

FULL COUNCIL 12 OCTOBER 2022 QUESTIONS

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	<p>Question from Marija Obradovic</p> <p>Councillor Coles Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</p> <p>I would like to inform you of the dire consequences my business is facing - and of course the whole of hospitality.</p> <p>The business rates I pay are too excessive and even with a discount for this tax year I am struggling to meet the payments.</p> <p>Now I have the added threat of an increase in utility charges which means I will not be able to continue unless I receive some help now.</p> <p>I am community minded and do my best to encourage the locals to come in but with increases in prices everywhere people are too worried to come out and spend what little they have left.</p> <p>Charlies is a wonderful place for the community. We have people of all ages and will be starting a friendship club, thanks to your donation, in October. We will be a safe and warm place as our cafe will be based in the small function room. We can't open our main premises except on match day as we can't heat both.</p> <p>We are surviving thankfully to my partner who has returned to work.</p> <p>Please can you help in any way in highlighting my concerns. I feel this may be the final nail in the coffin.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Fiona Oloug</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>I would like you to raise the homelessness issue rampant in Peterborough. I have heard disappointingly that the winter night shelter is not going ahead again this year, I think that's awful.</p> <p>It is run mostly by volunteers and the local churches, so can the relevant Cabinet Member confirm why that's not happening again!</p>

There are so many people abandoned in this city who are vulnerable or addicted to a substance or with severe mental health issues. What kind of city/society are we to just ignore this?

What exactly is our tax etc being spent on? Surely, it's meant to help these people marginalised in this world?

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Questions on notice to:

- a. The Mayor
- b. To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet
- c. To the Chair of any Committee or Sub-committee

1. **Question from Councillor Hogg (1)**

Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, Education, Skills and the University

In August 2020 Joel Lamy reported in the Peterborough Telegraph the numbers of students planned for ARU Peterborough had been reduced from an initial 12,500 to just 5,000 by 2028 reducing the economic benefit of the new campus from £1.1bn to £400 million. Now that the university is open can the Cabinet Member for Education please update us on where these figures stand now?

2. **Question from Councillor Day**

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport

How has our local area and region been impacted by the dumping of raw sewage into rivers?

Link to useful background information: <https://theriverstrust.org/sewage-map>

3. **Question from Councillor John Fox (1)**

Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council made it clear in his statement to the Peterborough Telegraph that we have been pushed into a new era of permanent austerity.

Officers have also produced a four-point plan to achieve financial sustainability in this council.

I support financial sustainability and would therefore ask the Leader to disband the privileged and un-needed Cabinet Advisors' positions straight away.

This will show the public that we are truly in this together.

4.	<p>Question from Councillor Skibsted (1)</p> <p>Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>Cllr Marco Cereste, Council Cabinet member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport, has recently stated: "To reach our ambitious goal of becoming a carbon net-zero city will require all parts of our city to come together and embrace the big changes we will all need to make"</p> <p>So far the LCWIP - Local Council Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - has no mention of linking cycling routes between the north and south and east and west of the city to enable cyclists to cycle freely and safely across the city centre. It is not acceptable or practical to expect cyclists to "get off and walk" for large parts of their journeys and will not encourage more cycling and fewer cars on the roads. Car users are not expected to do this.</p> <p>As chair of the new Task and Finish Group for Walking and Cycling, I understand that creating such routes would be a "big change" requiring a lot of resources. However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I) is this not integral to the idea of making big changes and enabling and enticing residents to cycle to work/school etc on a safe route thus reducing the need for cars and therefore air pollution in this area, II) Should this therefore not become a major priority for our city, and III) Why has it not been up until now?
5.	<p>Question Councillor from Judy Fox</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</p> <p>Having promised to liaise with Ranjit Maharani to advise and assist him in finding suitable land on which to create a new hydrotherapy facility. Have you or any officers contacted him since your promise was made? The offer was made, I believe, to allow Mr Maharani to consider any sites specifically owned by the council, not on the open market.</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg (2)</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</p> <p>The recent Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme, automatically paid out to those homes eligible that pay their bills using direct debit, but those paying by other methods had to apply for the rebate. Can the relevant Cabinet Member update us on how many homes which were eligible have not applied for the grant and what steps are PCC taking to get those grants to these households?</p>

7.

Question from Councillor John Fox (2)

Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications, Culture and Communities

It seems from the public announcements that the current administration is to solve the problems within our City Centre by tasking a hit squad to stop all the anti-social behaviour we see daily.

My questions are:-

1. How many officers will be employed to do this and when?
2. What are their hours of work?
3. What will be the total cost to the taxpayers of Peterborough for this period of operation?
4. What powers will they have to immediately enforce any necessary action?
5. Will these officers be given the right tools to carry out such work, such as body cameras, spit masks and any other protective equipment?

	<p><u>Questions on notice to:</u></p> <p>d. The Combined Authority Representatives</p>
1.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Combined Authority Board Representative</p> <p>With Stagecoach announcing bus routes being withdrawn and others being cut back specifically at the weekend, can the relevant rep on the Combined Authority please updates us on what is being done to overturn these decisions by Stagecoach which will have a devastating effect on bus users from parts of our city?</p>