

Cambridge City Council

Item

To: Executive Councillor for Housing:

Councillor Kevin Price

Report by: Director of Customer and Community Services, Director

of Environment and Head of Finance

Relevant scrutiny

committee: Housing Scrutiny Committee 14 January 2015

Wards affected: All Wards

Customer and Community Services – Housing General Fund Portfolio Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals for 2014/15 to 2018/19

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

Revenue and Capital Budgets

1.1 The following report details the budget proposals relating to this portfolio that are included in the Budget-Setting Report (BSR) 2015/16 which will be considered at the following meetings:

Date	Committee	Comments
19 January 2015	Strategy & Resources	Consider proposals / recommendations from all Scrutiny Committees in relation to their portfolios
22 January 2015	The Executive	Budget amendment may be presented
13 February 2015	Strategy & Resources	Consider any further amendments including opposition proposals
26 February 2015	Council	Approves General Fund Budget and sets Council Tax

1.2 The report also includes consideration of any recommendations concerning the review of charges and project appraisals for schemes in the capital plan for this portfolio.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

Review of Charges:

a) Approve the proposed charges for this portfolio's services and facilities as shown in Appendix A to this report.

Revenue:

b) Consider the revenue budget proposals as shown in Appendix B.

Capital:

- c) Consider the capital budget proposals as shown in Appendix C.
- d) Delete some schemes from the Capital Plan as shown in Appendix C.
- e) Approve, where relevant, project appraisals as shown in Appendix D.
- f) Adjust capital funding for items 2 (c) to 2 (e) as appropriate.

3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 6 November 2014, Council gave initial consideration to the budget prospects for the General Fund for 2015/16 and future years in the Mid-Year Financial Review (MFR) 2014.
- 3.2 The overall Budget Strategy Report (BSR) to Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 19 January 2015 will include a review of all the factors relating to the overall financial strategy that were included in the MFR.
- 3.3 The report to The Executive on 22 January 2015 may include details of the Government's Final Settlement for 2015/16. The announcement is likely to be made shortly after the conclusion of the consultation period, which ends in January 2015.
- 3.4 Further work may be required on detailed budgets so delegation to the Head of Finance will be sought from Council for authority to finalise changes relating for example to the reallocation of departmental administration, support service and central costs, in accordance with the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (SeRCOP).

Budget 2015/16 - Overall Revenue Budget Position

3.5 The budget proposals for this portfolio, as summarised in table 1, will be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 22 January 2015.

Table 1: Overall Revenue Proposals (see Appendix B)

Savings and Bids	2014/15 Budget £	2015/16 Budget £	2016/17 Forecast £
Savings:			
Increased Income	-	(96,900)	(96,900)
Programme Office	-	-	-
Savings	-	(92,880)	(92,880)
Total	-	(189,780)	(189,780)
Bids:			
Unavoidable Revenue Pressures	-	76,900	76,900
Reduced Income	-	-	-
Total	-	76,900	76,900
Net (savings)/bids	-	(112,880)	(112,880)

External Bids	75,980	226,640	-
Priority Policy Fund (PPF) Bids	-	72,800	88,800

Capital

- 3.6 The 2014 Mid-Year Financial Review proposed a review of the capital plan to address its size and complexity. A number of concerns were identified, including:
 - Capacity to deliver projects to time, cost and quality;
 - Dependency on revenue funding; and
 - Inclusion of items, such as unallocated funds, projects at an early stage of development, and items more properly treated as small enhancements or maintenance spend.
- 3.7 Phase 1 of the review examined the current plan in order to release internal funding (e.g. DRF, R&R capital receipts, etc), by identifying projects that are not yet ready for delivery, are no longer required, or are not true capital projects. This will make the plan more deliverable.
- 3.8 The funding identified will be released into General Fund reserves where it will be available for use on current priorities.
- 3.9 The review has also piloted a method of prioritising capital spending. Table 2 summarises, and Appendix C sets out in detail, any schemes for this portfolio that are recommended for closure, deletion or require further development, and the funding released as a result.

3.10 The Council now maintains two lists of projects which may become capital proposals in due course. The hold list contains projects that have been approved in principle but are awaiting funding. A new list, the projects under development list, has been set up following Phase 1 of the capital plan review. It lists projects which are subject to feasibility studies and outline project planning, including timescales, milestones and indicative costings. When ready, these projects will be proposed for funding and approval in line with revised capital processes and procedures.

Table 2: Overall Capital Proposals (see Appendix C)

	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
Capital Deletions	(475,000)				
Capital Bids		230,000	0	0	0
Net Capital Bids	(475,000)	230,000	0	0	0

Public Consultation

- 3.11 The 2014 Budget Consultation was undertaken by MEL Research Ltd on behalf of Cambridge City Council in September 2014 and published in November 2014. The main method of collecting information was through an interactive online programme "YouChoose".
- 3.12 Details of the results of the survey will be published on the Council's website.

4. Implications

All budget proposals have a number of implications. A decision not to approve a revenue bid will impact on managers' ability to deliver the service or scheme in question and could have staffing, equal opportunities, environmental and/or community safety implications. A decision not to approve a capital or external bid will impact on managers' ability to deliver the developments desired in the service areas.

(a) Financial Implications

Financial implications of budget proposals are summarised in the Budget-Setting Report 2015/16.

(b) Staffing Implications

See text above.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

A consolidated Equalities Impact Assessment for the Council's Budget Setting Report will be submitted to the Executive at its meeting on 22 January 2015. Individual Equality Impact Assessments have been conducted to support this, and will be available on the Council's website.

(d) **Procurement**

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Any procurement implications will be outlined in the Budget Setting Report 2015/16.

(e) Environmental Implications

Where relevant, officers have considered the environmental impact of budget proposals which are annotated as follows:

- +H / +M / +L: to indicate that the proposal has a high, medium or low positive impact.
- Nil: to indicate that the proposal has no climate change impact.
- -H / -M / -L: to indicate that the proposal has a high, medium or low negative impact.

(f) Consultation and Communication

As outlined in 3 above, budget proposals are based on the requirements of statutory and discretionary service provision. Public consultations are undertaken throughout the year and can be seen at:

https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/current-consultations

(g) Community Safety

Any community safety implications will be outlined in the Budget Setting Report 2015/16.

5. Background papers

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

- Budget Setting Report 2015/16
- Mid-Year Financial Review (MFR) 2014
- Budget Papers 2015/16
- Individual Equalities Impact Assessments

6. Appendices

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

Appendix	Proposal Type	Included
Α	Scale of Fees & Charges	✓
В	Revenue Budget Proposals for this portfolio	✓
С	Capital Budget Proposals for this portfolio	✓
D	Project Appraisal	√

7. Inspection of papers

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

Authors' Name: Julia Hovells Authors' Phone Number: 01223 - 457822

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Appendix A

Review of Charges

Charge Type and Description	Charges 2014/15	Charges 2015/16	% Increase
Licences:			
LIMO Licenses New Applications	0000	N/A	N/A
HMO Licences - New Applications HMO Licences - New Applications with a 50% discount to landlords who are	£620	IN/A	IN/A
members of our Landlord Accreditation Scheme.	£310	N/A	N/A
HMO Licence Renewals (including landlords who are members of our	0040	N1/A	NI/A
Landlord Accreditation Scheme). HMO Licences Variations	£310 £30	N/A N/A	N/A N/A
Timo Licences variations	250	IVA	IN/A
HMO's with up to and including 9 Rooms			
HMO Licences - New Applications HMO Licence - Renewals	£620 £310	£535 £430	(13.7%) 38.7%
HMO Licences - New Applications for members of the Landlord Accreditation	2310	2430	30.7 %
Scheme	£310	£435	40.3%
HMO Licence - Renewals for members of the Landlord Accreditation Scheme.	£310	£330	6.5%
HMO's with 10 or more rooms			
HMO Licences - New Applications	£620	£595	(4.0%)
HMO Licence Renewals HMO Licences - New Applications for members of the Landlord Accreditation	£310	£490	58.1%
Scheme Scheme	£310	£495	59.7%
HMO Licence - Renewals for members of the Landlord Accreditation Scheme.	£310	£390	25.8%
Penalty for non compliance (not belonging to one of the approved addressed schemes for letting agents) £5,000 maximum charge	NEW	Local Housing Allowance Rate for the property	N/A

2015/16 Budget - Housing General Fund

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Item Description 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 Reference Climate **Budget Budget Budget** Budget **Budget Effect** £ £ £ £ £ Contact Rating

Increased Income

Housing

113531

Increased fee income generated by the Housing Development Team 0 (76,900) (76,900) (76,900) (76,900) Alan Carter Nil

An increased level of investment in development of HRA new build housing, will require greater staffing input, which forms the basis of a bid for additional capacity. The additional cost will be fully offset by the ability to capitalise the costs, as project management fees for the build works, generating a revenue income stream. [Linked to URP3530].

II3532 Increased fee income generated by the Housing

generated by the Housing Development Team (20,000) (20,000) (20,000) Alan Carter Nil

An increased level of investment in the development of new build housing in the Housing Revenue Account, will enable a greater proportion of the existing staff team in the Housing Development Service to be capitalised (generating a revenue income) as project management fees for the build works.

Total Increased Income in Housing 0 (96,900) (96,900) (96,900) (96,900)

Total Increased Income 0 (96,900) (96,900) (96,900) (96,900)

							Appen	
2015/1	6 Budget - Housi	ing Ge	neral I	Fund		F	age 2 of	3
Reference	Item Description	2014/15 Budget £	2015/16 Budget £	2016/17 Budget £	2017/18 Budget £	2018/19 Budget £	Contact	Climate Effect Rating
Savings								
Housing S3534	Saving in Home Improvement Grants IT Systems	0	(2,200)	(2,200)	(2,200)	(2,20	00) Helen Ree	ed Nil
Huntingdonsh	working as part of a share ire District Councils means th are no longer required.	d Home Im nat licences	provemen for the IT	t Agency system pre	with South eviously de	n Cambrid ployed by	dgeshire a v Cambrid	nd ge
\$3535	Reduction in Homelessness Costs	0	(56,800)	(56,800)	(56,800)	(56,80	00) David Greening	Nil
resulting from	in homelessness costs is possi n the introduction of more e by working in partnership with	mergency of	accommo	y to lower dation, pro	bed and ovided by	breakfasi both Ca	expenditu mbridge C	ore ity
\$3536	Reduction in expenditure for homelessness prevention	0	(2,820)	(2,820)	(2,820)	(2,8	20) David Greening	Nil
	to remove the budget for ho as already ceased.	omeless inser	ts into the	Flack mag	azine, whe	ere the pro	actice for t	his
\$3538	Saving in contributions to the Sub-Regional Housing Service	0	(4,110)	(4,110)	(4,110)	(4,1	10) Helen Ree	ed Nil
Assessment ongoing con	ions to both the Sub-Region are lower than previously an tribution to the latter, which gets for the city.	iticipated, v	vith a dec	cision sub-r	egionally i	to reduce	e the annu	Jal
\$3541	Housing General Fund salary savings	0	(5,400)	(5,400)	(5,400)	(5,40	00) Julia Hove	ells Nil
Salary savings	s derived from recruitment to v	vacant posts	at lower p	ooints than	vacated			
\$3545	Reduction in charge to the General Fund for the Head of Strategic Housing	0	(21,550)	(21,550)	(21,550)	(21,5	50) Julia Hove	ells Nil
A review of the proportion of	the responsibilities of the Hec the post funded by the HRA, i	ad of Strategrecognising	gic Housing the large in	g has resul ncrease in H	ted in the HRA new b	need to uild activi	increase t ty.	he

(92,880)

(92,880)

(92,880)

(92,880)

(92,880)

(92,880)

0

(92,880)

(92,880)

Total Savings in Housing

Total Savings

2015/1	l 6 Budget - Ho	using Ge	neral l	Fund			Page 3 of	3
Reference	Item Description	2014/15 Budget £	2015/16 Budget £	2016/17 Budget £	2017/18 Budget £	2018/19 Budget £	Contact	Climate Effect Rating
Savings								
Report Total		0	(189,780)	(189,780)	(189,780)	(189,7	780)	

Nil

2015/16 Budget - Housing General Fund

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Reference

Item Description

2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 Climate **Budget Budget Budget** Budget **Budget Effect** £ £ £ £ £ Contact Rating

Unavoidable Revenue Pressure

Housing

URP3530

Increased staffing capacity in the Housing Development Team

0 76,900 76,900 76,900 76,900 Alan Carter

The increase in investment in new build housing in the HRA necessitates an increase in staffing input, both in the form of development team staff and consultancy, to ensure smooth project management and delivery of new build schemes. This bid includes funding for an additional Trainee Development Officer (£28,400), consultancy support (£30,000) and a contribution towards a shared post with South Cambridgeshire District Council (£18,200), and will be fully offset by a compensating savings proposal, which recognises that this expenditure will be met from the fees charged to new build schemes. [Linked to II3531]

Total Unavoidable Revenue Pr	essure in
Housing	

Total Unavoidable Revenue Pressure

Report Total

 0	76,900	76,900	76,900	76,900
 0	76,900	76,900	76,900	76,900
 0	76,900	76,900	76,900	76,900

2015/16 Budget - Housing General Fund

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Item Description 2014/15 2015/16 2017/18 2018/19 Reference 2016/17 Climate **Budget Budget Budget** Budget **Budget Effect** £ £ £ £ £ Contact Rating

External Bids

Housing

X3729

Refuge provision -Enhanced services using DCLG grant funding 0 100,000

0

0 David Greening

Nil

The Department for Communities and Local Government have announced a £10 million fund to assist local authorities in strengthening refuge services, with the aim of keeping victims of domestic abuse safe. If successful in securing a bid for £100,000, Cambridge City Council would work with Cambridge Women's Aid in partnership with two other refuges to employ a dedicated Community Psychiatric Nurse to work with those with mental health issues. The funding would also be used to improve the existing refuge provision, allowing essential repairs to be undertaken and facilitating the transfer of residents between refuges where they can be best supported.

X3730 Supported

Supported Lodgings Scheme and Chronically Excluded Adults Service -DCLG grant funded

initiative

75,980 126,640

0

Λ

0 David Greenina Nil

The authority, on behalf of a number of partner authorities, has been successful in securing DCLG grant funding for the Single Homelessness Service, totalling £202,620 across 2014/15 and 2015/16. It is anticipated that some of the resource will be used through the supported lodgings scheme, which matches community volunteers to individuals, providing 'room only' accommodation or supported lodgings. The balance of funding will be used to extend the existing Chronically Excluded Adults Service into Peterborough, working with those in hard to reach groups who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Total External Bids in Housing	75,980	226,640	0	0	0
Total External Bids	75,980	226,640	0	0	0
Report Total	75,980	226,640	0	0	0

2013/	16 Budget - Hous	ing Ge	nerai i	-und			Page 1 of	1
Reference	Item Description	2014/15 Budget £	2015/16 Budget £	2016/17 Budget £	2017/18 Budget £	2018/19 Budget £	Contact	Climate Effect Rating
		L	L	L	L	L	Comaci	Kumg
PPF Bids								
Housing								
PPF3533	Funding to contribute to a county-wide Handyperson Service	0	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,	800 Helen Ree	ed Nil
county-wide	d to replace the existing Sat Handyperson Service, providin eople. The scheme will also co	na small rep	airs and mi	nor works o	activity in t	he home	s of older a	a nd
PPF3562	Cambridge Landlord Accreditation Safety	0	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,	.000 Yvonne O'Donnel	Nil
	Scheme							
decade. This training whic poorly mana		e a co-ordin s. It will also MO's and inv	ated scher allow for g estigations	me includii greater and s into the fe	ng enhand d targeted easibility of	ced accr d enforce d discretic	reditation a ement agai enary licens	ast nd nst ng

Creation of permanent post to bring long term vacant dwellings back into occupation. This will increase the level of affordable housing, reduce environmental impact and increase new homes bonus receipts. Currently there is funding for a temporary post until August 2015 although the post is currently vacant. During his tenure of 11 months the previous empty property officer was able to bring back into use 25 long term properties, 15 of which were eligible for new homes bonus which equates to £106,000 over 6 years. This new post will bring an average of 20 properties per year back into use. Last year approximately £200k was placed into reserves following a Compulsory Purchase order on an empty home. [Linked to C3563]

Total PPF Bids in Housing	0	72,800	88,800	88,800	88,800
Total PPF Bids	0	72,800	88,800	88,800	88,800
Report Total	0	72,800	88,800	88,800	88,800

2015/1	6 Budget - Housing General Fund					Page 1 of 1		
Reference	Item Description	2014/15 Budget £	2015/16 Budget £	2016/17 Budget £	2017/18 Budget £	2018/19 Budget £	Contact	Climate Effect Rating
Capital	Bids							
Housing								
C3563	Empty Homes Loan Fund [Reserves or CPO Balanc		200,00	00	0	0	0 Yvonn O'Don	
bring them dwelling is Townhall let provision of full capacit	a ring fenced fund to provide back into occupation. Ducapped to affordable rents things). Repayments of the last financial assistance to bring that the scheme will have been partnerships being built into the scheme will be the scheme built into the scheme will be the scheme built into the scheme will be the scheme built into the scheme will be the scheme will be the scheme built into the scheme will be the sc	uring the rep s and limited oan are to b g long term vo e a minimum	payment p I to use b be recycled acant hon of 6-8 pro	period (no y social h d back in nes back i perties be	rmally 5 y ousing pro to the sch nto occup eing suppo	rears) oc oviders (in eme, pro pation. It orted thro	cupation on cluding the viding long is anticipate to the contraction of the contraction o	f the ough term ed at
C3620	Buchan St Shopping Area Improvements [County]	a (0 30,00	00	0	0	0 Andy I	Preston N
pedestrian (as been secured from Ca and cycle links around the n ect, including the resources re	eighbourhoo	d centre c	at Buchan	St. This pro	vides 100	% of the fui	nding
C3701	Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) [Delete from Plan] [Usable Capito Receipts]	(400,000 al)	0	0	0	0 Yvonn O'Don	
C3702	HMOs - Management Orders [Delete from Plan [Internal Borrowing]	(50,000])	0	0	0	0 Yvonn O'Don	
C3722	Energy efficiency improvements to private sector housing [Close in Plan]	(25,000)	0	0	0	0 Jo Dic	ks N
Total Capito	al Bids in Housing	(475,000) 230,00	00	0	0	0	
Total Capito	al Bids	(475,000) 230,000	0	0	0	0	
Report Total	•	(475,000) 230,00	00	0	0	0	



Project Appraisal and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation

Project Name: Empty Property Loan Scheme

To: Executive Councillor for Housing

Report by: Jas Lally - Head of Refuse and Environment

HOUSING SCRUTINY

Scrutiny committee: COMMITTEE 14TH JANUARY

2015

Wards affected: All

Recommendation/s

Financial recommendations –

- The Executive Councillor is asked to recommend this scheme (which is not included in the Council's Capital & Revenue Project Plan) for approval by Council, subject to resources being available to fund the capital and revenue costs.
 - The total cost of the project is £200,000, funded from capital reserves (Ref C3563)
 - The ongoing revenue costs of the project are £24,000 for 2015-16 and £40,000 ongoing, which are subject to a PPF bid for an empty homes officer. (Ref PPF 3564)

Project Name: Empty Property Loan Scheme

1 Summary

1.1 The Project

The capital bid of £200,000 will support owners of empty homes to bring them back into use through an interest free loan scheme.

The funds will be made available on the condition that the property is leased back to the Council or another social housing provider thereby increasing the supply of affordable accommodation in Cambridge.

The funding will be subject to repayment and recycled back into the scheme providing a long term and sustainable scheme.

Target Dates:				
Start of procurement	N/A			
Award of Contract	N/A			
Start of project delivery	1 st April 2015			
Completion of project	Ongoing			
Date that project output is expected to become operational (if not same as above)	As above			

1.2 Anticipated Cost

Total Project Cost	£ 200,000
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Cost Funded from:

Funding:	Amount:	Details:
Reserves	£200,000	C3563

1.3 Procurement process

Not applicable.

2 Project Appraisal & Procurement Report

2.1 Project Background

There are approximately 240 long-term empty properties within the city. Many of the owners of these properties are attempting to renovate these properties in order to rent.

However it is often the case that the owners cannot fund these works leaving the properties vacant for extended periods of time. The council do not currently have any significant capital funding which can be offered to these owners in order to support the revival and re-occupation of the properties.

This funding will establish a loans fund for empty properties. The loan will be paid back to the Council through rental receipts over a five year period during which time the owner will be required to pay back the sum into the loan fund and any surplus rent will be paid to the owner.

2.2 Aims & objectives

The overall aim of the project is to reduce the number of empty homes in the City, to increase the supply of housing generally and also to contribute to the provision of affordable homes within the City.

A key objective of the scheme is to bring 5 properties per year back into use as a direct result of the funding.

2.3 Major issues for stakeholders & other departments

No major issues identified.

2.4 Summarise key risks associated with the project

The funding will be subject to a land charge and fully recoverable from the owner over the period of the loan, on sale or transfer of the property or upon breach of any of the conditions of the funding. Successful delivery of the project will be entirely dependent on officer resources being made available (subject to the separate bid reference PPF3564).

2.5 Financial implications

There are no special financial considerations associated with this project.

2.6 Net revenue implications (costs or savings)

See PPF Bid 3564 for an Empty Homes Officer.

2.7 VAT implications

The loan repayments (i.e. of the capital sum) will be outside the scope of VAT, but any interest received will be the payment for a VAT exempt supply.

With regard to the works that the home-owners themselves will be contracting for, there will be no VAT recovery through the Council as it will not be the recipient of that supply.

2.8 Energy and Fuel Savings

(a) Is this project listed in the Carbon	
Management Plan?	No

2.9 Climate Change Impact

Positive Impact		No effect	Negative Impact
	+L		

The properties subject to funding will be improved to higher standard (including their energy efficiency) and the refurbishment of a property has a lower environmental impact that new build.

2.10 Other implications

There are no other implications identified relating to property, accommodation, health & safety, community safety, equal opportunities and diversity.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has/has not been prepared for this project and is attached.

2.11 Staff required to deliver the project

Service	Skills	Total Hours
Empty Homes Officer: Environmental Services (subject to approval of PPF 3564)	Administering grant/financial assistance. Regulatory work relating to empty properties/public health.	7.5 per week

2.12 Dependency on other work or projects

There are no other projects identified that cannot progress until this project is complete.

2.13 Background Papers

None.

2.14 Inspection of papers

Author's Name	Robin Ray
Author's phone No.	01223 - 457957
Author's e-mail:	Robin.ray@cambridge.gov.uk
Date prepared:	12.12.2014

Capital Project Appraisal - Capital costs & funding - Profiling

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Comments
	£	£	£	£	£	Comments
Capital Costs						
Building contractor / works						
Purchase of vehicles, plant & equipment						
Professional / Consultants fees						
Other capital expenditure:			200,000			
Total Capital cost	0	0	200,000	0	0	
Capital Income / Funding						
Government Grant						
Developer Contributions						
R&R funding						
Earmarked Funds						
Existing capital programme funding						
Revenue contributions						
Total Income	0	0	0	0	0	
Net Capital Bid	0	0	200,000	0	0	