

**FULL COUNCIL 26 JULY 2023
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	<p>Question from John Bradshaw</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>Thank you and good evening.</p> <p>Peterborough City Council (PCC) has adopted an Armed Services Covenant (ASC) This provides for the promotion of "fair access to a wide range of services" including Health.</p> <p>Please explain how the failure to provide a regular bus service to Wittering is consistent with the principles of Peterborough City Council's Armed Services Covenant.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes, thank you Mr Mayor and thank you for your question, Mr Bradshaw.</p> <p>We are proud to maintain our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, and fully recognise the need for a bus service for Wittering and other villages.</p> <p>Passenger transport is a function of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. We are working closely with them on future plans and service provisions. The Combined Authority are updating their Bus Service Improvement Plan and one of the priorities is to achieve more service provision in rural areas. The Combined Authority are also investigating whether to do bus franchising will be viable and later this year they will be reviewing all subsidised services to make decisions on what services should be funded next year.</p> <p>We will be making the case for the need for a bus service for Wittering and all the other villages.</p> <p>Supplementary question:</p> <p>I don't have a question, but I would just like to request that its good news you're having these consultations, please bear in mind the difficult, very difficult transport choices faced by the residents of Wittering. Which can be not to go to the doctors or the dentist or to walk up alongside the A1 with traffic travelling at up to 70 miles an hour in order to get to the doctors and dentists. Please bear this in mind with your deliberations. Thank you.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p>

Yeah, thank you Mr Mayor. Yeah well, I certainly will be advocating for you know rural services has good provisions I will certainly be doing that thank you.

<u>COUNCIL BUSINESS</u>	
<u>Questions on notice to:</u>	
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 Cllr John Fox (1) Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change I've noticed volunteers are working to clear the overgrown grassed areas around our city's footpaths as it is encroaching over the pathways, especially at this time of year. Although this is laudable work they are doing, I ask the question why are they having to do this, other than a sense of loving where they live and wanting to improve their own areas? This is a city-wide issue, not just my Werrington ward. What is the cabinet member going to do about organising Aragon to do this work as it should not be down to council tax paying volunteers to carry out the maintenance of our footpaths. The Cabinet Member responded: Yes Mr Mayor, happy to do that. Thank you for your question Councillor Fox. The Council does not currently instruct Aragon to undertake any routine works to remove grass that is encroaching onto footpaths across the city. This work is currently only undertaken as and when it prevents a risk from a highway perspective and is requested by a local Highways Inspector. That said, I would like to extend my gratitude to those volunteers who have undertaken such work and I welcome any suggestions from any Councillors that any such works is needed. We'll work with probationary service to try and remove these troublesome areas. Supplementary question: I do Mr Mayor and I'd also point out that I did try to use probation services, but they wouldn't assist so that avenue has been tried along with several other avenues. Correct me if I'm wrong but when the contract for cutting grass was drawn up it was not included a clause to trim the borders is that correct. Is the Leader going to make sure that whatever contracts that are drawn up in the future that will get them fully

	<p>scrutinized by all councillors not a select few so as to avoid such ridiculous mistakes because cutting the grass obviously means doing the borders.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes, obviously Councillor Fox we'd love to be able to do this you know it's just finding the finance and we have to think outside the box but I'm happy to go back to Aragon and see if we can work something out. Thank you.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Cllr Skibsted</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>It appears to be council policy from the Tree Department that if trees on council land overhang residents' gardens or property, the residents are responsible for cutting back the overhang, unless there is an issue of disease or safety. This may be due to a cutback to funding in the Tree department where many large trees are no longer regularly maintained. Many residents have approached me regarding very large trees which completely overshadow their gardens or are hanging over their properties, causing much inconvenience to them.</p> <p>Many of these residents are elderly or disabled and also have no funds to employ an arborist to do the work - several of these trees are very high and would need specialist equipment. This is happening across the city. It seems very unreasonable to expect residents to bear the cost of maintaining council owned trees on council land and many are simply unable to afford to do so. What will the council do to assist in this matter?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may responded:</p> <p>Yes Mr Mayor, I would. Thank you for your question, Councillor Skibsted.</p> <p>The Council's Trees and Woodland Strategy offers limited scope for Council to fell or reduce trees minimising overhanging of adjoining properties. These policies were introduced to maintain an effective, affordable and legally complaint service for the whole city. This approach, in respect to overhanging trees, was challenged in late 2021 when a paper was presented to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet exploring options to amend the current approach taken. The resultant endorsed recommendations were to retain the existing approach, as it was considered that the introduction of exemptions would be counter-productive and would risk harm and progress made to-date, in respect to tree management. Minor amendments were however introduced at the time to add clarity on operational guidelines, particularly in relation to when action will be taken because of daylight loss.</p> <p>Supplementary question:</p> <p>Yes, I do Mr Mayor, thank you. Thank you for your response, Councillor Simons.</p> <p>But the reason I've raised this is because I've had several many residents come to me who can't afford to sort out their trees. They've grown very very tall over the last 40 years. Some of them are disabled and they just cannot do it, they can't afford to do it. What can we do to help these residents who have got trees literally overhanging their gardens, they've got no daylight at all or they can't grow anything I just want to know what I can what we can say to residents who come with these issues because it seems</p>

	<p>unfair these are not their trees they've been planted by the council and yea what could you offer, what could we, how can we help that's my question thank you.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes thanks for the supplementary question. I think we have to remember we've got 50,000 trees in the residential areas and we have to be very careful obviously how they are, how we treat them really to be honest. I think you could use your CIF and I think every individual tree we will look it. You know if you've got a problem with a certain tree, we'll just get our tree officers to take a look. There's no easy answer I'd love to say there is but there is no easy answer.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Question from Cllr Mohammed Farooq</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>In this month's Cabinet meeting (10 July 2023), it was revealed there is a budget shortfall of a further £5m and rising. Will the relevant cabinet member please explain to the council, how such a large amount has come to light (all of a sudden) and what services is he proposing to cut, to make up for this shortfall?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, yes, I would and thank you Councillor Farooq for your question.</p> <p>We made a commitment that we'd refresh and report on a quarterly basis, the latest MTFS projections. This is because we recognise the environment, we operate in is ever changing. We want to be fully abreast of the financial impact of any such changes, so we can review and take action to ensure we deliver a balanced budget, but also to be transparent about this with members and with our residents.</p> <p>You mentioned a budget shortfall it's actually a forecast budget gap and the rise can be pinpointed in very few key areas. This most significant one is in children's services, and it has arrived between the February figure, you'll know when we had the budget outturn figure of six hundred-thousand-pound underspend, and it has now risen to this number. It's been all about additional costs of services.</p> <p>There's also pressure because of the national pay offer that's coming up and inflation also has an impact on that number. But it should be noted that these are just predications at this stage and the budget shortfall will come down, equally it could increase but it's one of those figures that changes all the time.</p> <p>At this stage nothing is off the table, the budget setting process began in early July, which will start with a detailed review of all budgets. Officers, Cabinet and the FSWG will work on developing strategies to mitigate any rising pressures in addition to developing savings and transformation plans. Thank you, Mr Mayor.</p> <p>Supplementary question:</p> <p>Yes, I do, Mr Mayor, thank you. Thank you, Councillor Coles.</p>

	<p>When I prepared this question I hadn't seen the papers went out and now I've seen the papers, page 95 of the council paper as it says budget gap of twenty-four/twenty-five are five point one million rising to ten million for twenty-five/twenty-six but on the next paragraph it also says that current savings of five million are at risk of non-delivery? Is that a total gap of fifteen million then or thank you.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you for the supplementary. I think we're conflating two things here. The waterfall I think you're referring to looks at those particular risks that are either easy to deliver, cause some risks and those are going to be hard to deliver so that's that five million you're thinking of. It's over the entire year we will be attempting to deliver on the budget that we currently have and then we'll be dealing with the additional um problems that come up during the year by reprofiling the budget as we go. Thank you, Mr Mayor.</p>
4.	<p>Question from Cllr Hemraj Withdrawn</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities</p> <p>Now that we are in school summer holiday season can you please advise why there is such a delay in receiving the parts to repair the much-loved paddling pool in Central Park that has been used for many generations and Bretton water park?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may respond:</p>
5.	<p>Question from Cllr Howard (1)</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>It has been reported in the press that the opening of the Hilton hotel is further delayed to Summer 2024. Can the relevant cabinet member explain to this council how much has been drawn by the hotel and how many payments have been made to PCC. What will happen now with the most recent extension of the loan till the end of 2023?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes, thank you Mr Mayor I would and thank you Councillor Howard for the question.</p> <p>£14.9m of the £15m loan facility has been drawn by Fletton Quays Hotel Ltd. Each drawdown request is fully reviewed by the council's quantity surveyor and only once approved is drawdown authorised and made. The loan remains fully secured against the property and it continues to generate an income for the council and our taxpayers.</p> <p>The loan facility is a standard construction loan facility and in accordance with this type of facility repayment is made at the end of the facility.</p> <p>There are regular meetings with the developer, and to date the council has not been asked to extend the loan beyond the 31 December. If such a request is made, a decision will be made which is in the best interests of the council and our residents. Thank you, Mr Mayor.</p> <p>Supplementary question:</p>

	<p>Thank you Mr Mayor I do and thank you councillor Coles for answering the question. Of course we all want the hotel to be a success there's no doubt about that however why should officers have to spend their time and focus worrying about the loans security to private enterprises rather than spending time concentrating on the council services to our public and working on the rising budget deficit. I'm sure you'll agree if the loan is defaulted on are we prepared by monitoring the progress of the build and fit out to ascertain the likely cost of completion of this project. Thank you.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor. Well I think Councillor Howard will know having been in cabinet at the time about the challenges that we had with this particular item and we're simply dealing with the reality of the impact of covid on the ability of the people within the construction industry to be able to deliver and also the impact on inflation from that and also the Russian attacks on Ukraine which has elevated the cost of building materials which has caused the problems for the delay. As I said it's fully secured against the property so if there were to be a default then we would receive the property in full and that's worth a heck of a site more than the loan that we had. You'll remember also that when we got the loan it was a process through the PWLB system which is that we could assist in the build of the hotel to improve that whole area of the city and it's only really the circumstances that have conspired against us through covid and also through the war with Russia against Ukraine that we've got these particular issues of completing this on the original time scale.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Question from Cllr Harper</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>Land registry documents reveal the Vine building has cost the council £3.97m. The leader is now intending to sell this property. Can the leader assure the council this building will be sold for more than £3.97m and therefore no losses will be picked up by our residents?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Harper, for the question.</p> <p>Officers within the council are currently in negotiations with an interested party to purchase the former TK Maxx and New Look building which is 62-68 Bridge Street. The current proposal will ensure that the Council achieves a figure in excess of the original purchase price. It should also be noted that the Council is required to achieve best value, as governed by Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972. Thank you, Mr Mayor.</p> <p>Supplementary question:</p> <p>I do Mr Mayor thank you and thank you thank you councillor Coles for your answer. If we actually include the costs to the actual purchase price that's been publicly announced we're looking probably more realistically at four and a half million pounds. Can Councillor Coles in this case assure us and the council that the sale price will be in excess of this four and a half million plus any additional cost to sell this building. I refer you back to the finance when the financial officer insisted, we must not</p>

	<p>sell our assets for a lower price than they are worth, the hydrotherapy pool being a classic example thank you.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes thank you very much Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Harper for the supplementary. I can't obviously go into the financial details that's an exempt matter but I'm reassured by our officers that we will be making money on the deal and I think that's about as far as I'm able to go in terms of that but I'm not entirely sure about your figure of 4.5 million but I accept that you've got that from somewhere. I don't have it in front of me if you want more detail I'd be very happy to get it for you.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Question from Cllr Iqbal</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>We are finding that more and more of the Council's committee and Cabinet report are coming out with vital information held back under the exemption law, the latest being the legal advice received around a recent planning committee application. Our residents deserve a more transparent council. Can I ask the leader of the administration, what steps is he proposing to take, for this council to be more transparent?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I do apologise, Mr Mayor, it's me again. Thank you, Councillor, for your question.</p> <p>As you are aware, there are times that the Council will have commercial or sensitive matters to deal with, and the approach that we take as a Council will continue to be advised by officers. As I have said in this chamber on many occasions, my door is always open for any member, and this also goes for my Cabinet team - they too can have discussions on matters that remain confidential. Thank you, Mr Mayor.</p> <p>No supplementary question was asked.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Question from Cllr Qayyum (1)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adults Services and Public Health</p> <p>Given the changes to the Cabinet roles and appointments of Advisors to each Portfolio, can the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health Scrutiny give us a reason as to why there was no representation from either Cabinet Member or advisors at the First Adults and Health Scrutiny meeting of the Municipal year? As all roles are remunerated at the cost of the tax paying people of this city.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>It's always a pleasure to respond to questions from Councillor Qayyum, I look forward to them and I'm pleased I've got one myself this month to answer.</p> <p>So as you are aware, Councillor Qayyum, Members, there is no <u>standing</u> requirement for Cabinet Members or Advisors to attend Scrutiny Meetings. However, if Scrutiny</p>

	<p>Chairs such as yourself wish to receive information regarding matters on Adults or Health, or any matter really, from myself or my Advisers or any members of the Cabinet, this can be done via Democratic Services or by contacting us directly.</p> <p>What I would say is where I've been advised or there is a requirement for me to attend to present a report or to support officers I've always done so. there was no such requirement on this particular occasion, but had you asked me I would have come if I was available, I'm always happy to attend and speak to members about the good work we're doing over this side as well as the good chairing you're doing no doubt on the committee. Thank you, Mr Mayor</p> <p>Supplementary question:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor. I didn't know that you'd been chosen as the cabinet member for that portfolio by that time Councillor Fitzgerald but thank you very much for your answer. Now the reason why I asked this question is that at the last full council meeting I asked about disability provision and policy within the city, and I got a very helpful response it was very comprehensive. I'd like to thank you however there was still no stipulated city-wide disability provision or policy within those answers. Hence the reason why I feel that it's important for cabinet members and advisors to attend such meetings. You are privy to information on the ground within the remit of these scrutiny committee meetings therefore may I ask can you pledge that you will attend at least 60 to 80 percent of those meetings or the cabinet advisors thank you.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Time is always pressed as you know whether it's for me or for other people or maybe elsewhere London other meetings. Brian and David have taken over the joint roles because as you know we had a change forced upon us which was you know just one of those things and we've had to get on and deal with it. If I would have been free that day I probably would have come I do attend scrutiny meetings but it is generally by a request where there is a requirement from officers so I think a bit of liaison between yourself and other scrutiny chairs because I wouldn't imagine it just applies to Health and Social care and most members will be accommodating but what I would suggest is where there's particularly things on the agenda that you feel may benefit from some cabinet input or advisor input in order that that information is shared then perhaps chairs can be encouraged to discuss that with the Democratic Services team and inquire about availability that's what I'll commit to. The other thing is about the disability issue I very much accept that there's a lot of work to be done on that and I know there are many people councillor Fox is very passionate both of them in fact and others Bryan Tyler as well so if we can improve that area of our work I would support and welcome that and any suggestions that people have on how we might do it then we should all collectively perhaps have that discussion. Ok, thanks. Thanks Mr Mayor.</p>
9.	<p>Question from Cllr Elsey</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>A few years ago, we were told by this administration that merger with Cambridgeshire was the best and most efficient way of delivering services to our residents. The same administration is now de-coupling the delivery of these services from Cambridgeshire. Can I ask the relevant cabinet member, what is the cost of this failed experiment so far? How much extra money will it cost to run the new de-coupled services?</p>

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you, Mr Mayor, yes, I would and thank you Councillor Elsey for your question.

I don't think I'd describe the shared services with Cambridgeshire as an experiment or as a failure. At the time the authority took part in this shared service, a number of local authorities entered into these sorts of agreements to generate costs savings and also to generate economies of scale. In reality, the anticipated savings rarely materialised and resources were often spread too thinly with officers trying to cover two posts for organisations with different pressures and priorities. Nationally, numerous other such shared service arrangements have come to an end.

Peterborough City Council's in a precarious financial position and it is now considered right to have dedicated resources to concentrate on services for Peterborough only. There will be financial pressures, in particular in children's services, however, these will largely be covered within existing budgets. However, an additional £1.4m in the current financial year has been added to the budget, funded from reserves.

It should also be noted that some shared services continue to work well and will remain in place, for example Public Health. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Supplementary question:

Yes I do thank you Mr Mayor.

So in essence we followed the pack uh we didn't we didn't do anything innovative.

I and others told the then leader and his Deputy that this system wouldn't work and that we would end up with officers who were too thinly spread and that we would suffer as a consequence. Our thoughts were overruled because the thought process was it looks good now and provided it gets us the requisite votes it's fine and the people of Peterborough need to know the full facts, so my supplementary question is in several parts. The first part is how many good officers did this authority lose to half committed officers from Cambridge? How much did we pay in redundancy payments to these officers? How many of these Cambridge officers are still here? How much is it costing to recruit new officers to the posts we already had? and what impact does this upheaval had on Frontline Services? Thank you, Mr Mayor.

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you Mr Mayor. Yes I'll I'll try, I think if I might take those away and write back to Councillor Elsey for those specific questions I don't have that detail ahead of me in fact you have the advantage of me because I think you're in cabinet at the time and I wasn't so you're probably more privy to those arguments than I was. I don't know whether we were just following the pack I think we were one of the leading of that pack to make those decisions to save money and what we have seen and you might be writing your predictions actually that there were some issues there which I explained in my in my first answer but what we're looking to do is to make sure that Peterborough has a Peterborough response to Peterborough needs. I will try to answer all those other questions that you're asking but one thing one point I think I would say is that what we have noticed is that as we are moving from a shared service to Peterborough a number of the former Peterborough officers that then were shared with Cambridgeshire are coming back. So I'll work those figures out for you and make sure you have those

	<p>accurate answers but I can't give you the full detail at the moment. Thank you, Mr Mayor.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Question from Cllr Qayyum (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Can the relevant Cabinet member inform us as to whether the proposed development of the Station Quarter and Funding allocated from Central Government will be used for the development of the Railway Station in isolation or will there be other sites redeveloped inclusive to this project such as the adjacent footbridge on Thorpe Road and Prominent buildings within the vicinity? Could we have the details of the extent of the proposals, please?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor for the question.</p> <p>This particular project focuses on the creation of an enhanced gateway Station including a new western entrance which I think will be a marvellous improvement., and improved passenger facilities and accessibility to the city, including disabled access, pedestrian and cycle connections.</p> <p>It took me half an hour this evening to get across Crescent Bridge and I think hopefully once this project goes ahead that will be a thing of the past.</p> <p>The project will also broadly deliver economic growth, levelling up and provide a catalyst for wider regeneration of the city. It will improve accessibility and journey quality at and around the important station and the station quarter. We hope less congestion on surrounding highway networks, and it may very well also help health and well-being to improve.</p> <p>This government funding is ringfenced to the station and its environs however it will also act as a catalyst for development for the wider area around the station as future phases of the project come forward. Thank you, Councillor, thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p>Follow up question:</p> <p>I do Mr Mayor, Councillor Cereste could I just confirm before I ask my supplementary so there is going to be a Redevelopment of the Footbridge as per my first question.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>The exact detail of the Footbridge I can't tell you because I don't have the information but I'm quite happy to check it out for you and send you a response. We don't know yet because obviously we've got people in working in the appraisal, but I will let you know as soon as we find out.</p> <p>Supplementary question:</p> <p>So it was just around whether the fact that when we do if it is part of the Redevelopment are we going to be having an asbestos survey and will removal of that asbestos be part of that inclusive ring fenced funding that you're getting from</p>

	<p>central government, or will you have to procure that from somewhere else that was all.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded: I mean at this stage; I don't even know and I don't think there is asbestos. We haven't got that far to find out as I said I'm quite happy to keep the Councillor informed if she drops me a note, I'll make sure I get all the answers for her if I can.</p>
11.	<p>Question from Cllr Howard (2)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adults Services and Public Health</p> <p>Following the recent in-depth review within the Conservative group of Cabinet Member meeting attendance, I wondered if the Leader could explain why 4 members of the Cabinet were absent from the Full Cabinet meeting on 10th July?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes, thank you Mr Mayor. I'm so pleased that Councillor Howard is still taking an interest in all that goes on in Cabinet and is an avid watcher. He'd be pleased to know I was also watching myself even though I was on holiday.</p> <p>Firstly, just to correct the situation, there were not 4 cabinet members away on the 10th of July. Jackie Allen is a Cabinet Advisor as you know and not a cabinet member thus has no effect on any decision-making process of cabinet. There were in fact 3, as I said, not at the meeting. One of those was me I was on holiday, one of those was Councillor Allen who was also on holiday longer than me as a matter of fact he had a whole week and Lynne Ayres very unfortunately was very very poorly and remained so now because for those that are keeping a close watch on things, Lynne had a knee operation that unfortunately went very wrong and she got E.coli which is a very serious infection and left her incapacitated. She is thankfully recovering now but not well enough to attend tonight but before anything was booked I checked with Democratic Services the meeting was still quorate and was well chaired by Councillor Coles as I watched online. All matters considered on the agenda that day had already been fully discussed as you would know Councillor Howard in various forums like cpf and indeed pre-cabinet and elsewhere so there was no issue, there was no problem, the meeting was quorate, and business was conducted in the usual way.</p> <p>Supplementary question: Thank you, Mr Mayor I do and thank you leader for answering the question. I am still interested and watching what goes on you'll be glad to know. We all wish Councillor Ayres well of course but if it was appropriate, if it was applicable to any member would you help that if some members of the cabinet were enjoying the hospitality of friends of the current administration during this time out of office they would update their gifts and hospitalities record with the monitoring officer within the required time.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p>

	<p>Yes, if that was a requirement but in this case it wasn't. I have no idea what you mean by friends of this administration if you really want to know I went to a friend's birthday party that I've known for 35 years that has no dealings with this administration and is in fact one of the Deputy Lord lieutenants which is holy inappropriate and not political at all Councillor Howard but you should know that. So I have no idea what you're talking about really and why would I declare something that I paid for myself and by the way I was never on a boat just so you know.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Question from Cllr John Fox (2)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adults Services and Public Health</p> <p>One of the most bizarre moments in my time as a councillor has been, when this leadership proposed a recommendation of all-out elections and then voted against it - one can only assume for political reasons, at the expense of the taxpayer. Can the leader explain to the council, his full plan on all-out elections for next year.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I'm baffled and flattered at the same time that Councillor Fox thinks this is anything to do with me um when it isn't to be clear I as leader of the council did not bring the four yearly all our elections report to council this this I'm talking a few months ago this was a requirement from the Improvement panel and the secretary of state was the reason it came to council you can check this with the chief executive and the Improvement panel have clearly stated that this report should be Revisited at full council at some point and I believe that's being discussed by officers early indications are again not at my request nothing to do with me I believe that might be October that there is some suggestion from officers that that may come back then which is the expectation of the Improvement panel if you also read the Improvement panel report that's later on in this agenda you will see it says the very same thing it's not something I'm pushing or doing that was also the consensus of members back in whenever we discussed it last October I believe and therefore as I'm informed and as I just said it'll come back in October at full Council for all members to consider again that's all I know about it.</p> <p>Supplementary question:</p> <p>Yes, I do Mr Mayor is it not correct you voted for it and then voted against it and if that's the case given there is there might be a all-out election in 2026 with a possibility boundary changes what logic can there be in an all-out election please can you explain and will you personally be campaigning against it.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Again, Councillor Fox I have no idea what you mean that I voted for and against I have no idea what that means I think that was Andy Coles you may be talking about I think I uh I think if from memory but you'd have to check I don't think I actually voted at all in my personal capacity as a member on that on that meeting there was a number of mixture of votes with some people voting for some people voting against interestingly Councillor Harper made a great deal of noise about that which should be voted through which I hope is still his position if it does come back to Council on the basis it saved cost and all sorts of other reasons I recall felt very strongly about it as Peterborough first. My position at the moment and it is only a personal position I don't</p>

	<p>think has changed I'm neither for or against personally at the moment if we have to have a vote again it will come back not at my request. It's coming back at the request of the panel and DLUCH as expected by them my view is just my view.</p> <p>Councillor Fox raised a point of explanation: Is it not correct you voted all out for all our elections but then vote against for last year.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded: I have no recollection of what you're talking about a vote was put to council I believe and the vote was lost my personal vote but you'd have to check but I'm pretty sure I abstained personally I I'm pretty sure I did as for other people I bet you know whether I did vote for or against it's neither here nor there. The vote was lost and if we have another vote it'll be a different vote</p> <p>Councillor Coles raised a point of explanation: I'm just to clarify this confusion I was the one that proposed that because that was the requirement of my position I voted against it because my personal view is although I've always supported the idea of all else I thought the timing was the issue so that's why I voted against it so if the confusion is about someone proposing it and then voting against it that was my position and that was the view that I took so I just hope that clears that point up.</p>
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	<p><u>Questions on notice to:</u></p> <p>d. The Combined Authority Representatives</p>
1.	None.

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