

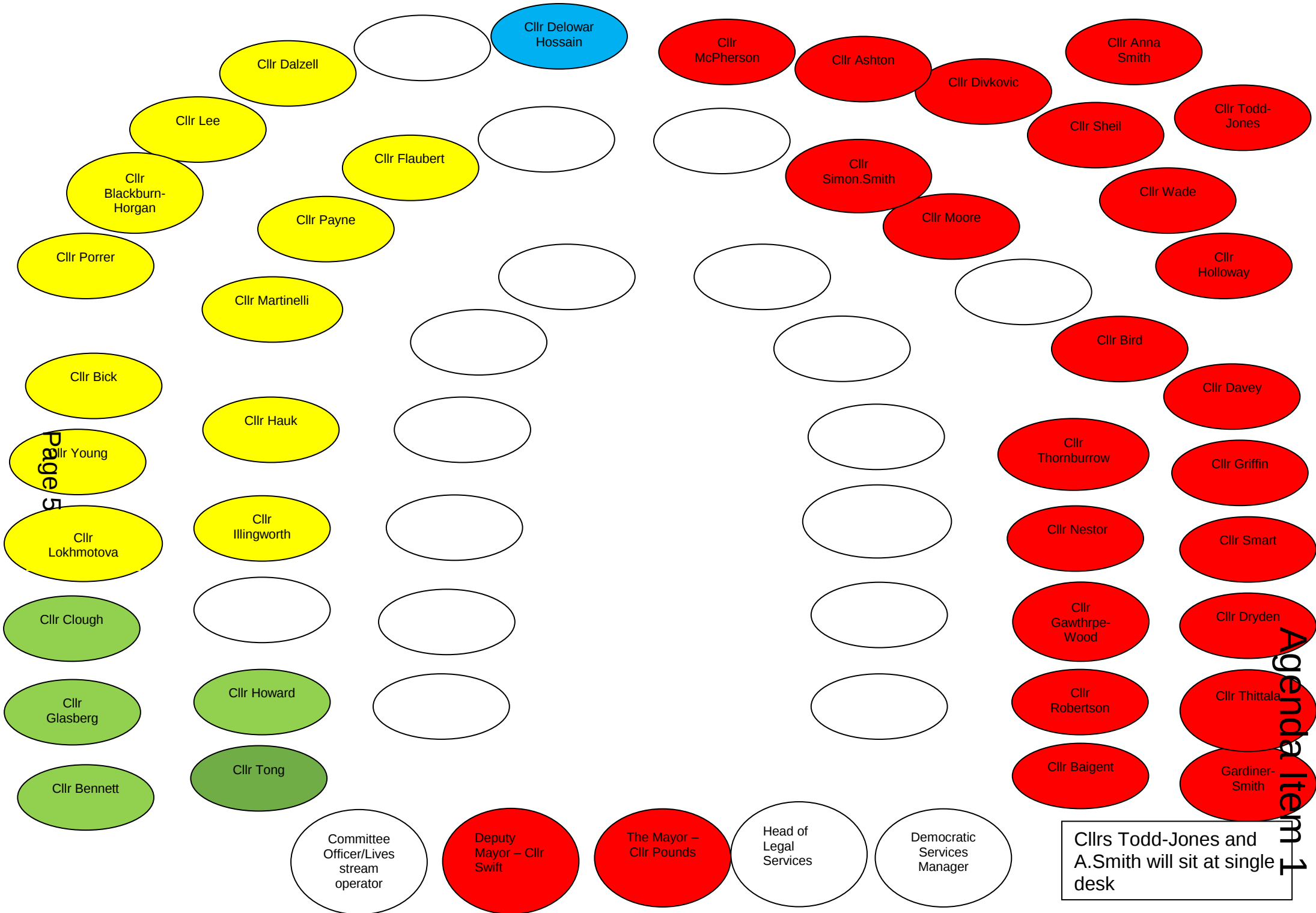


CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION PACK

Date: Thursday, 24 July 2025

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List of Public Questions 24 July 2025 Council

Question 1:

What measures will the council take to resolve persistent Anti-Social Behaviour on housing association property where the housing association refuses to bring the behaviour to an end?

Question 2:

From March 2025 Cambridge City Council has had a contract with Re-Gen Ltd, to take all our blue bin recycling to Warrenpoint in Northern Ireland for sorting. I object strongly to the length of this trip, 400 miles, and the contribution to global warming of all the diesel that the lorries burn on this trip. In this case, the ends definitely do NOT justify the means!

On 28th February 2025 Cambridge City Council stated that "The Re-Gen MRF is based in Newry, Northern Ireland, so initially this is where the blue bin recycling will be taken for sorting. However, Re-Gen says that 'within the first half of this year, it will take over a MRF on the UK mainland. This will negate the need to transport the recycling to Northern Ireland.' "

What has happened to this plan for our blue bin recycling to go to a new MRF in England? Please give me updates on progress with this plan?

Question 3:

November 2024 -To the Council, question on the important issue of HMO Motion - actions on report, Article 4, register, SPDs:

Full Council used the provision on the important HMO motion "to move to the next business" thus curtailing debate. If this had not have happened,

and Cllr Porrer NOT given the floor, we may have had more answers and action. Action for communities now requesting the need for permitted developed rights to be removed, SPDs to be approved. An Article 4 Report to be produced, with a commitment to get a Landlord Register for HMOs of 2+ units up and running NOW. All with an aim to establish balanced cohesive communities, with a mixed tenure, existing across Cambridge. This would stop areas being ravaged by HMOs, sweeping up all their small family housing, decimating mixed tenure communities.

November 2024: Council was asked and agreed to consider a Register of all Landlords of HMOs, of more than 2 units, via a report on an Article 4 directive produced by the summer of 2025. Where are the agreed actions at - NINE MONTHS LATER?

Having lived in Cambridge for decades, I and people in the communities I talk to are very disappointed in the Council's failures, in relation to HMOs. This is a pivotal part of the housing market, meant to be affordable and a stepping stone on the housing ladder. There also appears to be a lack of protection for tenants' rights in HMOs. Rents as high as £1,030 for a single roomper month, living with up to nine strangers. HMO growth is decimating housing tenure and community cohesion in Cambridge. Where is the Council's commitment and enforcement, of balanced neighbourhoods with decent standards and affordable housing for CAMBRIDGE RESIDENTS???

There are national recommendations for decent housing standards. To have no more that 10% of HMOs in a street, and no sandwiching, whereby one HMO is not within 100m, or next door to another HMO (of more than 2+ units). There is massive impact on the communities the HMOs sit

within. This is compounded when whole estates and streets are not complying with the 10%, instead have from 30-70% of HMOs across the City of Cambridge. Surely there is a commitment to good environmental practices to reduce the impacts of waste, parking stress, noise, pollution and anti-social behaviours a possible increase in crime that can be hidden in plain sight. Not to mention the excessive comings and goings of people and vehicles. (Way above those of regular tenured households) A transient population is no guarantee of stability and may not necessarily become part of the community and its cohesion. Many local residents in our community want 2 and 3 bed homes, as others seeking to work or settle. They cannot rent or buy such properties, as they are being taken out and turned into 4 -10 unit bed HMOs. No one can compete to either rent or purchase homes, such as a small family or a couple. Housing stock is being removed on mass as HMOs, and there is no accurate record or map of locations as to what is happening within our city. 8s Cambridge the city of GREED NOT NEED?

The Council needs to get a grip and control. Make HMOs to a high standard, perhaps encouraging developers to consider the provision of purpose-built HMOs, fit for purpose. This should be part of affordable standard homes delivery. Fair realistic controlled rents, thus stopping the break down and imbalance of Cambridge's communities. They could be based in specific locations where needs arise. This would show a Council commitment to spread HMOs of more than 2 units equally across roads, wards and the city.

So what is the Council doing to stop the decimation of our communities, whilst protecting the most vulnerable and those living in our society who

want decent homes. Where is your report, consideration of Article 4 and SPD's for HMOs. Where is The Register of all HMOs Landlords who own 2-10 units at vast profit? This request is for the Council to commit to the actions it agreed to NINE MONTHS AGO and report back to the public by the summer as agreed last November. Awaiting reply with some action and answers on this important issue. PROVE WE ARE A CITY OF NEED NOT GREED - Are we?

Question 4:

I am here to alert all Councillors to issues with public involvement in the Civic Quarter project, particularly in relation to the Market Square. The only 2 advertised public consultation meetings were in an obscure back room of the Guildhall, and in the Coleridge community hall. The trial demountable stalls, on which the Market Square proposals depend, only arrived for the last 2 weeks of the consultation period. There has been continual very misleading information, as one group is told one thing and another group is told something else. Feedback from the trial stalls, which were instantly revealed to be unfit for purpose, was reported to last week's Traders' meeting, along with a "Work in Progress" revised layout, but not to the Liaison Group earlier the same afternoon. I only know this because, after officers tried to exclude me from the Traders' meeting, the traders unanimously asked me to stay. Cllr Moore was quoted in that morning's Cambridge Independent saying that the number of permanent stalls would be increased to 44, but this was not disclosed to the Liaison Group. There is still no sign whatever of any viable demountable stalls, yet officers are rushing headlong towards a planning application.

And are Councillors aware that the project intends to sweep away all the existing stalls, and with them, our traditional market? Our change.org

petition “Please help us to Save Cambridge's traditional locals’ market, and its traders” shows that people do not want to lose the vital services and intangible heritage of their traditional market. Our petition now has nearly 900 signatures, showing that people from near and far want to keep Cambridge’s traditional market. We need our Councillors to act to prevent our traditional market from being swept away.

Question 5:

Earlier this week the Daily Telegraph drew attention to the plight of at least forty Palestinian students - including students with offers to Cambridge University - who are unable to take up offers of scholarships at UK universities because the government is insisting that they complete biometric verification in order to get a visa, despite there being no visa office in Gaza and no possibility for them to travel to neighbouring countries to fulfil the requirement.

Authorities in France, Ireland and Italy have waived the visa requirement in order to bring students from Gaza but so far neither the Foreign Office nor the Home Office have responded to requests to do so.

One of the students, nineteen-year old Malak Hani, has a full scholarship to study here in Cambridge, at Downing College. Like the other Gaza students, Malak has overcome unimaginable odds to achieve her place at Cambridge. She has the full support of Professor Graham Virgo, Master of the College, and local MPs including Andrew Pakes, MP for Peterborough, have spoken out in her favour.

As a student at Cambridge University myself I ask the council to add its voice to those calling on the government to show its concern and find a

way to let Malak and other students from Gaza take up the places they have earned at British universities.

The university, and Cambridge as a whole, will benefit from having her here during her studies, and she will be able to take advantage of the chance of an education that she has worked so hard for.

Question 6:

Following recent concerns raised in the National Media in relation to Uber and many delivery services, and following TFL's decision to revoke Ubers licence to operate on the grounds Safety Violations, Unauthorized Drivers, Impersonation of Drivers, Insurance Issues, Lack of Confidence in Future Safety", What proactive measures do the Council have in place to monitor and remove fraudulent behaviour / persons and offer safety to the public in Cambridge?

Question 7:

Tax payers alliance said that they had campaigned rigorously regarding the campaign against WFH

Was this the case during the Council Elections in May 2024 and any elections in 2025

When it would seem the PUBLIC had plenty of opportunity to discuss this subject with the Candidates and NOT vote for any who wanted to maintain this WFH regime.

Question 8:

I am a second-generation market trader who grew up on the market square. In June of this year in response to the proposed development

plans for the market I conducted a survey of market traders to get their thoughts on the type of stall they wished to trade from in the future. I have 59 responses which is half of all traders. The breakdown of the replies were 22 % hot food traders, 52% retail, 8.5% cold food and 17% other, which is very comparable to the breakdown of all traders. Without consideration of eligibility criteria of these 57.9% would be interested in trading from permanent kiosk type structures, only 20.3% would be interested in trading from a dismountable gazebo. The most interesting results are in the fact that 83.1% of all traders if given a preference would wish stalls to stay as they are, with 15.3% preferring kiosks and just 1.6% wishing for a gazebo.

The traders have repeatedly asked for traditional market stalls, as they are now, to be provided in the redeveloped market as they provide the versatility required for all traders, they are robust, proven and weather resistant. The design team has increased the number of permanent stalls in the latest design to 44 which they are calling “market stalls” however this is incredibly misleading as they are in fact permanent structures, which we have been told will have five-year leases, be rateable with the additional costs of waste, water and electricity. Analysis of the council's business plan shows that due to the rent being paid over 365 days a year on these units the increase cost to almost all traders will be huge and this will impact more on the market retail sellers as there is only one that trades seven days a week. For example, The Bike Mans rent, if trading from a kiosk would go up 99%.

We have a petition with 1800 signatures that asks for 54 permanent stalls. We wish to ask that at least half of these stalls are of the traditional style that we have now, and not all kiosks that take away the essence of market

trading. Will the chamber recognise the unsuitability of the current proposals to fill two thirds of the market square with permanent shop type units the project team are currently proposing?

Full Council July 24, 2025, Oral Questions

1. Councillor Clough to Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport.

Our local planning committee is quasi-judicial and follows a number of rules designed to ensure that it is not only impartial but seen to be impartial. How does the council reconcile this with having our local planning committee make decisions on applications made by its in-house developer, Cambridge Investment Partnership? Is this not the same as marking one's own homework?

2 Councillor Jean Glasberg to Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment.

I refer you to the question previously raised below by Rostrevor Action Respecting the Environment ("RARE") based near the Re-Gen Materials Recycling Facility ("MRF") in Newry, Northern Ireland. In this they quoted a Cambridge City Council press release dated 28 February 2025. This stated that Re-Gen would take over an existing MRF on the UK mainland in the first half of the year and this would negate the need to transport the need to transport the recycling to Northern Ireland.

We are now in July and there are no signs that a new UK mainland MRF has been acquired by Re-Gen or that such an acquisition is due to take place.

Could the Cabinet Member confirm that Cambridge's recycling is still being sent to Newry?

Would the Cabinet Member share what steps have been taken to investigate this apparent failure?

This appears to be a material misrepresentation of facts on which the council relied upon in making its procurement decision. Would the Cabinet Member take steps to reopen the procurement decision and consider terminating the contract?

3 Councillor Blackburn-Horgan to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport

Could the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport update council on the report due by Summer 2025 on Article 4 directives that we requested to ensure a fairer and less exploitative HMO rental market in Cambridge, and explain when this will be published?

n this item at the November 2024 Council meeting. Labour Group amended the motion. Pages 46 to 52 of the minutes.

4. Councillor Illingworth to the Cabinet member for Nature, Open Space and City Services

The Council aims to remove offensive graffiti within one day of receiving a report, and all other graffiti within five days.

Is the Council keeping up with these standards for removing graffiti and offensive graffiti?

5 Councillor Bick to the Leader

Does the Leader agree with Equalities Minister Bridget Phillipson's statement following the recent Supreme Court judgement, that trans women should only use public toilets for their biological sex?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y42zzwylvo?app-referrer=search>

Mover: Councillor Jamie Dalzell

Seconded: Councillor Katie Porrer

Amendment to report: Proposed Amendments to Member Allowances

The proposed amendments to the recommendation(s) before Council are shown in bold text (insertions) and struck through red text (deletions):

The Committee agreed the following recommendations to Council.

1. **Without approval, conveys to the Independent Review Panel for their evidence-based assessment for consideration for 2026-27 the Labour Party's aspiration to ~~The~~ uplift ~~in~~ the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) to the Leader to 4 times the basic allowance.**
2. **Without approval, conveys to the Independent Review Panel for their evidence-based assessment for consideration for 2026-27 the Labour Party's aspiration to ~~Amend~~ amend the overall number of SRA's that can be claimed to a maximum of 3.**
3. Removal of the allowance paid by the City Council to members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) for those sitting on the CPCA Overview & Scrutiny and Audit & Governance Committees.

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Mover: Councillor Richard Robertson

Seconded: Councillor Jenny Gawthrope Wood

Amendment to report: Proposed Amendments to Member Allowances

The proposed amendments to the recommendation(s) before Council are shown in bold text (insertions) and struck through red text (deletions):

The Committee agreed the following recommendations to Council. **Such changes shall take effect from the date of the annual meeting of Council 2025, and any adjustments back-dated on a pro rata basis.**

1. The uplift in the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) to the Leader to 4 times the basic allowance.
2. Amend the overall number of SRA's that can be claimed to a maximum of 3.
3. Removal of the allowance paid by the City Council to members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) for those sitting on the CPCA Overview & Scrutiny and Audit & Governance Committees.

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Councillor Dalzell: Securing Arbury Court's Future as a Thriving Community Hub

Councillor Bird amendment

This Council notes:

1. The vital role Arbury Court plays as a community hub serving North Cambridge residents;
2. The ongoing 'Shaping North Cambridge' consultation and the positive engagement between officers, local businesses, and the community regarding future redevelopment plans;
3. The constructive approach taken by officers in engaging with local businesses and residents during the consultation process;
4. Current uncertainty facing existing businesses due to lease arrangements ending in 2030;
5. The strong preference expressed by local businesses for replacement retail facilities to be built before existing premises are redeveloped, avoiding the need for temporary accommodation;
6. That detailed consultation findings and proposals will not be issues raised during the engagement period will be given careful consideration before being presented to Cabinet as soon as possible, in October 2025.
7. That, if a recommendation for investment in the North Cambridge Framework for Change work is approved by Cabinet, there will be further consultation with the public on the specific proposals for the area.

This Council believes:

1. Local businesses and residents deserve certainty to be involved in and informed about ongoing discussion on ~~about~~ Arbury Court's future and their role in it;
2. The continuation of the positive collaborative approach between officers and the community ~~should be formally endorsed and protected is~~ vital to the success of this project;

3. Any redevelopment must enhance rather than diminish Arbury Court's function as a community retail hub, including, as far as possible, retaining and enhancing independent shops.

This Council resolves:

1. That any development proposal for Arbury Court will prioritise, as far as practicable, the construction of replacement retail facilities before existing businesses are displaced;

2. ~~To ensure that existing businesses will receive appropriate lease extensions or firm relocation commitments extending well beyond 2030~~
~~The Council will seek to ;~~ To seek to maintain business continuity in any proposed redevelopment, allowing, as far as possible, the current retail offer to continue, and to support shopkeepers and existing businesses through the consultation process and any future development process;

3. To ensure that, if any redevelopment of Arbury Court goes ahead, it enhances retail provision and community facilities rather than diminishing them;

4. To bring forward proposals that will establish ~~these~~ principles that align with those set out in this motion, ~~as non-negotiable parameters for any development brief or partner selection process.~~ to guide any development work carried out at Arbury Court as part of the North Cambridge Framework for Change project.

Councillor Tong: The Failure of Jesus Lock Island and Baits Bite Lock Island

Councillor Smart Amendment

Existing text struck through, additional text underlined

~~The River Cam faces an existential threat.~~

~~The islands of the two locks that maintain a steady water level, Jesus Lock and Baits Bite Lock, are both at risk of failing due to the disrepair. Meanwhile, in their June update, titled An Organisation in Crisis [1], the Conservators of the River Cam announced that they were in dire financial straits.~~

~~While the urgent work needed to Baits Bite Lock Island has been approved, the Conservators of the River Cam have said that a much-needed rebuild of both lock islands would be impossible given the cost, even without factoring in the fact that Jesus Lock island also requires stabilisation in the short term.~~

~~While the damage caused to both the local environment and tourism would be a problem in itself, the harm that this would cause to the local community would be most devastating. A representative of Cam Valley Forum has acknowledged² that if the water level of the river lowered, local residents could be exposed to centuries of waste that has laid buried, posing a significant health risk.~~

~~Urgent action must be taken, yet the Conservators of the River Cam do not have the funds to do so, stating that they believe ‘unless specifically instructed by state or court, the necessary funding required by the Conservancy to ensure long-term survival will not be made available.’~~

~~The council resolves to;~~

~~Write to Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, explaining the need for the Conservators of the River Cam to receive funding for these essential repairs.~~

~~To also request that responsibility for overseeing the River Cam is transferred to any future unitary authority comprising Cambridge.~~

~~¹ https://www.camconservancy.org/files/ugd/79067b_d61c6956e9bf47a3a48ba6a30f54696a.pdf~~

The Conservators of the River Cam and their work to maintain river navigation on the Cam

This Council notes

In terms of the management of the River Cam from the Mill Pool in Cambridge to Bottisham Lock near Waterbeach, The Conservators of the River Cam is the statutory and responsible body for river navigation and as such is the organisation responsible for Baits Bite Lock in South Cambridgeshire and at Jesus Green Lock in Cambridge City.

Both Jesus Green and Bait's Bite locks are affected by structural degradation. Enabling works will soon begin at Bait's Bite. A further condition survey of Jesus Green Lock is due in August 2025 to assess the cost of remediation.

The Conservators of the River Cam was constituted under Acts of Parliament in 1702, 1851 and 1922. Any longer-term reform would likely require new legislation to replace or update the existing statutory framework.

Navigation between the locks is clearly restricted at the current time. The Conservators of the River Cam are working to rectify this situation with support from both Cambridge City Council and other stakeholders.

Cambridge City Council has offered assistance to The Conservators of the River Cam including two senior officers, and funding together with South Cambridgeshire District Council to support the development of a business plan for The Conservators of the River Cam to maintain the locks.

The Conservators of the River Cam is working with other stakeholders including the University of Cambridge, riparian Colleges, and the County Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Environment Agency.

This Council believes

The River Cam is central to Cambridge's identity, economy, and public life. From punting to rowing and leisure walks, and much more besides, the River Cam plays a unique and essential role in the city's daily rhythm and visitor experience.

This Council resolves

1. To continue to work in partnership with The Conservators of the River Cam, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the University of Cambridge, and riparian Colleges, and other stakeholders to support the development and application of a viable business plan relating to the maintenance of the locks at Baits Bite Lock in South Cambridgeshire and at Jesus Green Lock in Cambridge City.

a) Support The Conservators of the River Cam in the delivery of urgent stabilisation works at Baits Bite Lock.

b) Assist with the funding and review of the structural condition survey of Jesus Lock.

c) Strengthen the governance, leadership and operational capability of the Conservators to meet their statutory responsibilities.

d) Support the co-development of a sustainable funding model and a detailed asset management plan.

2. To take into account that while this is a pressing local issue, it reflects a broader national challenge in managing ageing navigation infrastructure. Similar investment needs exist in other places nationwide, for example on the Aire and Calder Navigation, on the River Thames, and across the Canal and River Trust's inland waterways network.

3. To work with the Conservators of the River Cam and other stakeholders and in coordination with local and regional partners, develop a shared and costed case for reform and future investment in the assets, and to engage with national government when appropriate.

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