

Annual Report & Summary Statement of Accounts



For the year
ending 31
March 2015

Cambridge City Council

Annual Report

This document is available on our website at www.cambridge.gov.uk

Annual Report

Annual Report 2014/15

Cambridge City Council provides a wide range of services to people that live in, work in and visit Cambridge.

The services provided by the City Council include:

- ◆ Keeping the streets and public open spaces clean.
- ◆ Emptying refuse and recycling bins.
- ◆ Providing a range of leisure facilities, including swimming pools and community centres, and commissioning entertainment in the City's parks and supporting the Corn Exchange.
- ◆ Awarding a wide range of grants to support local organisations and community groups.
- ◆ Providing a wide range of play activities for children and young people.
- ◆ Developing a new local plan for Cambridge to guide development to 2031, offering planning advice, progressing planning applications and making sure that new buildings and alterations are safe.
- ◆ Providing housing advice and support, and working with partners to meet peoples' housing needs.
- ◆ Acting as landlord to over 7,000 council properties.
- ◆ Processing housing benefit and council tax support applications.
- ◆ Monitoring and enforcing food and drink hygiene standards, together with noise and air pollution.
- ◆ Licensing food premises, street traders and entertainment venues.
- ◆ Addressing anti-social behaviour, in partnership with the Police and other agencies.
- ◆ Managing council run car parks.
- ◆ Organising and managing elections and the electoral register.
- ◆ Administering Council Tax and Business Rates.

The City Council ("the Council") serves a population of about 126,500 residents in an almost entirely urban area in an otherwise mainly rural county. Cambridge is a sub-regional centre with high levels of inward travel to work and for shopping and leisure activities, which adds significantly to the day-time population. The Council provides many services that are used by people who live outside of the city as well as residents, which places additional pressure on our resources.

The city is at the centre of a housing growth region, with many new homes planned for sites on the southern and north-west fringes of Cambridge. The provision of good quality

Annual Report

affordable and sustainable housing is a priority for the Council and it has set a target for developers of 40% affordable housing to be provided on all new residential sites, including the larger growth sites.

What we want to achieve

Cambridge City Council's vision guides everything we do. Our vision statement, which is shared with Cambridge citizens and partner organisations, is:

'One Cambridge – Fair for All'

- ◆ A city which believes that the clearest measure of progress is the dignity and well-being of its least well-off residents, which prioritises tackling poverty and social exclusion, recognising that greater social and economic equality are the most important preconditions for the city's success.
- ◆ An international city which celebrates its diversity and actively tackles discrimination on gender, race, nationality, ethnic background, religion, age, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
- ◆ A city in which all citizens feel that they are listened to and have the opportunity to influence public decision making, and which values, supports and responds to individual and community initiatives.
- ◆ A city where all citizens and organisations appreciate their duties as well as their rights, where people are free to enjoy themselves but also show consideration for others, and where the community works together to reduce harm and nuisance including by education and, where needed, robust enforcement of the law.
- ◆ A city where 'town' and 'gown' combine, and where mutual understanding and partnerships are developed through joint working, community initiatives and volunteering.

Cambridge - a great place to live, learn and work

- ◆ A city which strives to ensure that all local households can secure a suitable, affordable local home, close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities.
- ◆ A city which draws inspiration from its unique qualities and environment and its iconic historic centre, and retains its sense of place across the city through positive planning, generous urban open spaces and well-designed buildings, and by providing quality council services.
- ◆ An entrepreneurial city with a thriving local economy, in which businesses are assisted to build on their global and national pre-eminence in learning, discovery and production, and develop a full range of local employment and skills development, while also recognising and delivering on their social responsibilities.
- ◆ A city where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot.

Annual Report

Cambridge - caring for the planet

- ◆ A city that takes robust action to tackle the local and global threat of Climate Change, both internally and in partnership with local organisations and residents, and to minimise its environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution.

How we will achieve our vision for Cambridge

Annual Statement

Every year an annual statement setting out what the Council wants to do over the course of the year is adopted by the Council. This annual statement includes actions for specific groups of services, known as a portfolio. The seven councillors who make up the Council's Executive, including the Leader of the Council, are each allocated a portfolio. The Executive councillors are then responsible for the delivery of the services in their portfolio and can make decisions about them.

In 2014/15 the portfolios were:

- Strategy and Transformation
- Finance and Resources
- Housing
- Environment, Waste and Public Health
- Planning Policy and Transport
- Community, Arts and Recreation
- City Centre and Public Places

Further information about the Council's [Annual Statement](#) can be found here:

The following pages outline what we achieved over the past year for these portfolios.

Annual Report

Strategy and Transformation

During 2014/15 we:

- ◆ Concluded the City Deal Agreement and established an Executive Board and Assembly to provide joint decision making with our partners. The deal secures millions of pounds of additional funding for investment in infrastructure to support sustainable economic and housing growth in the area over the longer-term.
- ◆ Agreed with our City Deal partners to use our shared capacity to develop more affordable housing, and to improve skills outcomes in the Greater Cambridge area. We also engaged with residents, businesses and others on the investment priorities, and the Board decided on a £100m+ infrastructure programme for the first five years.
- ◆ Identified alternative models for delivering a range of services more efficiently including the launch of Cambridge Live to manage cultural activities in the city on behalf of the Council; and moved towards implementation of sharing specific services with partners in the local public sector, including sharing our waste collection service with South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- ◆ Secured agreement from Government, alongside other Cambridgeshire councils, that we would retain 100% of any additional business rate growth beyond expected forecasts starting from 1 April 2015.
- ◆ Conducted an innovative consultation about the budget challenges facing the council using an interactive online tool called “You Choose”. A large number of people were involved and councillors took into account the views of residents when confirming spending plans.
- ◆ Our Joint Equalities Group and Diversity Forum organised a range of activities and events during the year, including the promotion of World Mental Health Day. Among the activities for World Mental Health Day were a special stall in Market Square, a pop-up café in Hobson House and coffee mornings in the Customer Service Centre and City Homes South.
- ◆ Changed the way our area committees ran by returning the consideration of local planning applications to a central planning committee, freeing up more time in area committees for other issues of local concern.
- ◆ Secured funding for the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership to continue its work in sponsoring local inter-agency projects tackling crime and disorder. Work also included gaining an improved understanding of the impact of a person’s mental health on alcohol and drug misuse and Anti-Social behaviour, so that we can deliver a better service and solutions to local problems.
- ◆ Successfully included domestic violence and abuse as priorities in the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership’s new Community Safety Plan and achieved, with partners, “White Ribbon” status for the city, so that we are an exemplar of good practice in addressing this issue.
- ◆ Provided £100,000 of additional funding to women’s refuges and women victims of domestic abuse seeking support in the city and launched the Cambridge Community

Annual Report

Forum on Domestic and Sexual Violence/Abuse to help shine a light on the issue and encourage both victims and perpetrators to come forward.

- ◆ Made preparations for the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order for three locations along Mill Road, to help reduce problem drinking and anti-social behaviours associated with street drinking in the area. This provides the police with additional powers to help protect the public.
- ◆ Introduced a “Reduce the Strength” campaign with local retailers, based on a voluntary code of conduct, to persuade retailers to reduce their stock of high strength beer. We also worked with the police to use Licence Reviews to clamp down on premises that continuously sell alcohol to the already-drunk and under-aged people.
- ◆ Continued to give victims a say in the solutions to anti-social behaviour and low level crime by increasing the number of referrals to the Neighbourhood Resolution Panels from the City Council Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and Housing Teams and our partner agencies.
- ◆ Helped launch free public Wi-Fi for the city to give residents, visitors and students free access to the internet in public buildings around the city. This innovative project, as part the Connecting Cambridgeshire initiative, saw the city council working closely with the University of Cambridge and the county council, to provide free Wi-Fi on open spaces, and at sports and community centres.
- ◆ Implemented a new system for registering to vote, called Individual Electoral Registration, which was required by the government. It allows people, for the first time, to go online and register without the need to fill in a paper form.

Finance and Resources

During 2014/15 we:

- ◆ Achieved our difficult savings targets by becoming more efficient at what we do and by doing things in a different way. We did this in part by sharing some services with other local authorities, such as a joint CCTV Control Room and Out of Hours Service with Huntingdonshire District Council, and looking at other opportunities, such as the setting up of a cultural trust called Cambridge Live, to bring about improvements and reduce costs.
- ◆ Continued to be effective in administering benefits and collecting local taxes, preventing and detecting fraud, and providing information and guidance to residents about our council tax support scheme, discretionary housing payments and local social welfare.
- ◆ Were one of just three councils nationally showcased by Citizens Advice as an example of good practice for its work on welfare reform and has continued to offer support and guidance to people affected by the Government’s changes.
- ◆ Made preparations for the introduction of Universal Credit in the city by adapting our systems and liaising with partners, such as the Department for Work and Pensions, Citizens Advice and housing providers to assist people back into work, where appropriate.

Annual Report

- ◆ Extended our apprenticeship programme, so that more young people gained skills and work experience in the Council.
- ◆ Continued to exploit our information systems to help improve our service delivery and the experiences of customers.
- ◆ Maximised the return of the Council's commercial property portfolio in both capital and revenue terms, recognising the need to use these assets to deliver other Council initiatives. We also completed a stock condition survey of commercial estate.
- ◆ Continued to make the best use of the Council's accommodation in a way that also supports our environmental and sustainability goals.
- ◆ Created a one-stop listing on our website and at our customer service centre showing the many different services new businesses will need to access when looking to set up in Cambridge.
- ◆ Continued to take action to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs across the Council's estate and operations as part of the Council's five-year Carbon Management Plan.
- ◆ Worked with the managing agents of our leisure centres to install solar PV, heat pumps, voltage optimisation units, LED lights, and bringing back online a combined heat and Power (CHP) unit, to reduce emissions by 285 tonnes of CO₂.
- ◆ Increased the promotion and the uptake of new energy efficiency schemes such as Green Deal and the Energy Companies Obligation so that more local people, especially those on low incomes, enjoyed reduced energy bills. We were successful in attracting £7.8 million in Green Deal Community Funding for Cambridgeshire. This has allowed us to target 1,000 private homes and 800 rented homes with energy efficiency measures. To date over 400 households have taken up an offer through the Action on Energy scheme and money remains available until September 2015.
- ◆ Promoted and supported the County Council's Collective Energy Switching Scheme, so that the collective bargaining power of residents in Cambridgeshire can bring about cheaper energy prices for residents. In 2014, over 400 residents switched energy supplier through this scheme, each saving on average £224 per year.
- ◆ Invested in a project to investigate how to reduce water bills for households in the city, especially those that presently pay over the odds or find it difficult to pay for the water they use. This has included the employment of a Home Energy Officer to assist residents in reviewing their water use to establish if they would benefit changing to a meter. A project action plan for the next 18 months has been agreed and begins with a pilot project metering smaller council properties with 1 or 2 bedrooms to look at the savings made.
- ◆ Ran a major consultation asking local people living on a low income, community and voluntary sector groups and agencies involved in addressing poverty, what they thought priorities for an Anti-Poverty Strategy for Cambridge should be.

Annual Report

- ◆ Developed and published, using evidence from our consultation, an Anti-Poverty strategy setting out priorities for action that improve the circumstances of people living on low incomes in the city, who are having a difficult time in making ends meet.
- ◆ Put in place a Sharing Prosperity Fund to support local projects addressing poverty in the city, such as extending Citizen's Advice services and promoting healthy cooking for people on a low income, to make a real difference to people's lives.
- ◆ Achieved accreditation as a Living Wage employer and held an event during Living Wage Week to celebrate our accreditation and to announce the start of an action plan to encourage more Cambridge employers to sign up.
- ◆ Promoted the use of credit unions so that more local people can access affordable credit. The Council has been looking at a number of options to raise the profile of the Credit Unions active in Cambridge.

Housing

During 2014/15 we:

- ◆ Saw good rates of delivery of housing on the Southern Fringe and the next batch of completions of the new social housing in the Council's programme. The Council's new housing scheme known as the Quads is about to get underway. The next phase of the Council's social housing programme has been agreed and work has commenced with City Deal partners to understand the collective land and funding opportunities that are available to provide more affordable housing.
- ◆ Improved the way we managed our housing stock and sought to minimise the level of rent increases, to lower than that recommended by the government's formula, to make life easier for hard pressed families.
- ◆ Increased the level of support available for tenants presenting with problems, such as debt issues.
- ◆ Gave greater attention to fencing repairs, reducing the backlog, and expanding the "small repairs service", so that people on low incomes can get minor adaptations carried out around their home. We have also strengthened our Housing Committee to give elected tenant representatives a greater say over stock management decisions.
- ◆ Moved forward with early preparations for the introduction of Universal Credit so that we can be in a better position to offer support to people on this benefit.
- ◆ Completed a social lettings agency (non-commercial) pilot, which has nearly doubled the number of people the Council has assisted into private sector housing, to avert homelessness.
- ◆ Worked with partners to maintain rough sleeping numbers at low levels throughout the year.
- ◆ Have been far less reliant on bed and breakfast accommodation to temporarily house homeless families by providing more affordable housing and better quality temporary accommodation. The Council and its partners have also prevented more homelessness.

Annual Report

than in previous years with 470 households assisted to maintain their existing accommodation.

- ◆ Extended our Emergency Cold Weather Protocol to cover a wider range of severe weather conditions so that shelter can be provided to rough sleepers more frequently – when it is needed most. Fortunately the winter this year was milder than usual.
- ◆ Worked with Cambridgeshire County Council to provide a coordinated support service for older people across the city. This new service will work with others, including Age UK, the NHS and Social Care, to enhance the lives of elderly people, giving them advice and support to live independently.
- ◆ Helped alleviate pressure on Addenbrooke's Hospital by arranging for a number of flats at Ditchburn Place, that were going to be left vacant as a result of a refurbishment, to be available to provide interim care for people leaving hospital who are not able to return home immediately. This innovative approach, whilst supporting local people, generated income for the service from the rent of the flats.
- ◆ Took effective enforcement action to address poor housing conditions and management practices in affordable accommodation in the city. During the year 44 statutory notices were served and successful prosecutions were made in relation to five properties.
- ◆ Reviewed the Landlord Accreditation Scheme and identified enhancements to assist landlords in gaining accreditation. We also re-launched the council's Landlord Forum during the year to improve the way we work with private sector landlords.
- ◆ Continued to prioritise bringing back into occupation long standing empty homes in the city. During the year 10 private properties were brought back into use through direct intervention. A House Condition survey was carried out to help assess the current condition of the private housing stock, including energy efficiency, to inform future policies and interventions.
- ◆ Helped drive down anti-social behaviour by investigating 1,273 neighbour noise cases, served abatement notices in relation to 44 properties to prevent noise nuisances and undertook 6 prosecutions where these notices were not complied with.

Environment, Waste and Public Health

During 2014/15 we:

- ◆ Used the Cambridge Local Health Partnership to advocate the health and social care needs of the city, so that local commissioners can take account of the views of local people about their priorities.
- ◆ Signed a partnership agreement with Nando's under a Primary Authority Partnership Scheme (PAPS). This means that the Council's environmental health commercial team will work with Nando's to develop agreed standards for health and safety and food hygiene across all of the company's outlets.
- ◆ Invested in our pest control service so that all residents (including low income families) continued to receive a free domestic service for public health pests. During the year over 750 pest complaints were responded to, an increase of over 10% for the year. In

Annual Report

addition, the service also controlled the level of rodent activity in some of the Council's larger open spaces and commons to prevent infestations affecting local homes.

- ◆ Successfully negotiated a joint Materials Recycling Facility contract and extended the range of materials that can be placed in blue bins, which now includes materials, such as plastic bags. We also increased the number of textile and shoe banks at recycling points in the city to provide residents with easier access for recycling these materials.
- ◆ Recruited more volunteer "recycling champions" to encourage local communities to recycle their waste.
- ◆ Launched a new commercial waste collection service that allows food waste to be collected from catering establishments in Cambridge for as many days as they need it – with the aim of improving businesses food ordering and management, and so reducing the total amount of food waste produced in the city.
- ◆ Achieved ISO certification for the highest standards in business quality and environmental standards for the council's commercial waste service, which collects recycling and waste from over 2,500 businesses in and around the city, after scrutiny by external auditors. The service was subsequently awarded the prestigious ISO 9001 for quality management and ISO 14001 for environmental management.
- ◆ Completed a major refurbishment of public conveniences located within the Lion Yard city centre shopping complex, providing a much more modern, accessible and comfortable experience for its many thousands of visitors every year and including improved baby-change facilities.
- ◆ Doubled the size of our public realm enforcement team from 3 to 6 officers to improve the local environmental quality across the city. This has reduced the incidents of littering, fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles left on local streets, making the local environment more pleasant and reducing the impact of the actions of an anti-social minority.
- ◆ Successfully prosecuted offenders for littering on the streets, abandoning vehicles and for fly tipping.
- ◆ Worked with the Dogs Trust to deliver seven summer events for free dog micro chipping across the city, resulting in 35 dogs being chipped in preparation for the micro chipping law change in April 2016. We also took part in a pioneering dog fouling campaign with Keep Britain Tidy, which saw glow in the dark "We're watching you" posters appear across the city in areas where dog mess is an issue.
- ◆ Undertook month long 'Ward Blitzes' in six city wards involving the Council's City Rangers, Rapid Response, Public Realm Enforcement and Street Cleansing teams, involving coordinated public realm maintenance, enforcement and educational action at these events. Ward blitz activities have included cleansing of litter and dog bins, signage and recycling centres, increased dog warden and public realm enforcement presence.
- ◆ Delivered a programme of education led by the City Rangers, to children at Key Stage 1 and 2, by visiting 12 schools across the city, talking to an audience of over 1,000 children about subjects such as litter, dog mess and graffiti. We also worked with the Cambridgeshire Fire Safety and other partner agencies to deliver sessions as part of the

Annual Report

'Safety Zone' educational activities across the city, focusing on how children can stay safe in parks.

- ◆ Progressed a programme of environmental and minor highways improvements across Cambridge, including: refurbishments of war memorials in Cherry Hinton, Trumpington and St Giles Churchyard; removal of unsightly and inappropriate highway trees in Arbury Road, and; new benches for Grange Road.
- ◆ Carried out a consultation on streetscape improvements for Tenison Road and Devonshire Road to help soften the impact of new buildings around the railway station area, and in Cherry Hinton High Street, in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council.

Planning Policy and Transport

During 2014/15 we:

- ◆ Submitted a new local plan for Cambridge and the Council's approach to the Community Infrastructure Levy for independent examination. These documents, which will guide the development and growth of the city over the next 15 years, have been prepared in parallel with South Cambridgeshire. During the year a government appointed inspector began the independent public examination of that plan and oversaw a number of joint public hearings covering matters such as housing, employment, retail needs, green belt land and transport.
- ◆ Continued to work jointly with the county and South Cambridgeshire District Council on the review of the Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSC&SC), including area transport plans, and opportunities to develop local projects using the City Deal and other funds.
- ◆ Dealt with significant numbers of planning applications resulting in the construction of 1,300 new and affordable homes within the city as well as the granting of planning permissions for Papworth Hospital and Astra Zeneca.
- ◆ Worked with our City Deal partners on the development of infrastructure and other improvements needed to help support growth. Detailed plans are currently being worked up to deliver the initial £100m within the next 5 years.
- ◆ Continued to support and implement new 20 mph speed limits across the city, where residents say they want them. Some roads have been re-engineered so that they are suitable and safe for inclusion and discussions have taken place with the Police and County Council, to ensure that the new speed limits are enforceable. Wards across the north of Cambridge (Arbury, Kings Hedges, East and West Chesterton) had the majority of their roads reduced to a 20mph maximum during spring 2014, and good progress is being made within East and West/Central areas - with target completion during early 2016.
- ◆ Delivered further new transport measures and actions to improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. This has included (for instance) provision of guidance and advice for developers on cycling in the new developments. A number of new projects were also implemented including path widening (Downhams Lane, Jesus Green and Queens Green), lighting (Jesus Green, and Parkers Piece),

Annual Report

highway safety (Perne Road/Radegund Road roundabout) and improvements to bus shelters (Milton Road, Barton Road, Birdwood Road, Teversham Drift, Mill Road, Castle Street and Buchan Street).

- ◆ Carried out a customer and business consultation into the future of Park Street car park and options for development of the site.
- ◆ Won an award devised by Disabled Motorists UK to encourage improvements in parking for disabled people and reduce abuse of disabled spaces. Cambridge was recognised for its innovative self-service scheme for blue badge holders at Grand Arcade car park.

Community, Arts and Recreation

During 2014/15 we:

- ◆ Established a new Arts Trust Charity called Cambridge Live, which started running the Cambridge Corn Exchange, Guildhall Halls, Cambridge Folk Festival and City Events, and other aspects of the arts and recreation service from 1 April 2015.
- ◆ Organised and supported a wide variety of events throughout the year. These ranged from world-class orchestras (which included the development of an education programme), ballet, music, comedy and conferences at the Cambridge Corn Exchange and the Guildhall Halls.
- ◆ Successfully hosted the start of the third stage of the Tour de France on Parkers Piece, delivered the critically acclaimed 50th Cambridge Folk Festival to a sell-out audience at Cherry Hinton Hall, co-ordinated the historic Midsummer Fair, the 5th November Fireworks and other city events.
- ◆ Reviewed the way we prioritised our community grants and decided to direct them through community and voluntary sector organisations that provide services to local people and communities in most need and who experience social inequality and disadvantage. This will be implemented in 2015-16.
- ◆ Refurbished and enhanced our community centres making provision for nursery providers at two of our centres and maximising good quality space available to the community at all of our centres.
- ◆ Supported local community led events, such as the Arbury, Cherry Hinton and Chesterton festivals and neighbourhood community days and promoted the diversity of our city.
- ◆ Ran a community fair event in the Guildhall to promote volunteering opportunities in the city. This involved a large number of community and voluntary organisations who set out how they supported local people and make a difference within communities – demonstrating the variety and richness of civil life in Cambridge.
- ◆ Provided three new splash pads for fun interactive water play around the City in recreation grounds at Coleridge, Kings Hedges and Abbey Pool.

Annual Report

- ◆ Worked to improve access and investment through developer contributions to sports facilities and playing fields at school and college sites, including provision of new cricket nets and an artificial wicket at Netherhall School.
- ◆ Developed and implemented our action plan for the new Sports and Physical Activity Strategy, including a new 'Learn to Swim – Access' initiative that provided free swimming lessons for young people living in low income households, and more outdoor table tennis tables in open spaces through external "Ping!" project funding.
- ◆ Increased the capacity for Exercise Referral in the city through the creation of a new fitness centre at Parkside Pool provided by our leisure contractors, GLL; and worked to secure NHS funding for the scheme for the coming year.
- ◆ Begun discussion with stakeholders to achieve sustainable management arrangements for new community facilities at Clay Farm and Darwin Green. Involved residents in the design of a new community facility at NW Cambridge.
- ◆ Delivered SummerDaze 2014 a city-wide programme of holiday activities for families featuring urban adventure activities, art activities, play and sport run by our Council's Children and Young People's Service (ChYpPS). ChYpPs also offered other play activities to local children throughout other holidays including a daily drop in for local children at Brown's Field Community Centre and activities on the ChYpPS Community Play Boat.
- ◆ Delivered "Take-Over 2014" involving local children in a competition to win the opportunity to spend the day shadowing the Mayor.

City Centre and Public Places

During 2014/15 we:

- ◆ Appointed a coordinator for the Chesterton and Mitcham's Corner area to work with local businesses and community groups to deliver projects aimed at improving the vibrancy and vitality of this area. This will ensure that the neighbourhood centre makes use of local opportunities and attracts local investment.
- ◆ Undertook an audit of the accessibility of our city centre. We will be working in partnership with local businesses and other public agencies to try to reduce the number of street obstructions, such as "A Boards" and giving greater attention to resolving uneven surfaces and poor walk ways.
- ◆ Secured support to develop a new business led partnership, called a Destination Management Organisation (DMO) to deliver tourism for Cambridge and the surrounding area. This will reduce the cost of tourism to the City Council and deliver a model better equipped to maximise the economic benefits from tourism to the city and surrounding areas.
- ◆ Delivered improvements to the running of our markets through a review of the operational management of the City Centre Management Markets and Street Trading service and themed promotions.

Annual Report

- ◆ Opened the doors of the cemetery on Newmarket Road and the crematorium on Huntingdon Road as part of the Open Cambridge weekend, to allow visitors to find out more about the work of our Bereavement Service. This provided a chance to see the recently refurbished chapels, waiting rooms and family rooms, which have been modernised to provide a better service for customers. The service also retained its Gold Status – the highest standard available – from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium management.
- ◆ Continued to involve local people and community groups in decision making about improvements to open spaces and their future management
- ◆ Gave specialist advice to aid the planned urban expansion and growth of the city in respect of the built and natural environment and created opportunities for volunteering at local nature reserves.
- ◆ Utilised developer contributions to make significant improvements to open and green space, and sports and recreation provision in the city, including: better drainage on Jesus Green; more play and recreation facilities on Coleridge and Cherry Hinton Recreation Grounds; new splash pads for Abbey, Coleridge and King's Hedges, and; investment in nature reserves for Logan's Meadow (East Chesterton) and Paradise (Newnham).
- ◆ Introduced new heritage style lighting on the paths across Parkers' Piece and the improved and widened main diagonal path across Jesus Green, both including free Wi-fi facilities, and in keeping with the historic and sensitive local settings.
- ◆ Provided several hundred new cycle parking stands across the city centre, both to keep pace with demand and also reduce the predominance of inappropriately parked cycles impeding access.
- ◆ Supported a programme of changes to facilitate cycling contra-flow in many access controlled and one-way streets, to improve accessibility and convenience for more active and sustainable modes of transport.
- ◆ Undertook a comprehensive review and rationalisation of on-street parking facilities across the Kite area adjacent to the city centre, to maximise the usage of available space and provide enhanced provision for local residents

Summary Statement of Accounts

Introduction

The services provided by local councils affect everyone's quality of life. Money is needed to carry out the functions and services that the Council provides and the Council's accounts are an important element in demonstrating the stewardship of public money. They show the resources available and how they have been used to deliver everyday services to the City's residents, visitors, businesses and other organisations.

Each year, the Council is legally required to produce a Statement of Accounts that presents the Council's financial activities and gives details of the overall financial position, however, much of the information in the document is of a technical nature in order to satisfy statutory requirements.

The following Summary Accounts are intended to be a more user-friendly version of the detailed publication and to provide a brief overview of the Council's financial position for the year ending 31st March 2015.

Head of Finance's Statement

The Council's Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15 based on International Financial Reporting Standards.

The figures in this summary were originally compiled having regard to proper accounting practice. To help make this summary easier to understand we have simplified the presentation of some figures.

The full 2014/15 Statement of Accounts has been audited by Ernst & Young who gave an unqualified audit opinion.

Caroline Ryba

A full copy of the Council's 2014/15 audited accounts is available on our website or from:

Head of Finance
Cambridge City Council
PO Box 700
Cambridge
CB1 0JH

The Council can also produce electronic or large print copies. We can arrange for a summary in Braille, on tape or in another language, although this will take longer.

Summary Statement of Accounts

Income and Expenditure

This statement shows the costs of providing services in the year.

The total expenditure incurred in running our services was £105.4 million. Service income, such as fees and charges was £106.1 million. The net cost of each service, totalling £0.6 million, is shown in the table below.

	£m
Central services to the public (elections, land charges and local tax collection)	1.7
Cultural & related services	9.3
Environmental & related services	8.5
Planning services	5.2
Transport	(3.2)
Council housing (Housing Revenue Account)	(29.9)
Other housing services	4.9
Corporate and democratic services	2.8
Non-distributed costs	0.1
Cost of Services	(0.6)
Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	1.3
Surplus or deficit on the sale of assets	(5.1)
Impairments on assets held for sale	(0.2)
Interest receivable	(0.8)
Interest payable	7.5
Revision to estimated recovery of Icelandic bank deposits	(0.1)
Gains and losses on trading	(0.1)
Net income from commercial and industrial properties and changes in their value	(10.1)
Net pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	4.1
Council tax income	(6.6)
Business Rates Income	(3.3)
Non-ringfenced government grants	(8.8)
Capital grants and contributions	(4.2)
Net Accounting surplus for the year	(27.0)

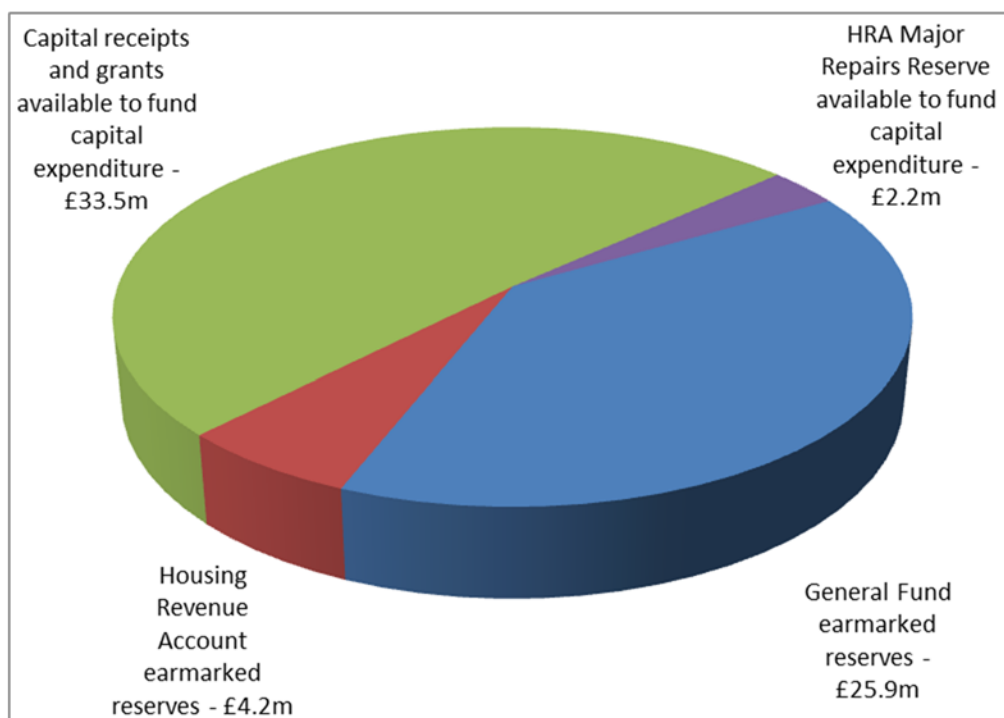
Summary Statement of Accounts

Movements in Usable Reserves

The Council's usable reserves increased by £12.5 million in 2014/15. Total usable reserves were £92.2 million at 31 March 2015, as shown below :

	General Fund Balance £m	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Balance £m	Other Usable Reserves £m	Total Usable Reserves £m
Balance at 1 April 2014	(9.0)	(8.9)	(61.8)	(79.7)
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	3.0	(30.0)		(27.0)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(7.4)	24.2	(2.3)	14.5
Transfers to or (from) earmarked reserves	1.9	(0.2)	(1.7)	
Decrease or (Increase) in the year	(2.5)	(6.0)	(4.0)	(12.5)
Balance at 31 March 2015	(11.5)	(14.9)	(65.8)	(92.2)

Other usable reserves at 31 March 2015 comprised :



Summary Statement of Accounts

Balance Sheet

At the end of each financial year, we draw up a balance sheet that presents how much the Council's land and buildings are worth, what is owed to others (liabilities), what others owe us (debtors and investments) and how much cash and other reserves we have.

	Net Assets at 31 March 2015 £m
Value of land, property, equipment and vehicles	810.0
Long-term debtors and investments	16.6
Cash and short-term cash investments	93.6
Short term debtors	11.8
Short term land and property held for sale	9.7
Stock	0.3
Current liabilities	(26.0)
Long-term liabilities	(346.5)
Net Assets	569.5
Usable reserves	(92.2)
Unusable reserves	(477.3)
Total Reserves	(569.5)

Unusable reserves are not available to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes, for example, amounts which would only become available if the related assets were sold.

Cash Movements

The council handled significant amounts of cash during the year.

	2014/15 £m
Cash at 1 April 2014	6.6
Cash receipts	273.5
Cash payments	(272.8)
Cash at 31 March 2015	7.3

Summary Statement of Accounts

The detailed Statement of Accounts publication includes many notes of explanation and detailed analysis of figures in the main financial statements. A selection of the notes which may be of particular interest to the public have been summarised and are presented below.

Employee Remuneration

The numbers of employees whose remuneration, excluding employer's pension contributions, was £50,000 or more in bands of £5,000 were :

	2014/15	2013/14
£50,000 to £54,999	2	1
£55,000 to £59,999	4	4
£60,000 to £64,999	2	5
£65,000 to £69,999	6	6
£70,000 to £74,999	3	3
£80,000 to £84,999	1	0
£85,000 to £89,999	2	1
£90,000 to £94,999	1	1
£115,000 to £119,999	1	1
£135,000 to £139,999	0	1
	22	23

Summary Statement of Accounts

The remuneration of senior officers, who are included in the above table, is disclosed in more detail, including employer's pension contributions, below:

Senior Officers Remuneration 2014/15

(£) Position / Name	Note	Salary	Honorarium	Pension Contribution	Total
Chief Executive (A Jackson)	1	117,859	0	20,961	138,820
Director of Environment (S Payne)		89,089	0	15,502	104,591
Director of Customer & Community Services (L Bisset)		92,350	2,000	16,417	110,767
Director of Business Transformation (R Ward)		89,089	0	15,502	104,591
Head of Corporate Strategy (A Limb)	2	68,431	0	11,907	80,338
Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) (C Ryba)	3	49,029	0	8,531	57,560

Notes:

- 1 The Chief Executive received Election Payments of £2,609 in addition to the above.
- 2 The Head of Corporate Strategy received Election Payments of £500 in addition to the above.
- 3 The Head of Finance joined the Council on 14 July 2014.

Between April and July 2014 the Section 151 (Chief Financial Officer) role was undertaken by Alex Colyer, the Executive Director, Corporate Services and Chief Finance Officer of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Council paid South Cambridgeshire £5,307 for this service.

Members Allowances

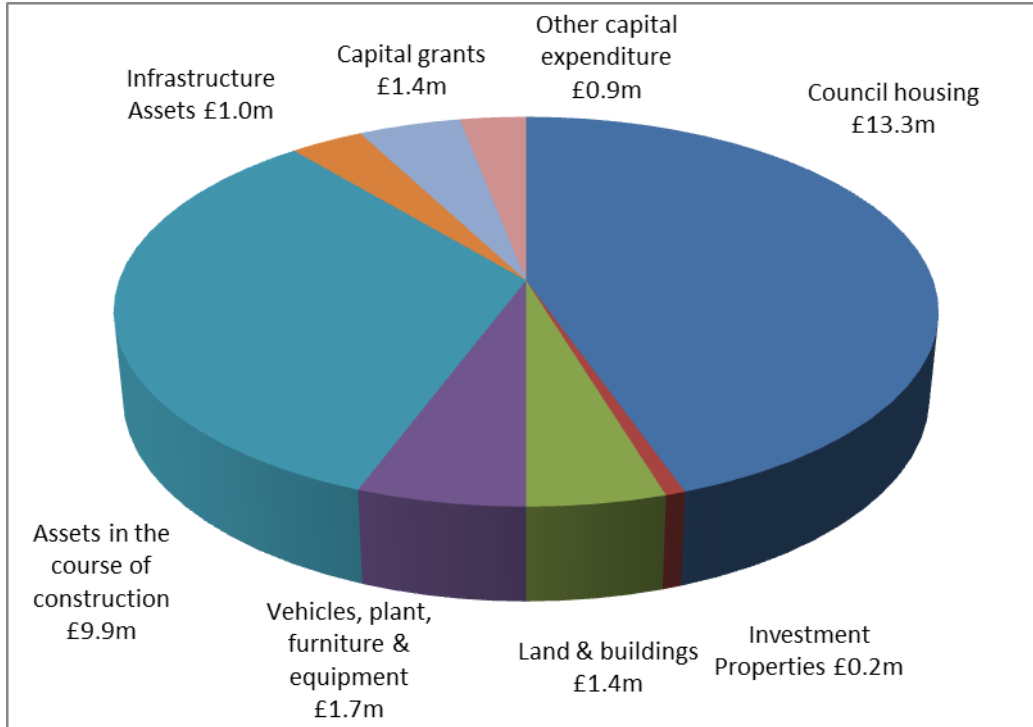
The total allowances paid to members during the financial year 2014/15 were £244,295 (£240,236 in 2013/14). Details of payments to individual members are published annually in a local newspaper. Additional civic responsibility payments were made to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor outside of the Members Allowances Scheme. These totalled £5,810 (£5,700 in 2013/14). Details can also be found on the Councillors pages on our website.

Summary Statement of Accounts

Capital Spending

We also spend money on buying assets and improving our council housing and other assets. We account for this type of expenditure separately from the day-to-day running costs of services.

Capital expenditure totalled £29.8 million in 2014/15.



This capital expenditure was financed as follows:

	£m
Capital receipts (from sale of council houses and other assets)	7.2
Government grants, donations and other contributions	4.2
Revenue and reserves	18.2
Use of cash balances	0.2
Total	29.8

Summary Statement of Accounts

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) records income and expenditure relating to the management and maintenance of council housing.

During 2014/15 the Council was responsible for an average of 7,172 dwellings.

	£m
Dwelling rents	(36.0)
Non-dwelling rents	(0.7)
Charges for services and facilities	(2.9)
Other income	(0.5)
Income	(40.1)
Repairs and maintenance	7.1
Supervision and management	6.8
Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	0.3
Depreciation and impairment	(4.1)
Provision for bad debts	0.1
Share of corporate and democratic core and non-distributed costs	0.4
Expenditure	10.6
Net cost of HRA services	(29.5)
Surplus on sale of assets	(6.0)
Interest payable	7.5
Other income	(2.0)
Accounting Surplus for the year	(30.0)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	24.2
Contributions to earmarked reserves	(0.2)
Net HRA surplus for the year	(6.0)

The HRA surplus for the year of £6.0 million was added to the previously accumulated surplus. The HRA is 'ring-fenced' by law which means its income and reserves cannot be used for any purpose other than the provision and management of council housing. The accumulated surplus on the HRA at 31 March 2015 was £14.9 million.