**Community Wealth Building Assessment- Updated October 2026 - Assets/Redevelopment - Civic Quarter Project**

Cambridge City Council's Community Wealth Building (CWB) Strategy outlines our approach to reducing poverty and inequality in Cambridge and supporting a more inclusive, fair and sustainable economy. It takes a holistic approach to challenging the structures and conditions that lead to poverty and inequality, focusing on ensuring everyone benefits from the city's wealth.

This assessment has been created to use as a tool to ensure Community Wealth Building considerations have been made at every stage of a redevelopment process. It does not mandate that each of these elements need to be included but acts as a prompt, so options are considered early in the planning process.

**Project Opportunities**

The Guildhall and surrounding space combine social and community use, business and the very heart of democracy in Cambridge. It's redevelopment through the Civic Quarter project presents a key opportunity to build community wealth, maximising the social benefits for local communities, businesses, partners and tourism.

This update focusses on the development/build phase.

| Phase | CWB Considerations | Activity/Progress |
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| Development / Build Phase | Procurement of the contract- Working with local Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) | The project will support Community Wealth Building by creating opportunities for local businesses through the construction supply chain. Sir Robert McAlpine will work with the Council to ensure that at least 20% of the workforce is recruited locally, alongside providing apprenticeships, work placements and opportunities for local skills development.<br><br>The project will also support construction career pathways through engagement with local colleges, universities and training providers throughout the construction phase. Opportunities for local suppliers and subcontractors will be promoted where appropriate, helping to maximise local participation in project delivery. Local |

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| | | employment, SME engagement and wider social value outcomes will be monitored throughout the project. |
| | Delivering Skills programme- providing local employment, apprenticeships and skills and training programmes. | Sir Robert McAlpine will support construction career pathways through apprenticeships, T-Level placements, work experience opportunities and engagement with local schools, colleges, universities and training providers, helping local people gain skills and access careers in the construction industry. |
| | Working with contractors who pay the Real Living Wage and have fair recruitment practices, including recruiting from groups with protected characteristics and people who live in disadvantaged areas of Cambridge | Sir Robert McAlpine will work with the Council to ensure that they meet this requirement. Progress against these commitments will be monitored through the project's social value and contract management arrangements. |
| | Supporting existing local businesses during construction | The refurbishment of the Market Square is intended to improve the long-term sustainability and attractiveness of Cambridge Market.<br><br>The temporary relocation strategy maintains the market's presence within the city centre, helping to preserve footfall for both market traders and surrounding. |
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| Occupation Phase | Can any vacant space or under-utilised land/asset that is earmarked for redevelopment be used via meanwhile-use by the community or VCSE? | The refurbished Guildhall will provide flexible and accessible spaces that can support a range of civic, community and cultural activities, helping to maximise public benefit from the asset. Any future use of vacant or under-utilised space will be considered in line with operational requirements, asset management objectives and community needs |

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| | Is there option for on-going use of the facility by the community, VCSE? How? | The refurbished Guildhall will continue to support a range of civic, cultural and community activities, with improved accessibility and flexibility enabling a broader range of users to access the building. The café and informal workspaces in the reception heart space are open to all.<br><br>The Council will consider opportunities for community and voluntary sector organisations to use Guildhall spaces where appropriate. However, use of the building will need to be balanced against its primary civic functions, commercial activities, income generation requirements and effective asset utilisation.<br>The Council also provides a wider network of community facilities across the city, and community use of the Guildhall will be considered as part of the overall approach to managing these assets. |
| | Can the use of space be decided with input from communities, VCSE groups or businesses to help understand the need/demand in the city so that it can be catered to? | The future use of Guildhall spaces has been informed through extensive public consultation and stakeholder engagement undertaken as part of the Civic Quarter programme. This feedback has helped shape the design proposals and the balance of civic, community, cultural and commercial uses within the building.<br><br>Following completion of the project, the Council will continue to engage with users, stakeholders and community organisations to understand demand and inform the ongoing management and programming of the space. However, decisions on the use of Guildhall accommodation will need to balance community benefit with the building's civic functions, commercial opportunities, operational requirements and the need to make effective use of Council assets |
| | Can elements of the asset be managed by the community? | No community management of the assets is proposed. |
| | Can elements of it be owned by the community via asset transfer? | No community ownership of the assets is proposed. |

Updated: 22 October 2026