

- 1.1. This Appendix contains:
- A summary of consultation feedback received to date
 - Feedback from CMT members on the outcomes of the various Phase 1 engagement events that have taken place to date.
 - A list of all consultation responses received to date, plus responses to the points raised
 - Feedback from Joint Scrutiny on the Phase 1 Budget Conversation

Consultation Response

- 1.2. This note contains all Phase 1 Consultation responses received as at 22 November 2016. A summary of the responses received to date is given in this section.

- 1.3. In total 35 responses have been received:

Survey Monkey online form	27
Email responses	9
Total	36

- 1.4. **Question 1** - 17 respondents answered question 1 which was *'Do you have any comments to make about the first round budget proposals?'*

Response	Number of Responses
Positive	1
Neutral	1
Negative	15
Total	17

It should be noted that 10 respondents made no comment about the budget proposals.

- 1.5. **Question 2** – Respondents were asked, after having read the consultation document, how much they understood the Council's proposals. Answers can be broken down as follows:

Response	Number of Responses
A great deal	10
A fair amount	12
Not very much	3
Nothing at all	1
Blank response	1
Total	27

- 1.6. **Question 3** – Of the 27 responses received, 17 answered question 3, which was '*If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money and protect services, please state these here:*' A list of subjects raised is given below.

Response Theme	Respondents Citing Issue
Staff and Management pay & allowances (including the Chief Executive and use of agency and consultants)	4
General budget and accountability/responsibility for spending in the public interest	3
Members Allowances and number of Councillors	6
Waste removal	1
City Centre development	1
Academies	1
Registration services and Use of town hall for functions	1
Street Lighting	1
Woodland and Shrub cutting	2
Administration systems	1
Bus services	1
Street Cleaning	1

Feedback from Conversation Events.

1.7. A number of Phase 1 Consultation events have already been held:

- 8th November – Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme forum
 - Ian Phillips attended and the Phase 1 Conversation Document was noted, there were no comments or issues raised.

- 11th November – Borderline & Peterborough Executive Partnership Board.
 - Wendi Ogle-Welbourn attended and the Phase 1 Conversation Document was noted.

- 17th November - Disability Forum
 - Kim Sawyer attended this event and the Phase 1 Conversation Document was noted.

Feedback from the Budget Conversation Survey

1.8. The table below details the feedback received from the online survey and cabinet responses

	Do you have any comments to make about the first round budget proposals?	Having read the first round proposals document, how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make savings of £19million in 2017/18?	If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money and protect services, please state these here:	Cabinet Response
1	Seems fair enough	A fair amount	Have less councillors	The number of Councillors in this and any Council, is independently recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission. This work aims to ensure that each Councillor represents roughly the same number of voters.
2 28	No increase in councillor's allowance would allow at least a small part of the budget deficit to be overcome - Greedy, greedy councillors. Not one refused the increase - shame on you all.	A fair amount	Offer all increases in councillor allowances to be given to the budget as a donation.	The level of member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors had not accepted any increases to their allowances since 2009. We are required by law to ask an independent panel to review our members' allowances on an annual basis.
3		Nothing at all		N/A
4	There are more and more people in Peterborough, surely they should all contribute to council spent and surely government grant is linked to that? Your budget proposal is very confusing. We can't see how many people work for the council, how much they all cost, how this compares to national average, how much council management earn and % salary increase as part of this budget.	Not very much	Do not invest in the North Westgate Instead focus on clearing your debts. Tackle crime with more intent Tackle illegal parking in city centre (so many cars parked on pavements or on double yellow lines!) Tackle mis-behaviour Buy out all school academies and provide one central Peterborough academy - that way there will be only one set of admin spend instead today one per academy.	The plans to invest in North Westgate will unblock the regeneration of this area, providing a new gateway to the city making Peterborough a more attractive place to live and do business therefore providing job opportunities. The Council also expects to make a return from its investment in the area, helping to protect services in the future We do have a robust process in place to pursue unpaid tax, including court action and use of bailiffs as necessary. Where households have genuine difficulty in paying, we can offer support to help vulnerable families and individuals set up payment plans or offer referrals to advice agencies for

29				<p>assistance. Parking in the City centre and anti-social behaviour will be tackled by our enforcement team and your concerns will be raised with them. In terms of the salary costs the council incurs this is detailed within our Statement of accounts found on this link- https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/upload/www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/budgets-spending-and-performance/StatementOfAccounts2015-16.pdf?inline=true The pay award for Council employees is determined nationally. A 1% pay award for employees was agreed within the 2016/17 MTFS, and is already included within the opening budget amount, this was based on the national recommendation. The choice for a school to transfer to an academy is not within the control of Peterborough City Council. Central government has now relaxed the push for all schools to become academies, and we have assessed the negative impact of the council and have included measures within our budget proposals to cope with these.</p>
5	<p>Yes it is outrageous that Councillors see fit to give themselves a 30 % salary increase and I totally reject this proposal! Funds should be spent on long needed services to help the homeless and disabled people in our area. The council should be reducing all special responsibility allowances and the number of Councillors who get these extra payments. Peterborough needs Councillors who have the city's best interest at their heart. How can you justify increases in salaries for a few with so many disadvantaged people in our city?</p>	A fair amount	<p>As I have stated above the answer is simple...the council needs to cut the amount paid to our Councillors and reduce special responsibility allowances.</p>	<p>The level of member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors had not accepted any increases to their allowances since 2009. We are required by law to ask an independent panel to review our members' allowances on an annual basis.</p>
6		A fair amount	<p>Reduce the number of Councillors by 50 percent. Cancel Councillors pay rise. Plan roadwork to include multi-tasking to save money. (When closing one lane to repair fencing, also carry out litter pick. I have emailed this simple idea before but</p>	<p>The number of Councillors in this and any Council, is independently recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission. This work aims to ensure that each Councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. Thank you for your comments around multi-tasking</p>

			have now seen the same lane closed off 3 times for fence repairs but no litter pick, (Simple tasking, seems difficult for PCC planners). Stop vanity and ill-conceived plans. (Solar farms, fountains etc.	roadworks, we will pass your comments on to the highways team for consideration.
7		A fair amount		N/A
8	Yes	A great deal	Look at staffing levels, pensions, pay and perks.	The Council has undertaken a number of significant senior management restructures in recent years, generating savings We also aim to create efficiencies through closer partnership working with our neighbouring councils. We currently share the positions of the Chief Executive, The Coroner, Director of People and Communities and Director of Public Health. Staff only receive access to parking permits which they pay for via salary sacrifice, and car leasing which is also salary sacrifice and generates an NI saving for the council. Other benefits such as childcare vouchers and the cycle scheme are widely available.
30	What about the cost of accepting asylum seekers? Is the government underwriting entire cost for the whole lifetime or am I have to pay? What about the poor performance of staff such as education leads? Are we still footing the bill for these inadequate and underperforming burdens?	A fair amount	Sack the overpaid Chief Exec for a start and start employing people with real capabilities and ethics.	The Chief Executive position is shared with a neighbouring council, generating a saving for Peterborough City council. The Council has a statutory obligation to support Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, The council agreed to resettle around 100 Syrian refugees (made up of 20 families) in Peterborough over the next five years. The first five families arrived this autumn as part of the government's Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme. The government has agreed to cover all the health, social and educational costs for all refugees, this is in addition to them being able to access benefits such as housing. Funding will come from the International Development Fund, so instead of this going to other countries it is being used to support refugees in this country.
10		A great deal		N/A

11		A great deal		N/A
12		A great deal		N/A
13	As we need to find savings and efficiencies of Â£19million next year to balance the books, including councillors not taking any pay increases or increasing allowances OVER the rate of inflation or the level of pay increases elsewhere in the public sector. Staff should not be subsidised on parking. Don't just blame central government decreased in funding. Revenue needs to be generated ie	A fair amount	Centralise all admin systems in 1 hub. Less tiers of managers. Less agency staff or consultants on high fees and promote from within.	<p>The level of member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors had not accepted any increases to their allowances since 2009. We are required by law to ask an independent panel to review our members' allowances on an annual basis.</p> <p>The use of consultants has largely been for their expertise on the delivery of transformation programmes that drive the savings that underpin the budget. The use of this is closely monitored and reviewed, and only proceeds subject to a clear business case. The level of spend is reported annually to the Councils Audit Committee.</p> <p>The Council has undertaken a number of significant senior management restructures in recent years and share a number of senior posts with neighbouring councils. We also look for opportunities to generate income, as a council we sell our planning services and our legal services to other local authorities generating a combined income of £850,000 per year.</p> <p>Council Staff do pay for their parking permits through the salary sacrifice scheme</p> <p>Administration has been a centralised function for a number of years now, exactly as you suggest.</p>
14		A fair amount		N/A

32	<p>15 Language used is very misleading. For example: "This saving will not impact on peoples ability to travel for free." who is paying for this free travel ability? Bus services are not paying for themselves and there is a large sum going from tax to pay it. There is no such a thing as free service. "Between 2014 and 2020 we expect the number of people in Peterborough living with dementia will increase by 15 per cent." - by giving just a percentage nobody can tell how many people that is. 15 percent raise could be 15 from 100 or 150 from 1000. "This proposed four per cent increase would mean that overall the Band D council tax charge would rise from £1,173.04 to £1,219.84 per year - an increase of 90p per week." - Council tax is being paid monthly 90p per week gives you almost 4 pounds increase per month. It doesn't look so good, but it is more clear for tax payers.</p>	A great deal	<p>Stop protecting services. Cancel city bus, city waste collection etc. Let the private sector take over, it always worked the best way all around the world. More state more costs. Protect citizens not services.</p>	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide many of the services that it does. Others are highly valued by our residents. The Council has made significant savings on subsidised bus services that are less viable due to lower passenger numbers in recent years. We feel that the current service provides the right balance between cost and providing affordable public transportation for those in greatest need as part of supporting the cities infrastructure network. It should also be noted that the vast majority of the bus services are run commercially by private companies. Peterborough City Council has a statutory duty to provide waste collection for residents. We aim to achieve the best value for money, and so this service is undertaken by Amey on behalf of the council, and we are also looking at ways to reduce the costs of this service via improving the recycling in the city and reducing the landfill to almost zero through the ERF which officially opened earlier this year. The Energy from Waste facility gives Peterborough a much needed alternative to landfill. Rather than sending waste to landfill, it is turned into electricity saving the city £1 million every year for the next three decades.</p>
16		A fair amount	<p>The Woodland Trust report 'trees or turf' shows how managing woodland can be cheaper than some grassland regimes. It may be worth looking at this as an option for some sites. The Woodland Trust would be happy to discuss this with you. The report can be viewed here: https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100083921/trees-or-turf-report.pdf It is also important to note that trees and woodland provide multiple benefits. These include: Cleaner air, Improved shelter and protective shade, Biodiversity, A more</p>	<p>We have a regular program of planting trees and try to not cut grass as regular under shelter belt areas we have also allowed some shelter belts and woodlands to naturally regenerate. We have 7 sites across the city designated as biodiversity sites and have installed wildflower meadows to bring in vibrant colour.</p>

			attractive landscape, A stimulus to inward investment, A focus for community action	
17	The City's image and appearance is dreadful. It starts with overgrown hideous mess at Crescent Bridge roundabout. PCC need to start to consider what our city looks like to residents and visitors outside of the ivory tower and chamber on Bridge Street.	A fair amount	Ensure those responsible for spending actually have accountability. Far too much money has been wasted recently. STOP Installing traffic lights on every road scheme!	As part of this year's budget we are looking to increase shrub cutting back to annual cutting, we also have a scheme planned for early 2017 to re-landscape Crescent Bridge roundabout
18 33	I find it disgraceful you are asking residents to pay more council tax while awarding yourself a very large increase	Not very much		The Council has chosen to freeze council tax four out of the last six years, and we currently have one of the lowest rates in the country. As there is now no freeze grant available and we have increasing complex adult social care demand we feel we have little choice but to increase council tax. Half of the council tax increase is a result of the Adult Social Care Precept, which will be used to support vital services with increasing demands in Adult Social Care.
19		A fair amount		N/A
20	Specific Comments 4. Cost Increases. Unaccomp.-sylum - stop "offering" to take any. We do not support this. Managing demand - reduce translation costs. Put onus on those applying, who will usually have good enough English. CFO Insights - question the cost. Bespoke reports could be written at much less. (I speak from industry experience). Minimum revenue provision - given the historic low borrow rate. False economy to extend? Park attendants - do not support giving these parks special treatment. They should cover other parks namely Werrington as well at same costs. This should have the same status, and has just as serious anti-social issues. Lawyers - no justification in giving massive pay hike. Instead give slightly above inflation instead. If they were that unhappy they would have left, but as many working in Peterborough know this	Not very much	Money Saving Ideas Not Covered, "50 ways to save" government doc, Doesn't seem like PCC actually read it. 3. Use transparency to cut waste - see above. 22. Cut senior pay 24. Scrapping the chief executive post entirely 26. Freeze councillor allowances 34. Stop translating documents into foreign languages Taxi Costs. It cannot be right the amount spent on taxi companies. Needs reviewing and terms of any contracts made public. LED street lighting. Suspend this project altogether. Total false economy. Comes across as jobs for	Thank you for your comments. The 50 ways to save document which was published by DCLG in 2012, was considered at the time and much of this was already in place of has been implemented. The Council has a statutory obligation to support these individuals, such as asylum seekers. However we do continue to lobby Government for support in meeting these costs. The LEP Street Lighting project will deliver significant energy and maintenance savings. Lighting of areas is to a level which achieves appropriate highway and public safety. It is not planned to part time dim or switch off lights but this

34	<p>often isn't an option and you don't go elsewhere. Local gov pensions - movement of staff to private companies must be on the basis that future staff won't be in the public sector pensions. General Comments Brexit. Brexit was a vote to reject the plans for 20,000+ houses. The council has no mandate to do this. The plans as they stand are useless. Given staff are employed to carry these plans out, redundancies should now be considered. Executive Pay. Massively over generourous remuneration packages, some as much as 40% too high. Want plans to replace any staff at lower rates. Shared chief exec was just deflecting attention away, and still over paid. There should be a freeze on existing executive pay for the foreseeable future. Secrecy. The culture at PCC is poor and counterproductive. The Â£500 list is useless with no information given. Making everything open would make it obvious where the problems lie. It impossible from the information and accounts to work out what is being spent on and why. The are local people with expertise that could review what the council are doing if allowed to. Local people can help decide what is essential and will understand if it is laid out how expensive things are for the council. 1) Provide at least another drill-down level of budget info. 2) No more confidentiality/non-disclosure agreements. To allow competitive alternative offers to be given by local companies. 3) Prove a Description/reason on each Â£500 entry. Volunteers. More volunteers and community service work should be used, but again will involve the council making it clear what less essential work needs doing. 8% rise. There needs to be much more justification for such a rise. I do not support this rise as it will just encourage inefficiencies and not the council to do things properly.</p>		<p>the boys. Recent policy to turn off some lights is sensible. There is over-lighting of most areas and spending money on LED replacements makes no sense. Scrapping old lights rather than replacing old poles should be done. Having lights on for less time should be considered as well. Grass Cutting. Reduction in non-essential grass cutting was a good idea and should be reconsidered. It was just implemented really badly. Play parks and hedges that cause visibility problems to road users and put lives are risks are the essentials. Pointless mowing of verges still happens.</p>	<p>option remains available for the future.</p>
21	<p>Do not agree with increase in councillors' allowances</p>	<p>A great deal</p>		<p>The level of member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors had not accepted any increases to their allowances since 2009. We are required by law to ask an independent panel to review our members' allowances on an annual basis.</p>
22	<p>Do not agree with increase in councillors' allowances increase</p>	<p>A great deal</p>	<p>Reduce or not increase director's salaries</p>	<p>The level of member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors had not accepted any increases to their allowances since 2009. We are required by law to ask an independent panel to review our members' allowances on an annual basis.</p>

				We have created directors salaries savings through closer partnership working with our neighbouring councils. We currently share the positions of the Chief Executive, The Coroner, Director of People and Communities and Director of Public Health.
23	<p>Peterborough city centre lack a quality and large place where children can play and young people can study. I can see that the budget proposal and the City centre development plan do lack insight into how boring the city centre is both for families with young children and for youth. I understand your points raised in regard to support to looked after children which are statutory duties, and your willingness to improve night time economy by introducing more residential potential in the city centre as per the Plan But is nothing really that matters profoundly in terms of turning things around. It is almost as if people who sit down to draw consultation plans and also finalise them, do not think about these things outside of the 9 to 5 time frame of their jobs. Please do not feel offended but treat this as constructive and honest criticism. Peterborough needs a building in the city centre which would house a public library with regular drop ins for the small children, where families can come every day. The building in my view should have a large well equipped library where young people can come to do homework and also learn IT skills and even play popular games which their parents may not be able to afford. Ultimately there will be jobs in the newly google and youtube offices in Kings Cross and Peterborough should do everything possible to boost career inspirations in teenagers whilst ensuring they learn about the importance of budgeting and prospects of affordable home ownership in Peterborough. Make them enjoy living in Peterborough and look forward to staying. You could look into having discussions with any college that is already in Peterborough and also any college planning to set up here to focus on this type of project, a large city centre family focused library, to include their academic library in the building or its vicinity. You could consider going to London to see how the Birkbeck college developed its library and made it a vibrant part of the Bloomsbury area. At the moment your budget proposal and the City centre development plan are a bit compartmentalised which may be obscure to some</p>	A great deal	<p>Rethink the vision for Peterborough and redraw the objectives of the budget to attain more for the residents for less money.</p>	<p>The Council has invested in the public realm of the city centre to make it an attractive place to visit and extensive regeneration of areas such as Fletton Quays is underway. The success is supported by the number of new restaurants that have opened in recent years, and the low vacancy rate in our shops, and a planned new cinema in the city centre.</p> <p>We also do provide facilities in the city centre. We have used technology to enable the Central Library to be accessible longer, and services such as rhyme time continue there for children.</p> <p>This budget provides investment to drive forward the regeneration of the Northwestgate area of the city but inevitably these developments require commercial viability.</p> <p>We completely agree with your comments about boosting aspirations in young people. That is the reason we are committed for bringing a university to Peterborough. The devolution deal we recently approved, and some funding we have received from the Local Enterprise Partnership bring this a step closer.</p>

<p>36</p>	<p>residents. As if you have a person in the room making decisions in regard to economy and they put forward their proposals, and another person is thinking about attracting students. But these ideas are not interacting as well as you are presenting them to be. Peterborough is boring and it needs to be interesting and exciting. The main focus should not be this particular objective or the other, depending on the specialist looking at it. It needs to be a whole organic and well planned vision. It starts with a centrally situated exciting and modern building that will see streams of people walking in, enjoying staying in and returning every day. You cannot divide footfall into night time spenders or students. It needs to be all about those who live here, the residents. I suggest looking at Central Park as a location for the multi storey exciting building I am writing about. The first storey could include the family centre and two or three healthy and inexpensive food outlets. The second could be a public library with homework area, IT and also games consoles for the young. Lots of information everywhere about jobs prospects in companies like google in Kings Cross and guidance on budgeting for a shared ownership property. The third+ floor/s could potentially be a hub for students who need to study at academic level in the local college/s. The roof could be a green space where horticultural/garden design students , incl. online courses students, could come to practice and complete project work. If you think about it carefully you will see that local economy would have a potential to bounce back and grown by its own forces. Have a look at places like the Birkbeck college library to seek inspiration in terms of the architecture of such a project. The Central Park is a boring and sad place now and its playground really uninspiring. This place really has a great potential that could change the landscape forever and all residents will benefit.</p>			
<p>24</p>	<p>If you are to be believed we cannot afford the increases in councillors remuneration. We may have a low council tax but we have the filthiest streets of any where we visit.</p>	<p>A great deal</p>	<p>No pay rises for councillors, collect unpaid taxes, concentrate on bread and butter issues, prosecute the people who throw their rubbish into the streets of our city.</p>	<p>The level of member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors had not accepted any increases to their allowances since 2009. We are required by law to ask an independent panel to review our members' allowances on an annual basis. We do have a process in place to pursue unpaid tax and offer support to help vulnerable families and individuals set up payment plans or offer referrals to advice agencies for assistance. Amey cleanse our streets on behalf of</p>

				Peterborough City Council, and we aim to keep the streets tidy and clean to attract visitors and create a nicer place for local residents. A scrutiny review on street cleansing has recently been completed, and specific proposals will be brought forward as part of our Phase 2 proposals.
25	If you are to be believed we cannot afford an increase in councillors wages. We may have a low council tax but we have the filthiest streets of any where we visit.	A great deal	No councillors pay rise, collect unpaid taxes and concentrate tax payers money on bread and butter services and prosecute the people who throw their rubbish onto our streets.	The level of member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors had not accepted any increases to their allowances since 2009. We are required by law to ask an independent panel to review our members' allowances on an annual basis. The number of Councillors in this and any Council, is independently recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission. This work aims to ensure that each Councillor represents roughly the same number of voters.
26 37	Disgusting that you are putting up members allowances by more than 25%. This is outrageous in times of continued austerity measures.	A fair amount		The level of member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors had not accepted any increases to their allowances since 2009. We are required by law to ask an independent panel to review our members' allowances on an annual basis.
27			Make the registration service self-funding or actually making a surplus. Move the registration of events into the library, close and sell the register office building and marry people in the town hall. Commercial thinking is required with this business and it's time for it to move into the 21st century.	We have been looking at ways to maximise the revenue generated from registration service, by offering additional services at a cost. We are also investigating how we can make the best use of the Town Hall, to potentially provide the rooms and chambers for functions such as wedding receptions.

Feedback from Emails

idea/suggestion to make some money for the local authority:	Feedback
If all Council meetings were broadcast via YouTube, then you could set up an associated AdSense account and start making some money via associated advertising? It might only make a few hundred pounds or thousands but it would be a step in the right direction, plus it would help democratic services - by saving time with writing reports etc	There would be investment required in to this to ensure that the visual and audio quality was up to required standard to webcast and there would still be a requirement for formal minute taking and report writing, however your ideas and suggestions will be referred to the communications team and democratic services to evaluate.
Make some concerts, events.	The Council hosts and organises a number of events such as the Great Eastern Run, The Bryan Adams concert, Diwali festival, the Italian festival, the Christmas light switch on and the beer festival. We are keen to hold more events within the city, but there are limitations in terms of health and safety, security and budget available for these.
Do not give councillors pay rise	The level of member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors had not accepted any increases to their allowances since 2009. We are required by law to ask an independent panel to review our members' allowances on an annual basis.
Do not reduce corporation tax until Amazon, Starbucks and other big companies have agreed to repay all taxes owed to the UK economy. If they do not comply, withdraw their UK trading license.	Corporation tax is a tax set by Central Government and Peterborough City Council has no control over setting the rates, and recovering unpaid taxes, this would fall under the department of HMRC.
Community skips or collect 3 bulky rubbish items a year from people. This will cut down on fly tipping and the cost of clearing it up. The environmental capital should not constantly look like a rubbish dump!	As you may know our prevention and enforcement service are currently developing a new strategy against fly-tipping and we will pass your comments on to them directly. Amey collect fly-tipping on the council's behalf and do so within 48 hours of it being reported
Get rid of mayors car and that abomination of a Christmas tree. Also reduce the nice pay rise you have awarded yourselves by at least 50%. If I can manage on 16k so can you.	<p>The Christmas tree provides a low energy and cost efficient alternative to previous Christmas trees used.</p> <p>The Mayor plays a vital role as an ambassador for both the council and the city, often attending prestigious public engagements, some at the request of Peterborough communities. Leasing the car was chosen last year because the repair costs are included within the monthly repayment cost of the lease and the lease cost is much lower than purchasing.</p> <p>The level of Member allowances is recommended by an independent panel. Councillors have had their allowance frozen since 2009.</p>

Feedback from the Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions meeting held on 16th November 2016

The Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions did not make any formal recommendations to Cabinet. The draft minutes of this meeting are included below:

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response from relevant Cabinet Member / Corporate Director
3	Introduction of the Budget Strategy Council Tax	<p>Under the Executive Summary it states in order to reach a balanced budget £8.9 million of the Grant Equalisation (GE) reserve will need to be used.</p> <p>Why it is that £8.9 million is different to the number in the Summary of Phase 1 budget proposals table on page 7 of the agenda paper.</p> <p>How much is the GE Reserve and is this a new reserve?</p> <p>How good is the council at collecting council tax and business rates? Members also sought assurance that everything was being done to collect them.</p>	<p>The exact figure for the amount of GE Reserve used is £8.853 million but was rounded up to one decimal place in the Executive Summary.</p> <p>The strategy for the use of the reserve was approved by council in March. Through early achievement of savings £11 million pounds was put into a reserve to cushion the impact of grant reductions. Due to the savings that had come forward to balance the budget next year there is a need to use £8.853 million of that reserve which is less than originally planned, therefore some of the £11 million is available to support the 2018/2019 budget.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the MTFs will have the full breakdown of the reserves and the formal report from the Chief Finance Officer on the adequacy of the reserves. This is a new reserve which was approved by Council in March because of the additional savings that had been achieved. There is also the general fund balance which is aimed to be kept at £6 million.</p> <p>The target for collection of council tax this year is 1% above the previous year and the council were already ahead of the previous year.</p> <p>The published figures for council tax collection were as of 31 March. The ultimate collection rate was around 98% or more and was continuously under review.</p>

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response from relevant Cabinet Member / Corporate Director
		<p>What are the inflation assumptions?</p> <p>How many other councils were raising tax and how many were taking the Adult Social Care precept?</p> <p>Some Members questioned why the budget was being presented in two Phases and felt that there was little information in the Phase One budget document.</p> <p>Members sought clarification on monies from Capital Assets that go back into running costs. Where did they come from and how were they calculated.</p>	<p>The information was not available but the specific assumptions could be circulated after the meeting.</p> <p>It was unknown how many other councils would take the 2%. However since the government had withdrawn the grant support that they were previously giving far more councils had taken the 2%.</p> <p>With regard to the Adult Social Care precept in the first year which was last year 95% of councils took the extra 2%.</p> <p>In previous years there had been one budget which meant that nothing could be put in place until March. Presenting the budget in two phases allowed savings to be made earlier which assisted in dealing with future challenges.</p> <p>When Capital Assets were sold in the past the money could only be used on Capital Assets. This had now changed and the money from the sale of Capital Assets could now be used to fund revenue expenditure. A disposal list would be brought forward in Phase 2 to show how the money feeds through to the revenue expenditure.</p>
<p>The Committee noted this section of the budget.</p>			
<p>ACTION</p>			
<p>The Cabinet Member for Resources to provide the Committee with the inflation assumptions.</p>			
4.	People and Communities	Members sought clarification as to how much additional investment would be	There had been an increase in unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the city which had led to

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response from relevant Cabinet Member / Corporate Director
Appendix 2 (Pages 13 – 19 Budget Book) (Pages 25 – 31 Agenda pack)		needed to provide placements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the Councils care. Was the figure of £600K quoted accurate?	unit costs going up. The figure quoted was currently the best estimate.
		Was there a problem with bed blocking and if so should the council be putting money aside to alleviate the problem.	The Council did not have a problem with bed blocking. There was a bed blocking problem but it was not with patients that the Council were responsible for. The Council worked as part of a system and in terms of the home support delivery service and reablement service the Council worked with health colleagues and the hospital to assist with any issues.
		Members sought clarification as to what the additional 2% Adult Social Care precept would be spent on.	There would be investment into Adult Social Care some of which had been agreed in the previous budget including extra funding due to additional clients and also the money which had to be put in last year because of the national living wage. There would also be additional investment as part of the Better Care Fund projects. There were also savings being achieved within the department, so there would not be a net increase in budget. These investments would not be possible without the precept and were within the government guidance.
		Should the Council invest more money in supporting the cities primary schools?	The overall level of funding across all authorities for schools was determined by central Government and the total amount was based on a census of the number of pupils that were in schools. The Government then sets rules on how that money could be distributed and there was only a small degree of local flexibility. If the Council decided to use that flexibility, how it was used would have to be agreed by the Schools Forum. The flexibility and room for manoeuvre was limited.
		What up take and projected savings would there be through the Digital Front Door project.	The project was not a digital by default project it provided service users the option to engage with the Council digitally. By more people engaging digitally it

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		Did the project have an impact on staff and were any redundancies expected as a result of the project.	then ensured that staff had more time and opportunities to provide intensive support to those who needed it most. It was not about reducing the head count it was about managing the demand differently.
		What was the cost to the Adult Social Care budget from the increase in the national living wage and other legislation?	The legislation was coming in over a number of years and the cumulative impact was not to hand. An extra £500,000 had been put into the budget next year to cover the expected costs for the national living wage.
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
5.	Resources including Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships Appendix 3 (Pages 20 – 25 Budget Book) (Pages 32 – 37 Agenda Pack)	What would have been the extra cost incurred if another authority had signed the contract for the lease of St Michael's Gate properties. What impact would this have had on the services in the city?	The forecast pressure on the budget for the provision of bed and breakfast accommodation for the homeless would have been £2 million. A series of areas would have been impacted if the Council had not signed the contract for the lease of St Michael's Gate. This would have included provision of housing, school places, adult social care costs, children's services costs and the impact on the health care system including GP's.
		If the Council are working on other solutions to the problem of homelessness so that the Council can move away from the Stef and Phillips agreement would this not then allow other authorities to still come into the city and use the properties.	The Council would not be terminating the agreement with Stef and Phillips until the national scene changed. The Council would not leave those properties for another authority to occupy.
		Members welcomed the news that the park attendants were to be restored and sought clarification as to why they had only been restored during the winter period.	The rationale behind the decision was that there was always staff in the park during the summer months. The reason for reinstating them was because there was an increased element of antisocial behaviour which would not go away during the winter months. The attendants going back into the park would be

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		<p>It was noted that an additional £100k would be put into the budget for shrub cutting. In some other authorities this service had been passed down to the Parish Councils. Can the Parish Councils take on ground maintenance or does the service have to be delivered by Amey.</p> <p>Members congratulated the Cabinet Member for Waste and Street Scene for the U turn on shrub cutting and for listening to the residents.</p> <p>Members sought clarification on why the internal audit partnership with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council was no longer workable which would result in a loss of income.</p> <p>If the council does not continue to work with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council could the Council sell the service outside of Peterborough.</p>	<p>trained and would have the powers to deal with anti social behaviour and issue fines.</p> <p>Parish Councils can take on this service. Amey were responsive to people taking on this service and the use of gluttons have been made available to Parish Councils.</p> <p>The Council currently ran a shared service with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council but those two councils were currently starting to work more closely with Huntingdonshire District Council in a number of areas. It was indicated that internal audit would be one of the services considered but it was not deemed beneficial to Peterborough to have a four way partnership. All options were being looked at and the Head of Internal Audit has contacted other neighbouring authorities to see if they would consider a partnership but so far nothing had come of this.</p> <p>Commercialisation of services was a big change and the Council had picked up a lot of income from doing this.</p>
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
6.	Growth and Regeneration	Have the Council considered using the	Councils could borrow at low rates through the Public

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	Appendix 4 (Pages 26 – 29 Budget Book) (Pages 38 – 41 Agenda Pack)	beneficial rates of interest to invest in long term investments.	Works Loan Board. All opportunities were investigated where with adequate security the Council might be able to lend that on and make a margin. This would also give the organisation lending to a beneficial rate.
		Has the LED lighting replacement programme been completed and if not could it be speeded up.	The light replacement programme had another three years to run. The programme had started in the 'Can do area' and would progress throughout the city. Workshops and events would be held in each area to advise people of what was happening.
		Other authorities were using lamp posts to use other technology, how are we progressing the use of this in the city.	There will be a report to the January meeting of the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee. The new technology being put into the street lamps will be capable of using Wi-Fi but this was for use at a later stage.
		Is it true that Hawksworth Securities can start work on North Westgate in 12 months and how much of North Westgate does Hawksworth Securities own.	Hawksworth Securities own about 20% of the site in separate parcels but not enough to deliver the scheme they were putting forward. They would not be able to start a scheme in 12 months time.
		The Hawksworth scheme included a cinema and they are stating that the viability of the scheme was reliant on the cinema. Planning permission had also been given to Queensgate for an additional cinema. Could the Council have refused permission for this additional cinema?	No the Council could not have refused permission and this was upheld following a Judicial Review.
Members sought clarification as to why there was a saving of £686k for concessionary bus fares.	The savings had come about by undertaking an analysis of the number of concessionary fare journeys taking place each year and the fact that the use of bus passes had been lower than predicted partly because the age for concessionary bus pass eligibility had		

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		<p>Are the Council able to monitor how many people have concessionary bus passes and how many people actually use them?</p>	<p>increased in line with the pensionable age for women. The savings reflected the actual level of demand for concessionary bus travel.</p> <p>Stage Coach were a commercial entity and the Council do try and regulate their charges where possible.</p> <p>To Council only pay for the journeys taken and the Council had access to records of how many people had taken journeys using a concessionary bus pass.</p>
		<p>Members sought clarification as to why the reduction in budget for highway maintenance schemes for one year to 2017 of £450k had now been extended to March 2022 at a further £450K per year. Members felt that this would have a detrimental effect on some roads and pathways which were already in bad condition. Members requested that this not be extended.</p> <p>Councillor Khan seconded by Councillor Ellis made a recommendation to Cabinet that the reduction in the budget of £450,000 for the highway maintenance programme should not be extended until March 2022 and remain at October 2017 as originally agreed with a view to reconsidering it again in 2018/2019.</p>	<p>Road and pathways maintenance had not stopped and were continuing to be repaired and were assessed on a safety basis. Maintenance and safety of residential streets was paramount and an extra £250k a year would be put into maintenance of residential areas to undertake preventative work. The £450k savings would be from the lower category residential roads.</p> <p>Members were advised that if the recommendation was agreed it would leave a gap in the savings of £450,000.</p>

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		<p>Councillor Sandford seconded by Councillor Shaheed put forward an amendment to Councillor Khan's recommendation to change the wording to: It is recommended that Cabinet investigate the feasibility of not extending the reduction in the budget of the £450,000 for the highway maintenance programme to March 2022 and remaining at October 2017 as originally agreed.</p> <p>Following a vote (2 in favour 20 against), the amendment was DEFEATED.</p> <p>Following a vote on Councillor Khans original recommendation (7 in favour 18 against), the original recommendation was DEFEATED.</p>	
		Do the Cabinet have any plans to change the amount of public transport subsidy.	No.
		Were other Local Authorities coming through Peterborough City Council to use Skanska and if so how much income were the Council receiving from this service.	Other Local Authorities were coming through Peterborough City Council to use Skanska. The figures for income from this were not available at the meeting.
		<p>Will there be any capital receipts from the community asset transfer programme yet.</p> <p>Members commented that the Lindens had been gifted to the city in 1950 and sought clarification as to whether the Council were able to dispose of the building as it was gifted to the city.</p>	<p>The disposal list will be published in Phase Two of the budget. Phase One did not take into account any bids from organisations. The process was ongoing and too premature to answer.</p> <p>If a building is gifted to the city and is a Council asset then the Council can dispose of it as it wishes. No one had come forward as yet to purchase it.</p>

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	Members recommended using the Invest to Save fund in bringing forward the LED light replacement scheme around the city to bring forward the anticipated savings.	The Invest to Save fund was already being used for this scheme. The length of the scheme was due to the fact that several thousands of LED replacement lights were required and they were not all available at the same time.	The Committee noted this section of the budget.
7. Governance Appendix 5 (Page 30 – 32 Budget Book) (Pages 42 to 44 Agenda Book)	Members sought clarification as to why there was a proposal to increase the salary of each lawyer by one pay grade at a time when savings were needed to be made.	The Legal team won the Local Government Legal Team of the Year award in 2015 which has resulted in other local authorities poaching members of the legal team from Peterborough. If the council were unable to recruit at the current rate it would mean having to go out to external lawyers at a much more costly rate. The proposed salary increase will hopefully provide an incentive to encourage staff to remain working at Peterborough City Council.	The Committee noted this section of the budget.
	Members noted that under the member allowances scheme it stated that there could also be some savings arising through an increase in car parking fees for Members. How significant would those savings be?	This had not been discussed yet and would be reported to the cross party budget working group.	The Committee noted this section of the budget.
8. Staff Implications Appendix 6 (Pages 33 Budget Book) (Page 45 Agenda Pack)	No comments or questions were made on this section of the budget.		The Committee noted this section of the budget.

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10.	Council Tax Support Scheme Page 47 Appendix C of the Agenda Pack	No comments or questions were made on the Council Tax Support Scheme.	The Service Director Financial Services provided a brief introduction and explanation around the Council Tax Support Scheme.
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
11	General Comments, any overall recommendations and Conclusion		
	There were no further comments, questions or recommendations.		