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PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2013 at 7.00 pm

SUPPLEMENT – QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TIME

7 Questions with notice by members of the public

1. Question from Huw Thomas

To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:

Has Peterborough City Council's planning committee and planning department who are currently contemplating the solar farm proposals been compromised due to the leader of the city council being quoted saying '*It is important it is successful. If it does not happen it will be serious. We would have difficulties with the budget in future years.*'

**2. Question from Rosemary Briston
To Councillor Hiller**

To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:

In view of the wealth of archaeological finds in this area, recent ones of which were revealed at Newborough Farm featured in the Peterborough Evening Telegraph, and the well known, and often council-funded, projects associated with the acknowledged Bronze Age significance of the area around Flag Fen, plus the discovery of the oldest wheel in the UK in close proximity to all proposed solar sites, why has Peterborough City Council decided not to conduct an archaeological survey on Morris Fen, and is considering a dispensation of condition for an archaeological survey on Newborough Farms for the temporary meteorological mast, a condition the Local Authority stipulated when granting permission?

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8	<u>Questions with notice by Members relating to ward matters To the Cabinet Members and to Committee Chairmen</u>
1.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>During periods of wet weather, we are seeing an increasing amount of flooding on Werrington Meadows. This makes it difficult for many residents to use the public footpath, including a number of elderly residents of Werrington Lodge. The meadow is used by the community and families with children alike and the disabled. Recently while doing our ward walks we witnessed a man with a guide dog, trying to wade through the water which came up to his knees and this was very disturbing to watch.</p> <p>Could it be the water table level is being compromised and could the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning look into raising the path to a higher level?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Shearman</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>Residents in the Millfield part of Park Ward recognise and appreciate the improvements being made in the area as a result of Operation CAN-Do.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member give an unqualified assurance that the improvement in the quality of life experienced by these residents will not be undermined as a result of the review of the Neighbourhoods structure in the City?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>Residents in South Werrington and North Gunthorpe, have contacted me about the prospect of improving the bus stop located opposite Lewes Gardens, including the introduction of a bus shelter, and also at the location along Coniston Road, nearest to Campbell Drive. Could the relevant Cabinet member please let me know whether there is money available for the introduction of new shelters, how much they cost to introduce and how I can go about securing the introduction of such shelters and improvements?</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>Both Councillor Davidson and I have been contacted by residents living in Brookside (South Werrington) about problems regarding flooding of the school field, adjacent to their properties. Can the relevant cabinet member please tell me whether or not this authority owns the land, if they do, does Voyager School rent it from them and if so how much, and who legally is responsible for addressing the issue of ongoing flooding on the land causing damage to nearby property?</p>

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9	<u>Questions with notice by Members to Council representatives of the Fire Authority</u>
	None received.

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EXECUTIVE BUSINESS TIME

11 Questions with Notice to the Leader and Members of the Executive

1. Question from Councillor Saltmarsh

To Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

I have made several requests concerning a report regarding the future of Children's Play Services as this item still appears on the Key Decisions notice for discussion by the relevant Scrutiny Committee of Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities.

As the decision has now been made to close all eight of the Children's Play Centres please can the Cabinet Member advise me of the results of the consultation with key stakeholders and when the report to determine the future of Play Services in the City will be available to the Scrutiny Committee?

2. Question from Councillor Shearman

To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:

Residents in Park Ward have benefitted from the strategic management role of the Neighbourhood Managers. Can the Cabinet member give an unqualified assurance that as a result of the review of the Neighbourhoods structure, the strategic role, specifically community infrastructure planning, will continue and the Neighbourhoods team will not become a mere reactive body?

3. Question from Councillor Jamil

To Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

Could the Cabinet Member please confirm what plans are in place to ensure that Play Centres will not be affected in light of the decimation of the Neighbourhoods Team on Peterborough City Council? At the previous full council meeting we were given assurances that the Neighbourhood Teams will work with groups to ensure these centres stay open.

4. Question from Councillor Davidson

To Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

Could the Cabinet Member for Children's Services confirm whether it is true that some social workers in the Children's Services department have been threatened with having their car parking permits revoked and does she not agree that whilst it is important for environmental reasons to discourage car use for officers who are predominantly office based, it is important that permits are retained for workers in roles which involve extensive travel all over the city?

5. Question from Councillor Shearman

To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council:

A national newspaper has recently revealed that councillors in other parts of the country have set up consultancies to offer advice on, and lobby for, planning applications within their own authorities. In response to these revelations the Local Government Minister has stated he believes this is not only unacceptable but is possibly illegal, and that Local Authorities should ensure their Codes of Conduct take account of this.

Does the Leader of the Council agree with the Local Government Minister, and will he

	undertake to meet with the Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council in order to consider, and report back to full Council, whether our Code of Conduct requires amending in view of the Minister's comments?
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Jamil</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council:</p> <p>Could the council leader tell us what measures the council has in place to smoothly handle the possible inward migration of migrants from Romania and Bulgaria when these accession states gain legal access to Great Britain and the E. U. at the end of this year ? What extra provisions have been made in terms of health, housing, education etc to ensure that we are not caught out like last time?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor McKean</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources:</p> <p>Could you please advise how many Councillors are using their own computers to access the City Council systems and how many use them for their Councillor email accounts and the reasons for this?</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Thulbourn</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council:</p> <p>Can the Leader tell us whether he has a plan in place to help those who fall behind in rent arrears due to the bedroom tax and new Council Tax charges on the unemployed?</p>
9.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>How much, on average, do zebra crossings cost to introduce, does this City Council have dedicated budget for such actions and where was the most recent installation in the city?</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Peach</p> <p>To Councillor Lee, Deputy Leader:</p> <p>Residents in Park Ward and no doubt throughout Peterborough City will be pleased about the extra money the Administration were able to put in the budget for Enterprise to go towards getting and keeping the city clean.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member give Council an idea on how this extra money is to be used, will it for example see increased street cleaning frequencies throughout parts of the city and if so when and where and will it see the reintroduction of the very popular spring clean next year?</p> <p>One thing that has been raised by residents within the past few months has been the very poor state of the Parkways, especially the litter in the central reservations and the side of the Parkways.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please tell us when these were last cleaned and if they are being cleaned on a regular basis and what is the specification in the contract with Enterprise for parkway and central reservation cleaning and how does this compare to the current cleaning schedule?</p>
11.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources:</p>

<p>Can the relevant Cabinet member please explain why Bayard Place is closed at weekends, and are there any plans for it to open up, at least during office hours, so that local residents can make use of the services and help on offer at times that are more accommodating in today's world?</p>
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