

2020/21 Budget – GF Bids and Savings

Reference	Item Description	2020/21 Budget £	2021/22 Budget £	2022/23 Budget £	2023/24 Budget £	2024/25 Budget £	Climate Effect	Poverty Ratings & Contact
Housing								
CAP0003	Housing company capital [Linked with I10005, R10004]	11,900,000	0	0	0	0	Negligible/ Low Impact	Positive High Impact

Cambridge continues to be a very difficult market for people seeking to buy and rent residential property. As at August 2019, the median rent for a two bedroom property in Cambridge (£1,350 per month) was twice the English national average (£675). At the same time, there are no additional allowances for teachers or nurses working in the city so that it is increasingly difficult for key workers to be able to live and work in the city. It is also a struggle for people who become homeless because of a temporary situation to find a stepping stone back into a tenancy.

The City Council, as a key stakeholder in the city is in a position to assist in addressing this issue. The proposal involves the loan of £6.25m and a similar equity investment from treasury to purchase residential properties across the city to be held in a new housing property company for rental.

Caroline
Ryba

(a) 35 of the properties would be available to rent to public sector workers such as teachers and nurses. An adjustment of rent based on an adjustment of household income would only occur if household income moved by 10% over a 12 month period. Rental will be on a living rent basis (i.e. approximately one third of a household income in the bracket £15,000 - £40,000) - this is approximately 35% of the households in Cambridge. In addition, all rents would increase annually on an inflation basis. The scheme would be based on household income rather than market rents.

(b) 5 of the properties (3 bed in size) would be prioritised for homeless individuals (requiring minimal support) to rent on a shared basis through the council's Town Hall Letting Agency (at a housing benefit level of rent) as part of the effort to address the homeless crisis in the city.

[Funded from Internal Borrowing]

Capital Bids

CAP0009	Chesterton Rec Public Toilet Rebuild	150,000	0	0	0	0	*	No Impact
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A scheme to demolish and rebuild public toilets at Chesterton Recreation Ground to an accessible, modern, high standard. Current provision is in a poor condition, constantly a source of complaints and was especially problematic at last year's otherwise excellent Chesterton Festival.

Anthony
French

*Assuming rebuild is the desired pathway, as suggested via the bid, the climate rating is dependent on the carbon related to construction and operation of rebuild.

CAP0010	Scotland Road play equipment	60,000	0	0	0	0	Nil	No Impact
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A scheme to provide new play equipment at the Scotland Road Recreation Ground where existing provision needs updating. Local consultation would focus on how people want to use the space and how best to enhance it.

Anthony
French

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CAP0011	Public Water Fountains (buy) [Linked with B0015]	35,000	0	0	0	0	Positive/ Low Impact	No Impact

10 new public water fountains across the city, giving access to free, clean fresh water. This is complementary to the council's participation in the Refill scheme where businesses offer to refill water bottles, but which leaves out most of the city's parks and green spaces where there are no businesses close by. The objectives are to provide an alternative to high sugar drinks in single use plastic containers. Locations to be determined with input from residents' groups and area committees, taking account of feasibility and benefit to people taking part in activities such as running routes, trim trails, football and using all-weather pitches. The fountain on Parker's Piece provides a good model.

Alistair Wilson

CAP0012	Succession Tree Planting on Parkers Piece	46,000	0	0	0	0	Positive/ Low- medium Impact	No Impact
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Project to design, consult on and implement a scheme for the planting of a series semi-mature trees on Parker's Piece without impinging on the use of the open space for sport and events. The scheme would support the council's commitment to increase the volume of tree cover throughout the city and the council's recent declarations on climate and biodiversity emergencies. It would also support the Parker's Piece Conservation Plan which calls for succession planting (providing for the time the existing ageing trees fail) and increased shade for users of the space. The funding provides for soil assessment, engagement of capacity to deliver, and 50 semi-mature trees. The scheme harnesses a citizen campaign for additional tree planting on Parker's Piece in a manner which is timely and consistent with the particular open space.

Matthew Magrath

CAP0017	"Happy to chat" benches	5,000	0	0	0	0	Nil	No Impact
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Signage of three existing benches per ward as "Happy to chat benches", for local members to select with input from residents' groups. Signs will be made from a sustainable material. The "Happy to Chat" bench is a phenomenon sweeping the UK, where community organisations and charities provide signs to hang on benches to indicate that the people sitting there are happy to engage in conversation. This has been a valuable strategy to help prevent loneliness and isolation.

Anthony French

All Portfolios – Net Impact of Lib Dem Amendment on available use	296,000	0	0	0	0
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All Portfolios – Net Impact of Lib Dem Amendment to Capital Plan:	12,196,000	0	0	0	0
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