

Council

Wednesday, 16 October 2019

Additional Information Pack

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QUESTIONS

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	None received.

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.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg</p> <p>To Councillor Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation</p> <p>Regarding the council's decision to stop using the My Peterborough app, has the council taken steps to contact users of the app to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Explain that the app was no longer bring used.2) What plans the council have for replacement of the app.3) What options are available to residents wanting to report issues to the council going forward.
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Joseph</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>We are told that that planning applications by developers should contain a minimum of 30% affordable homes, and yet latest figures provided to us by officers indicate that the average is around 14%. Why is the council consistently failing to deliver on these numbers?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>To Councillor Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm how much it has cost the taxpayer for unused phones in the council over the last twelve months?</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene, and the Environment</p> <p>According to the State of Nature 2019 report produced in the past few weeks by the National Biodiversity Network., the UK's wildlife continues to decline with many species of animals and plants facing serious declines in numbers and some facing imminent extinction.</p> <p>The latest findings show that since rigorous scientific monitoring began in the 1970s there has been a 13% decline in average abundance across wildlife studied and that the declines continue unabated. Notably, the 2019 report found that no real improvements had been made since the equivalent 2016 report.</p> <p>Many councils across the country (including in our area Cambridge City Council) have recently declared a biodiversity emergency but, so far, Peterborough has not. However, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough combined has one of the lowest percentages in the country of land classed as priority habitats (only 6.5% of the land area) and one of the lowest percentages of woodland cover in the country (less than 5% of land area).</p>

	<p>Given that Peterborough aspires to be the Environment Capital of the UK, could the relevant cabinet member tell me what our Council is doing to protect and encourage wildlife in Peterborough?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Holdich, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Deputy Mayor for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.</p> <p>Will you please provide names and details of how much has been paid to Conservative councillors in special responsibility allowance as Cabinet members, advisers and any other payments including as representatives on outside bodies and can you tell Council today what does this grand total amount to since you became council leader.</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Day</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>The East of England Arena and Events Centre, which is situated in my ward of Orton Waterville, is a regional events and exhibitions venue which attracts 800,000 visitors every year. It hosts over 400 events, including national trade shows, exhibitions, conferences, and meetings. B2B event organisers choose the venue because of the regional market opportunities on offer, as well as the venue's strategic position at the gateway to the eastern region of the UK. In addition, the venue hosts a high number of B2C events including music concerts, festivals and comedy.</p> <p>The venue generates a significant amount of revenue for the city and for local businesses and offers employment to local people. It is home to some of the UK's largest events including: Truckfest (40,000 visitors), Motorhomes (20,000 visitors), New Wine (24,000 visitors), Plantworx /Railworx (13,000 visitors).</p> <p>The venue has quadrupled the number of events held and annually since 2017 - 2019 and generates a turnover of circa £3million. The profits from the events business are gifted back to the charity that owns it, the East of England Agricultural Society. The arena team works in partnership with the NEC in Birmingham and possesses the skills, knowledge and capacity to run large scale events.</p> <p>If the current Showground site is redeveloped (in accordance with policy LP36 of the Local Plan) will the Cabinet Member confirm that Peterborough City Council would support the provision of an equivalent arena in Peterborough?</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Ash</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>The roadworks throughout the city particularly at rhubarb bridge are having an impact on road safety and ease of movement and from what I hear is deterring people from wanting to enter the city. Is the cabinet member aware of any adverse impact on trading and is he able to tell us when the tremendous delays at Rhubarb bridge will ease. We are often told that the average peak hour speed on our roads is quite good however we have been quoted figures for the entire authority area does he have figures which show traffic density and average speed within the central part of the city?</p>
9.	<p>Question from Councillor Howell</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene, and the Environment</p> <p>Fly-tipping is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment if convicted in a Magistrates' Court. On Tuesday 8th October it was reported in the Peterborough Telegraph that a Peterborough man who pleaded guilty</p>

	<p>to fly-tipping household and builders' waste at three sites around the city was ordered to pay compensation of a mere £212.53, costs of £400, and to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work. Following sentencing the individual has apparently taken to social media to make remarks that suggest a lack of remorse. Keep Britain Tidy claims that low fines act as a financial incentive to criminal fly-tippers. Furthermore, fly-tipping in our city comes at a great cost to the council, not just in terms of clearing up the mess, but in pursuing cases of criminal fly-tipping. This is an unfair financial burden on the council that comes at a time when savings are urgently needed. Will Peterborough City Council do as the Local Government Association has done and make a representation to the Government to review its guidance to the courts to ensure that tougher sentences are imposed that will actually deter this form of environmental crime?</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>To Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation</p> <p>How much rent in total has the council paid Stef and Phillips for St Michael's Gate during their ownership of the properties?</p>
11.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Finance</p> <p>Early into this financial year it was reported that the budget was not balanced and millions had been overspent and in Spring we were informed cuts of over £5million would be required. Could the Cabinet Member confirm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) What is the current budget position at the end of the second quarter? b) Are savings of over £9million now required? c) What revenue savings have been made? d) What are the current (as of the end of the second quarter i.e 30 September) projections and plans for dealing with the overspending to balance the budget within the next six months?
12.	<p>WARD SPECIFIC: Question from Councillor Sandra Bond</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>Fulbridge Road Werrington is a busy road where drivers seem to think they can exceed the speed limit of 30mph.</p> <p>Please could the relevant Cabinet member tell me what plans they have in place to inform drivers using Fulbridge Road, Werrington that they are exceeding the speed limit?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller has responded:</p> <p>National legislation prohibits the use of 30mph repeater signs within a 30mph speed limit that is covered by street lighting - as is the case with Fulbridge Road.</p> <p>Road safety is of vital importance to the Council and we will be undertaking an authority wide road safety review once we have received the latest accident cluster information to see what road safety improvements are needed. I will ask our highways officers to investigate further and update you accordingly.</p>
13.	<p>WARD SPECIFIC: Question from Councillor Sandra Bond</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p>

I recently emailed PCC members mailbox requesting a general waste bin for Manor Drive, Gunthorpe. The reply I received was as follows 'With regards to installing a litter bin, this site is still not all adopted by the council and therefore extra bins will not be considered at this point'.

Please could the relevant Cabinet member tell me when will PCC adopt more of the Roman Fields Estate, Gunthorpe so that residents living there can have resources such as general waste bins?

Councillor Hiller has responded:

The Local Highway Authority have two Section 38 (Highways Act 1980) road adoption applications in process for the development known as Roman Fields, which is split into two phases. There are no legal agreements in place for either phase yet, but Phase 1 is currently with our Legal Team. Subject to the developer providing some outstanding information, we will hopefully soon be in a position to complete the legal agreement. In terms of adoption, that will commence after a 12 month maintenance period, which is triggered by the issue of the Provisional Certificate. The Provisional Certificate will be issued upon satisfactory completion of all highway works contained within the relevant legal agreement. At present, the actual build has not been fully completed and there is a list of remedials (correction/improvement works) on the highway works carried out so far that still needs addressing. It is expected that adoption of the first phase of Roman Fields is likely to be at least 18 months away. The second phase plans have yet to be technically approved, and the build is some way off from completion, therefore it is likely to be 2-3 years before adoption can take place. In the meantime, the developer, Keepmoat Homes, are responsible for the maintenance of the highways, and provision of any street furniture.

Questions on notice to:

d) The Combined Authority Representatives

1.	None received.
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MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WALSH

Intention not to move:

Please be advised that Councillor Walsh no longer intends to move this motion.

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MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR Murphy

Alteration from Councillor Murphy to be moved as follows:

“This council notes:

- Local government has endured central Government funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010.
- Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central Government.
- The 2019 Local Government Association (LGA) survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23.
- The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
- Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
- At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010, a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.

This council believes:

- Our workers are public service heroes. They keep our communities clean, care for those in need, and keep our towns and cities running. Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the Council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

- Support the pay claim submitted by Unite, GMB and Unison on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 per hour as a minimum hourly rate along with a 10% uplift across all pay points in 2020-21; this to be wholly funded by central government.
- Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central Government to fund the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central Government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Communicate with all local government workers encouraging them to join a trade union.”

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MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR QAYYUM

Intention not to move:

Please be advised that Councillor Qayyum no longer intends to move this motion.

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