



# **CAMBRIDGE** CITY COUNCIL

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## **INFORMATION PACK**

**Date:** Thursday, 28 November 2024

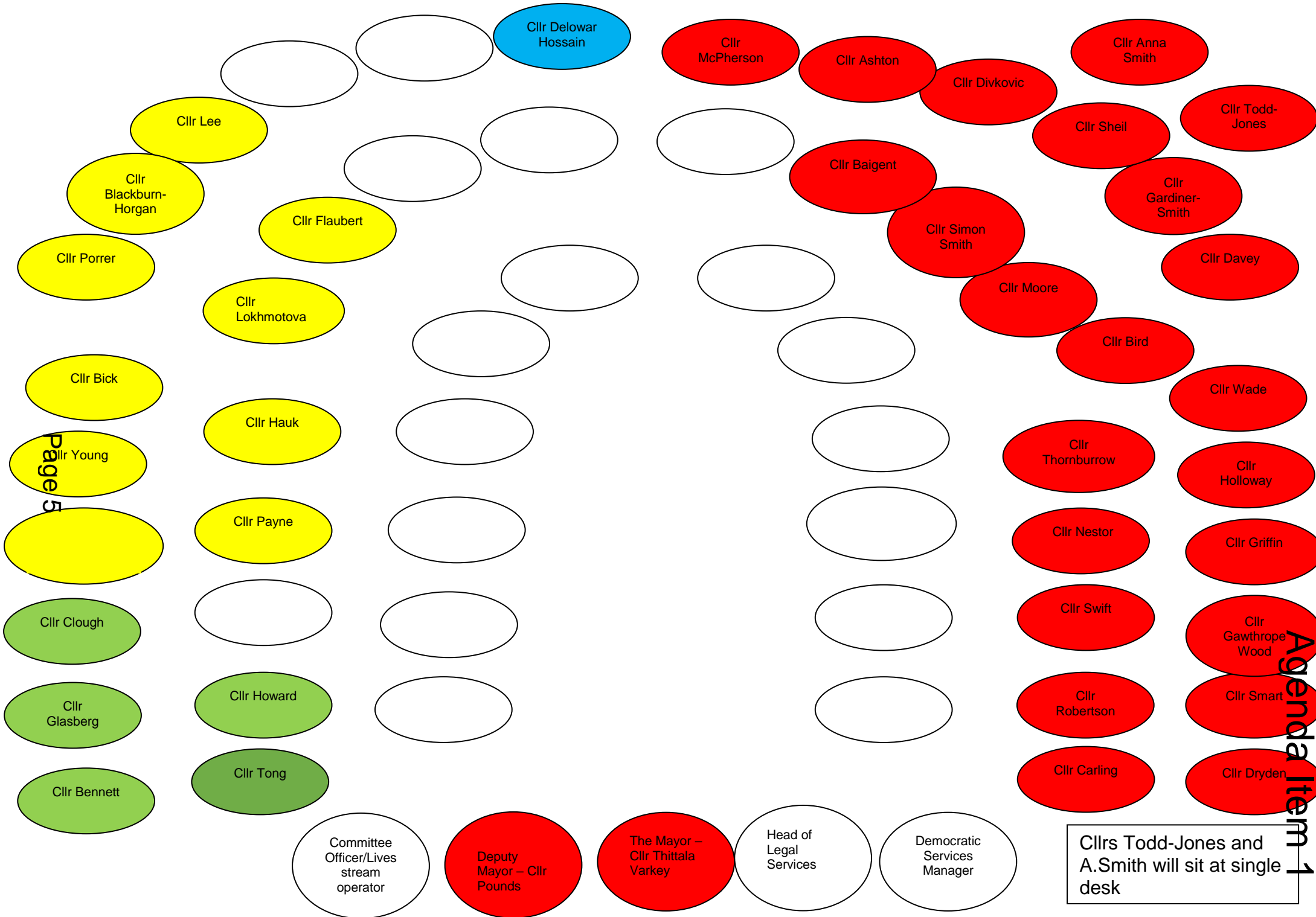
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Cllr Delowar Hossain

Cllr McPherson

Cllr Ashton

Cllr Divkovic

Cllr Anna Smith

Cllr Todd-Jones

Cllr Lee

Cllr Blackburn-Horgan

Cllr Porrer

Cllr Flaubert

Cllr Lokhmotova

Cllr Bick

Cllr Hauk

Cllr Young

Cllr Payne

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Cllr Clough

Cllr Howard

Cllr Glasberg

Cllr Tong

Cllr Bennett

Committee Officer/Lives stream operator

Deputy Mayor – Cllr Pounds

The Mayor – Cllr Thittala Varkey

Head of Legal Services

Democratic Services Manager

Cllr Thornburrow

Cllr Nestor

Cllr Swift

Cllr Robertson

Cllr Carling

Cllr Wade

Cllr Holloway

Cllr Griffin

Cllr Gawthrope Wood

Cllr Smart

Cllr Dryden

Cllrs Todd-Jones and A. Smith will sit at single desk

Agenda Item 1

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List of Public Questions received for Full Council meeting – 28 November 2024

## Question 1

At the June meeting of the Employment (Senior Officer) Committee, the leader of the council asked the head of paid service and monitoring officer to respond to concerns about contraventions of the Equality Act in regard to disability discrimination.

While I appreciate that certain steps may have been taken to make limited changes to council practices, more than 5 months later, the substantive concerns raised at the June meeting still have not been addressed.

Will the leader of the council ask the head of paid service to meet with the individuals affected to discuss how the council can better monitor compliance with its obligations under the Equality Act?

## Question 2

### STATEMENT & QUESTION

In principle, public statues in Station Square are to be welcomed. It's an otherwise rather bleak and hostile environment, surrounded by characterless office blocks and car parks. However, the statue created by Gavin Turk surely only serves to emphasise the bleakness and hostility with the addition of a tortured and demeaned woman.

That the sculptor selected for Brookgate's Section 106 public art installation is Turk is interesting, given that he claims to be inspired by the painter di Chirico - master of the urban landscape emptied of people. He has sold the City the figure of a woman bundled in cloth, bound with cord and dumped. That the artist, commissioners, developer, city council officers, and city councillors who sit on the planning committee did not see that this would most likely be interpreted as a bound woman is mystifying.

Space is important - it affects how we feel and act. Thoughtless or hostile design can contribute to people feeling vulnerable. Most public sculpture ignores women, unless they are decorative (and often naked), but a sculpture of a bound woman - even if that was not the artist's intention - takes this hostility to another level.

Cambridge prides itself on being a City of Sanctuary for those seeking asylum from torture, a point reinforced by the Mayor in February 2024. But a recent conversation I had with a woman refugee outside the station revealed the traumatic reminder of her torture this statue invoked for her. But it's not just refugees, according to a recent needs assessment of the county, 26,000 females were victims of domestic violence in 2021/22, and 12,000 females were sexually assaulted. How do you think a public statue depicting a bound and wrapped female form might affect all those who have experienced fear or violence?

**Our question to the city council is:**

Are you satisfied, given the outpouring of concern that 'Ariadne Wrapped' is misogynistic and sadistic, that any consultation that did take place was sufficiently wide-ranging and adequate, and that this is an appropriate image to welcome a broad range of people with different life experiences and vulnerabilities to a 'city of sanctuary'. Moreover, would the City be prepared to negotiate a removal of this offensive statue and replace it with a more pleasing art work which is welcoming to visitors?

**Question 3**

The codes of practice, or protocols, for many local authority Planning Committees are publicly available on the internet, and examples of those with best practice can be found on the Local Government Association's website. The 2019 LGA's "Probity in Planning: Advice for councillors and officers making planning decisions" is, I am sure, used by the City Council's Planning Committee. However, the actual protocol followed by the City Council's Planning Committee does not appear to be publicly available.



Given the recent concerns about several planning applications that have received approval despite substantial objections, it would be helpful and reassuring for people to know the code of practice that is adhered to by Planning Committee members . Would the Council consider publishing this?

Question 4

Public Question:

In Item 13 of the Public Pack of documentation for the latest Housing Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September this year, named 'Redevelopment of 2-28b Davy Road, including associated land and garages – Equality Impact Assessment' on page 4, the following is written:

To date, consultation on the proposals has been with residents directly affected by potential redevelopment only. This has been via letter-drop notifications, in-person door-knocking and formal consultation events to introduce the proposal to all residents.

In terms of evidence of actual consultation of our Davy Road residents, on p.9 of the Minutes of this meeting, we can see: “residents were asked their views on the estate in a survey in July 2024” (vi). And further: “The above examples of lived experiences from residents of the estate provide a compelling argument for redevelopment” (vi).

How compelling is this information, though? Is compelling the right word to use when only 15 of the 42 households responded to the paper survey? This is little more than a third of all the households that will all be irrevocably affected by the redevelopment. This paper survey posted through residents' letterboxes comprised the real 'consultation' during the whole Cambridge City Council communication process.

Why has the main data-gathering mechanism been merely a piece of paper posted through residents' doors? Why has there been almost nothing else that can meaningfully be described as 'consultation'? Surely it is better to carry out the really meaningful surveying process during the face-to-face contact that Cambridge City Council has said it has invested time in and paid staff hours for? This would ensure full participation as interviews are conducted at a time that suits the residents. During a development of this sort, a project that is presently commonplace in the city of Cambridge, don't those whose lives Cambridge City Council intend to change forever each deserve a face-to-face consultation? After all these views form part of the evidence that the Housing Scrutiny Committee uses to inform its approval or rejection of the development: shouldn't Cambridge City Council ensure that the views of all the households affected are carefully collected?

Could the Executive Councillor for Housing and Homelessness please explain why the really important part of the consultation was reliant on tenants and leaseholders returning a piece of paper? Why has the Development Team not considered that a face-to-face survey would be more meaningful, more effective and more reliable, and indeed more compelling, at revealing to us what **all** the tenants' and leaseholders' opinions are with regard to the redevelopment of their homes?

#### Question 5

The report on the future of local government noted the very limited social media commentary on the future of local government - to the extent officers chose not to analyse it. Furthermore, other events advertised on social media by local government, the wider public sector, and local groups and organisations seems to be having far less impact than in the 2010s.

Given the major policy announcements coming up - and that may have already happened by the time the item is discussed, please could the city council consider working with existing community organisations, charities, campaigning organisations and the various private sector organisations for

a series of shared conversations throughout 2025 about the future of our city.

In particular such events should enable participants to cross examine the proposals and requests from large institutions in face-to-face conversations, and also have enough variety to enable people who don't normally participate in such events to do so - and familiarise themselves with the essentials of how their city functions/local democracy.

#### Question 6

I am John Preston, I have been a customer of the market for over 50 years, a resident of Cambridge for over 40, and I worked for Cambridge City Council for over 20 years, latterly as Historic Environment Manager. Based in the Guildhall, I was professionally engaged with all the buildings and spaces in and around the Civic Quarter. I have practical experience of organising events including exhibitions, concerts and lectures in the Guildhall. I was involved over many years in heritage and environmental education initiatives including the RIBA Cambridge Architecture Centre, Cambridge Heritage, the Cambridgeshire Architecture Workshop, and Shape Cambridge, none of which were able to establish a permanent presence. I have been advising market traders and the CMTA since 2016; I wrote a report for the application to list the setts. I have taken part in all the City Council's consultation stages. My 2020 article "Significance and heritage protection at Cambridge market" was published in the Institute of Historic Building Conservation's journal "Context"

<https://ihbconline.co.uk/context/165/20/>.

My wife and I put public questions (7 and 8) to last week's Strategy and Resources Committee, supported by a document dated 19 November which was circulated by Democratic Services to all Councillors. We could not attend the meeting, but have since viewed the recording.

#### QUESTION

I welcome the Council's commitment to the future civic and cultural potential of the Civic Quarter, and the potential involvement of the Museum

of Cambridge. But have the discussions also involved the Cambridge Room? If the Museum and Room can work together, this could combine the past and future to the mutual benefit of both Cambridge residents and visitors.

But (very big but) far too many elements of the evolving vision and proposals urgently need firming up before the project goes any further.

The recommendations in 1.5.1 of the officer report are both premature and inadequate, in the absence of publicly stated and agreed visions for

2) what the market is to be and how it will be promoted, and

2) events within the Guildhall, Corn Exchange and Market Square.

The officers talk about balance of trade, but where is the vision for the market? For years, traders have been moving away due to lack of promotion and pro-active management. The project has mistakenly taken the current lowest ebb as its baseline, and compounded this by topping up with demountable stalls which won't work for the traders. The Council started a consultation on markets just this week, but what the Council should be consulting on now is a feasibility-tested vision for Cambridge market, building on previous consultations, and including balances between fresh produce, general market, and hot food. This is about much more than balance of trade, it is about the whole character of the market.

For events, a cultural report was mentioned 2 years ago but has still not been published. Nothing has yet been provided in terms of a programme for events with their servicing requirements, to establish how these could be accommodated within the space and time limitations, and without detriment to other existing and proposed uses. And as Camcycle pointed out, the project hasn't yet got even basic data on cycle provision and demand.

The officers' description of the project as having passed RIBA 2 (Concept Design) is wrong and misleading.

Before passing RIBA 1, let alone 2, there remains a fundamental challenge – to establish whether all the proposals can be accommodated on the site, given its limitations in terms of space and time.

You can't pass RIBA 1 without establishing that there is a demountable market stall fit for Cambridge conditions. But the only trial carried out so far was a failure.

You can't pass RIBA 1 without establishing that all proposed activities and their competing servicing demands can be accommodated, within the limited public spaces and potential times available. This requires analysis, and choices between competing demands, which have not been presented to you.

None of the key issues raised in our questions to Strategy and Resources and the supporting document have yet been answered.

Which is why I ask you to defer proceeding to detailed design until after publication of, and further public consultation on, visions for both the market and proposed events, and their associated requirements. These should then feed into a revised brief which recognises and resolves the competing demands.

#### Question 7

I am very worried about the market re development plan.

The new plan for the market only gives 27 fixed stalls the rest demountable. ( no good example has been given of this).

This last weekend because of the wind lots of markets have been cancelled.

Please can the Council give reasoning for this.

Can my questions about this be raised at the meeting of Thursday.

#### Question 8

I am aware that some progress is now going on at a glacial pace regarding a transit site, for which we are thankful. I also understand that the Council have now received the latest GTANA though we have yet to hear what it may offer. We have always argued that a GTANA was unnecessary in the face of the continuing unauthorised encampments and evictions, when the Council has nothing to offer Travellers in the way of legal alternatives.

There seems to be a deep misunderstanding of Traveller communities for whom travelling is not a 'lifestyle' choice but a defining cultural way of life. Seen correctly in this light, the use of evictions is a form of cultural genocide or ethnocide. The Council must be well aware that in the face of evictions Travellers will move on, particularly with the additional powers given under The Police Bill, which allow for the confiscation of their vehicles with their children taken into care. Intentional or not, this is a violent act against an impoverished community which suffer from racist abuse by the settled community, manifesting itself, for example, in the very high rates of suicide amongst young Traveller men. Over the last four years, we have been waiting for the Council to wake up to this and adopt a sense of urgency and an action plan.

**Question: How many more weeks, months, years do we have to wait until, at the very least, one transit site is provided and, in the meantime, a policy of negotiated stopping is adopted?**

Question 9

Hello and thank you for letting me speak.

I speak regarding our much loved Central Market..

It is plainly visible to one and all that our once thriving, eclectic and vibrant 7 day a week market has been relentlessly neglected and run down.

This has been and continues to be hugely distressing to all who use, see and work on the market.

Certainly Covid did not help a situation in which there had been a lack of even basic on-going management of the market. It is only very recently that there has been some restoration of the basic hands-on daily management of the market. But this has been within the context of continuous shrouds of uncertainty surrounding the future of the market. An undermining uncertainty that has now been going on for over 6 years.

Market traders are demoralised. A factor being that they are still putting forward exactly the same practical questions which have remained unanswered for these past 6 years. And that they are at the centre of a market that is no longer the vibrant space that it was; one which is certainly not an inviting space for new traders.

Many of us from market customers and traders, as well as residents and just plain visitors to Cambridge feeling, seeing and perceiving that our market has already been desecrated.

The current proposals – continue to have a complete lack of fundamental practical detail, including an absence of demonstrably viable demountable stalls. The proposal also contains a meagre and totally unsustainable mere 27 permanent stalls – continuing the relentless message to all of us that it is the indisputable project of this Council to destroy our market – Once and for all.

This city was founded upon its market.

Across the country our markets are increasingly been recognised as being central to the revival of our towns and cities – a boost to our failing High Streets. As Dr Annie Gray (illustrious Food Historian) has very recently observed – it is the diversity of our central spaces, including thriving markets that bring people into our High Streets.

There have also been very recent, and highly unfavourable comparisons of Cambridge with Oxford and with York. The latter both being cited as having busy vibrant central spaces and High Streets. It is no accident that both Oxford and York have thriving markets at their heart.

Please – do not destroy our market. And for the sake of our heritage and thriving city centre give our market a real chance to thrive.

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**STRATEGY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** 21 November 2024

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

Apologies: Councillor Patrick Sheil

Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources: Councillor S Smith  
Leader of the Council: Councillor Davey

## **Recommendation to Council**

### **Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources**

#### **24/35/S&R - Treasury Management Mid-Year report**

The council has adopted The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (Revised 2021).

This half-year report has been prepared in accordance with the Code and covers the following:

- An economic update for the first half of the 2024/25 financial year;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2024/25;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2024/25; and
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2024/25.

Cash and investment balances as at 30 September were £105 million. The balance is forecast to gradually reduce over the remainder of the year as existing balances are used to fund General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital expenditure.

Interest receipts for the year are projected at £6.6 million which is £3.1 million higher than the original budget. The variance is due mainly to sustained higher investment rates and higher cash balances being held for longer periods than expected

The Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendation to Full Council. **(Unanimous)**

**Accordingly, Council is recommended to:**

- i. Recommend the Council's estimated Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2024/25 to 2027/28 (Appendix A).

**STRATEGY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** 21 November 2024

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

Apologies: Councillor Patrick Sheil

Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources: Councillor S Smith  
Leader of the Council: Councillor Davey

## **Recommendation to Council**

### **Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources**

#### **24/36/S&R - Civic Quarter Project Update**

The Civic Quarter has seen the changes of time and developments over the centuries with the site of the Guildhall celebrating a history dating back 800 years this year, the Corn Exchange approaching its 150th anniversary and a market that dates back over a thousand years.

The council is now looking at proposals for investment in the Guildhall, Market Square, Corn Exchange and public realm, making them fit for a fast growing global city in the 21st century society that our residents can be proud of.

The Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendation to Full Council. **(7 for, 1 against)**

#### **Accordingly, Council is recommended to:**

- i. note the indicative capital cost budget of £55m as set out in 8.3 and approves an allocation of £3m from the existing Civic Quarter reserve for stage 3 design costs and associated on-costs.

Below recommendations are not voted on at Full Council but have been agreed at Strategy & Resources should the above recommendation be agreed:

“And subject to Full Council agreement approves the recommendations below outlined in the report that includes, Concept Design Report, Public Engagement Report and the Commercial Report for the Civic Quarter including to:

- Note the outcomes from the first Public Consultation that took place to shape the outcomes of the Concept Designs and in response adds to the Market Square Design Principles that alongside other objectives which should bring a beneficial impact on the market itself, the project should support a substantial reduction of anti-social behaviour in the square and the achievement of an attractive public space outside of market hours.
- Approve to proceed to the next stage of design with a planning submission in late summer 2025 for the Guildhall, Corn Exchange, Market Square and the associated public realm, carrying out a second public consultation in Spring 2025
- Grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to carry out a procurement process for the appointment of a contractor by Spring 2025
- Approve the Civic Quarter Project team to work closely with the Corporate team, Market Operations team, Cultural Services team and Market traders to develop a business plan by Spring 2025 which includes:
  1. Completion of the Terms and Conditions and the balance of trade work on the Market ahead of the proposed second public consultation for the Civic Quarter in Spring 2025
  2. An assessment of the revenue impact of decanting the Guildhall, Market and Corn Exchange

3. A business plan for the operation of the future Guildhall, Market and Corn Exchange

- Note the review by the Property Team of property assets including Mandela House to generate a capital receipt to contribute towards the Civic Quarter project.”

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# Agenda Item 5

Revised order	From	To	Question
1	Cllr Gawthrop Wood	Executive Councillor for Housing	Could the Executive Councillor for Housing let us know how successful she feels the new council housing on Campkin Rd in King's Hedges has been in terms of integrating new council tenants with the local community?
2	Cllr Baigent	Executive Councillor For Open Spaces and City Services	Could the Executive Councillor update the Council on steps being taken to promote our work on herbicide reduction both to Cambridge residents and more broadly in order for other local authorities to share in what we've learnt?
3	Cllr Griffin	Executive Councillor for Housing	With new council houses being built with exciting new technology such as air source heat pumps, how are we ensuring that new tenants are supported to understand the new technology when they move into their new homes?
4	Cllr Gardiner-Smith	Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	How is the development of Cambridge South Station going and how will it improve resident and workers' travel in and out of the city?
5	Cllr Bennett	Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	Will the Executive Councillor provide an update on the Water Scarcity Group?
6	Cllr Howard	Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	Cambridge Airport is currently subject to aviation safety requirements such as the need to minimise bird strike . This means that although the airfield looks green, it is a large biodiversity dead spot. The airport was built on green belt land. Yet there does not appear to have ever been any consideration of returning it to that state when the airport is closed in 2029.What steps does the

			Executive Councillor take to ensure that the remaining green belt is protected in the new local plan ?
7	Cllr Pounds	Executive Councillor for Communities	The City Council has committed to take on a community wealth building approach to its work. Can the Executive Councillor highlight ways in which the Council is developing this work?
8	Cllr Carling	Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment	The Council has recently published its annual climate change strategy and carbon management report. Please can the Exec for Climate Action and Environment highlight some of the council's key achievements in this area?
9	Cllr Nestor	Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing	With the festive season approaching, what is being done to keep people safe in our night-time economy?
10	Cllr Tong	Executive Councillor For Open Spaces and City Services	Historic England recently updated its Heritage at Risk Register for 2024, revealing that all three historic sites under threat in Cambridge - The Leper Chapel, Old Cheddar's Lane Pumping Station, and the Church of St. Andrew the Less - are located in Abbey. What is being done to protect the cultural heritage of this important ward?
11	Cllr Porrer	Executive Councillor For Open Spaces and City Services	Please can the Executive Councillor for City Services offer any reassurance to members of the public that the Council will use its powers to ensure that the broken lift to the Grand Arcade carpark is fixed as a matter of urgency?
12	Cllr Bick	Leader	Last month the Regulators of the water industry published a combined letter to Cambridge Water on its performance, indicating serious concerns with the company's security of supply and risk to the environment - describing it as a poorly performing company. What are the Leader's reactions to what he has read? <a href="https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-">https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-</a>



			content/uploads/2024/10/OFF-SEN-AR24-JRL-letter-Cambridge-Water-Final.pdf
13	Cllr Divkovic	Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment	Residents are being urged not to put batteries in their bins as there have been 7 fires in refuse lorries this year. How can residents make sure they're recycling their batteries and electrical goods properly?
14	Cllr Glasberg	Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment	<p>A question was asked by Pesticide Free Cambridge at the last meeting of this Council regarding progress that has been made on implementing alternative methods of weed control, and also on developing a Comms strategy to inform residents of the dangers of pesticides and the rationale for the Council's herbicide reduction policy. A question was asked by Pesticide Free Cambridge at the last meeting of this Council regarding progress that has been made on implementing alternative methods of weed control, and also on developing a Comms strategy to inform residents of the dangers of pesticides and the rationale for the Council's herbicide reduction policy.</p> <p>It is good to know that a six month report has now been prepared and will soon be available, and that there will be an in-person meeting of the Herbicide Reduction Working Group in early December where the work and new machinery can be demonstrated and a comms plan agreed. Whereas spraying can take place around parked vehicles It is not possible to clean the gutters with other methods when cars are parked over them. Please could councillors be informed of the street-cleaning schedule so we are able to ask residents to remove their vehicles in advance?</p>
15	Cllr Hauk	Leader	Will the City Council's representative on the Board of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority ask the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to use his increased Mayor's precept to maintain the £2 bus fare cap for buses in Cambridgeshire

16	Cllr A Smith	Leader	In early November, Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham visited Cambridge. Would the leader of the council reflect on the visit and explain how this partnership is going to bring benefit to residents in the Cambridge area?
17	Cllr Swift	Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure	Has the Don really gone?
18	Cllr Lee	Executive Councillor for Housing	Is the Executive Councillor satisfied with the Council's monitoring of cases of damp, condensation, and mould in the City
19	Cllr Blackburn-Horgan	Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing	Is the Council committed to the future availability of Community Engagement Officers with sufficient resource to meet all of the tasks required across the 4 geographic points (NESW) of Cambridge?
20	Cllr Robertson	Leader	The Leaders' Briefing / Cambridge Conversations event was held last night (November 27th). Can the Leader give an update to the council on how the event was received and his key takeaways?
21	Cllr Dryden	Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources	How is the Cambridge Investment Partnership working to support young people into careers in the construction and housebuilding sector locally
22	Cllr Ashton	Executive Councillor For Open Spaces and City Services	Can the Executive Cllr for Open Spaces and City Services give an update on the public toilets which have recently been refurbished and will there be public toilets which have disabled access ?

23	Cllr Flaubert	Executive Councillor For Open Spaces and City Services	Could the Executive Councillor please update council on inclusive play areas across the city?
24	Cllr McPherson	Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing	In light of several recent shop break-ins, what is being done to support and protect local businesses and shop workers?
25	Cllr Clough	Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment	For residents who do not have off-street parking there is a considerable disincentive to investing in fully electric vehicles as they cannot legally run cables from houses across the public pavement to charge their cars. The only option is to use a third party charging point. The cost of electricity from these units can be considerably higher than the kilowatt hour rates from domestic or from solar panel supported supplies. This higher cost has been raised at the licensing committee by the taxi drivers who are now obliged to purchase full EV units now that new hybrid vehicles are not allowed to be licensed. The County Council's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure team appears to be moving towards a trial of a <b>gully based charging system</b> . We are aware of one – the Kerbo Charge protected gully system. Can the City Council add its voice to requests that this trial be brought forward into early 2025 and press for the City's taxi trade federation to be fully consulted at an early stage so that their members can be significant participants in the trial?
26	Cllr Lokhmotova	Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment	According to the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, the Council has powers to manage litter on private land. Can the Executive Councillor please explain how the Council applies these powers to unadopted public realm in Trumpington?

27	Cllr Martinelli	Executive Councillor For Open Spaces and City Services	Could the Executive Councillor identify how the Council will ensure that residents will "always see cattle grazing on the City's commons?"
28	Cllr Young	The Leader	Is the Council planning on opening up a social media account on BlueSky?

Agenda item 6a – Councillor Nestor proposed and Councillor Moore seconded the following amendment to motion 6a – ~~deleted text struckthrough~~ and additional text underlined.

## The Council notes:

- The City Council was one of the founding members of the Food Justice Alliance (formerly Food Poverty Alliance), formed in 2017.
- As a result of this partnership work, the Labour-led council funds and facilitates work to deal with the demand for affordable food and campaign for food justice and has passed a motion declaring Cambridge a right to food city.
- Most recently, partnership work with Cambridge Sustainable Food and the City Council resulted in Cambridge achieving a ‘Gold Sustainable Food City’ accreditation. This signals that local work is ‘at the forefront of national and international initiatives, instigating transformative change within local food systems’.
- The significant increase in need for emergency food in Cambridge, with Cambridge City Foodbank providing more than 17,000 emergency food parcels in the last 12 months, a 74% increase on the same period in 2020/21.
- That for the first time in its history, the majority of people Cambridge City Foodbank supports with emergency food will be repeat rather than one-off visitors, with approximately 80% visiting less than 4 times, demonstrating that a higher proportion of people who experience food security in Cambridge now continue to experiencing hunger and hardship on an ongoing basis.
- That as a result of austerity policies by the previous government around 5 in 6 low-income households on Universal Credit are going without at least one essential like food, a warm home or toiletries,<sup>1</sup> which shows that the social security system inherited by the Labour government has is not been providing people with enough to afford the essentials.
- As a result of the ‘Essentials Guarantee’ campaign by national organisations including the Trussell Trust and Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Labour government took positive steps to address the issues raised in their Autumn Budget. The Trussell Trust noted following the budget that ‘it’s a welcome relief to see the UK

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<sup>1</sup> Joseph Rowntree Foundation: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/social-security/guarantee-our-essentials-reforming-universal-credit-to-ensure-we-can-all-afford-the>

government make a first step towards a more supportive social security system, introducing what it's calling a Fair Repayment Rate in Universal Credit'. This is a significant change, capping debt repayments to 15% (previously 25%) to allow more households to keep more of their financial support.

- This has been welcomed by national organisations as an important step towards the Essentials Guarantee, alongside various other commitments for social security including increasing the Carer's Allowance threshold, additional funding for the Household Support Fund and an increase in the minimum wage to make it a 'genuine living wage'. The Trussell Trust have additionally pointed to other positive measures brought in by the Labour government to turn the tide on poverty and inequality, including long-term investment in social housing and reforms to Right to Buy.
- That Cambridge MP, Daniel Zeichner has welcomed the steps the Labour Government is taking to address this issue, stating that 'The previous Government's decisions, such as the damaging mini-budget of September 2022, significantly worsened the situation, harming the most vulnerable in our society, and I want to see an end to widespread reliance on emergency food parcels', while highlighting that the steps outlined in the recent budget 'will help transform people's lives for the better.'
- ~~That 9.3 million people in the UK face hunger and hardship, meaning their household is more than 25% below the Social Metrics Commission poverty line. This represents one in seven people in the UK, and one in five children. Without action, a further 425,000 people are projected to face hunger and hardship by 2026/27.<sup>2</sup>~~

### **The Council resolves:**

- To support the Labour party with their commitment to review Universal Credit, tackle poverty and 'end mass dependence on emergency food parcels which is a moral scar on society', as well as their work to improve social security in line with the issues raised by the Essentials Guarantee campaign.
- To continue to support the transition of food hubs in the City to Social Supermarkets, a more sustainable model which is based on

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<sup>2</sup> ~~*The Cost of Hunger and Hardship*, Trussell, 2024: <https://www.trussell.org.uk/news-and-research/publications/report/the-cost-of-hunger-and-hardship>~~

the principle of dignity and choice to users; complimenting and supporting the local emergency food banks.

- To continue to support the Food Justice Alliance, which this council helped to fund, to continue to tackle food poverty with local organisations and our statutory partners.
- To convene a food justice conference in February 2025, to explore how food can drive real change in building stronger communities and tackling poverty; building on years of collaborative efforts with Cambridge Sustainable Food and other partners, that the Labour-led council both fund and have supported since 2015.
- ~~To support the promotion of the campaign by Cambridge City Foodbank, Trussell and Joseph Roundtree Foundation to introduce an Essentials Guarantee<sup>3</sup>, a law which would ensure that the basic rate of social security support is always enough to afford the essentials that we all need to live.~~
- To instruct the Leader of the Council alongside the Labour MP for Cambridge, Daniel Zeichner, to write to the Chancellor and Secretary to the Department for Work and Pensions to support the steps already taken by the Labour Government in line with the Essentials Guarantee and outline the Council's support of the in favour of the introduction of an Essentials Guarantee.
- ~~To instruct the Leader of the Council to write to Daniel Zeichner, MP for Cambridge and Minister of State for Food Security and Rural Affairs, Ian Solloway, MP for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire, and Pippa Heylings, MP for South Cambridgeshire, to request that they write to the Chancellor and Secretary to the Department for Work and Pensions in favour of the introduction of an Essentials Guarantee.~~

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<sup>3</sup> ~~<https://www.trussell.org.uk/support-us/guarantee-our-essentials>~~

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Agenda item 6b - Councillor Hossain - Street Lighting on Kings Hedges parks and open spaces

Councillor Procedure Rule 26 – Alteration of motion – additional text underlined.

Council notes:

a. The lack of street lighting on Nuns Way Recreation Ground and on the Pulley play area of Kings Hedges Recreation Ground

b. Widespread community concerns about this lack of street lighting, which has left residents feeling unsafe and led to increased concerns around and incidents of anti-social behaviour, particularly in winter months when there are more hours of darkness.

c. The appalling arson attack on the new Pulley play area and equipment in September 2024, which was recently installed with £163,000 of council money and £75,000 wooden castle was burnt.

d. Office for National Statistics data shows that four out of five women and two out of five men feel unsafe walking alone after dark in a park or other open space.

e. Research has identified a consistent correlation between higher light levels on pedestrian paths and greater public confidence in using said paths.

f. A review of evidence by the College of Policing found that improved street lighting reduced violent and property crime by 21% on average

Council calls on:

a. The Director of City Services to conduct a feasibility review and explore the installation of street lighting at Nuns Way Recreation Ground and the Pulley play area, as well as parks and open spaces throughout the city where issues with lighting have been identified and for the for this feasibility review to be reported back to the relevant committee.

b. The Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services to urgently develop a policy to address issues of safety and anti-social behaviour in the aforementioned areas in conjunction with the local community, including a feasibility review of installing street lighting, and to subsequently report this policy and findings to the Council.

c. In carrying out the obligations listed in points a and b above, the council requires the Director and Executive Councillor to make use of low level solar lighting such as bollards and solar studs and consider motion sensitive solar lighting where appropriate. It further requires the Director and Executive Councillor to ensure that the lighting is of a suitable spectrum to minimise the impact on biodiversity.

d. By imposing the requirements in point c, the council wishes to minimise ongoing lighting costs, control emissions and minimise any adverse impact on biodiversity while meeting the safety objectives of the lighting scheme.

e. The Director and Executive Councillor are also required to liaise with officers of the Greater Cambridge Planning Service to ensure that the lighting scheme can be considered for any relevant s106 funding.

Notes:

BBC News, 'Arson investigation under way after play park fire', 1 October 2024, [link](#)

Office for National Statistics, 'Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain: 2 to 27 June 2021', [link](#)

Fotios, S. and Castleton, C., (2016), 'Specifying Enough Light to Feel Reassured on Pedestrian Footpaths', *Leukos*, 12(4), [link](#)

College of Policing, 'Street Lighting', [link](#)

# Agenda Item 8

Agenda item 6b – Councillor Holloway proposed and Councillor Gardiner-Smith seconded the following amendment to motion 6b, additional text underlined and deleted text ~~struckthrough~~.

## Council notes:

~~a. The lack of street lighting on Nuns Way Recreation Ground and on the Pulley play area of Kings Hedges Recreation Ground~~

a. The Council manages 37 lights on King's Hedges Recreational Ground (including the Pulley Park area) and 11 lights on Nuns Way Recreational Ground, making 48 lights in total.

~~b. Widespread community concerns about this lack of street lighting, which has left residents feeling unsafe and led to increased concerns around and incidents of anti-social behaviour, particularly in winter months when there are more hours of darkness.~~

b. There is no known evidence that there are widespread community concerns about lighting. During the past 11 months since January 2024 there has been 1 report of anti-social behaviour (ASB) at the Pulley Park and 1 report on Nuns Way, making 2 reports of ASB in total.

~~c. The appalling arson attack on the new Pulley play area and equipment in September 2024, which was recently installed with £163,000 of council money and £75,000 wooden castle was burnt.~~

c. The alleged arson attack on the new Pulley play area is not pertinent to this motion as this tragic event occurred during daylight hours.

d. Office for National Statistics data shows that four out of five women and two out of five men feel unsafe walking alone after dark in a park or other open space.

e. This Council has recently funded a research project by Women in Sport to look at girls' perceptions and experiences of parks and open spaces in the city. The report highlighted barriers to accessing parks, including feelings related to safety.

f. Research has not identified a consistent correlation between higher light levels on pedestrian paths and greater public confidence in using said paths.

g.f A review of evidence by the College of Policing found that improved street lighting reduced violent crime and property crime by 21% on average

~~Council calls on:~~

~~a. The Director of City Services to conduct a feasibility review and explore the installation of street lighting at Nuns Way Recreation Ground and the Pulley play area, as well as parks and open spaces throughout the city where issues with lighting have been identified and for the for this feasibility review to be reported back to the relevant committee.~~

Council calls for:

a. A feasibility review to explore the installation of various possible lighting treatments on all or part of Nuns Way Recreation Ground and the Pulley Park area and for this review to be reported back to councillors.

~~b. The Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services to urgently develop a policy to address issues of safety and anti-social behaviour in the aforementioned areas in conjunction with the local community, including a feasibility review of installing street lighting, and to subsequently report this policy and findings to the Council.~~

Notes:

BBC News, 'Arson investigation under way after play park fire', 1 October 2024, [link](#)

Office for National Statistics, 'Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain: 2 to 27 June 2021', [link](#)

Cambridge City Council, 'Women in Sport', 'Access to Nature for Teenage Girls in Cambridge', Insight Report, October 2024

Fotios, S. and Castleton, C., (2016), 'Specifying Enough Light to Feel Reassured on Pedestrian Footpaths', Leukos, 12(4), [link](#)

College of Policing, 'Street Lighting', [link](#)

Agenda item 6c – Councillor Davey proposed and Councillor Swift seconded the following amendment to motion – deleted text ~~struckthrough~~ and additional text underlined.

Council notes that

1. The Post Office has proposed to close 115 branches in the UK, including Cambridge's city centre "Crown Office" on St. Andrew's Street;
2. That a local Labour-led campaign in October 2018 condemning proposals to move Cambridge's main Post Office into WH Smith and including representations from Labour MP Daniel Zeichner, trade unions and labour councillors succeeded in securing a withdrawal of ~~an earlier~~ such proposal;
3. The current Post Office located in a prominent and accessible high street location close to public transport, is routinely busy and widely used by residents across the city as well as by its many visitors;
4. The Post Office is a wholly-owned government corporation, representing the nature of the public service that it provides and the social impact it makes.
5. That the Communications Workers Union (CWU) has condemned the closure plans which will put about 2,000 jobs at risk, stating that 'CWU members are victims of the Horizon scandal and for them to now fear for their jobs ahead of Christmas is yet another cruel attack.' Additionally, Labour MPs have expressed concern about the proposed closure of the branches and called for the Post Office to preserve its community presence.
6. Cambridge's Labour MP Daniel Zeichner has continued to be outspoken to support the local Cambridge branch, stating that 'News of its potential closure raises concerns about service continuity, accessibility on their plans and urging them to prioritise the needs of our community in their decision-making.'

7. Daniel Zeichner has been in touch directly with the Post Office who have confirmed that no decisions have yet been made regarding its Directly Managed Branches and agreeing to a meeting where he will continue to advocate for the interests of Cambridge residents and businesses.

Council **believes** that:

1. It is a legitimate expectation that a growing city such as Cambridge, which includes a large tourist sector, continues to maintain a standalone Crown Office in its centre to complement the network of franchised postmasters serving neighbourhood areas and sparsely populated areas, who combine their service with other businesses;
2. That the alternative, as proposed in the previous exercise, to integrate the main post office as a subordinate activity of a corporate retailer, will not be acceptable on grounds of visibility, accessibility or trusted public service ethos;
3. The withdrawal of this public service provider operating in its own right from the city centre would be a regrettable erosion of diversity on the high street, removing an important ingredient of many people's wider purpose in going there.

Council **resolves** to make representations against the proposed closure in Cambridge and authorises the Chief Executive to communicate these within the appropriate Post Office consultative channels, alongside local Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner in his ongoing conversations with the Post Office and government. ~~and to urge the two MPs representing the city to intercede directly with the government to support these representations.~~

Agenda item 6d – Councillor Glasberg proposed and Councillor Tong seconded the following amendment to motion 6d, additional text underlined.

## Council notes:

- That the River Cam at Sheep's Green received Bathing Water Designation in May 2024, following a Labour motion at Full Council in July 2023.
- That a main goal of the application was to provide information on pollution levels to help swimmers to swim safely and to create a 'Driver' to increase efforts by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to improve water quality.
- Serious concern over the Environment Agency's monitoring during the 2024 bathing season (15 May to 30 September 2024) has recorded E. coli levels ranging from 980-6400 colonies/100ml at Sheep's Green and that this gives a strong indication the water classification will be "Poor".
- That once the Environment Agency's classification is available, the City Council will display a notice at Sheep's Green showing the classification.
- That if, as anticipated, the classification is 'Poor', notice will include advice against bathing.
- That Anglian Water has allocated £4.6m for a study and subsequent upgrades to Haslingfield Water Treatment Works under its 2025-2030 AMP8 business plan, subject to receiving Bathing Water Designation and subsequent approval by Ofwat (link: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/pr24/anh01-our-plan-2025-2030.pdf>).
- That the concerns about the level of pollution in the River Cam are justified and it is important for the Council to call for action. As turbid water in the Cam is a likely contributing factor, we will also look at the causes for this lack of flow and how it is impacted by water supply sources and over-abstraction – these issues are inextricably linked.
- The annual reviews by Ofwat, the Environment Agency and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) of the performance of England's water companies were published on 21 October [1]

- Their joint letter to Cambridge Water [2], the supplier of the city's water, states clearly that "Your current performance is a risk to the environment and security of supply..." and points out that there is an on-going deficit in the 'supply-demand' balance. Despite the alarms that have been raised, the company is still not addressing the challenge of supplying the rising need for water, much of it due to new development, nor has it reduced the impact of its abstractions on the environment, including harm to chalk streams.
- In 2019, Cambridge Water forecast the improvements it would have made by 2024, and these have not been achieved. Key failures are interruptions in supply (72% above the forecast and due mainly to system breakdowns or pollution); delay in installing water meters and leakage from pipes. The significant increase in demand from the non-household sector, including new science parks, is not adequately addressed and there are questions over data accuracy. The company has until 29th November to explain the action it will take on the problems identified, and until January 2025 to provide an update on improvements being made [3].
- Cambridge Water's 2025 draft Water Resources Management Plan has still not been approved by Defra and given the extent of the problems identified it seems unlikely that it will be.
- There is an assumption that major development in this region must go ahead regardless in the interests of economic growth and that the objections of the Environment Agency can be overruled with 'water credits' to fill the significant gap until the reservoirs and pipelines that are planned will be functioning.
- 'Water credits', though, are experimental and face major problems in implementation. See letter sent to all Cambridge councillors on 15th July 2024.
- There is also now evidence that Cambridge has enough Science labs and offices to meet expected demand (4)

### **Council resolves:**

- To write to the Environment Agency and Anglian Water once the bathing water assessment is made available, welcoming the



increased availability of information about the quality of water and its suitability for bathing.

- If the result of the assessment is 'poor', to use that letter to express concern at the indications of unacceptable levels of faecal pollution revealed by the monitoring and to highlight the risk this poses to the health of swimmers and other recreational water users on the river Cam.
- At the same time as expressing concern, the letter should demand that agencies involved take urgent action to investigate and address the causes of pollution, as required by the Bathing Water Act 2013, and that they keep this Council informed on progress with a report to the Chief Executive every six months.

The Council should request that their investigations must include:

- The adequacy of the performance of Haslingfield Water Treatment Works and Foxton Water Treatment Works, and the unacceptable frequency of storm overflows.
- The frequency and impact of overflows from sewage pumping stations in Harston, Hauxton, Haslingfield and Grantchester.
- The frequency and impact of bursts in the Rising Mains connecting Haslingfield, Harston, Hauxton and Grantchester to Haslingfield Water Treatment Works.
- Potential misconnections into surface water drains flowing into Hobsons Conduit, Vicars Brook and Paradise Local Nature Reserve, which then flow into the River Cam just upstream of Sheep's Green.
- The murky (turbid) water in the River Cam, and whether this may be impeding the natural action of sunlight which would otherwise help by degrading faecal bacteria released upstream.

**The Council therefore also resolves:**

- To write to Angela Rayner, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to make her aware of these facts and ask that she withdraw the previous written ministerial statement (WMS) promoting major growth in this region.

- To write to Daniel Zeichner, MP for Cambridge and Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to ask for his support in upholding the objections of the Environment Agency and pausing further large scale developments in this region until there is evidence there will be sufficient water to supply them without further harm to the environment.

## **Background**

The 2024 bathing water season, with weekly monitoring by the Environment Agency at Sheep's Green, has now finished for the year. The resulting classification won't be released until sometime in November, but from the results already available online it's obvious that, as expected, the classification will be "Poor".

This classification is what we all expected, and it triggers an obligation on the Environment Agency and Anglian Water to investigate and then fix the causes. In expectation of this, Anglian Water has put around £5M in the budget for the Apportionment study and subsequent upgrades to Haslingfield Water Treatment Works (a.k.a the Sewage works)

The official Apportionment Study won't start until next financial year, but the EA and AW are already undertaking preliminary investigations. Cam Valley Forum is providing local expertise and additional testing.

Following a "Poor" classification the city council will be required to display a notice about the Poor water quality, with the addition that "bathing is not advised".

Environment Agency Test Results available here

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?site=ukh1201-09801>

Bathing Water Regulations

2013 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/1675/regulation/13/made>

## **NOTES**

1. <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publications/4/>
2. <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publication/cambridge-water-wrmp-annual-review-2024-letter/>
3. Other water companies are also in trouble. [South Staffs Water](#), the company owning Cambridge Water is dubbed "*the worst performing company this year*". The letter to [Anglian Water](#)

highlights 'serious concerns' with security of supply and risks to the environment.

4. <https://shorturl.at/lzMeE>

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Agenda item 6e – Councillor Carling proposed and Councillor Griffin seconded the following amendment to motion 6e, deleted text ~~struckthrough~~ and additional text underlined

Council notes:

- That private rented sector housing is generally considered the worst quality housing in the UK.
  
- In relation to licensable HMOs:
  - That houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) provide an important, positive first step for many Cambridge residents to move into and find work and start their journey on the housing ladder;
  - That dwellings being converted to HMOs for over 6 people must obtain planning permission for change of use to HMO usage (a sui generis use) and that HMOs for five or more persons not forming a single household must obtain a licence from the City Council, enabling conditions to be inspected and enforced, along with building control approval;
  - That a list of all HMOs licensed by the council is publicly listed on the council's website, to enable tenants to check whether their landlord holds a suitable licence. Renters can access support from the Council's Environmental Health team regarding private sector renting and support with poor conditions in their housing. As a result of this licensing work, the Council has identified several landlords with unlicensed properties, and used its enforcement powers to issue penalty notices, including financial penalties totalling more than £8,000 in 2023.
  
- In relation to unlicenseable HMOs:
  - That smaller dwellings, with three or four persons forming two or more households, count as an HMO but do not require a license to operate or planning permission (as they fall under Permitted Development) or a licence to operate, however these may require building control approval;

- That all private sector landlords are required to meet legal standards, even if they are not renting licensed HMOs. However, it is clear ~~That~~ conditions in some HMOs are not acceptable, particularly in those smaller units which do not require planning permission or a licence and which have been converted and may lack the necessary health and safety adaptations;
- That ~~our~~ the council's Environmental Health Enforcement teams already works hard to identify smaller HMOs in poor condition, but without a central register of such properties, this can be is very challenging;
- That currently, many tenants are afraid to complain about poor conditions for fear that they may then be evicted and lose a reference for a future rental, though we note that the proposed reforms to evictions would assist in strengthening tenants' rights in this area, which is very welcome;
- That the proposed Renters' Reform bill may include a requirement for landlords and properties to be registered on a national database, which we also strongly welcome;
- That because demand for HMOs exceeds supply, there is a risk that more poor quality HMO provision will be available and tenants will have little choice but to accept this, despite very high rents that the government's proposal to make the Decent Homes standard apply to the private rented sector is therefore very welcome.

Council Believes:

- That huge progress will be made in terms of private sector housing and strengthening renters' rights if the Renters' Rights Bill 2024 is enacted by the Labour government. This includes the ending of Section 21 'no-fault eviction' notices, streamlined mechanisms to challenge unfair rent increases, and the provision of a national register of landlords and properties being let, which the council would particularly welcome.
- That efforts are being made within the emerging local plan to ensure that all HMOs that require planning permission meet minimum space standards, including seeking to retain the

measures already in place in Policy 48 regarding positive HMO development and Policy 50 regarding residential space standards, subject to proper consideration through the current plan making process.

- That increased council intervention in the standards of planning and operation of HMOs is appropriate, particularly so long as Cambridge is experiencing an overall shortage of housing, and that the council must optimise and apply the range of power that it has, and may gain in the future, across its services in order to secure a fairer deal for tenants.

Council Resolves:

- ~~To ensure that the emerging local plan requires that all HMO properties that require planning permission for construction and/or for change of use are considered under the emerging new policy covering HMOs;~~
- To ask officers to prepare a report on the case for and feasibility of one or more Article 4 directions within the city boundaries, which would remove Permitted Development rights for smaller HMOs (currently Use Class C4) and instead require planning permission for all new builds and for change of use for existing housing stock to be used as HMOs for more than two people and to report back to a suitable member meeting by the summer of 2025.
- To ask the Chief Executive to write to Cambridge Labour MP Daniel Zeichner to inform him of this Council's support for the provisions in the Renters' Rights Bill relating to the many positive outcomes this will entail, including ending of Section 21 eviction notices and a Private Rented Sector Database and that such provision is in line with the motion on 'Private Rented Sector in Cambridge' passed by the Council in October 2022.
- ~~To ensure that all HMOs that require planning permission meet minimum space standards and that a record is kept of such properties.~~
- ~~Subject to proper consideration through the current plan making process, seek to retain the measures already in place in Policy 48 regarding positive HMO development in the new local plan;~~

- ~~• To encourage developers to consider provision of purpose built, decent HMOs as part of their affordable and standard homes delivery;~~
- ~~• To note council's support for a proper register of landlords and their properties as part of the proposed Renters' Reform bill;~~
- ~~• To report back to the Planning and Transport scrutiny committee and the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group on the findings on Article 4 or any other appropriate measures to ensure high quality HMO provision, by the summer of 2025.~~



## Agenda item 6f - Councillor Moore - Butterfly Friendly City Motion

### Councillor Procedure Rule 26 – Alteration of motion – additional text underlined.

This council notes;

- Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation has declared a national 'Butterfly Emergency', with results of this summer's Big Butterfly Count showing a marked and hugely concerning decline in numbers.
- Overall, participants spotted just seven butterflies on average per 15-minute Count, a reduction of almost 50% on last year's average of 12, and the lowest in the 14-year history of the Big Butterfly Count. The majority of species (81%) showed declines in the number seen this year compared with 2023.
- Butterflies are increasingly being recognised as valuable environmental indicators, both for their rapid and sensitive responses to subtle habitat or climatic changes and as representatives for the diversity and responses of other wildlife.
- Insects are the largest proportion of terrestrial wildlife (more than 50% of species), so it is crucial that we assess the fate of insect groups to monitor the overall state of biodiversity. Being typical insects, the responses seen in butterflies are more likely to reflect changes amongst other insect groups, and thus the majority of biodiversity, than established indicators such as those based on birds.
- The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world (ranked 189 out of
- 218) and Cambridgeshire is one of the most nature depleted counties in the UK. Almost 15% of all species in the UK are at risk from extinction.
- The Council declared a Biodiversity Emergency in 2019.
- The Cambridge [Biodiversity Strategy](#) and associated [Park Biodiversity Tool Kit](#) contain many actions that benefit butterflies, moths and other invertebrates in formal and informal parks and open spaces. Different species have diverse lifestyles and habitat requirements, and it is important to consider all of these, not solely nectar sources, when promoting their conservation.

- The Cambridge City Herbicide Reduction Plan has discontinued herbicide use on all our soft surfaces across all council owned sites, including parks, car parks and housing areas.
- The use of butterfly and bee killing neonicotinoid pesticides were repeatedly approved for emergency use under the previous government, so this council welcomes the new government's pledge to ban them in the Countryside Protection Plan and thanks the Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner for his vital work on this.

This council will;

- Review the council's Biodiversity Strategy in 2025 aligning with the emerging Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Work with our partners on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy steering group to ensure the maps and priorities align with the existing Cambridge Nature Network.
- Create Butterfly friendly Areas by providing a range of butterfly food sources and habitats in our open spaces, with planting and leaving areas uncut or with reduced cutting.
- Establish The Cambridge Butterfly Trail, by signposting to the Butterfly Areas and register these 'Wild Places' on the Butterfly Conservation Wild Spaces website [Let's Create Wild Spaces - Wild Spaces](#) , aligning with the Cambridge Nature Network.
- Invite Cambridge residents to join the Butterfly Conservation Wild Spaces network with their own Butterfly friendly Areas, which can be as small as a flowerpot or window ledge.

[Butterfly Square — Biophilic Cities](#)

[Butterfly Emergency | Butterfly Conservation](#)

[Butterfly as indicators | UKBMS](#)

Agenda item 6g - Councillor Bick proposed and Councillor Davey seconded the following amendment to motion 6g ~~deleted text~~ and additional text underlined.

## Background

- On Thursday 23 May 2024, Cambridge City Council unanimously approved a motion on Palestine and Israel. This followed three separate statements made by the Mayor and personal statements from the three political group leaders.
- In addition, the city council has posted links to the main charities providing support for Gaza here <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/support-for-gaza>
- As part of this motion, the council wrote to the then government calling upon them to:
  - a. Press for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, Israel and the rest of Palestine and to make every effort to resume the peace process.
  - b. Work to ensure that international humanitarian law is upheld and that civilians are protected in accordance with those laws.
  - c. Work to ensure that civilians have access to humanitarian support, including unfettered access of medical supplies, food, fuel and water.
  - d. To immediately revoke all licences for arms exports to Israel and suspend arms sales to Israel.

## Active Motion

- This council notes that currently 73 countries are subject to a non-financial sanction under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018. It notes that 38 of these include a direct arms embargo. Israel is not one of the countries subject to a UK sanction.
- The council notes that since the recent change in government a new country, Belarus, has been included in the list of countries subject to a UK arms embargo on 31 October 2024. Israel has not been added to that list.
- The council notes that the government has changed since it wrote its original letter and resolves to write again to the new secretary of state for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, the Rt Hon David Lammy to repeat its requests.
- That the council commemorated United Nations Day on 24 October 2024 by flying the United Nations Flag, as per the Council's Flag Flying policy which is outlined [here](#).

- This council also notes that the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is commemorated annually on November 29. The council therefore resolves to mark this solemn occasion by flying the United Nations Palestinian flag at the Guildhall at the first convenient date.

## Notes

- The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed by the United Nations on or around 29 November each year, in accordance with General Assembly mandates contained in resolutions [32/40 B](#) of 2 December 1977, [34/65 D](#) of 12 December 1979, and subsequent resolutions adopted under agenda item “Question of Palestine.”
- On that day in 1947, the General Assembly adopted [resolution 181 \(II\)](#), which came to be known as the Partition Resolution. That resolution provided for the establishment in Palestine of a “Jewish State” and an “Arab State”. Of the two States to be created under this resolution, only one, Israel, has so far come into being.
- ~~The Palestinian people, who now number more than eight million, live primarily in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem; in Israel; in neighbouring Arab States; and in refugee camps in the region. The Palestinian people, who now number over eight million, include those living in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, such as the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem; within Israel; in neighbouring Arab states; in refugee camps across the region; and in exile in various countries around the world.~~
- The International Day of Solidarity is an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and that the Palestinian people have yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly, namely, the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property, from which they have been displaced.
- In response to the call of the United Nations, various activities are undertaken annually by Governments and civil society in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. These activities include the issuance of special messages of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

## **Council 28 November 2024 Written Questions and Answers**

### **1. Councillor Glasberg**

#### **To Councillor Thornburrow the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure:**

The City Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and air pollution, and a proven way to do this is through encouraging people to join a car club and hire a vehicle when needed rather than owning one. It also relieves parking pressure and congestion, which are particular problems in Cambridge.

A recent report from the shared transport charity Collaborative Mobility UK (CoMoUK) using data gathered from operators shows that membership of car clubs in the UK has more than doubled since before the pandemic, growing 122% between 2019 and 2023, and that people who join car clubs cut their total driven mileage by 153 miles per year. It calculates that each car club vehicle operating in the UK last year replaced 26 privately owned cars, and the key reasons given by people joining were to save money and reduce their environmental impact.

Richard Dilks, chief executive of CoMoUK, said that, 'The wider benefits to society are clear: a nationwide expansion of car clubs will help to cut congestion, free up space in towns and cities and encourage more public transport use'.

These are all important issues for Cambridge, and the introduction of Residents' Parking Schemes is one of the ways that we are looking to address some of them. This is a time when people are very likely to consider how much they need their car and when they may be likely to give it up if it is not often used and there is a good alternative.

In Cambridge, the City Council website lists Enterprise as providing the official car club, with pay-as-you-go access to more than 40 low-emission hybrid vehicles around the city, and a discount for city residents. This is a joint venture for the City with the County Council, so my question is:

With the introduction of a new Residents' Parking Scheme in North

Newnham (Wilberforce) is a time when residents there may consider joining a car club. Will the City Council take this opportunity to work with the County Council to actively promote Enterprise, setting out the benefits for car owners in terms of lower cost, greater convenience and reduced environmental impact?

### **Response from the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure**

Thank you for your question. The introduction of the new Residents' Parking Scheme in North Newnham (Wilberforce) indeed presents a timely opportunity to encourage sustainable travel alternatives, including joining a car club. These requests can be made to Officer who then can discuss with Enterprise the supplier.

The City Council is committed to promoting greener and more cost-effective transportation options, and we recognise the benefits car clubs offer for residents, such as lower costs, increased convenience, and reduced environmental impact. We are keen to work closely with the County Council to actively promote Enterprise and similar car club services in the area.

Through our existing partnership scheme, we have the ability to extend the current scheme. The City Council can influence locations where we are the owner of the land for example car parks and housing estate, the County Council is responsible for on street parking locations. We can ask Enterprise to engage residents, such as through targeted communication campaigns, community events, and information sessions, to highlight the advantages of car club membership.

By promoting car clubs in North Newnham, we aim to reduce private vehicle use, ease parking pressures, and contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable city. Thank you for raising this opportunity, and we look forward to advancing this initiative.

## **2. Councillor Cllr Clough**

**To Councillor Smart / Thornburrow the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services / Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure**

This summer there have been problems with Tourist coaches waiting for long periods on double yellow lines and resident parking spaces including along Barton Road during the day. This is after dropping their tourists and guides along the backs and whilst waiting to return to the backs to pick them up. Coach drivers have complained that there is nowhere for them to park so they have no alternative. Can a City & County working group be set up, including councillors from the wards affected, to discuss how to address this issue and come up with proposals that would resolve this problem and ensure that all tourist coaches are required to use the Park and Ride sites during their lay over periods, where they would have suitable toilet and refreshment facilities.

### **Response from the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services / Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure**

Thank you for raising this issue. There has been a longstanding frustration caused by tourist coaches waiting on double yellow lines and in residential parking spaces, particularly along Barton Road, and we appreciate your concerns. These concerns had previously been largely addressed pre the pandemic, but it would appear these may need to be readdressed.

To help address this, we want to emphasise the availability of Park and Ride sites as a practical solution for coach drivers during their layover periods. These sites provide ample parking and are equipped with facilities such as toilets and refreshment areas, ensuring drivers have a comfortable and convenient place to wait. Unfortunately, it seems many coach drivers may not be aware of these options, leading to the issues described.

It is agreed that collaboration is essential in resolving this problem effectively. A City and County working group, including councillors from the affected wards, could be instrumental in reviewing this issue and exploring measures to ensure compliance with designated parking policies. This could include improved signage, better communication with coach companies, and stronger enforcement to encourage the use of Park and Ride facilities.

Thank you for your suggestion, and we will consider your proposal to create a working group to address this matter. Your input is invaluable as we strive to balance the needs of residents, tourists, and drivers alike.

### **3. Councillor Bennett**

#### **To Councillor Wade the Executive Councillor for Communities:**

We go to great lengths as a council to ensure that our night time economy is safe for all, particularly young women.

What does it say about our city that visitors to our city are greeted by a statue of a woman bound in sacks and ropes when they arrive at the main railway station?

Do councillors feel it comfortable or appropriate for women to be presented with this image?

I refer to the statue Ariadne Unwrapped commissioned by Brookgate from the prankster artist Gavin Turk.

Now that the Don has been removed , will the executive councillor take steps to improve our cityscape by inviting Brookgate to remove the statue?

Will the executive councillor also publish the public art panel's report on the statue?

#### **Response from the Executive Councillor for Communities / Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure**

The CB1 Public Art Programme, including the commissioning of 'Ariadne Wrapped' by artist Gavin Turk, was led by Brookgate (the developer at the Station Square), with input and support through a project steering group. This group included independent artists, residents, and council officers, ensuring a collaborative and inclusive selection process.

The sculpture draws inspiration from a famous painting by Giorgio de Chirico (referenced on the last page for a visual), which depicts a piazza framed by classical architecture, arches, and a reclining sculpture of Ariadne, with a train passing in the background. This imagery has similarities with the classical architecture of the station, providing a contextual backdrop for the artwork. The piece is also influenced by artist duo Christo and Jeanne-Claude, known for their large-scale installations that wrap buildings and landmarks.



The sculpture itself does not depict a woman in distress. Instead, it portrays a sculpture of a classical sculpture, wrapped in a dustsheet for transportation as is commonplace in galleries and museums, and it symbolises change, history, classical culture, context and time. While it is based on the sculpture of Ariadne, it is not as a literal representation of her story, nor does it seek to depict violence or oppression. The form beneath the 'dustsheet' is intentionally abstract, leaving many viewers unable to discern a female figure at all. Instead, the ambiguity invites curiosity and speculation, with many intrigued by what might be concealed underneath, reinforcing the themes of anticipation and interpretation central to the artwork. One could argue that without the name Ariadne linking the sculpture to a female form, it would not be immediately apparent that it is a female form underneath the 'dustsheet'.

The Council's Public Art Panel were very supportive of the concept design for the sculpture at a meeting on Tuesday 6th May 2014 where it was presented. The following is an extract from the Minutes of that meeting; "that it could be regarded as an opportunity to re-explore the status of sculpture in the setting of a classical square, and Gavin Turk's approach to this is both sophisticated on an academic level appropriate to Cambridge but could also appeal to a wider audience".

Public art often sparks debate, and responses to 'Ariadne Wrapped' have shown the subjective nature of interpretation. While some have expressed concerns, others have appreciated its layered meaning and visual interplay with the surrounding architecture. The council acknowledges the diverse viewpoints on public art and welcomes discussion on how art can provoke thought and engage with broader societal issues, such as violence against women.

Regarding the removal and replacement of the sculpture, 'Ariadne Wrapped' was carefully chosen after years of planning and consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. Public art is inherently subjective and multifaceted, and Ariadne Wrapped exemplifies this by prompting reflection, discussion, and varied interpretations. There is no current plan to replace it, the question should not solely be about removing art but rather about how we, as a community, can embrace its potential to inspire reflection and support meaningful conversation.

Gavin Turk recently said: "I have come to see that people can read the sculpture in the way that it's being read. "But, for me, it's a sculpture of a sculpture that's been wrapped. It's not a woman that's been wrapped". It was never my intention to upset people. He went on to explain that viewers

also, saw different shapes under the dustsheet nonrelated to the female form, “because it is about anticipation. And it’s about the idea of how we see and what we want to see, and how we unpack things when we look at things.”

There is a QR code located at the sculpture. Viewers can scan the code to gain an understanding of the artistic intention and context behind the sculpture.



# Ariadne Unwrapped

An educational exhibition at the Heong Gallery by Gavin Turk



Gavin Turk  
**Ariadne Wrapped**

This exhibition is designed to accompany the launch of the new public sculptural commission for Cambridge.

We are in an unprecedented time of transition for art and culture. With seismic political and economic transformation taking place against the backdrop of exponential technological evolution and environmental collapse.

Historically these moments have been in parallel with shifts of scientific and philosophical thinking such as Copernicus' radical theory that the earth revolved around the sun not vice versa.

Reminding ourselves of these classical myths and reflecting on the values of modernity is a way of gaining perspective on turbulent times. Gavin Turk's new public sculpture 'Ariadne Wrapped' references the classical myths - as well as many artists throughout history - as a comment on value, gender and the Western male gaze. The work questions our perception through these references as well as visual illusion and playful trompe l'oeil.

The works in this proposed exhibition would reflect the artists interest in waste, consumerism and the anti-hero as well as the art historical references he is inspired by and commenting on.

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We propose seeking funding for an accompanying education programme for schools in the form of a House of Fairy Tales Thinking Kit. This is Gavin Turk's charity that he founded to bring art experiences to children and their families. By partnering with Heong Gallery and the University on a wider education programme, 'Ariadne Unwrapped' would help expand the philosophical ideas as well attract new audiences for the sculpture as well as public art in general.

This would be produced in conjunction with an expanded form of the Metaphysical Cyclist (a map and trail co-curated by Adam Dant which immersed the audience in the public art of Cambridge.



Gavin Turk 2003  
**Her**



Gavin Turk 2003  
**Her eclipse**



Gavin Turk 2003  
**Cyclops**



Gavin Turk 2003  
**The Swimmer,**



Gavin Turk 2003  
**The Shadow of Her Former Self**



Gavin Turk 2003  
**Rough Sleeper**



Gavin Turk 2003  
**Matisse Woman**



Gavin Turk 2003  
**Reclining figure**



Gavin Turk 2005  
**Lotus**



Gavin Turk 2004  
**The Golden Thread**



Gavin Turk 2006  
**Ariadne**



Gavin Turk 2007  
**The Shining**



Gavin Turk 2006  
**Ariadne's Apple**



Gavin Turk 2011  
**H.M.S Ariadne**



Gavin Turk 2006-2014  
**Ariadne**



Gavin Turk 2017  
**À Marat (White)**



Gavin Turk 2007  
**Drainpipe (Wrapped Waste)**



Gavin Turk 2016  
**Pile (Wrapped Waste)**



Gavin Turk 2007  
**Bronze Roller (wrapped waste)**



Gavin Turk 2018  
**Small Wrapped Painting (Wrapped Waste)**



Gavin Turk 2018  
**Ariadne (Wrapped Waste)**



Gavin Turk 2007  
**Pile (wrapped waste)**



Gavin Turk 2015  
**Red Beuys (Wrapped Waste)**



Gavin Turk 2007  
**Relic (Wrapped Waste)**



Gavin Turk 2017  
**Fuit Hic (wrapped waste)**



Gavin Turk 2007  
**Zeuxis and Parrhasius (Wrapped Waste)**



Gavin Turk 2000  
**Bag (6)**



Gavin Turk 2001  
**Two Weeks' Worth**



Gavin Turk 2009  
**Bag Print 4 TBC,**



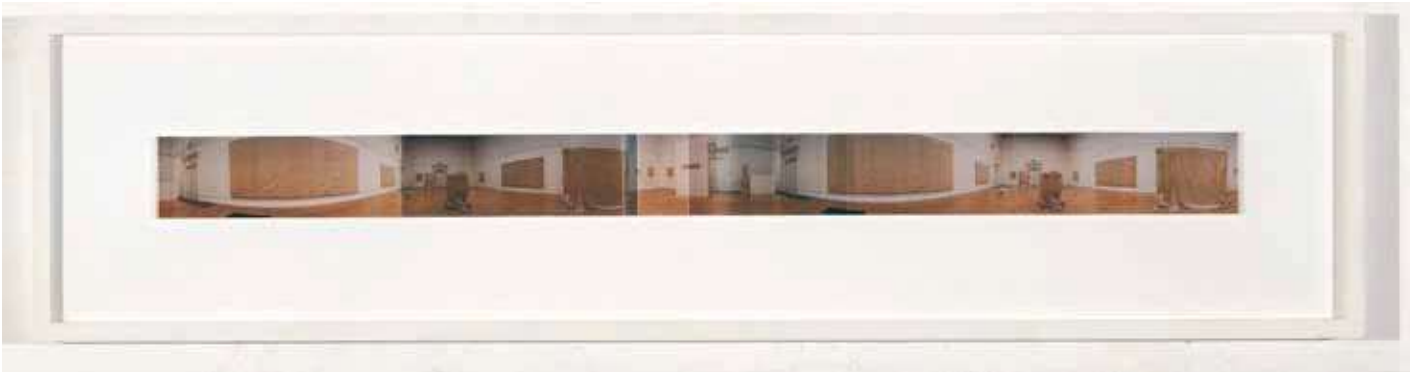
Gavin Turk 2006  
**Bag Soup**



Gavin Turk 1997  
**Pimp GTI**



Gavin Turk 1997  
**Pimp Recycled**



Gavin Turk 1998  
**Droste Effect**



Gavin Turk 2003  
**Zeuxis and Parrhasius**



## The Story of Zeuxis and Parrhasius

*Juno and her handmaidens seated before the painter Zeuxis, and Parrhasius rushing to unveil his painting before a group of observers. Engraving by J.J. von Sandrart*



In the fifth century BC, two painters in Greece were considered to be equals, rivaling each other in their fame and skill. Zeuxis and Parrhasius were both at the pinnacle of their abilities. A painting duel was held between the two greats in order to determine who was the more masterful artist. A crowd gathered to observe the spectacle of the competition, and the jurors assembled to view the two newly painted masterpieces that hung hidden behind a curtain.

Zeuxis was the first to be called upon to reveal his work. He pulled aside the curtain in one swift motion to reveal a bowl of fruit rendered so realistically that a bird flew past the enthralled audience, hurtling into the painted fruit. Lured by the grapes, the bird fell, a victim of the illusion. The crowd gasped and Zeuxis exuded glory, sure of his victory.

Zeuxis turned to Parrhasius and demanded that the curtain be drawn aside so that the competitor's painting could be seen. Parrhasius declined to do so. As the beguiled crowd gathered around him, reality began to, at last, slowly unveil. The curtain was not hiding anything but instead revealing itself. The curtain was the painting.



Christo & Jeanne-Claude 1968  
**Wrapped Woman**

*Project for the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia*



Christo & Jeanne-Claude  
**Wrapped Reichstag**

1971-1995



Christo & Jeanne-Claude  
**Wrapped Bottle**

2001/2007



Christo & Jeanne-Claude  
**Wrapped Paintings**

1968



Jackson Pollock 1943  
**Pasiphae**

Pablo Picasso 1933

**Minotaur Caressing the Hand of a Sleeping Girl with his Face**

*(Minotaure caressant du muse de la main d'une dormeuse) from the Vollard Suite (Suite Vollard)*



Willy Pogány 1921

**Ariadne giving Theseus a clew of yarn**



William Blake 1826

**The Minotaur (Canto XII),**

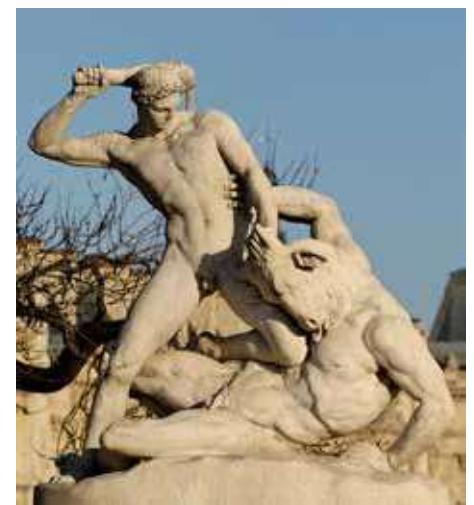
*Illustrations to Dante's Divine Comedy,*



Pablo Picasso 1933

**Minotaur in Love with a**

**Female Centaur**



Etienne Jules Ramey

**Theseus fighting Minotaur**

*statue in the Tuileries Gardens*



Gustave Dore 1857

*The Minotaur lying near Dante Illustration of Inferno, first part of Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy*



Henry Moore *1942*  
**Crowd Looking at a Tied-Up Object**



René Magritte *1951*  
**Perspective: Madame Récamier by David,**



René Magritte *1928*  
**Lovers**



Mark Wallinger, 2013  
**Labyrinth, Green Park station**



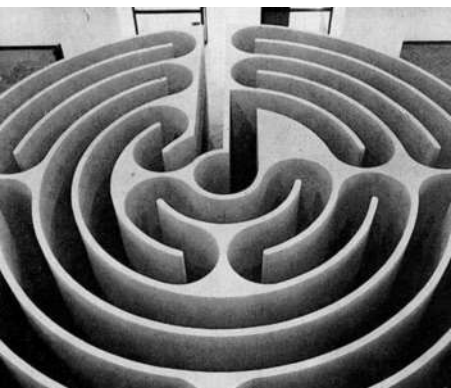
Mark Wallinger, 2013  
**Labyrinth, Cockfosters**



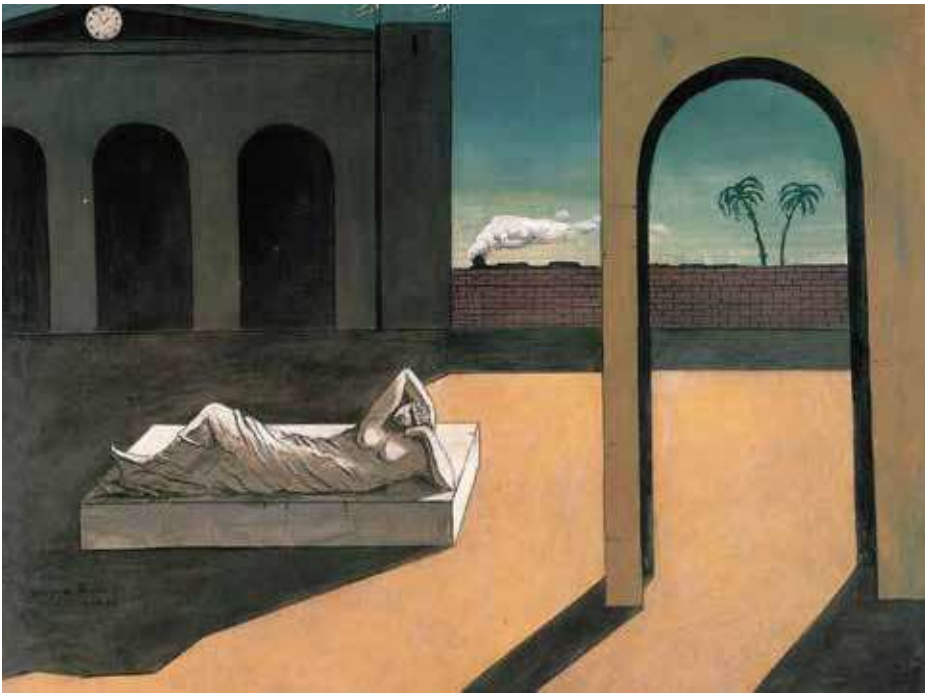
Dan Graham 2001  
**Greek Cross Labyrinth (Claus Moser)**



Robert Morris 2001  
**Triangular Labyrinth**



Robert Morris 1974  
**Philadelphia Labyrinth**



Giorgio de Chirico 1913  
**Ariadne**



**The Sleeping Ariadne**



Asher Brown Durand 1831-35  
**Ariadne**



Giorgio de Chirico 1913  
**Ariadne**



Joseph Edward Southall 1861-1944  
**Ariadne on Naxos**



Evelyn De Morgan 1877  
**Ariadne on Naxos**



Picasso 1937  
**Guernica**



Johann Heinrich von Dannecker  
1803  
**Ariadne on the Panther**



Gabriël Metsu 1664-1666  
**Woman Reading a Letter**

# The Metaphysical Cyclist: A tour of Cambridge'

