs, Feb/March 2026; 2 performances for participants and the local community, Feb/March 2026. Key partner Galfred Road Primary, plus one additional primary school. (140:140 city bens).							
Pink Festival Group (The) - celebrates and supports the LGBTQ+ community by organising inclusive events like Cambridge Pride, fostering diversity, equality, and advocacy through volunteer-led, accessible cultural activities.	Parade and free, accessible one-day celebration event in June 2026. Music, literature and performing arts, market stalls, family and youth zones. Over 100 local community organisations and volunteers. Improving wellbeing with social connectedness. Celebrating diversity, strengthening inclusion and visibility of the LGBTQIA+ community. (11,500:8,000 city bens).	111,245	10,000	8,000	5,000	5,000		
Red Hen Project (The) - provides long-term, one-to-one family support and community activities for families with primary-age children—	Programme of 22 structured holiday activities. From April 2026 to March 2027. For families affected by poverty, isolation, poor mental health or special	40,234	20,000	15,000	5,000	5,000		Red Hen is receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity north Cambridge project

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
helping to improve school attendance, parenting confidence, and wellbeing while tackling issues like poverty, isolation, housing, and mental health through trusted relationships and inclusive group sessions.	educational needs. Engagement for more than 350 individuals in families with complex needs in the CB4 area. Reducing social and financial inequality, improving children's wellbeing, strengthening family and community connections. Free and supported access to experiences in safe, engaging environments. Easter holiday (4), Summer holiday (12), 3 Half Terms (6). (350:280 city bens).							
Red Hen Project (The)	Approximately 117 open-access weekly drop-in sessions for local families. Parent and carer support to raise happy, healthy and independent children. Respectful and inclusive help for those who experience challenges and who may struggle to access support elsewhere. Welcoming environments to build trusting relationships. Provision of a safe space for children and families to find support on a wide range of issues. Social connectedness and building independent support networks.	43,928	22,000	15,000	10,000	10,000		

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Red Hen Project (The)	Poverty-focused project workers. Funding to deliver over 1500 hours (200 days) of poverty-reducing services in the community, for individuals in need in North Cambridge. Tailored and flexible interventions to alleviate immediate financial crises, reduce ongoing pressures, and build independence for beneficiaries. (350:350 city bens).	40,803	32,000	25,000	25,000	20,000		
Romsey Mill Trust - Supports vulnerable young people, children, and families—through programmes like alternative education, parenting support, autism services, and youth work—aiming to overcome disadvantage, promote social inclusion, and help individuals build skills and confidence for positive futures.	Contribution towards running and the continuity of the Youth Development Programme in Cambridge. Supporting young people (aged 11–18) who face social and economic challenges. (140:120 city bens).	63,186	16,500	14,000	14,000	14,000		Also in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief and have a rent concession on Mill Road and Ross Street Community Centres Receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity north Cambridge project

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Romsey Mill Trust	Contribution towards running and the continuity of the Young Parent Programme (Babies & Buddies) in Cambridge. Support for young parents (aged 20 and under) who face social and economic challenges. (28:22 city bens).	15,754	10,754	7,796	5,500	5,500		Also in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief and have a rent concession on Mill Road and Ross Street Community Centres Receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity north Cambridge project
Romsey Mill Trust	Contribution towards the running costs for the provision of the Youth Clubs, with specialised assistance to children and young people (aged 9 to19) diagnosed with autism and attending mainstream schools in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. (33:14 city bens).	32,334	7,516	7,221	7,516	7,000		Also in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief and have a rent concession on Mill Road and Ross Street Community Centres Receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity north Cambridge project
Rowan Humberstone Ltd - empower learning disabled students to become independent by raising confidence, self-esteem and self-worth via arts and crafts activities.	Creative classes for adult students with a learning disability. 5 days per week, 50 weeks per year. And weekly 'Rowan Rangers' Forest School. Music, drama, art, craft and social activities to reduce social isolation, develop skills and potential, independence and wellbeing. (100:47 city bens).	856,400	30,000	15,000	11,000	10,000		Receiving funding and support via the sharing prosperity north Cambridge project

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
Sew Positive - uses sewing, upcycling, and mending to improve mental health, reduce social isolation, and tackle textile waste by offering creative workshops and courses that build supportive, sustainable communities.	Twice weekly activities. Creative engagement, events, activities and trips for adults and families experiencing disadvantage. To improve mental well-being and community cohesion. For those facing a range of barriers to participation: including social isolation, mental and physical health conditions, unemployment or economic hardship. Sewing, up-cycling and mending. (200:80 city bens).	43,000	15,000	15,000	5,000	10,000		Also in receipt of a Resettlement Community Grant Fund award
Signal Box Centre (The) - community hub offering accessible spaces for local residents to host events, classes, and activities—while providing free community programmes and working with partners to improve wellbeing and social connection.	Community activities to improve wellbeing including: Dance Week: 5 afternoon/evening sessions hip hop dance activity for all ages; Tots Hip Hop and Movement: 36 weeks (termly). For pre-schoolers and parents/carers; Adult/Community Hip Hop: 10 weekly sessions (autumn term.); After-school Stay & Play: 36 weeks (3 terms) of drop-in sessions for primary-school aged children and their parents/carers; Signal Box Singers: 52 weekly drop-in sessions for all; Tech Tuesdays: 12 monthly drop-in sessions	16,674	16,674	10,000	5,000	-		In regular conversation regarding community centre / com dev work

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
	for those in need of 'digital literacy' support; Window box gardening (320:320 city bens).							
Parish of St. Martins Church PCC	St. Martins Church PCC - provides regular worship, pastoral care, and community activities—such as groups for families, seniors, and youth—while maintaining its historic building and promoting its mission to serve God and support local people of all ages and backgrounds.	46 weekly breakfast club sessions (Tommy's Café). To reduce loneliness and social isolation for low-income families and individuals. 35 bens. Craft Café: 26 fortnightly 2-hr Saturday sessions. For adults. To improve wellbeing and foster supportive community relationships and inclusion; Carpet bowls: Weekly sessions for adults. To support health and wellbeing, social inclusion and reduce social isolation; Community Lunch Club: Monthly sessions for adults. Lunch and social engagement. (86:85 city bens).	11,923	9,243	7,561	3,000	2,250	light touch engagement with community development

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
University of Cambridge Museums - a consortium of eight museums and the Botanic Garden that collectively offer free public access to collections spanning art, science, history, and culture, while serving as hubs for research, teaching, and community engagement.	Inclusive cultural activity programmes. Activities in the University of Cambridge Museums and in community settings across the city. To increase social inclusion and connectedness through creative engagement with the museum's collections. Over 175 sessions with 1400 engagement opportunities. Inclusive activities for older residents, families with SEND children and young parents. 2,800 volunteering opportunities. (9,998:580 city bens).	158,315	21,025	18,000	15,000	15,000		
Villiers Park Educational Trust - empowers young people aged 14–19 from underrepresented backgrounds to overcome barriers in education and careers through tailored programmes that raise aspirations, develop academic and employability skills, and create pathways to leading universities and high-level opportunities.	Skills development and confidence in leadership, collaboration and problem-solving, for disadvantaged young people aged 13-14 years. Creating pathways to future opportunities, building confidence and raising aspirations. 4 sessions and an overnight stay. (60:50 city bens).	29,810	24,742	21,030	5,000	-		

530,921.38

Group Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity £	Income sought from the City Council £	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity £	2026/27 Community Grant Award £	2025/26 Community Grant Award £	Reason for nil award	Additional Comments
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Available Budget **530,840.00**

-£81.38

Community Grants Programme Criteria

To be eligible for Community grant funding the applicant group must:

- be independently set up for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes and not make private, commercial or personal profit or gain.
- have a legal structure appropriate to the size and nature of the organisation with a governing document defining its aims and procedures.
- have at least three unrelated, elected volunteers who decide policy and overall management. These must not be family members, married couples or civil partners, or people living at the same address.
- meet the legal responsibilities of an employer and adopt, implement, and monitor good employment practices and procedures, if relevant.
- comply with all statutory and legal responsibilities applicable to the organisation and its regulatory body.
- have up-to-date, appropriate and adequate insurance cover.
- have an asset lock (not for profit distribution clause)

We would not fund:

- organisations set up as a company limited by shares where profits can be given to shareholders
- statutory organisations, or those set up or managed wholly or partly by one
- private partnerships
- sole traders
- organisations that promote or appear to support a political party or ideology
- organisations that have a 'person with significant control' listed on the Companies House register with:
 - the right to appoint and remove the majority of the company's directors
 - more than 50% of the company's shares
 - more than 50% of the voting rights
 - the right or power to exercise (whether directly or indirectly) a considerable degree of influence or control over the company or its activities
- organisations based outside the UK
- uniformed groups
- groups that have not complied with the monitoring requirements for any grant previously received from us

Additional grant criteria would apply depending on the funding Tier as set out below:

Tier	Purpose	Group Eligibility	Funding Details	Grant Pot value ¹
Tier 1	<p>Restricted funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof of concept testing - For one-off events or activities happening within one year - To meet emerging local needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New² or existing groups - Any not-for-profit group governance model that meets the general criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to £5,000 per application - Annual funding - Revenue funding 	£100,000 per year
Page 52	<p>Restricted funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recurring activities or events across the city or in specific neighbourhoods - Organisations that may have a range of objectives – some aligning with the Council; others not. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based anywhere in the UK, not necessarily delivering the majority of its overall activities in the City. - Must be an incorporated group and meet the general criteria - Applications welcomed from organisations with inclusive, community-focused aims, including faith groups where activities are open to all and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to £10,000 per year (exceptions possible where there is significant demonstration of need) - 3-year grants - Can include a proportion of the overhead costs as well as the direct cost of delivery - Max £30,000 total over the three years - Delivery of the funded activity must take place in the City³ - Revenue funding 	Combined Tier 2 & Tier 3 total of approx £1m per year.

¹ These are indicative: if the demand was higher than anticipated for one of the Tiers there may be a need to adjust the value of the pot.

² Established for less than 3 years

³ This will be subject to change in response to LGR developments.

Tier	Purpose	Group Eligibility	Funding Details	Grant Pot value ¹
		<p>primarily serve a wider social or community need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must have been established for at least three years - 		
Page 53 Tier 3	<p>Unrestricted funding for:</p> <p>Organisations that align with the Councils strategic priorities and outcomes, enabling those organisations to get on with delivering their own vision and mission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be an incorporated group and meet the general criteria - Must be delivering primarily in the City - Must have < £2m annual turnover (exceptions possible) - Must have at least one paid staff member - Group purpose and activities must have clear alignment to Council priority outcomes - Must have been operating in the City for at least 3 years⁴ - Must have successfully delivered a City Council grant previously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum award of £40,000 per year but usually in line with previous awards or - Funding capped at a maximum of 20% of average annual turnover based on last 2 years' accounts, whichever is the lowest (exceptions possible where there is significant demonstration of need) - 3-year grants - Unrestricted - Funding awarded will be proportionate to the percentage of city residents supported by the group - Must have measurable impact at population or system scale 	Combined Tier 2 & Tier 3 total of approx £1m per year.

⁴ We reserve the right to review this on a case by case basis.

Tier	Purpose	Group Eligibility	Funding Details	Grant Pot value ¹
Page 54		<p>Exclusions:</p> <p>We are unable to fund organisations whose core purpose does not directly support community benefit. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership-based organisations where access to services or activities is restricted to paying members; • Faith-based organisations whose primary mission is religious worship or evangelism. 		

Appendix 3 - Timeline for Implementation of 3 Tier Community Grants Programme

Key Benefits of Multi-Year Grants

1. Financial Stability and Predictability

- Enables organisations to plan with confidence and manage resources more effectively.
- Reduces the risk of service disruption due to funding gaps.
- Supports long-term employment and staff retention.

2. Greater Impact and Strategic Planning

- Encourages organisations to focus on long-term outcomes rather than short-term outputs.
- Facilitates deeper, systemic change in communities.
- Allows for more meaningful monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

3. Reduced Administrative Burden

- Minimises time and resources spent on repeated funding applications.
- Streamlines reporting processes, freeing up capacity for service delivery.
- Encourages innovation by reducing the pressure of short-term performance metrics.

4. Stronger Relationships and Trust

- Builds a more collaborative and trust-based relationship between funders and funded organisations.
- Encourages open dialogue, learning, and shared problem-solving.
- Supports capacity building and organisational resilience.

5. Equity and Inclusion

- Levels the playing field for smaller and grassroots organisations that may lack the capacity for frequent applications.
- Enables sustained engagement with marginalised communities.
- Helps address structural inequalities in funding access and delivery.

Key Benefits of Unrestricted¹ Grants

1. Stability and Sustainability

- Enables long-term planning and investment in organisational development.
- Reduces reliance on short-term project grants.

2. Flexibility

- Allows groups to allocate funds where they are most needed (e.g. salaries, rent, utilities, training).
- Supports rapid response to emerging community needs.

3. Capacity Building

- Helps strengthen governance, leadership, and infrastructure.
- Supports staff retention and wellbeing, reducing burnout and turnover.

4. Innovation and Impact

- Encourages experimentation and innovation without the constraints of project-specific outcomes.
- Enables organisations to focus on mission-driven work rather than chasing funding.

¹ Unrestricted funds are donations that the group may use for any purpose so long as it meets the aims and objectives of the group outlined in their governing document.

Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This tool helps the Council ensure that we fulfil legal obligations of the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) to have due regard to the need to –

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Guidance on how to complete this tool can be found on the Cambridge City Council intranet. For specific questions on the tool please contact the Community Equity Team at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk.

Also, once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to equalities@cambridge.gov.uk for checking.

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service
Implementation of 3 Tier Community Grants Programme from 2027

2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)
Community Grants - Cambridge City Council

3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

<p>The evolution of the grants programme is intended to reduce administrative burden, promote trust-based funding, and support high-performing organisations to lead and adapt over time. The programme needs to balance the needs of very small grass roots organisations, much larger established groups and new groups keen to grow. Therefore a 'tiered' grant scheme is proposed to respond to the different needs of the sector:</p>
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Tier 1 – Annual Grants of £5k or less.

Tier 2 – Multi-year grants up to £10k p/a, activity based.

Tier 3 – Multi-year unrestricted grants, organisation based. Up to £40k p/a.

Multi-year funding should enable organisations to plan with confidence and manage resources more effectively, reduce the risk of service disruption due to funding gaps and support organisations to plan long-term employment and enable staff retention. Our aim is also to encourage organisations to focus on long-term outcomes rather than short-term

outputs, facilitate deeper, systemic change in communities and allow for more meaningful monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

Unrestricted grants have additional benefits including enabling long-term planning and investment in organisational development, allowing recipient groups to allocate funds where most needed and supporting a quicker response to emerging community needs. They also support staff retention and wellbeing, reducing burnout and turnover.

The recommended 3 Tier model builds on the committee report taken to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee in June 2024, where Members agreed that the Council would introduce multi-year funding agreements to improve the stability of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE), whilst maintaining a funding scheme for smaller grant applications that was responsive to emerging needs, welcoming innovation and supporting developing community groups.

4. Responsible Team and Group

Community Investment Team, Communities Group

5. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

(Please tick all that apply)

Residents
 Visitors
 Staff

Please state any specific client group or groups (e.g. City Council tenants, tourists, people who work in the city but do not live here):

The Community Grants programme is targeted at improving the lives of Cambridge City residents who are experiencing social and/or economic inequality. Successful applicant groups are expected to target individuals who meet that criteria and be able to identify how many beneficiaries there will be, where they live, their age (within a range) and whether they have any protected characteristics, experience low-incomes/poverty or are care leavers.

The Community Investment Team are particularly affected by the provision of Community Grants as implementing the grants process is the core function of the team. Other officers with specialisms in equalities, sports and arts are also involved at the assessment and monitoring stages.

6. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this?

New
 Major change
 Minor change

<p>7. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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If 'Yes' please provide details below:

We work closely with the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services/Support Cambs and Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, to ensure groups are able to get advice on completing the application forms appropriately, thus increasing their chances of submitting a strong and successful bid.

City Council officers with specialisms in equalities, sports, arts and culture, employment support, community development and poverty reduction are also involved at the grant assessment and monitoring stages. The Finance team and Legal services also play a role in the management of grants.

<p>8. What research methods/ evidence have you used in order to identify equality impacts of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?</p>	
<p>An Equality Impact Assessment on the Community Grants scheme has been carried out each time there has been a significant change to the scheme process or priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2015 on the implementation of the Community Grants Fund • June 2018 on the review of funding for anti-poverty projects • January 2022 Community Grants Fund • June 2024 Community Grants Review <p>Changes to the Grant scheme that can be made quickly without the need for Cllr approval are made throughout the year as necessary as part of a process of continuous improvement.</p> <p>The reports and evidence informing this Assessment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facts and Statistics Campaign to End Loneliness • Exploring the UK's digital divide - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) • Disability facts and figures Disability charity Scope UK • Disability Price Tag 2023: the extra cost of disability Disability charity Scope UK • Disability, well-being and loneliness, UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) • Exploring the UK's digital divide - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) • Trans rights are human rights: Council motion - Cambridge City Council • Domestic abuse, the facts - Women's Aid (womensaid.org.uk) • Nearly half of everyone in poverty is either a disabled person or lives with a disabled person Disability Rights UK • https://wearecitizensadvice.org.uk/living-on-empty-245f4b9acbe3 	

- [UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)
- [Domestic abuse, the facts - Women's Aid](#)
- [Care leavers face 'acute challenges' in transition to adulthood - News and events, University of York](#)

The 'State of the Sector' survey report carried out annually by Support Cambridgeshire identifies issues and barriers facing groups and what groups need and want to be able to thrive. The 2024 report identified that money and volunteers remain the biggest barriers that groups face to how they continue to offer services and support. The impact is similar regardless of the income of the organisation.

In the comments, funding is mentioned regularly, but more organisations than the previous year are citing staff burnout and sickness as being an issue, as is the sectors inability to attract staff due to the inability to offer salaries or other benefits such as long term contracts that other employers are offering.

The report states that resilience and the reserves in the sector are finite and there are signs anecdotally that both are running low, and this will have a significant impact on the number of groups that close unless things improve. Quotes included in the report include:

- "No uplift in grants but everything is costing us more."
- "The demand for our service exceeds capacity. Salary increases needs to happen but income is not increasing."

The report states that the issue of raising unrestricted funding or gaining full cost funding that covers all the core costs are the biggest issues.

Respondents to the survey also highlighted the complexity of funding and the sometimes disproportional application processes as a difficulty. The report authors state that the sector needs to see funding that meets core costs and application processes that enable organisations to apply.

The Final Report from the Cambridgeshire Poverty Strategy Commission contains a recommendation to expand longer term funding across Cambridgeshire¹. This report draws on the experience of 11 independent commissioners, each bringing insights, real life experiences, knowledge and expertise to the table. The report was also shaped by many service providers and contributors with direct experience of working to reduce social and economic disadvantage. Over 100 documents were also used to inform the work of the Commission, ranging from papers specifically focusing on poverty to those focusing on housing, digital inclusion, life expectancy and transport poverty.

Best practice from other councils has informed how the scheme could work. The approach taken by Bristol City Council, Camden Council and Manchester City Council aligns in many areas: multi-year grants; a mix of core and project funding that align with their councils'

¹ Cambridgeshire Poverty Strategy Commission – final report, page 46, 6: Promote longer term funding to strengthen VCSE capacity and partnership working.

strategic priorities; emphasis on partnership working; building community resilience and power; promoting social inclusion and reducing inequality.

These schemes have been particularly helpful in considering grant criteria that are equitable and explained clearly to applicants.

Feedback from the three organisations already in receipt of multi-year grants has informed the design of the scheme and given confidence that the proposed approach will have the desired impact of helping provide stability to the voluntary and community sector.

“Moving to a three-year funding cycle has had a significant impact on staff retention and financial planning. Knowing we have longevity of funding has allowed us to assure staff their roles will be maintained for three years which has reduced the impact of staff starting to look for other jobs towards the end of the funding. Additionally, being able to forecast our budgets and spending over a longer period has provided greater certainty for longer term spending”. Helen Cook, Cambridge and District Citizens Advice Bureau.

9. Potential impacts

For each category below, please explain if the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could have a positive/ negative impact or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is. Consider impacts on service users, visitors and staff members separately.

(a) Age - Please also consider any safeguarding issues for children and adults at risk

The outcomes for the overall community funding programme will change if the proposals are agreed. The new outcomes are broader than the previous outcomes and so it is likely that more applications will be received. There are outcomes around achieving your full potential which may be pertinent to young people and one around a reduced sense of isolation which may be especially pertinent to older people.

It is anticipated that the outcomes will have a positive impact for young people and older people who have the highest needs due to barriers which prevent them from accessing sporting activities, arts and cultural activities, and community development activities.

For example, according to information supplied by applicants in grant applications citing national and local research, one major concern for older people is the impact that social isolation can have to their wellbeing, especially those on low incomes (see: [Facts and Statistics | Campaign to End Loneliness](#) and <https://wearecitizensadvice.org.uk/living-on-empty-245f4b9acbe3>).

In addition, the council has a Youth Strategy, which includes goals around making sure there are good, accessible opportunities for all young people to engage in activities outside

of school and helping young people to take part in all that our city has to offer – which community grants can help meet.

The grant scheme outcomes encourage voluntary organisations to submit funding applications that will help to mitigate such issues. Any voluntary group or organisation supporting older and younger people who are more affluent and thus able to pay for access to these services are less likely to receive funding if they apply. In this way the Grant funds remain targeted at those in greatest need.

Any group seeking Community Grant Funding which is proposing to deliver activities supporting young people or vulnerable adults must have the appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place. We would also expect any applicant group applying to the Community Grants scheme to have an Equality and Diversity Policy in place. The Community Investment officers check the quality of the policies and that they are in date at the point of assessment. Ultimately, if the Community Investment officers are not satisfied with the safeguarding documentation, a condition would be added to the grant agreement, whereby the funds would not be released until the documentation was in place, or the grant may be refused altogether.

The Community Investment Team remains committed to providing assistance to groups who need help completing their application, providing telephone advice and in person visits alongside our e-mail service and webpages. This is particularly relevant where applicant groups may have people less confident at using IT systems to complete an e-form, such as older people who are more likely to be digitally excluded (for example, see: [Exploring the UK's digital divide - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk))

There are no anticipated impacts specifically around age for introducing multi-year grants – both restricted and unrestricted. The benefits of long-term funding that is less prescriptive are set out in the Cabinet paper at Appendix 4 and will apply in this case. There will continue to be an opportunity to apply for annual grants, twice a year if this is more suited to a particular group.

(b) Disability

The outcomes for the overall community funding programme will change if the proposals are agreed. The new outcomes are broader than the previous outcomes and so it is likely that more applications will be received. There are outcomes around residents being able to move around safely in their neighbourhood, one around belonging and one around a reduced sense of isolation: all of which could be particularly pertinent to 'Disability'.

It is anticipated that the outcomes will have a positive impact for people with a disability who have the highest needs due to barriers which prevent them from accessing sporting activities, arts and cultural activities, and community development activities.

The experience of applicant groups and national research ([Nearly half of everyone in poverty is either a disabled person or lives with a disabled person | Disability Rights UK](#)) and <https://wearecitizensadvice.org.uk/living-on-empty-245f4b9acbe3> as highlighted that disabled people are disproportionately affected by low income. They can face multiple barriers due to both their low income and their disability, which cause them to be socially excluded.

For example, people with a disability can experience particular barriers to accessing employment (see: [Disability facts and figures | Disability charity Scope UK](#)) which can result in low income and face extra living costs than non-disabled people (see: [Disability Price Tag 2023: the extra cost of disability | Disability charity Scope UK](#)) which, in turn, can prevent them from accessing social activities such as sports or arts. This means that disabled people are more likely to experience social isolation and poor mental wellbeing (see: [Disability, well-being and loneliness, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)).

The grants priorities and outcomes will encourage voluntary organisations to submit funding applications that will help to promote disabled people's economic and social inclusion. The Community Grant guidance notes and application form specifically ask for evidence of need and how the activity will remove barriers or addresses gaps in society for City residents.

Any group applying for a Community Grant is expected to have an Equality and Diversity Policy in place, including plans to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people where needed. The Community Investment officers check the quality of all policies required and that they are in date at the point of assessment. Ultimately, if the Community Investment officers are not satisfied with the documentation, a condition would be added to the grant agreement, whereby the funds would not be released until the documentation was in place, or the grant may be refused altogether.

The Community Investment Team remains committed to providing assistance to groups who need help completing their application, providing telephone advice and in person visits alongside our e-mail service and webpages. This is particularly relevant for disabled people making applications as they are more likely to be digitally excluded (for instance see: [Exploring the UK's digital divide - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)).

There are no anticipated impacts specifically around disability for introducing multi-year grants – both restricted and unrestricted. The benefits of long-term funding that is less prescriptive are set out in the Cabinet paper at Appendix 4 and will apply in this case. There will continue to be an opportunity to apply for annual grants, twice a year if this is

more suited to a particular group. This may be particularly relevant given there is no overarching group operating in the city.

(c) Gender reassignment

The outcomes for the overall community funding programme will change if the proposals are agreed. The new outcomes are broader than the previous outcomes and so it is likely that more applications will be received. There are outcomes around residents feeling safe in their neighbourhood, one around belonging and one around a reduced sense of isolation: all of which could be particularly pertinent to 'Gender reassignment'.

To date there have been no groups solely representing people who have undergone gender reassignment that have applied for a community grant although some applications will include such residents within their wider remit.

The outcomes for Community Grants will have a positive impact for city residents who have the highest needs due to social and/or economic inequality caused by discrimination due to their gender identity, sex or sexual orientation which prevent them from accessing sporting activities, arts and cultural activities, legal and financial advice, employment support and community development activities. Cambridge City Council has a Trans Rights Are Human Rights motion that was passed in October 2020, which is about standing in solidarity with trans people (including people with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment). It also makes the commitment to "look into what we can do as a council to ... raise awareness of the community grants fund amongst LGBTQIA+ groups" (see: [Trans rights are human rights: Council motion - Cambridge City Council](#)). The community grants also have provided opportunities for celebration of LGBTQ+ people's identities and to bring LGBTQ+ people together. This is important as LGBTQ+ people may be more likely to experience social isolation, which also arose as a key issue in the Cambridgeshire LGBTQ+ people's needs assessment undertaken in 2020.

Any group applying for a Community Grant is expected to have an Equality and Diversity Policy in place. Community Investment officers check the quality of all policies required and that they are in date at the point of assessment. Ultimately, if the officers are not satisfied with the documentation, a condition would be added to the grant agreement, whereby the funds would not be released until the documentation was in place, or the grant may be refused altogether.

There are no anticipated impacts specifically around gender reassignment for introducing multi-year grants – both restricted and unrestricted. The benefits of long-term funding that is less prescriptive are set out in the Cabinet paper at Appendix 4 and will apply in this case. There will continue to be an opportunity to apply for annual grants, twice a year if this is more suited to a particular group.

(d) Marriage and civil partnership

The outcomes for the overall community funding programme will change if the proposals are agreed. The new outcomes are broader than the previous outcomes and so it is likely that more applications will be received.

There have not been any applications to the Community Grants Programme to date that directly relate to beneficiaries under the 'marriage and civil partnership' protected characteristic and it is not anticipated that this will change as a result of the proposals.

(e) Pregnancy and maternity

The outcomes for the overall community funding programme will change if the proposals are agreed. The new outcomes are broader than the previous outcomes and so it is likely that more applications will be received.

There have not been any applications in recent years that directly support pregnant beneficiaries although frequently applications are submitted which aim to support women and families with young children that can be in support of maternity. It might be that there are not applications supporting pregnant women specifically, as support for pregnant women that groups seek might be more related to health outcomes, which is the responsibility of the NHS and community grants do not fund activities that are the responsibility of another public service. Any group applying for a Community Grant is expected to have an Equality and Diversity Policy in place. Community Investment officers check the quality of all policies required and that they are in date at the point of assessment. Ultimately, if officers are not satisfied with the documentation, a condition would be added to the grant agreement, whereby the funds would not be released until the documentation was in place, or the grant may be refused altogether.

(f) **Race** – Note that the protected characteristic ‘race’ refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

The outcomes for the overall community funding programme will change if the proposals are agreed. The new outcomes are broader than the previous outcomes and so it is likely that more applications will be received.

The Outcomes for Community Grants will have a positive impact for groups and organisations representing people from different ethnic minority who have different needs and barriers relating to discrimination which prevent them from accessing sporting activities, arts and cultural activities, legal and financial advice and community development activities.

For example, some ethnic groups are more likely to be on low incomes or to experience poverty, especially Bangladeshi and Pakistani households (see: [UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)), which can mean they are excluded from taking part in different activities. Community grants can also support groups to fund opportunities to celebrate their cultures, increasing community cohesion within communities of people with a particular ethnic background and/or people with different ethnic backgrounds to each other.

Applications supporting people of different ethnic backgrounds are considered by the Councils Equality & Diversity Team alongside the Community Investment team to ensure the needs of the group are considered appropriately.

Any group applying for a Community Grant is expected to have an Equality and Diversity Policy in place. Officers check the quality of all policies required and that they are in date at the point of assessment. Ultimately, if the officers are not satisfied with the documentation, a condition would be added to the grant agreement, whereby the funds would not be released until the documentation was in place, or the grant may be refused altogether.

The Community Investment team is mindful that completing an application form can be challenging – especially if English is not your first language. Experience to date suggests this is particularly the case with smaller and less established groups. The Community Investment Team can offer 1:1 support and will seek clarification from groups as necessary to inform the assessment process. Groups are also encouraged to seek support from the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum to complete the application form and ensure the required paperwork is in place. Moreover, the council has an interpretation and translation service it can use to support applicants. Monitoring visits from the Community Investment Team are also a useful way to gather information about the activities which may not be apparent from the application form. This knowledge can be used to inform future grant applications and helps build trusting relationships.

There are no anticipated impacts specifically around race for introducing multi-year grants – both restricted and unrestricted. The benefits of long-term funding that is less prescriptive are set out in the Cabinet paper at Appendix 4 and will apply in this case. CECF are already in receipt of a multi-year grant and would be eligible for an unrestricted grant should they wish to apply. There will continue to be an opportunity to apply for annual grants, twice a year if this is more suited to a particular group. We anticipate the take up of Tier 1 to be high amongst groups representing people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

(g) Religion or belief

The outcomes for the overall community funding programme will change if the proposals are agreed. The new outcomes are broader than the previous outcomes and so it is likely that more applications will be received.

Occasionally groups are funded which have a particular faith ethos to deliver non-faith activities in support of local communities, providing that the group and the activities meet our grants priorities and are not for religious instruction or worship. Such groups are not allowed to exclude those from attending/participating that have different religions or beliefs or who have no religion.

On occasion, an application is from an organisation representing an ethnic minority group where cultural activities can be closely linked to religious practice. Such applications would be considered by the Councils Equality & Diversity Team alongside the Community Investment team to ensure the needs of the group are considered appropriately in relation to reducing social and economic inequality.

Any group applying for a Community Grant is expected to have an Equality and Diversity Policy in place. Officers check the quality of all policies required and that they are in date at the point of assessment. Ultimately, if the officers are not satisfied with the documentation, a condition would be added to the grant agreement, whereby the funds would not be released until the documentation was in place, or the grant may be refused altogether.

(h) Sex

The outcomes for the overall community funding programme will change if the proposals are agreed. The new outcomes are broader than the previous outcomes and so it is likely that more applications will be received.

The outcomes for Community Grants will have a positive impact for city residents who have the highest needs due to barriers because of their sex which prevent them from accessing sporting activities, arts and cultural activities, legal and financial advice and community development activities. Women are more likely to experience poverty than men, especially if they are lone parents or have other informal caring responsibilities (see: [UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)), and are more likely to experience domestic abuse (see: [Domestic abuse, the facts - Women's Aid](#)). Community grants have supported women with things like seeking employment opportunities and with domestic abuse. They have also supported women from different ethnic backgrounds of different ages who might be more likely to experience social isolation.

The grants scheme outcomes will encourage voluntary organisations to submit funding applications that will help to mitigate such issues.

Any group applying for a Community Grant is expected to have an Equality and Diversity Policy in place. The Community Investment officers check the quality of all policies required and that they are in date at the point of assessment. Ultimately, if officers are not satisfied with the documentation, a condition would be added to the grant agreement, whereby the funds would not be released until the documentation was in place, or the grant may be refused altogether.

There are no anticipated impacts specifically around sex for introducing multi-year grants – both restricted and unrestricted. The benefits of long-term funding that is less prescriptive are set out in the Cabinet paper at Appendix 4 and will apply in this case. Some of the groups supporting women that we have funded frequently in the past are expected to qualify for a multi-year grant and would likely be eligible for an unrestricted grant should they wish to apply. There will continue to be an opportunity to apply for annual grants, twice a year if this is more suited to a particular group.

(i) Sexual orientation

The outcomes for the overall community funding programme will change if the proposals are agreed. The new outcomes are broader than the previous outcomes and so it is likely that more applications will be received.

The outcomes for Grants will have a positive impact for city residents who have the highest needs due to barriers because discrimination relating to their sexual orientation which prevent them from accessing sporting activities, arts and cultural activities, legal and financial advice and community development activities. The Council's Trans Rights Are Human Rights motion commits us to "Look into what we can do as a council to... raise awareness of the community grants fund amongst LGBTQIA+ groups." The community grants also have provided opportunities for celebration of LGBTQ+ people's identities and to bring LGBTQ+ people together. This is important as LGBTQ+ people may be more likely to experience social isolation, which also arose as a key issue in the Cambridgeshire LGBTQ+ people's needs assessment undertaken in 2020.

Any group applying for a Community Grant is expected to have an Equality and Diversity Policy in place. The Community Investment officers check the quality of all policies required and that they are in date at the point of assessment. Ultimately, if officers are not satisfied with the documentation, a condition would be added to the grant agreement, whereby the funds would not be released until the documentation was in place, or the grant may be refused altogether.

There are no anticipated impacts specifically around sexual orientation for introducing multi-year grants – both restricted and unrestricted. The benefits of long-term funding that is less prescriptive are set out in the Cabinet paper at Appendix 4 and will apply in this case. Some of the groups supporting LGBTQ+ that we have funded frequently in the past are expected to qualify for a multi-year grant and would likely be eligible for an unrestricted grant should they wish to apply. There will continue to be an opportunity to apply for annual grants, twice a year if this is more suited to a particular group.

(j) Other factors that may lead to inequality – in particular, please consider the impact of any changes on:

- Low-income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty.
- People of any age with care experience – this refers to individuals who spent part of their childhood in the care system due to situations beyond their control, primarily arising from abuse and neglect within their families. The term “Care experience” is a description of a definition in law, it includes anyone that had the state as its corporate parent by virtue of a care order in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and amendments.
- Groups who have more than one protected characteristic that taken together create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. (Here you are being asked to consider intersectionality, and for more information see: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/1_l59kt25q).

The Community funding outcomes focus the available funding on groups and organisations that offer help and support to those residents in most need, in line with the Councils corporate priority ‘Tackling poverty & inequality and helping people in the greatest need’. People with care experience are more likely to experience poverty and also social isolation as they lack family networks (e.g. see: [Care leavers face ‘acute challenges’ in transition to adulthood - News and events, University of York](#) so may benefit from community grants, although to date no grants recipients have explicitly supported this group.

The impact of Community Grants cuts across all the protected characteristics as poverty is often experienced by people who also face discrimination and systemic disadvantage due to race, gender, disability etc.

This focus means that those groups and organisations that offer help to more affluent residents with protected characteristics who may, for example, be able to pay for support, may receive less or no funding. However, there may also be groups supporting equality groups with social inclusion that are unrelated to income but may relate to discrimination. The Community Grants scheme prioritises applications that seek to address these high barriers.

Many applications reflect the experience of their beneficiaries around intersectionality. Links are frequently made between older people, disabilities and poverty for example, or particular ethnic minority groups, sex or gender and poverty. Many people experiencing interdependent discrimination and disadvantage relating to being from more than one protected characteristic group are unable to access community development, sporting and cultural activities which enhance quality of life and improve and sustain wellbeing. The Community Grants programme helps address this.

10. Action plan – New equality impacts will be identified in different stages throughout the planning and implementation stages of changes to your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service. How will you monitor these going forward? Also, how will you ensure that any potential negative impacts of the changes will be mitigated? (Please include dates where possible for when you will update this EqIA accordingly.)

The Community Grants process is cyclical in nature. This provides windows of opportunity to review the process throughout the year. The application forms, guidance notes, monitoring requirements and grant agreements are discussed annually by the Community Investment Team and other key officers involved in the grant process. Amendments are made as necessary to reflect feedback from applicants, changes in Council policy or direction, national or local research and even potentially changes to the services delivered by other organisations. We also welcome feedback from infrastructure organisations providing support to applicants, such as the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS)/Support Cambs and Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum.

With respect to the specific changes proposed from 2027/28 onwards: if approved, publicity will be developed to ensure all previous and potential applicants are aware of the changes. This will include social media posts, physical posters, email communications and webinars. We will also utilise the newsletters of our partner organisations where the timings align.

11. Do you have any additional comments?

The Community Investment team offer virtual and in-person support to groups requiring help with completing their applications. For the 2026/27 funding round, both Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS) and Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum were present at in-person sessions offered during the application windows to provide the best package of support possible. This has been well received and will continue into the future.

Each year the Community Investment team carry out a range of activities to support organisations to understand the funding criteria and requirements needed for a successful application, including:

- attending organisation's committee meetings;
- 1-2-1 meetings
- application webinars held jointly with CCVS
- Application Guide and Help Notes detailing the outcomes and eligibility criteria and giving guidance on requirements
- signposting to other funding providers

The City Council also funds CCVS to provide a year-round package of 'on-demand', online and in person training on a variety of subjects which support the development of community groups and to help them become 'application ready'. CECF also offer tailored training.

The Community Investment team is confident that the proposed approach to community funding is the right approach as the findings of the Annual VCS 'State of the Sector' Survey

Report consistently point to the need for increased sustainability for the sector via longer term funding arrangements, and more proportionate application processes balancing the value of the award with the level of information required from applicant groups. The 'Emerging from Covid Report 2022' also describes the state of the VCS and sets out recommendations to help meet the challenges the sector is facing. The proposed changes to the approach to community funding addresses some of these issues and supports the councils ambitions of building wealth in communities. The ideas were also shared with CCVS & CECF during the development stage with a request to act as a 'critical friend' to help identify any potential areas where more thought was needed.

12. Sign off

Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Julie Cornwell, Strategic Community Investment Lead

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: Equality and Diversity Team

Date of EqIA sign off: 09-12-25

Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: 2028-29

Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: When Cabinet Agenda papers are published for 13 January 26 Cabinet meeting

All EqIAs need to be sent to the Community Equity Team at
equalities@cambridge.gov.uk

Homelessness Prevention Grants to Agencies 2026-27

To:

Mike Todd-Jones, Cabinet Member for Safety, Wellbeing & Tackling Homelessness, Cabinet 13/01/2026

Report by:

Simon Hunt, Strategic Housing Advice Lead – Housing Advice

Tel: 01223 457932 Email: simon.hunt@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Director of Communities, Sam Scharf, confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for Safety, Wellbeing and Tackling Homelessness for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <p>Approve the award of homelessness prevention grants to voluntary and community organisations for 2026-27, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.</p>
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	<p>This report details the annual bid round for grants made to organisations providing homelessness prevention services. It provides an overview of the process, the grant eligibility criteria, and the budget. Appendix 1 details the applications received with recommendations for 2026-27 awards.</p>

3.	Alternative options considered								
3.1	As detailed later in the report, where, having tested services over a number of years, we see clear advantages to be achieved in contracting services under multi-year arrangements rather than awarding one-year grants, we have taken the opportunity to do so. We will continue to explore such opportunities in the future.								
4.	Background and key issues								
4.1	<p>Each year the Council invites agencies and organisations to submit bids for funding for homelessness-related services from its annual central government homelessness grant. The 2026-27 bid round opened for applications on 1st August 2025 and closed on 22nd September 2025. A communications and publicity plan was implemented to promote the grant fund.</p> <p>Members may wish to note that bids received totaled £553,912 against available funding of £400,000. This figure excludes a sum of £50,000 set aside from our homelessness grant as winter provision for rough sleepers under a 3-year contract and a further £70,000 set aside to fund an employment advice service for those who are homeless, or at risk of losing their home, also under a 3-year contract.</p> <p>When the amounts set-aside for the winter provision and employment advice are included, the total sum available to partner organisations for homelessness projects is nearly £520,000, as set out in the table below – an increase of £79,000 on the sum that was available last year.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Recommended grants to agencies</td> <td>£399,740</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winter provision contract</td> <td>£50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employment advice contract</td> <td>£70,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2026/27 total</td> <td>£519,740</td> </tr> </table> <p>Applications were initially considered by individual officers using a common assessment matrix and then moderated by those officers meeting as a panel.</p>	Recommended grants to agencies	£399,740	Winter provision contract	£50,000	Employment advice contract	£70,000	2026/27 total	£519,740
Recommended grants to agencies	£399,740								
Winter provision contract	£50,000								
Employment advice contract	£70,000								
2026/27 total	£519,740								

Given the significant excess of claims over available funding, not all bids could be supported in full, leading to some difficult recommendations. Nonetheless, most bids were approved for some funding, if not the amount that was requested as part of the application. Individual bids were assessed principally against the degree to which the proposed service would prevent or relieve homelessness, with services that could directly evidence the prevention of homelessness being particularly favoured. More broadly, officers considered the strategic and operational value of the proposed service, whether the proposed service duplicated or overlapped with an existing service, and the ability of the submitting agency to self-fund in whole or in part.

A number of the grant recommendations are for long-standing initiatives with a proven record of assisting the City Council in its efforts to tackle homelessness and which we have funded for a number of years.

The Cabinet Member for Safety, Wellbeing & Tackling Homelessness attended a meeting with officers to review the recommendations. The final recommendations are set out in Appendix 1.

5.	Corporate plan
5.1	A decision to approve the recommended grant awards to partner agencies will support the City Council in its following key priorities, as set out in the Corporate plan 2022-27: -Tackling poverty and inequality and helping people in the greatest need -Building a new generation of council and affordable homes and reducing homelessness
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Safety, Wellbeing & Tackling Homelessness. In addition, extensive consultation was carried out with partners on the grant application process and eligibility criteria, ahead of the annual bid round in 2022. The process and eligibility criteria have remained the same since then

	<p>but are due for review in 2026.</p> <p>The Government has confirmed its intention to offer a multi-year homelessness grant to Local Authorities from 2026/27 onwards and we may be in a position to offer funding assurance in the form of multi-year grants to some applicant groups from 2028/29, subject to developing appropriate eligibility criteria.</p>
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	Grants to partner agencies will benefit individuals across the city who are homeless or threatened with homelessness for a variety of different reasons. The work undertaken by partners as a result of these grants will support the City Council in its statutory responsibilities to prevent and relieve homelessness. It is a condition of the grant that agencies provide monitoring information to the City Council detailing outcomes and impact achieved from the grant award.
8.	Implications
	Relevant risks
8.1	Any slight risk of a partner agency getting into financial difficulties and being unable to deliver a project is mitigated by the financial checks that we run as part of the application process, the monitoring arrangements that we put in place once a grant is awarded, and payment by instalment to reduce our losses in the event that an organisation can't deliver on a project.
	Financial Implications
8.2	<p>As set out in 3.2 and Appendix 1.</p> <p>The award of the recommended grants is subject to the receipt of the annual homelessness grant from central government. The Government has made clear its commitment to tackling homelessness and announced in November that it will be making £2.4 billion available nationally from April 2026 as part of a multi-year settlement to</p>

	<p>address homelessness and rough sleeping, with a further £969M being made available for addressing pressures connected with temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Local authorities were notified of their provisional district grant allocations on 17th December 2025. The recommended total award of just under £400k in grants to agencies is subject to this provisional settlement being confirmed as final.</p>
	Legal Implications
8.3	None.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.4	<p>Some of the grant awards are for projects specifically targeted at groups with a protected characteristic. However, all bidding organisations must be able to demonstrate compliance with the Equality Act 2010 in delivering their services and submit their equality and diversity policies with their applications.</p> <p>An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed.</p>
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.5	No positive or negative impact identified as the services recommended for grant aid are broadly similar to those supported in former years.
	Procurement Implications
8.6	None.
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	None.
9.	Background documents Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to

	Information) Act 1985
9.1	No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.
10.	Appendices
10.1	Appendix 1: Summary of award recommendations.
	If you have a query on the report please contact Simon Hunt, Strategic Housing Advice Lead. Tel: 01223 457932. Email: simon.hunt@cambridge.gov.uk

Appendix 1 Homelessness Prevention Grants Recommendations 2026-27

Group Name	Activity Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity	Income sought from the City Council	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity	Provisional Funding for 26-27	Funding awarded for 25-26	Reason for nil award & other comments
Cambridge and District Citizens Advice Bureau	Cambridge & District Citizens Advice Homelessness Prevention Project	Homelessness prevention and housing support for single people and families to move from supported housing into private rented accommodation and to support clients to prevent or avoid eviction. Specialist independent support, advice and representation around housing and debt issues: support with housing benefit, rent and other arrears, debt advice, crisis intervention, negotiation, legal advocacy, rights and tenures.	£61,890	£35,000	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000	Also in receipt of a multi-year Community Grant and Discretionary Rate Relief.
Cambridge Cyrenians	Supported Housing Service	Provision of supported housing for around 150 single homeless adults (18+) per year, which supports them to build independence and personal skills to move permanently away from homelessness.	£28,499	£28,499	£14,250	£14,250	£8,500	

Group Name	Activity Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity	Income sought from the City Council	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity	Provisional Funding for 26-27	Funding awarded for 25-26	Reason for nil award & other comments
Cambridge Cyrenians	Older Homeless Service (OHS)	Support for single people aged 45+ who have experienced or are at risk of homelessness by providing a tailored package of emotional and practical support to prevent eviction, and thereby prevent homelessness.	£94,973	£50,000	£25,000	£25,000	£8,500	
Cambridge Housing Society Ltd (The)	The Young Parent Project	Supported Housing service for single young parents, aged between 16 and 25 and their babies. The service will accommodate and support ten young families including six new referrals, during the funding year. The service will continue to support four young families who have moved on.	£211,944 0	£32,591	£25,000	£25,000	£18,900	CHS Ltd also have a 3-year contract with Wintercomfort to provide an employment advice service for homeless and vulnerably housed people and are in receipt of a Community Grant.
Cambridge Women's Aid	Community Support Service	Provision of a specialist community support service for survivors of domestic abuse: a 24/7 emergency helpline, a navigation service, intensive individual and group support, resettlement support for	£237,016	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£40,000	Also in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief.

Group Name	Activity Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity	Income sought from the City Council	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity	Provisional Funding for 26-27	Funding awarded for 25-26	Reason for nil award & other comments
		families leaving refuge, and training for local professionals and community members.						
Cambridge Women's Resources Centre	CWRC Housing support	Personalised housing support delivered through interventions including: Advising homeowners following divorce or separation; Applications for Discretionary Housing Payments; Helping women sustain tenancies through practical support, landlord liaison and income maximisation; Supporting women and children in unfurnished temporary accommodation; Enabling moves on from refuge placements after domestic abuse; Advising on Local Housing Allowance rates and Home-Link bidding strategies; Supporting refugee women with no priority need to access housing.	£23,707	£23,707	£20,000	£20,000	£15,000	Also in receipt of a Community Grant and Discretionary Rate Relief.

Group Name	Activity Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity	Income sought from the City Council	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity	Provisional Funding for 26-27	Funding awarded for 25-26	Reason for nil award & other comments
Cambridge shire Community Foundation	Cambridge Street Aid	Street Aid gives individual grants to people with a history of street homelessness, via referring partners. The grants are intended to help prevent people returning to the streets or a street lifestyle. Funding towards Street Aid fund administration and marketing and funding to enable provision of grant awards.	£17,733	£14,733	£13,063	£14,733	£14,000	
Centre 33	Centre 33 Cambridge Housing & Homelessness Project	Young People's Homeless and Housing Support Service for 13-25 year olds. 500 enquiries; 100 individual support for over 18 and under 18 year olds in conjunction with partner agencies, (585 city beneficiaries; 100 access direct support) plus outreach workshops material provide to 5 city schools/colleges.	£66,949	£66,949	£55,000	£40,000	£40,000	Also in receipt of a Community Grant and Discretionary Rate Relief.

Group Name	Activity Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity	Income sought from the City Council	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity	Provisional Funding for 26-27	Funding awarded for 25-26	Reason for nil award & other comments
Concrete Rose Collective CIC	Co-Living Pilot	Funding to pilot accommodation programme for care leavers and young people at risk of homelessness. Addition of youth coaching, weekly therapy, and a dedicated mentor. 40 annual coaching sessions per participant alongside targeted therapeutic interventions. It will also support volunteer-led skills-building, trips, and activities that strengthen social connections. The pilot will begin by supporting four care leavers in Cambridge.	£127,587	£15,576	£12,936	£15,576	NEW	
Experience Cambridge CIC	Employment Cambridge Project 2026/27 Programme	This project aims to help homeless or at-risk individuals access employment and stable housing by providing sustainable pathways out of homelessness.	£32,340	£18,000	£12,000	£-	NEW	The application duplicates some of the Councils contract employment advice services already in place. The project lacked detail to evidence how the tours would provide sufficient funding to secure tenancy for the

Group Name	Activity Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity	Income sought from the City Council	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity	Provisional Funding for 26-27	Funding awarded for 25-26	Reason for nil award & other comments
Page 80								participants/beneficiaries. The proposed activity does not strongly align with the priorities of this scheme. Inconsistencies in reporting in accounts compared to bank statements. This group is currently funded in part via our Central Government Rough Sleeping Grant, which we may make available again for 26-27 depending on our allocation.
Hope into Action UK	Empowerment Worker support for persons experiencing homelessness	Empowerment Worker support for 8–10 tenants in four 2-bed Hope into Action homes in Cambridge City. The workers help tenants in nine key areas, including maintaining tenancy, mental and physical health, substance use, education and employment, finances, social relationships, crime prevention, and meaningful	£113,236	£16,905	£15,000	£16,905	£15,000	

Group Name	Activity Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity	Income sought from the City Council	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity	Provisional Funding for 26-27	Funding awarded for 25-26	Reason for nil award & other comments
		use of time. The aim is to support tenants to live independently, reduce risks, and develop skills for long-term stability.						
It takes a City (Cambridge)	The Haven - Women's Services Co-ordinator	Funding for a Women's Services Coordinator for 30 hours per week to provide support at The Haven over night off street facility, for two nights per week and for a single day time session to enable service users to connect with services that operate during working hours.	£96,950	£33,250	£27,000	£33,250	£29,700	Also eligible for Discretionary Rate Relief when the Valuation Office has valued the premises and the award can be calculated and will be backdated.
It Takes a City (Cambridge)	Crossways Summers	Provision of care, support and supervision in supported temporary accommodation in single en-suite rooms for up to 20 single people at any one time, from March to October, for whom the Council has a duty to provide temporary accommodation and who are assessed as needing such support.	£20,036	£20,036	£20,036	£20,036	NEW	ITAC also have a 3-year contract with the City Council for the delivery of the winter provision for rough sleepers service at the same premises.

Group Name	Activity Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity	Income sought from the City Council	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity	Provisional Funding for 26-27	Funding awarded for 25-26	Reason for nil award & other comments
It Takes a City (Cambridge)	Survive and Thrive Prevention and Transitional Support	Provision of support to rough sleepers in private sector accommodation. Survive and thrive service for anyone in self-contained or small shared accommodation with a recent history of rough sleeping or homelessness who do not have a confirmed support offer: tenancy sustainment and resettlement support; meals, food parcels and practical help; rapid moving in service; mentoring and befriending service; employment outreach service; pastoral care and welfare; supported modular housing.	£43,750	£38,000	£19,000	£38,000	£35,000	See above.
Jimmys Cambridge	Modular Homes	Support for residents of 22 modular homes including find and stay in employment, find positive out of work activities, build new relationships, signpost to specialist support, act as mentor/friendly face via	£85,414	£42,707	£25,624	£42,707	£38,618	Jimmy's is also in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief.

Group Name	Activity Name	Activity summary	Total cost of the activity	Income sought from the City Council	Minimum contribution to enable a revised activity	Provisional Funding for 26-27	Funding awarded for 25-26	Reason for nil award & other comments
		weekly visits, developing a plan and via phone as required.						
Jimmy's Cambridge	Expansion and formalisation of TRiM (Trauma Risk Management)	Funding to expand TRiM (Trauma Risk Management) across Cambridge's homelessness sector, providing in house, training to help 6 staff members manage trauma and build resilience.	£47,442	£47,442	£23,721	£-	NEW	Poor alignment with grant scheme outcomes as it is a step removed from the direct homelessness prevention. Some TRiM training for 25-26 is currently covered by our Central Government Rough Sleeping Grant.
Wintercomfort for the Homeless	Crisis Intervention for Rough Sleepers in Cambridge	Providing crisis intervention work for rough sleeping adults in Cambridge – supporting 60 people to progress to a more stable, independent life.	£25,517	£25,517	£19,282	£19,282	£19,000	Wintercomfort also have a 3 year contract with the City Council, alongside CHS Ltd, to provide an employment advice service for homeless and vulnerably housed people. Also, in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief.

Total grant available	Total grant applications	Offers	Set aside for award under contractual agreements	Total spend
£400,000	£553,912	£399,740	£120,000	£519,740

Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This tool helps the Council ensure that we fulfil legal obligations of the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) to have due regard to the need to –

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Guidance on how to complete this tool can be found on the Cambridge City Council intranet. For specific questions on the tool email Helen Crowther Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk or phone 01223 457046.

Once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to equalities@cambridge.gov.uk for checking.

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service

Homelessness Prevention Grants to Agencies 2026-27

2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)

Each year an invitation to organisations to apply for homelessness prevention grants is posted [here](#).

3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

To invite and assess applications for grants to help prevent and relieve homelessness and rough sleeping, and make grant awards.

4. Responsible Team and Group

Communities Group/Housing Advice Service.

5. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick all that apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residents <input type="checkbox"/> Visitors <input type="checkbox"/> Staff
---	--

Please state any specific client group or groups (e.g. City Council tenants, tourists, people who work in the city but do not live here):

People who are homeless, threatened with homelessness, have a history of homelessness or who are sleeping rough.

6. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this?	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Major change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor change
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7. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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If 'Yes' please provide details below:

The Grants team.

Grant recipients, as detailed in the recommended grant awards.

8. Has the report on your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service gone to Committee? If so, which one?	Recommended grant awards will be considered by Cabinet on 13 th January 2026.
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9. What research methods/ evidence have you used in order to identify equality impacts of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?	A public invitation to bid for grant funding is issued, and any organisation assisting homeless people may apply. Awards are made on the basis of the published criteria, one element of which is to identify the need for the service and the particular needs of the client group the service is aimed at, for example, young people or women. Organisations are expected to provide evidence of need for the service as part of the bidding process. All bidding organisations must be able to demonstrate compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and submit their equality and diversity policies with their applications. Successful applicants must provide six monthly monitoring reports, which include evidence of Equality Act compliance and impacts.
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10. Potential impacts

For each category below, please explain if the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could have a positive/ negative impact or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is. Consider impacts on service users, visitors and staff members separately.

(a) Age - Please also consider any safeguarding issues for children and adults at risk

For 2026-27 several grants are recommended for approval that address age-related homelessness, as follows:

- Cambridge Cyrenians - Housing Related Support - Older Homeless Floating Support Service (over 45s)
- CHS Group - Young Parent Project (YPP)
- Centre 33 - Homeless & Housing Service for young people under 25 years.

No negative impacts identified.

See appendix 1 for more information.

(b) Disability

Projects submitting funding requests support vulnerable people, and very often that vulnerability relates to mental or physical ill-health (even if these needs are not the primary focus of the service or project). The distribution of funding therefore has a positive impact on people with the protected characteristic of disability who are homeless or vulnerably housed.

No negative impacts identified.

(c) Gender reassignment

No negative or positive impacts identified.

(d) Marriage and civil partnership

No negative or positive impacts identified.

(e) Pregnancy and maternity

For 2026-27 the proposed grant awards to projects specialising in the needs of pregnant women and mothers include the following:

- CHS Group - Young Parent Project
- Cambridge Women's Aid

No negative impacts have been identified.

See appendix 1 for more information.

(f) Race – Note that the protected characteristic ‘race’ refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

Grants made to charitable organisations may be used to assist individuals not otherwise eligible for public funds (people with ‘no recourse to public funds’ due to their immigration status). An example of this is the proposed grant to Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to pay for that organisation’s administration of the Street Aid scheme (see: [Cambridge Street Aid - Cambridgeshire Community Foundation \(cambscf.org.uk\)](https://cambscf.org.uk)).

(g) Religion or belief

No positive or negative impacts identified.

(h) Sex

For 2026-27 the proposed grant awards to projects specialising in the needs of women include the following:

- Cambridge Women's Aid
- Cambridge Women's Resource Centre
- It Takes a City (The Haven)

An overall positive impact on the basis of sex is identified in the proposed awards of grants to these organisations. Firstly, this reflects the greater likelihood that women will experience domestic abuse (see: [What is domestic abuse? - Womens Aid](https://womensaid.org.uk)), which is a common reason for women's homelessness. Secondly, women who are rough sleeping face complex challenges, barriers to services, and risks, which are not so prevalent amongst men who are rough sleeping. Health and wellbeing are key areas of concern, including women's reproductive health, substance misuse, and trauma or adverse childhood experiences. This is reflected in the Women's Rough Sleeping Census,

2023, which found that 64% of women experiencing homelessness reported mental health issues, and 74% reported physical health issues.

See appendix 1 for more information.

No negative impacts identified.

(i) Sexual orientation

No negative or positive impacts identified.

(j) Other factors that may lead to inequality – in particular, please consider the impact of any changes on:

- Low-income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty.
- People of any age with care experience – this refers to individuals who spent part of their childhood in the care system due to situations beyond their control, primarily arising from abuse and neglect within their families. The term “Care experience” is a description of a definition in law, it includes anyone that had the state as its corporate parent by virtue of a care order in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and amendments.
- Groups who have more than one protected characteristic that taken together create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. (Here you are being asked to consider intersectionality, and for more information see: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/1_l59kt25q).

Low-income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty

The overwhelming single characteristic of people presenting to the Housing Advice Service is their relative poverty. Homelessness is causally-related to poverty, and grants made to prevent or relieve homelessness must evidence, directly or indirectly, that they make a proportionate and value-for-money positive impact on alleviating poverty or the consequences of poverty.

People of any age with care experience

Whilst the impact of the care experience can affect people of all ages, young care leavers (from the age of 16 and up to their early 20s) disproportionately experience homelessness, loneliness, unemployment, poverty and a range of other disadvantages. As detailed above, for 2026-27 some of the grant recommendations are for organisations specialising in the needs of young people.

More specifically, the proposed grant awards to projects includes the following, which specialises in the needs of people with care experience:

- Concrete Rose Collective CIC

An overall positive impact on the basis of being a care leaver is identified in the proposed awards of grants to these organisations.

Groups who have more than one protected characteristic that taken together create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage:

People experiencing homelessness often have overlapping disadvantages and/or vulnerabilities, associated with or caused by inequality they experience related to being from a protected characteristic group. For instance, many homeless people have physical and mental health issues. Also, ethnic minority people, women, and disabled people (and especially people from two or more of these three groups) are more likely to experience poverty in the first place that can lead to homelessness or risk of homelessness (see: [UK Poverty 2025: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2025-essential-guide-understanding-poverty-uk-joseph-rowntree-foundation)).

11. Action plan – New equality impacts will be identified in different stages throughout the planning and implementation stages of changes to your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service. How will you monitor these going forward? Also, how will you ensure that any potential negative impacts of the changes will be mitigated? (Please include dates where possible for when you will update this EqIA accordingly.)

Each organisation will submit six monthly monitoring reports, which include an account of impacts on equality groups.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

No.

13. Sign off

Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Simon Hunt, Housing Advice Strategic Lead.

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: Julie Cornwell, Strategic Community Investment Lead; Laura Adcock, Strategic Health and Wellbeing Lead; Joanna Hodgson, Senior Community Investment Officer; Mike Todd-Jones, Cabinet Member for Safety, Wellbeing & Tackling Homelessness; Helen Crowther, Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer.

Date of EqIA sign off: 05/01/2026

Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: 05/01/2027

Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: 05/01/26

All EqIAs need to be sent to the Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at
equalities@cambridge.gov.uk

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REPORT TITLE: Transformation and Reinvestment Fund Update

To:

Cllr Simon Smith, Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

Cabinet, 13 January 2026

Report by:

Jody Etherington, Chief Finance Officer

Tel: 01223 458130 Email: jody.etherington@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Chief Finance Officer Jody Etherington confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Note progress with the allocation of funds from the Transformation and Reinvestment Fund.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	<p>In February 2025, Full Council approved a sum of £3.149 million to be transferred to a Transformation and Reinvestment Fund (TRF), to fund initiatives which support the wider objectives of the council's transformation programme.</p>
2.2	<p>Under the council's Officer Scheme of Delegation, detailed decisions relating to the use of these funds are delegated to officers. Nevertheless, in the interest of transparency and accountability, this report has been prepared to update Cabinet on the allocations which have been made from the TRF to date, and some of the benefits this will bring to the</p>

	council and wider city.
2.3	A further update will be provided to Cabinet in July, alongside the council's 2025/26 Outturn Report.
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	An alternative option would have been to simply summarise TRF spending within the council's General Fund outturn report next summer. However, given the sums involved and nature of expenditure, this separate report has been produced in the interests of transparency and accountability.
4.	Background and key issues
4.1	On 24 February 2025, as part of the General Fund Budget Setting Report, Full Council approved the establishment of a £3.149 million Transformation and Reinvestment Fund. This was funded from money previously earmarked for restructuring costs, along with the one-off benefit of an overachievement of the planned savings target for 2025/26.
4.2	The terms of the fund as agreed by Full Council were as follows:- <i>"This will be used first and foremost to fund any one-off restructuring costs incurred in year. Any remaining balance will be used to fund initiatives which support the wider objectives of the council's transformation programme, for example investment in service improvement, or to address financial pressures which may arise from forthcoming local government reorganisation as set out in the recent government white paper."</i>
5.	Allocations
5.1	The table below summarises the allocations which have been made from the TRF as at 28 November 2025:

Spend Category	£m
One-off restructuring costs	1.395
Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)	0.300
Other transformation initiatives (see Appendix 1)	1.017
Total allocated	2.712
<i>Remaining to be allocated</i>	<i>0.437</i>
Total TRF	3.149

5.2	One-off restructuring costs of £1.395 million were reported to Full Council in July 2025 as part of the Outturn Report 2024/25. These primarily relate to redundancies arising from the recent Group Redesign Programme. For context, this programme delivered net ongoing savings of £1.734 million per year as part of the 2025/26 budget setting round, representing a payback period of less than 10 months.
5.3	Funds allocated to date for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) have enabled the council to reach the important milestone of submitting its preferred LGR proposal to government in line with the November 2025 statutory deadline. This work culminated in a Full Council decision to support 'option B', including a new unitary authority for Greater Cambridge consisting of the areas currently covered by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. The funding has supported a strong and robust proposal to be made which, if accepted by government, will bring significant benefits to local services. The funding also includes a small allocation towards other activities intended to support the council's preferred option and Cambridge's ongoing city status, including restoration of the city's historic royal charters, and a planned civic event to celebrate the 75 th anniversary of Cambridge becoming a city.
5.4	Other transformation initiatives include a number of smaller individual projects which contribute to the council's wider corporate objectives. A full list of these is provided at Appendix 1 , with selected highlights set out in the following paragraphs.
5.5	The Homelessness System Review will provide a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of the city-wide homelessness system to inform the Homelessness and

	<p>Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031. This one-off strategic project will map the end-to-end system, analyse demand, and identify strengths, gaps, and pressures. It will explore earlier prevention, develop an early help hub, strengthen multi-agency working (particularly with health), and establish a robust data and performance framework. As well as better outcomes for service users, this is expected to generate ongoing efficiency savings through reduced reliance on costly B&B accommodation, streamlining pathways, and leveraging joint funding.</p>
5.6	<p>The Homelessness Prevention Project will address already-identified opportunities to work differently in high-impact areas, delivering rapid upstream cost savings. A dedicated Housing Advisor will target the main causes of homelessness locally — family/friend evictions and domestic abuse — alongside earlier Duty to Refer engagement, court advocacy, and proactive casework with high-risk groups before statutory duties are triggered. Strengthening prevention will reduce temporary accommodation demand, lower repeat homelessness, sustain tenancies, and improve data recording to potentially drive increased Homelessness Prevention Grant allocation.</p>
5.7	<p>The council is responsible for the management of a significant General Fund property asset portfolio. This includes, for example, council offices, community centres, car parks and swimming pools, alongside a commercial property portfolio which generates much needed income to support council services. Asset Management and Compliance functions are critical to ensuring these remain safe, compliant, sustainable and fit for the future, in the face of rising regulatory expectations and ambitious net zero targets. The Asset Compliance Review will assess current arrangements, diagnose strengths and weaknesses, and recommend evidence-based improvements across governance, structure, workforce, contract management, compliance assurance, data, and new build integration. The review will involve engagement with stakeholders across all relevant services and produce a prioritised transformation roadmap with immediate “quick wins” and phased actions to improve efficiency, compliance, productivity, and value for money.</p>
5.8	<p>Alongside this, the Strategic Asset Management Review will ensure that the council can extract best value from its diverse asset portfolio. This requires a structured approach to understanding, maintaining, and optimising the portfolio, ensuring properties are fit for</p>

	<p>purpose, meet compliance requirements, and deliver value – whether through revenue generation, service provision, or social, environmental or economic benefit. The output of the project will be a transparent decision-making framework for holding, investing in, or releasing assets, balancing economic, social and environmental value. The framework will support more effective investment decisions, ensure legal compliance, and create capacity to deliver services more effectively.</p>
5.9	<p>The Impact, Performance and Strategic Change Team includes a number of fixed-term posts which have been funded through the Our Cambridge programme. There is a need to retain a strong in-house change function, both to support LGR project work but also to ensure that business-as-usual change projects can continue. This will include projects expected to deliver efficiency savings, for example the forthcoming review of transactional services. The fixed-term posts currently in the team include two Project Managers, two Business Analysts, and two Programme Support Officers. Some funding from the TRF has been allocated, alongside funds left over from the Our Cambridge programme, to ensure that these fixed-term posts can be extended for a further 12 months.</p>
5.10	<p>The Hoarding Pilot Project will be an initial 1-year project to commission specialist hoarding services to work with individuals on a tenure neutral basis, with the aim of breaking the cycle of hoarding. The service will offer holistic, bespoke, therapeutic support and interventions to help individuals achieve outcomes such as cleaning, removals, decluttering and reorganising, and having conversations with individuals to help them identify the causes of hoarding, rather than just treating the issues. As well as positive outcomes for residents, evidence from similar pilots at other councils has identified a potential for the project to deliver a net saving through reduced council costs in the areas of repairs, legal costs, and officer time dealing with hoarding issues.</p>
6.	<p>Corporate plan</p>
6.1	<p>The work to be funded from the TRF is wide-ranging and will support all four Corporate Plan objectives in a number of ways.</p> <p><u>Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council</u></p>

7.	Consultation, engagement and communication
7.1	This is an update report with no decision attached, therefore no specific consultation has taken place. Where projects are likely to have an impact upon public services, the usual statutory duties and council policies on consultation and public engagement apply, and this will be considered on a project-by-project basis. A further update on the financial outturn and key outcomes of TRF projects will be provided to Cabinet alongside the 2025/26 Outturn Report in July 2026.
8.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
8.1	Allocation of the TRF will support ongoing transformation work which will drive positive change for the council, the wider city and its residents, with some specific examples set out in section 5 of this report.
9.	Implications
9.1	Relevant risks
	There is a risk that individual projects may exceed their allocated budgets, or may not achieve their objectives. Any overspends will need to be covered from individual service budgets. Project performance will be managed using the council's established project management framework, which includes identification of key project risks and escalation of these to senior officers and members as appropriate.
	Financial Implications
9.2	There are no new financial implications associated with this report, which sets out progress with the allocation of the £3.149 million already earmarked for the TRF by Full Council in February 2025.
	Legal Implications

9.3	Legal implications will be considered on a project by project basis by the responsible officers.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
9.4	This is an update report with no decisions attached. Should any of the individual projects funded from the TRF be identified as having an equalities or socio-economic impact, a specific Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out and published in line with statutory requirements and council policy. In particular, the Homelessness Review and Hoarding Pilot Project are likely to have positive socio-economic implications through an improved service offering to vulnerable people, whilst work on the Equalities Programme will support development of the council's Equity Strategy and wider equalities work.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
9.5	This is an update report with no decisions attached. Should any of the individual projects funded from the TRF be identified as having environmental implications, these will be managed as part of the project and reported if required in line with council policy. In particular, the two asset reviews and Fleet Decarbonisation Project will all contribute towards positive environmental implications through enabling decarbonisation of the council's asset portfolio.
	Procurement Implications
9.6	This is an update report with no decisions attached. Project managers are responsible for ensuring that statutory requirements and council policy in respect of procurement is followed in respect of individual projects.
	Community Safety Implications
9.7	None identified.

10.	Background documents
10.1	Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Fund Budget Setting Report 2025/26 to 2029/30 • Outturn Report 2024/25
11.	Appendices
11.1	Appendix 1 – List of Other Transformation Initiatives
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Jody Etherington, Chief Finance Officer, tel: 01223 458130, email: jody.etherington@cambridge.gov.uk

List of Other Transformation Initiatives

Appendix 1

Project	Description	Amount (£'000)
Homelessness Review	Funding to review the council's approach to homelessness services, with a view to delivering longer-term savings	215
Asset Compliance Review	Funding for an external review of the council's approach to asset management and compliance across its estate (GF share)	160
Strategic Asset Management Review	Funding for external review of the council's asset portfolio, to develop a transparent decision-making framework for maximising their economic, social and environmental value	150
Impact, Performance and Strategic Change Team	Resource to extend fixed-term posts beyond the end of the Our Cambridge project to support ongoing change initiatives within the council (including readiness for LGR)	107
AI Innovation – Exploration Phase	Funding for an external partner to support a process of AI opportunity identification and prioritisation, and building preparedness for the next stage of AI development, with a focus of identifying opportunities for future savings	75
Local Plan Research	Resource for external consultancy to provide evidence base for community infrastructure requirements following Local Plan consultation	75
Hoarding Pilot Project	An initial 1-year pilot project to commission specialist hoarding services to work on a tenure neutral basis	70
Greater Cambridge Impact	Funding for essential legal costs in support of the Greater Cambridge Impact Fund achieving first close	50

Project	Description	Amount (£'000)
Business Partner Training	Training for business partners and service managers in support of the implementation of a business partnering model across various Corporate Hub functions	40
Equalities Programme	To understand the needs of diverse residents and address data gaps to better inform and develop our equity strategy and wider work as a council	30
ELT Development Programme	Following the Group Redesign Programme, funding for a development programme for the new Extended Leadership Team	25
Fleet Decarbonisation	Funding for a specialist fleet decarbonisation consultant to conduct a baseline assessment and provide advice on infrastructure, procurement, funding, and risk mitigation	20
Total Other Transformation Initiatives		1,017

REPORT TITLE: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Resource and Waste Strategy 2026-2031

To: Councillor Moore, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment
Cabinet 13 January 2026

Report by:
Rebecca Weymouth Wood
Waste Policy Manager

Rebecca.weymouthwood@scambs.gov.uk

(Wards affected:
All

Director Approval: Directors Bode Esan and James Elms confirm that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Executive Councillor for decision.

1. Recommendations	
1.1	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the Draft RECAP Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 (RRWS).2. Grant delegation of approval to Executive Cllr for the final post consultation version of RECAP Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 (RRWS) in Feb 2026
2. Purpose and reason for the report	
2.1	Cambridgeshire County Council as the the Minerals and Waste Authority has approved the publication of a consultation on a new Draft RECAP Interim Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 on behalf of the RECAP Waste Partnership (RRWS). Consultation finishes on the 26 th January, GCSWS is seeking the support and approval from Cambridge City as a partner of the RECAP group on the draft document and grant

	<p>delegation of approval to Executive Cllr for the final post consultation final version for the document.</p> <p>The Draft RRWS sets out the strategic direction for the RECAP Waste Partnership in the medium term, acknowledging areas of consensus for future infrastructure projects, priorities in waste collection, treatment and disposal, along with themes such as behavioural change, to support the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>The document is currently within the public consultation period to obtain views from wider stakeholder prior to finalisation and then adoption by Cambridgeshire County Council in 2026 and all authorities which form part of the RECAP Partnership including GCSWS.</p>
3.	<p>Alternative options considered</p> <p>Alternative option would be to not bring the document for approval.</p> <p>This option was not taken as it is important to ensure all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough partners embrace the future direction of waste management in Cambridgeshire and give reassurance to the WDA, Cambridgeshire County Council before they provide final sign off.</p>
4.	<p>Background and key issues</p>
4.1	<p>This report relates to the following Council ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambition 1 – Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes. • Ambition 6 – Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised. <p>The Draft RECAP Interim Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 (RRWS) includes a strategic approach to reducing levels of waste within the county by 2031 as well as impacting behaviour change to increase the public's response to the waste hierarchy; increasing the capture of recycling; and implementing best practices for waste collection, treatment and disposal.</p> <p>The RECAP waste partnership (which is made up of all the local authorities in Cambridgeshire and the unitary authority of Peterborough) has been in existence since</p>

1999 and has worked collaboratively to deliver on a strategic approach for collecting, managing and disposing of waste in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough during that time. In 2015 a statutory Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was published, which ran between 2015 to 2022. This strategy embodied a joint approach to working on the whole system of waste management to look for efficiencies, common policies and joint working to deliver against the waste hierarchy. There were 18 aims and objectives to deliver for the strategy. It embodied the aspect of waste being a contributor towards climate change, and that applying the waste hierarchy to the partnership's joint campaigns, would support waste reduction and reduce the pace of cost increases. The Draft RRWS is effectively the replacement for the previous statutory Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Since that strategy the partnership has gone from strength to strength working to procure contracts together, employ joint resources and align policies and campaigns to reduce waste, raise public awareness of waste issues and actively decarbonise the waste services. Working collectively East Cambridgeshire District Council and Greater Cambridge Shared Waste have joined up to share Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel tanks and to purchase more collaboratively. There has also been work by Peterborough and Greater Cambridge Shared Waste to trial vehicles and move to alternative fuels such as electric vehicles or HVO.

During the previous strategy, themes with procurement of waste services, existing contracts and limitations of the partnership's authority emerged. Over time areas for improvement was identified and greater collaboration and cooperation to deliver improved outcomes and reduced costs on the waste collection and disposal services.

A new national waste strategy was introduced in 2018, which was supported by subsequent legislation and altered the approach local authorities take to deliver kerbside waste collection and disposal arrangements. The introduction of Simpler Recycling, Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) and weekly food waste collections has meant the partnership has to consider how it would implement these. In addition, the introduction of flexible plastics recycling and a Deposit Return Scheme are anticipated in the next few years and these changes may require amendments to existing contracts and consideration of how the waste streams will be impacted.

Main Issues

The new Draft RRWS is looking at the needs of the area for the medium term, so that in the long term the infrastructure, collection and disposal arrangements could be more aligned and potentially using a whole system approach.

The Draft RRWS is structured with 8 themes which are: -

- Waste Hierarchy and Circular Economy
- Effective Waste Communications
- Legislations, Contracts and Procurement
- Waste Management Infrastructure
- Climate Change and Emissions Reduction
- Commercial Opportunities and Innovation
- Data Capture, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting
- Strategic Application Review and Governance

The Draft RRWS has been developed with RECAP members, officers and other stakeholders involved with waste management. It captures lessons learnt from RECAP procurements which exposed a weak economic position when each local authority was procuring waste transfer services. There have been two opportunities to procure waste transfer services in the last 2 years when both returned costs which are either above the market average or there were no acceptable bids because contractors did not have access to suitable sites within Cambridgeshire. In addition, when procuring contracts for dry mixed recycling, the market response to the procurement was high priced or geographically challenging. These commercial issues are recognised within the strategy and encourage greater collaboration and empowerment of the public sector to secure infrastructure, which may drive down the economic pressures and provide certainty for the future.

The Draft RRWS also aims to define the role waste management can play in reducing the overall carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This can be done by decarbonising the refuse collection fleet of vehicles, finding alternative fuels such as solar to produce electricity for waste management services and optimising routes to make them as efficient as possible. It identifies commercial opportunities, collaboration and a strategic approach to minimise the negative impacts of the lack of public engagement and best behaviours to optimise the services, by working collectively.

5.	Corporate plan
5.1	<p><u>Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council</u></p> <p>The setting of new RECAP waste strategy directly supports the following priority in the corporate plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading Cambridge's response to the climate and biodiversity emergencies and creating a net zero council by 2030
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	<p>Proposed consultation arrangements</p> <p>A consultation, run by Cambridgeshire County Council has commenced between 1st December 2025 and 26th Jan 2026. The consultation documents will be made available at New Shire Hall and can be found on the RECAP website. Any responses proposed to be sent by email for the consultation will be directed to recap@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.</p> <p>Emails have been sent to the list of the statutory consultees and other relevant parties, setting out arrangements for viewing documents and making representations. In addition, the district councils in partnership with RECAP have made contact via their developer forums with registered developers.</p> <p>It is expected that a final version of the strategy will be available in February once all comments have been collated and the document updated as necessary.</p>
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	<p>The Draft RRWS set out in Appendix 1 will align the priorities of the RECAP partnership for the medium term during a period of significant change in terms of new waste legislation and the proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The consultation will allow residents the opportunity to understand the priorities and development of the waste collection and disposal services over the next five years and provide an opportunity for them to comment on the strategy.</p>

8.	Implications
8.1	Relevant risks
	No significant risk implications are anticipated from the consultation of the Draft RRWS. However, it is noted that full RECAP endorsement will be required to allow adoption of the final documents before the next report to this County Council committee.
	Financial Implications
8.2	There are no financial implications of endorsing the new strategy
	Legal Implications
8.3	There are no legal implications from this proposal. This report is seeking approval from Cambridge City Council as a member of the RECAP Partnership along with other partner authorities to sign up to the strategy post consultation ahead of adoption, the RECAP Board (represented in Cambridge by Councillor Moore) will have the final RRWS presented to allow their endorsement. As formal adoption will be a decision for Full Council at County level as part of their constitution.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.4	There are no implications identified under this category as set out in the Equality Impact Assessment.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.5	The Strategy intention is to drive improvements in waste and recycling services in the area to bring about waste reduction as well as enabling recycling and encourage more sustainable and climate friendly ways of providing the service. It was medium positive impact under the assessment

	Procurement Implications
8.6	N/A
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	N/A
9.	<p>Background documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RECAP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy <u>RECAP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy</u> Statement of Community Involvement 2014 <u>Statement of Community Involvement 2019</u> <p>Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</p>
10.	Appendices
10.1	Appendix 1 - Draft RECAP Interim Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031
	<p>To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Rebecca Weymouth-Wood, Waste Policy Manager 07968 343096 <u>Rebecca.weymouthwood@scambs.gov.uk</u></p>

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1. IMPACT ON CARBON EMISSIONS (MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE)				2. IMPACT ON RESILIENCE (ADAPTATION) TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE																																
HOW WILL THIS PROJECT/PROPOSAL AFFECT THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS?		WHAT IS THE IMPACT CONSIDERED TO BE? See guidance in the purple box, below, to help you assess the degree of the negative and positive impacts e.g. High, Medium or Low		CLIMATE CHANGE RATING: <i>Use drop down list</i>	WILL THE PROJECT MOVE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL CLOSER TO THE OBJECTIVE OF BEING NET ZERO CARBON BY 2030? <i>Use drop down list</i>	WILL THE PROJECT MOVE THE CITY CLOSER TO THE OBJECTIVE OF A NET ZERO CARBON CAMBRIDGE BY 2030? <i>Use drop down list</i>	PLEASE DETAIL HERE THE ACTION THAT WILL BE TAKEN TO AVOID, MITIGATE OR COMPENSATE FOR THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS AND MAXIMISE POSITIVE IMPACTS?	HAS A NET ZERO CARBON OPTION BEEN CONSIDERED? PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS.																												
1	ENERGY USE	Positive Impact:	Energy use will be reduced or renewable energy will be used	Low Positive	Yes	Yes	Consider: - Reducing demand for energy - Specifying energy efficiency measures (e.g. insulation, low energy lighting) - Generating renewable energy (e.g. heat pumps,)																													
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4	SUSTAINABLE FOOD	Positive Impact:	Food will be locally grown and/ or meat-free	Nil	No	No	Consider: - Use of locally grown/ produced food - Reducing use of imported food - Reducing use of meat																													
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Guidance on Assessing the Degree of Negative and Positive Impacts:				In the box below please summarise the projects impacts (the reasons for the ratings given in column E above) to explain how the overall rating for the project/ proposal has been derived (Cell E37). Please also highlight any negative impacts your project may have and how you plan to avoid, mitigate or compensate for these (as you will have detailed in column I above).																																
<p>Note: Not all of the considerations/ criteria listed below will necessarily be relevant to your project</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Low Impact (L)</td><td>* No publicity</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* Relevant risks to the Council or community are Low or none</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* No impact on service or corporate performance</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* No capital assets; or capital assets with lifetime of less than 3 years</td></tr> <tr><td>Medium Impact (M)</td><td>* Local publicity (good or bad)</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* Relevant risks to the Council or community are Medium</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* Affects delivery of corporate commitments</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* Affects service performance (e.g.: energy use; amount of waste; distance travelled) by more than 10%</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* Capital assets with a lifetime of more than 3 years</td></tr> <tr><td>High Impact (H)</td><td>* National publicity (good or bad)</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* Relevant risks to the Council or community are Significant or High</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* Affects delivery of regulatory commitments</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* Affects corporate performance by more than 10%</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>* Capital assets with a lifetime of more than 6 years</td></tr> </table>				Low Impact (L)	* No publicity		* Relevant risks to the Council or community are Low or none		* No impact on service or corporate performance		* No capital assets; or capital assets with lifetime of less than 3 years	Medium Impact (M)	* Local publicity (good or bad)		* Relevant risks to the Council or community are Medium		* Affects delivery of corporate commitments		* Affects service performance (e.g.: energy use; amount of waste; distance travelled) by more than 10%		* Capital assets with a lifetime of more than 3 years	High Impact (H)	* National publicity (good or bad)		* Relevant risks to the Council or community are Significant or High		* Affects delivery of regulatory commitments		* Affects corporate performance by more than 10%		* Capital assets with a lifetime of more than 6 years	<p>The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Resource and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 promotes Sustainable Waste & Fleet Strategies Waste-to-Energy Disposal: the strategy considered use of alternative methods for processing non-recyclable waste including methods that could generate electricity through advanced waste-to-energy plants. Reduces landfill use and generates renewable power for local grids.</p> <p>Electric Fleet Powered by Solar: The strategy supports our deployment of electric collection vehicles charged via onsite solar facilities. Cuts fuel costs and lowers carbon emissions from fleet operations.</p> <p>Decarbonise Waste Collections: The Strategy supports transition to zero-emission vehicles and optimise collection routes. Incorporate renewable energy sources for all operational needs.</p> <p>Promote Recycling and Reuse: The Strategy will aid the expansion of recycling infrastructure and community engagement programs.</p>				
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REPORT TITLE: RECAP Design Guide-Policy Update (RDG)

To: Councillor Moore, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment

Cabinet, 13/01/25

Report by:

Michelle Webb Waste and Environmental Planning Officer
michelle.webb@scmbs.gov.uk

Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Directors Bode Esan and James Elms confirm that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Executive Councillor for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the Draft RECAP Design Guide-Policy Update (RDG).2. Grant delegation of approval to Executive Cllr for the final post consultation version of RECAP Design Guide-Policy Update (RDG) in Feb 2026.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	<p>The Committee is being asked to approve the new Draft RECAP Design Guide-Policy Update (RDG). To grant delegated approval to Executive Cllr for adoption of the revised SPD following completion of the public consultation period and any subsequent updates.</p> <p>The updated Draft RDG is a supplementary planning document to guide residential developers, so that their developments support waste collection authorities with</p>

	<p>operationally compliant residential properties. Previously this guidance has been included as a Supplementary Planning Document and reviewed as part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Whilst the updated document will remain as a Supplementary Planning Document linked to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan the timetable for approval of the SPD and the WMLP is being decoupled (at a county council level) to allow this to be updated and adopted on a quicker timescale. All WCA's are being asked to review and approve.</p> <p>At the time of writing the SPD is being consulted on so that wider stakeholder views can be ascertained prior to finalisation and then adoption by Cambridgeshire County Council in 2026.</p>
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	<p>Alternative option would be to not bring the document for approval.</p> <p>This option is not an option as it is crucial to ensure all RECAP Cambridgeshire and Peterborough partners adopt the revised version of the RECAP Design Group SPD, prior to Cambridgeshire County Council provide final sign off.</p>
4.	Background and key issues
4.1	<p>The updated Draft RECAP Design Guide-Policy Update (RDG) aims to ensure efficient and effective collection of waste from new developments, by improving the infrastructure and ensuring the correct facilities are provided at the time of building. The</p> <p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been identified by central government as an area of significant economic growth which is driving pressure to create future housing. Developers require guidance to install appropriate and future proof waste infrastructure for schemes, when designing residential proposals. In February 2012 a RECAP Design Guide was adopted by Cambridgeshire County Council, on behalf of all the RECAP</p>

partners. This guide provided developers with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough waste management guidance which enabled the collection of waste from residential areas in a consistent manner. It included specifics such as the level of contributions from developers for waste infrastructure, bin storage requirements, drag distances (the distance a resident is required to pull their bin to the boundary) and the specification for bins. This guide in more recent times has become out of date and local authorities are having to supplement the guide with additional documents, especially in areas with increased development. The guide was written before underground bin storage was as popular as it is now and the range of collected materials from residential properties had increased.

The current supplementary planning document for Cambridgeshire was adopted in 2012 as part of the Cambridgeshire Waste and Minerals Plan and consulted on at that time. Since then, Peterborough City Council have updated and incorporated newer guidance into their local plan reflecting the specific guidance for their city and service needs. The updated draft RDG is therefore to apply to Cambridgeshire only.

Main Issues

The current RDG supplementary planning document (SPD) is out of date and not providing for the needs of either the waste collection or the waste disposal authorities within RECAP. Due to residential development pressures, there is a need to address these issues now, but this does not fit with the timescales of the County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan review. As such, it is recommended that the review of the Draft RDG SPD is updated separately to the review of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan, and a decoupling process is approved to allow the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme to be updated accordingly.

The Draft RDG update, has been driven by a range of waste management guidance being out of date and the misinterpretation or lack of adherence to guidance by developers to ease their burden on costs. The requirement to update and consult on the new guidance document for Cambridgeshire is due to the large number of planning applications being received for housing in GCSWS area. The current guidance is causing some of the following issues: -

- communal bin stores with multiple locks and keys.
- Parked cars, turning circles and access roads around new developments are not suitable for Refuse Collection Vehicles to manoeuvre around them.
- Developers limit the space made available for infrastructure and cause wheeled bins to obstruct footways and communal areas.
- Access to bin stores are often obstructed due to insufficient parking for resident's cars.

The new guidance aims to address the above issues, with clearer and less ambiguous guidance, in line with best practice and industry norms. It aims to drive the developers to create a friction free waste collection environment so the crews can access waste collection rounds without blockages or delay. This also aims to provide residents with an easier to use and more pleasant waste management environment in new developments. This guidance has been circulated around the RECAP partnership and operational officers have provided their expertise in putting together the new guide ahead of the wider public consultation currently being undertaken.

	5. Corporate plan
5.1	<p><u>Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading Cambridge's response to the climate and biodiversity emergencies and creating a net zero council by 2030 • Modernising the council to lead a greener city that is fair for all
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	<p>Proposed consultation arrangements</p> <p>Consultation process is currently underway for 8 weeks between 1st December 2025 and 26th Jan 2026. The consultation documents will be made available at New Shire Hall and can be found on the RECAP website. Any responses proposed to be sent by email for the consultation will be directed to recap@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.</p>

	<p>Emails have been sent to a list of the statutory consultees and other relevant parties, setting out arrangements for viewing documents and making representations. In addition, the district councils in partnership with RECAP will make contact via their developer forums with registered developers.</p> <p>Due to the Draft RDG being prepared as supplementary planning guidance (SPD) linked to the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan, it is vital that a period of consultation is provided and thoughts and ideas to improve the guidance are incorporated where necessary. Moreover, the growing demand in planning applications to RECAP partners has meant that the need to get this SPD guidance adopted is increasing.</p>
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	The Draft RDG set out in Appendix 1 will ensure that new development is fit for purpose with regards to waste management and ensure GCSWS has an officially recognised planning guidance to bring this about. The consultation being undertaken will allow the public, alongside external stakeholders to understand the operational challenges faced by waste collection services which should allow them to be able to amend their proposals to add value to the resident's experience.
8.	Implications
8.1	Relevant risks
	No significant risk implications are anticipated from the consultation of either Draft RDG. However, it is noted that full RECAP endorsement will be required to allow adoption of the final documents before the next report to this committee.
	Financial Implications
8.2	No financial implication. Although it should be noted that the document will help improve the design of collection from new developments and avoid unnecessary collection issues

	and hidden cost to running services down the line.
	Legal Implications
8.3	There are no significant legal implications from this proposal. Ahead of adoption, the RECAP Board (represented by Cllr Moore) will have the final RDG presented to allow their endorsement, ahead of all the partner authorities seeking formal adoption through their own governance processes. As formal adoption will be a decision for County Council Full Council as part of this council's constitution which will be done following any changes made as a result of feedback.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.4	The update to the documents have no implications. Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment guidance notes 230818.docx (sharepoint.com)
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.5	Climate Change Rating Tool has been completed, and the new SPD will improve waste design strategy for developments, resulting in greater efficiency in waste collection and update in recycling service.
	Procurement Implications
8.6	N/A
	Community Safety Implications N/A
9.	Background documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2021 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RECAP waste management design guide 2018 <p><u>RECAP Design Guide 2018</u></p> <p>Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</p>
9.1	<i>List any documents and other information used to write this report. DO NOT include exempt items. Be specific as anything you list here must be available for public inspection for several years after the committee meeting.</i>
10.	Appendices
10.1	Appendix 1 Draft RECAP Waste Management Design Guide
	<p>To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact</p> <p>Michelle Webb, Waste and Environmental Planning Officer</p> <p><u>michelle.webb@scmbs.gov.uk</u></p>

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Project:		Date:		Your Name:				
1. IMPACT ON CARBON EMISSIONS (MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE)								
HOW WILL THIS PROJECT/PROPOSAL AFFECT THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS:		WHAT IS THE IMPACT CONSIDERED TO BE? <i>See guidance in the purple box, below, to help you assess the degree of the negative and positive impacts e.g. High, Medium or Low</i>		CLIMATE CHANGE RATING: <i>Use drop down list</i>	WILL THE PROJECT MOVE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL CLOSER TO THE OBJECTIVE OF BEING NET ZERO CARBON BY 2030? <i>Use drop down list</i>	WILL THE PROJECT MOVE THE CITY CLOSER TO THE OBJECTIVE OF A NET ZERO CARBON CAMBRIDGE BY 2030? <i>Use drop down list</i>	PLEASE DETAIL HERE THE ACTION THAT WILL BE TAKEN TO AVOID, MITIGATE OR COMPENSATE FOR THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS AND MAXIMISE POSITIVE IMPACTS?	HAS A NET ZERO CARBON OPTION BEEN CONSIDERED? PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS.
1	ENERGY USE	Positive Impact:	Energy use will be reduced or renewable energy will be used	N/A	Yes	Yes	Consider: - Reducing demand for energy - Specifying energy efficiency measures (e.g. insulation, low energy lighting) - Generating renewable energy (e.g. heat pumps,	
		Nil Impact:	No extra energy use is involved					
		Negative Impact:	More energy (gas and/ or electricity) will be consumed (by CCC or others)					
2	WASTE GENERATION	Positive Impact:	Less waste will be generated OR amount of waste that is reused/ recycled will be increased	Low Positive	Yes	Yes	Consider: - Will resources be reduced or reused? - Will you use recycled goods? - Will recycling facilities be increased?	Better designed services lead to better use of service by residents including uptake of recycling
		Nil Impact:	No waste will be generated					
		Negative Impact:	More waste will be generated (by CCC or others)					
3	USE OF TRANSPORT	Positive Impact:	The use of transport and/or fossil fuel-based transport will be reduced	Medium Positive	Yes	Yes	Will you purchase an electric vehicle? - Will you specify the use of public transport? - How will you reduce the need to travel or transport goods?	Better designed services lead to better service development and reduced duplication of journeys to collect waste.
		Nil Impact:	No extra transport will be necessary					
		Negative Impact:	CCC or others will need to travel more OR transport goods more often/further					
4	SUSTAINABLE FOOD	Positive Impact:	Food will be locally grown and/ or meat-free	N/A	No	No	Consider: - Use of locally grown/ produced food - Reducing use of imported food - Reducing use of meat	
		Nil Impact:	No change in supply of food					
		Negative Impact:	Food will travel long distances and include meat					
2. IMPACT ON RESILIENCE (ADAPTATION) TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE								
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5	HEATWAVES	Positive Impact:	Increased/ improved shade & natural ventilation	N/A			Consider: Building orientation and installing measures such as Brise Soleil to reduce heat gain and plant hydration methods.	
		Nil Impact:	No impact on existing levels of shade & ventilation					
		Negative Impact:	Lack of or reduced shade (e.g. from trees or buildings) & natural ventilation					
6	WATER AVAILABILITY	Positive Impact:	Provision made for an enhancement of water efficiency measures to minimise the impact on water resource availability	N/A			Consider: Managing water use efficiently, installing measures to use less water such as low water use taps, planting drought resistant plants and using rainwater for irrigation.	
		Nil Impact:	Levels of water use will not be changed					
		Negative Impact:	Water use will increase and/ or no provision made for water management = Negative Impact					
7	FLOODING	Positive Impact:	Sustainable drainage measures incorporated, positive steps to reduce & manage flood risk	N/A			Consider: The installation of measures to reduce the speed and increase the absorption of surface water e.g. green roofs, SUDS, permeable paving etc, and alternative arrangements (business continuity)	
		Nil Impact:	Levels of surface water run-off & flood risk are not affected					
		Negative Impact:	Levels of surface water run-off will increase, no management of flood risk					
8	HIGH WINDS / STORMS	Positive Impact:	Exposure to higher wind speeds is being actively managed & reduced	N/A			Consider: the need to install stabilisation measures and ensure robust structures resilient to high winds	
		Nil Impact:	No change to existing level of exposure to higher wind speeds					
		Negative Impact:	Exposure to higher wind speeds is increased or is not managed = Negative Impact					
9	FOOD SECURITY	Positive Impact:	Opportunities & resources for local food production are increased/ enhanced	N/A			Source food locally, and promote food-free catering to reduce reliance on food shortages and reduce emissions from transport and farming of food	
		Nil Impact:	No change to opportunities & resources for local food production					
		Negative Impact:	Opportunities & resources for local food production are reduced					
10	BIODIVERSITY	Positive Impact:	Biodiversity will be protected/ enhanced	N/A			Provide net gain mitigation if required and seek enhancement in projects of all types and scale	
		Nil Impact:	Level of biodiversity will not change					
		Negative Impact:	Biodiversity will decrease					
Weighing up the negative and positive impacts of your project, what is the overall rating you are assigning to your project?:				Medium Positive	<i>This overall rating is what you need to include in your report/ budget proposal, together with your explanation to be included in the red box below</i>			

Guidance on Assessing the Degree of Negative and Positive Impacts:	
<i>Note: Not all of the considerations/ criteria listed below will necessarily be relevant to your project</i>	
Low Impact (L)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No publicity * Relevant risks to the Council or community are Low or none * No impact on service or corporate performance * No capital assets; or capital assets with lifetime of less than 3 years
Medium Impact (M)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Local publicity (good or bad) * Relevant risks to the Council or community are Medium * Affects delivery of corporate commitments * Affects service performance (e.g.: energy use; amount of waste; distance travelled) by more than 10% * Capital assets with a lifetime of more than 3 years
High Impact (H)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * National publicity (good or bad) * Relevant risks to the Council or community are Significant or High * Affects delivery of regulatory commitments * Affects corporate performance by more than 10% * Capital assets with a lifetime of more than 6 years

In the box below please summarise the projects impacts (the reasons for the ratings given in column E above) to explain how the overall rating for the project/ proposal has been derived (Cell E37). Please also highlight any negative impacts your project may have and how you plan to avoid, mitigate or compensate for these (as you will have detailed in column I above).

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