

Council

Wednesday, 21 October 2020

Additional Information Pack

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**FULL COUNCIL 21 OCTOBER 2020
QUESTIONS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	<p>Question from Malcolm Handford</p> <p>For Councillor Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation:</p> <p>After six emails to its Complaints Resolution Team, followed up by a number of telephone calls and numerous broken promises, I am now ignored by CityFibre, the company contracted by this Council to bring Gigabit internet to Peterborough. Complaint resolution is, according to CityFibre, a response within one day and resolution within five days. Does the Cabinet Member still believe that CityFibre is a reputable and trustworthy company and does it feel it is acceptable practice for CityFibre to damage a resident's property whilst carrying out works and then fail to deal with the resident's complaint or even provide a written apology ?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Mr Trevor Chapman</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>The council's policy of treating roads by micro-surfacing them has undesirable consequences. As well as making residential streets look messy and unkempt, the tiny stones thrown up by cars passing over the surface can cause damage to these vehicles, plus those parked on the roadway - will the council pay for the repair of the damage caused? I'm sure most residents would rather wait a few more years for the council to re-surface the roads properly. Why has this micro-surfacing technique been deployed in Peterborough when it comes with so many problems?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Catherine Emery</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>KSCS has several outdoor areas for sporting activities (5 I think) including a 5 a side pitch, netball, football. The school has used the grassed area for many years without incident, so why is Safeguarding now being used as a reason for the fence?</p> <p>It is not an Ofsted requirement, the school applied for planning permission prior to doing a risk assessment and other schools do not enjoy the facility of an on site sports centre.</p> <p>Will you take notice of my points above, and the petitions and objections from the Werrington community?</p>
4.	<p>Question from Frances Green</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>I write this email as a heartfelt plea for you to reconsider the unsympathetic fencing off of Werrington community fields. I have been a resident of Werrington for over 57 years and for the majority of my life have been able to use this open space. We need to be protecting our open spaces for generations to come.</p>

	<p>This area is of natural beauty and a beautiful tree lined area. This area has been used jointly and safely by the community and the school with never a documented issue. In fact students were allowed out at lunch and break times to use the open fields often leaving litter strewn across the area. Although I appreciate that in the present climate safe guarding is a necessary fact.</p> <p>The small area and amount of times the field is used for PE is minimal and always with staff present, the amount proposed to be taken is unnecessary. The students for PE have access to tennis courts, squash courts, astroturf football pitches, hard surface playing areas, a large sports hall and a large gym. This is for 1 double lesson a week per student. There is therefore no need for such a large amount of land to be taken.</p> <p>The proposed fencing is an ugly structure which will spoil the whole landscape. A more sympathetic fencing (in keeping with existing) on a much smaller scale would cover the needs of safe guarding as well as to protect the vast majority of the area for the wider community.</p> <p>It is stated the area will be open to the public out of school hours but who will want to walk within prison walls? The community did have use of gym/sports facilities and library but these have already been heavily restricted. The school and area was built as 'dual use' not 'single use'!</p> <p>The area proposed to be fenced off encompasses utilities, how will these be accessed? Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the area? How come there is never ever money for schools or weeding or other community amenities but suddenly 10s of thousands can be found for something the majority of the community do not want?</p> <p>What guarantees do we have that this area will not be built on in future? What guarantees do we have that more land will not subsequently be taken away from the community?</p> <p>A public meeting where all ideas are put on the table would, I feel, be beneficial to all parties. I am sure I am not the only one that understands the need for safe guarding but this needs to be achieved for the benefit of all the 'community'.</p>
5.	<p>Question from Keith Dalton</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>Please can you answer why when the Peterborough development Corporation designed the open fields for the benefit of the local community and residents, that permission can be granted to erect an 8 foot fence for very unsubstantiated reasons without consultation of most of the people who live and enjoy the scenery of the area. For instance, why hasn't a single household in Canonsfield or Cranemore been consulted. They live within 150 yards of the work and use the area constantly. New Werrington was designed to provide open green space for such people who have often settled here for that reason. Furthermore, this construction will be used for minimal time in each year by school pupils who spend all their breaks unsupervised in the Werrington centre.</p>
6.	<p>Question from Janette Huygens</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>This has been a community space shared which the school have had access too for over 35 years with no safeguarding issues - why is the need for a 2.4m high prison style fence now? Residents of Werrington apparently will have to book access onto this space with the leisure centre and be charged for the privilege.</p>

	<p>Once this beautiful open space is fenced in as a land grab by the school what guarantees are there that this space will be freely accessible to the Werrington Community as originally intended by the PDC and not built on by the school or sold off in the future?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Mr Stuart Haw</p> <p>Cllr Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation</p> <p>In August I conducted research with a 40-person sample of local residents who were contacted through social media. They provided feedback on their experience of using local leisure services. This group proved relevant for the transition 70% of respondents had used Vivacity pools, 57.5% had used Vivacity Gyms, 40% had used the Athletics track, and 37.5% had used the Lido. At least half of the sample reported that price, variety of provision, location, community and social value were influential in their choice of leisure facility. In terms the future of these services, 32.5% of respondents preferred the City Council to run things in house, 42.% preferred a new leisure trust, and 25% preferred a community group or local sport club to run things.</p> <p>Finally, respondents were asked to share feedback. The majority of responses covered an issue with communication. As can be seen with the following responses</p> <p><i>“Communication needs to be improved about detail and information of possible opening. It is important during these difficult times to have these details as there are a lot of people who rely on this facility to improve their mental health and well being.”</i></p> <p><i>“To the management of vivacity, lack of communication!! A basic email send to customers would of been nice, larger and smaller gym establishments have managed to communicate with customers, I’m a monthly payment customer so this doesn’t effect me but what about the annual payers, that have paid and have had no communication or replies, I am glad vivacity is being taken over, let’s hope who ever takes it over has better customer service”.</i></p> <p><i>“As a Vivacity member, the communications around its closure have been extremely poor. And I find it sad the reopening of some sort of swimming pool in town isn’t more of a priority. I hope something happens soon.”</i></p> <p><i>“Better communication with current members.”</i></p> <p>As such I would like to ask the Council, what are the plans to ensure communication is improved to provide local residents and members of leisure services with sufficient information regarding the future of these services?</p>

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 Cllr Fower</p> <p>For Councillor Fitzgerald, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member please let me know why a temporary testing centre has not been set up at the Paston and Gunthorpe Community Centre, which would allow for thousands of people in Walton, Werrington, Paston and Gunthorpe, who do not have access to a car, the funds to take public transport, or the physical capacity to travel long distances the opportunity to be tested and this increase safety to the whole of Peterborough?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Cllr Sandford</p> <p>For Councillor Fitzgerald, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health</p> <p>At the July Full Council meeting a motion was passed asking the director of public health to write to our local MPs requesting that they press the Government to give councils more decision-making power in respect of local lockdowns and other measures designed to control Coronavirus. Could the cabinet member for public health tell me if these letters were sent and what replies have been received?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin</p> <p>For Councillor Holdich - Cabinet Member for Leader of the Council and Deputy Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority:</p> <p>Can the relevant cabinet member please provide a breakdown by ward of allocated spending from the New Towns Fund?</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor Barkham</p> <p>For Councillor Cereste - Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment:</p> <p>Can the relevant cabinet member signpost me to where I can find out the locations of all the litter bins in the Peterborough City Council area and how many litter bins are situated in each city council ward?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Cllr Day</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>What impact will the governments 'Changes to the current planning system' paper and the 'Planning for the Future White Paper' have on Peterborough?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Howell</p> <p>Cllr Allen, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p>

	<p>Construction of the university and the Posh stadium will transform the Embankment. There are also plans to relocate the regional pool. In view of this transformation is the future of the Embankment Athletics Arena guaranteed?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor John Fox</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>Would the cabinet member for planning please enquire with planning officers that if a possible controversial planning application is forthcoming in a ward, that they liaise with Ward Councillors to see if there is any feasibility of possibly extending the area of consultation.</p> <p>Recently we have had a planning application submitted and after the decision was taken several hundred people have complained because they did not know about the plan as they would have objected.</p> <p>I do appreciate that it is not legally required to consult with a much larger area than usual but I feel that by liaising with the ward councillors, who will have local knowledge of the layout of the area, that no immediate houses that would be directly affected would be left out of the consultation process.</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>For Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Finance:</p> <p>Austerity measures from central government have caused a massive strain on our budgets. Apart from the current negotiations with central government, what other alternatives are we pursuing to deliver sustainable budgets, over the next three to five years?</p>
9.	<p>Question from Cllr Hogg</p> <p>For Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment:</p> <p>Following the report from Cross-party Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group which was positively received by both the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet (at a meeting in July 2019), can the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment please let council know which of the recommendations have been implemented and in what timescales?</p>
10.	<p>Question from Cllr Murphy</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>I've been working to tackle the issue of derelict and unused garages which are potentially a hazard whilst cars not using them exasperate the parking problem in many areas across the city for example in Ravensthorpe where I have identified that in some areas and blocks up to a third are not used as garages.</p> <p>What work has been undertaken between the local authority and owners in order to tackle the problem. Will the council look into an action plan to make use of the land where appropriate and demolish garages which are no longer of the size for modern cars and will the Council now also work with owners, housing associations, housing cooperative and others to use any land that is freed up to improve parking facilities within neighbourhoods and perhaps build some new homes if appropriate land is made available.</p>

11.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>For Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Finance:</p> <p>How much money has been invested in the Millfield area compared to the city centre over the past four years?</p>
12.	<p>Question from Councillor Howell</p> <p>Cllr Cereste, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment:</p> <p>On occasion, Aragon has claimed it was unable to empty residents' bins due to roadworks in the street, a huge inconvenience to residents, particularly with the roadworks in question were planned. This has been a particular problem during the CityFibre works around the city. In what ways can Aragon and CityFibre (or other roadworks agencies) work together to ensure that bin lorries can always access residential streets, and how might communications between Aragon and residents be improved so they understand why their bins have not been emptied and when Aragon will return to empty them?</p>
13.	<p>Question from Cllr Murphy</p> <p>For Councillor Gul Nawaz, Mayor of Peterborough:</p> <p>At a recent committee meeting a report was produced and it was explained that the intention was for members to look at special responsibility allowances and how they were being used for the duties connected with the members responsibilities, the officer particularly cited the Mayor amongst other allowances and expenses (see agenda page 98 item 4.4(F)). Can the Mayor tell us how much in allowances and expenses have been received since his appointment and how much has been claimed/received since the last time the Council meet in the town hall?</p>
14.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin</p> <p>For Councillor Allen - Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p> <p>Following the motion passed at the July council meeting regarding Section 21 no fault evictions, council resolved to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to reiterate its support for these reforms and urge him to respond to the consultation and introduce legislation in this Parliamentary session. Could the relevant cabinet member please confirm this has happened, and provide an update on any responses or other correspondence received from the Secretary of State on this issue?</p>
15.	<p>Question from Cllr Hogg</p> <p>For Councillor Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation:</p> <p>Following the decision to replace the Ask Peterborough app with a skinned version of FixMyStreet in 2019 there was a presentation where it was suggested that once an initial implementation of systems integration with established council departmental systems a working group would be set up to include councillors and other stakeholders to help iron out any issues that arise. Considerable time has now past and there are a few issues that have come up and continue to do so. When will this user group be formed to help give the residents of Peterborough the service they deserve?</p>
16.	<p>Question from Cllr Fower</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p>

<p>Earlier in the year, councillors were asked to submit suggestions and ideas on ways to encourage and improve cycling in their ward, after a government grants was announced. I submitted a lengthy list of comments and remarks, but have not received a full update as to how many of these were enacted, or will be, therefore could the relevant cabinet member let me know what cycle related improvements, initiatives, street furniture and schemes have been implemented so far this financial year, what my community can look forward to and while we are at it, for the previous financial year?</p>

Questions on notice to:

d. The Combined Authority Representatives

1.

Question from Councillor Sandford

For Councillor Holdich, Deputy Mayor for the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Combined Authority:

Please could we have an update on progress with the CAM metro system and in particular whether it will provide any benefit to people living in Peterborough?

COUNCIL MEETING 21 OCTOBER 2020

AMENDMENT BY COUNCILLOR SANDFORD TO CABINET RECOMMENDATION UNIVERSITY OF PETERBOROUGH PROJECT

Amendment from Councillor Sandford to be moved as follows:

- 1.** **“IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council approves the amendment of the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan to take account of the proposed transfer of this land to the special purpose joint venture vehicle, but requires that any further transfers of land should only happen following publication of and public consultation on a masterplan for the whole embankment area.”

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COUNCIL MEETING 21 OCTOBER 2020

AMENDMENT BY COUNCILLOR AMJAD IQBAL TO MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WIGGIN

Amendment from Councillor Amjad Iqbal to be moved as follows:

“Council notes:

- ~~The Black Lives Matter Movement was set up in 2013 after the death of Trayvon Martin and subsequent acquittal of his killer. Their aim is to end State-sanctioned violence, liberate Black people, and end white supremacy forever.~~
- October is Black History Month.
- ~~Global protests have increased following the killing of George Floyd in June 2020, for which a Minneapolis police officer has been charged with second-degree murder and three other police officers have been charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder.~~
- There are ongoing global protests about racial inequality throughout the world.
- Peaceful protests in support of Black Lives Matter have been held in Peterborough and throughout the UK., ~~including at sporting events~~
- ~~BAME people are 54% more likely than white people to be fined under the new coronavirus lockdown laws in the UK~~
- Covid-19 is disproportionately impacting black and ethnic minority (BAME) communities, according to a report from Public Health England.
- Around two thirds of healthcare staff who have died as a result of COVID-19 are from a BAME background whereas they make up 20% of the overall workforce.
- Police figures on Stop and Search in Cambridgeshire show that BAME communities are disproportionality targeted.

Council believes:

- Racism in all forms, both structural and in individuals, continues to be a serious and often unseen problem in the UK.
- Peterborough has a good track record when it comes to community relations.
- Although progress has been made in combating racism, work to eradicate it entirely is far from complete.
- This Council, representing people in Peterborough, has a duty as a public leader to actively lead that work.

Council resolves:

- To restate its condemnation of all forms of racism and hate in all its manifestations
- To restate its aim, to oppose racism and hate against all communities, in keeping with our commitment to eradicate all acts of hatred on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sex or sexual orientation
- To reaffirm the Council’s support for the annual events in Peterborough celebrating Black History month
- That the relevant scrutiny committee convenes a Task and Finish group to review barriers to equality on grounds of race, which will include BAME issues to:

- **Reviewing and examining the City Council structure to ensure ethnic minorities are not disadvantaged. Understand specifically how many BAME we employ, where are they working, what barriers, if any exist to their career progression and whether a “name blind” recruitment process would aid in the recruitment of more BAME staff. Reviewing the evidence, provide recommendations to Council and devise a set of KPIs and a challenging outturn for us to achieve this.**
 - **BAME access to housing and to homelessness and welfare support are important parts of the council remit. Group to review and recommend concrete actions on how we adopt an actively anti-racist outlook within areas where we have influence by reviewing our corporate policies so that anti- racism is explicit and not implied; by routinely calling for transparent reporting and continuous monitoring of the impact on the BAME community: and if any other meaningful statistics that can be monitored regularly can be produced.**
 - **Review council Equality policies and recommend if any amendments are required**
 - **Review progress on recommendations produced by this group**
 - **Encourage Peterborough schools to include BAME history and culture in lessons, including providing further historical context for events normally only seen through the lens of white British history.**
- ~~To conduct an audit of street names and any public monuments or other buildings this Council is responsible for which name individuals or organisations, to review any that have racist links. Upon completion, the relevant scrutiny committee to convene a task and finish group to review this list and produce a set of recommendations back to Council on any actions that should be taken.~~
 - ~~Ensure Peterborough schools include BAME history and culture in lessons, including providing further historical context for events normally only seen through the lens of white British history.~~
 - ~~Ask the Combined Authority to produce a toolkit for businesses to help broaden their understanding of race inequality in the workplace, including but not limited to materials, signposts to relevant local groups and training that can be provided for staff, and links to relevant networks.~~
 - ~~Write to our MPs to ask that, rather than spending money on another race inequality review, that the Government implements recommendations of previous reviews - for example the Lammy and Windrush recommendations.”~~

COUNCIL MEETING 21 OCTOBER 2020

AMENDMENT BY COUNCILLOR WIGGIN TO MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WALSH

Amendment from Councillor Wiggin to be moved as follows:

“Council notes that:

- Peterborough City Council Members, Officers and Staff have worked proactively, over many years, with all of our communities to develop a clear understanding of their unique characteristics and to ensure they are able to access services and information in ways that make most sense to them, and to provide opportunities to learn, develop, achieve and celebrate their heritages in our city.
- Over the years, many areas across the UK have drawn on our experience and expertise. We have been recognised as leaders in this field by many different organisations, including the Government (such as our status as one of just five **Integration Areas**), national faith leaders, and Oxford University (as one of six cities originally chosen to form part of the **Inclusive Cities** network).
- Peterborough City Council is therefore concerned by the findings of recent reports which suggest ways in which certain groups are at greater risk of exclusion and harm than others.
- The recent Public Health England report, ‘*Disparities in Risks and Outcomes of COVID-19*’ (PHE) describes increased mortality rates amongst older people, men, those in certain professions and people living in more deprived areas. Perhaps most notable though, the report also describes increased mortality rates amongst Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities.
- A second report, published by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, ‘*Adult Social Care: Shaping a Better Future*’, reflects that fundamental change is needed in this service area to address inequalities experienced by groups including BAME communities, many of whom are employed in this field of work.

Peterborough City Council is committed to ensuring all of our residents, regardless of their background, heritage or nationality, enjoy equal and meaningful access to services, support, information, and opportunities provided by it directly, or through partnerships.

We recognise the opportunity we now have to reaffirm our existing commitment to ensure that our staff and residents are not excluded, disadvantaged, or abused as a result of their nationality, heritage or background.

This Council therefore resolves to set up a cross-Party task and finish group of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee, to:

- **develop a clear understanding of the findings of these reports as they relate to our own BAME communities, to ensure this disproportionality is not experienced in other factors that may affect the health, wellbeing and social mobility of our BAME residents**
- **examine ways in which council services are accessed by, and made available to, all of our residents, to ensure that our BAME residents are not disadvantaged or prevented from accessing those services**
- **examine key council service data to build an understanding of the ways in which BAME residents are impacted, positively or negatively, by council services**

- examine the opportunities for our residents provided by the council for improving social mobility, to ensure that our BAME residents enjoy the same levels of access as others
- review recruitment policies, including to look at how many BAME staff we employ, where are they working, whether barriers exist to their career progression, whether a “name blind” recruitment process is in place and if not would aid in the recruitment of more BAME staff
- Review corporate policies to ensure anti-racism is explicit and not implied
- Review council equality policies and recommend if any amendments are required.”

COUNCIL MEETING 21 OCTOBER 2020

ALTERATION TO THE MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SANDFORD

Alteration from Councillor Sandford to be moved as follows:

“Council notes that:

1. an increase in tree planting was one of the measures proposed in the motion declaring a climate emergency that was agreed in July 2019, as a means of helping the City Council and the City as a whole get to net zero carbon by 2030
2. many councils have adopted ambitious tree planting targets, whereas the Peterborough City Council Carbon Management Plan, adopted in March 2020, proposes that the Council will plant only 400 new trees on its land each year until 2030.
3. Friends of the Earth are advocating that there should be a doubling of tree canopy cover across the country by 2045 to help tackle both the climate and biodiversity emergencies.
4. Peterborough City Council is a partner in the Forest for Peterborough Project, which has a target of planting 230,000 trees (one for every resident in the city) between 2010 and 2030, of which around 120,000 still remain to be planted.

Council therefore instructs the **cross party working group on Climate Change and relevant officers to:**

- 1. Carry out an audit of council owned land in the city to identify possible planting opportunities**
- 2. research and recommend much more ambitious tree planting targets for planting on Council land and to submit to Full Council not later than March 2021 amendments to the Trees and Woodland Strategy and the Carbon Management Plan to include the proposed new targets.”**

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