

Council

Wednesday, 27 January 2021

Additional Information Pack

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**FULL COUNCIL 27 JANUARY 2021
QUESTIONS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	<p>Question from Carmel Leaves</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>We are all acutely aware of the benefits to nature and to ourselves that the trees that make up Peterborough's shelter belts provide, such as protection from air pollution and noise, as well as precious habitats for local wildlife. However, for the trees to thrive, for the shelter belts to fulfil their intended purpose, and to keep people and property safe, our shelter belts must be properly and regularly maintained. Residents in part of Orton, where the shelter belts were once glorious, are increasingly concerned that after decades of growth, many of the trees now present a threat to property and people.</p> <p>We understand the Council's Trees and Woodland Strategy sets out policies on how the council's trees should be maintained, but many of us feel that Orton's shelter belt should be treated differently. The tree officers can only do what the policy allows and tell us they cannot do anything about the height of these trees.</p> <p>We are seriously worried that many of the trees have become top heavy, and that there is a risk that properties could be badly damaged should these trees fall in high winds.</p> <p>Would the council please consider revisiting the policy on the city's shelter belt to return them to their former glory and to ensure the safety of our communities?</p>
2.	<p>Question from James Brown</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>The list of unadopted roads that can be found on the council website is an invaluable help when one of the many problems with these roads rears their head, such as a pothole, more flooding or a streetlight going dark. However actually using the contact details for developers who own the roads is an effort in futility. Most of them have very limited opening hours especially in this time of Covid, and when you do get through it takes an age to get to the right department to even start the process of getting something fixed. Then let's not mention having to do it all over and over again as the problem won't be fixed for weeks, months, or longer most likely.</p> <p>Therefore, as the council has said many times that it cannot adopt roads until the developer has brought them up to a particular standard, perhaps it can help in another way. The council has the people and the knowhow to deal with developers on a variety of issues, officers know how they work and have the ability to know who to talk to and what to talk to them about. Would it be possible to set up a contact person or team at the council who any issues with unadopted roads could be sent to? This contact can</p>

	<p>then use these skills and knowledge to work on the resident's behalf to get these problems fixed, instead of individuals having to chase and chase and chase to get the basic provisions they deserve.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Question from James Brown</p> <p>For Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills and University</p> <p>The decision of Cabinet on 16 November 2020, "Child Yield Multipliers" refers to surveying new communities, including the Hamptons.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member answer the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the current method used for forecasting education provision locally and the impact of new developments? b. Why there is a need to move away from the current method? c. What is the benefit of the new system or are there issues with the existing method which could have impacted on the decision to approve the VA school at Hampton Water? d. When is it the intended that these new multipliers would come into effect from? e. How were the surveys of residents distributed and will the outcomes be shared with the respondents? <p>There have been repeated assurances by local councillors Marco Cereste, David Seaton, John Howard and Mohammed Farooq that "all Hampton children will get a place at a Hampton school" once the new St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School opens in Hampton Water in 2022. This school will operate with a selective oversubscription criteria and as a Voluntary Aided school, Governors are able to consult on amending their admission criteria annually. Therefore from the second year of admissions, there is the potential for all admissions to be selected based on faith, as per the Diocese's original proposal. Councillors have stated that there are four other Primary Schools within Hampton offering a variety of choice. Data from the council's website shows that in 2020 Hampton Hargate School received 255 applications, for 90 spaces. Hampton Lakes 96 applications for 60 spaces. Hampton Vale 133 applications for 90 spaces and Hampton College 169 applications for 60 spaces. (Source: Primary Allocation Sheets 2020).</p> <p>Could the cabinet member therefore please clarify how places for "all" local children can be guaranteed as stated?</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 Barkham</p> <p>For Councillor Fitzgerald, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health</p> <p>Given that the UK, including Peterborough, is now at the highest alert level, could the Cabinet Member for Health tell me what is the Conservative government and this administration doing to stop the cause of SARS-COV-2, rather than just treating its symptoms?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Cllr Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>For Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Finance</p> <p>Local businesses, especially smaller ones, will need significant support post-pandemic. What plans does the administration have to support local businesses to help them get back on their feet?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Cllr Harper</p> <p>For Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p> <p>Back in November 2020 it was announced that Peterborough City Council had deployed a 30-strong team of Covid marshals to patrol areas of Peterborough where the virus was most prevalent as part of a package of measures to drive down rates of infection as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Clearly this was and continues to be a logical approach but there are other areas throughout our city where such marshals would be very welcome to help give advice particular where residents are likely to congregate such as shopping precincts, and regular exercising and dog walking areas.</p> <p>Can the cabinet member please confirm that we still have the 30 Covid Marshals and if there would be any possibility of drawing up a rota for at least a few of them to visit the other wards from time to time to help compliment the efforts of the police?</p>
4.	<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>Given that it is a national and local priority to get as many people vaccinated against Covid 19 as quickly as possible, would the Cabinet Member for Health agree with me that the best way of achieving this is to ensure that everyone in Peterborough in the top priority groups is able to get a vaccination as close to their home as possible? Yet, at the time of writing this question, the nearest mass vaccination centres to</p>

	<p>Peterborough were in either Boston or Stevenage, both of which are not easily accessible for many Peterborough people. So, could the cabinet member tell me if and when we are going to be getting a mass vaccination centre in Peterborough or can he guarantee that Peterborough residents will be able to get vaccinated at the appropriate time at either their local GP surgery or community pharmacy?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Cllr Murphy</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>Recently there have been concerns expressed about encroachment on and the reduction of “green space” throughout Peterborough, for example at Bretton Park, the Embankment (with a multi-story car park potentially being developed), and Werrington Fields. Some green space has also been lost in Ravensthorpe. What percentage of green space has been lost over the last year, three years, five years, and 10 years?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Cllr Jones</p> <p>For Councillor Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation</p> <p>I have read, with interest, the Bristol, One City plan for digitising their city.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation please share with members Peterborough's own ambitious plans for our city?</p> <p>For instance, which cities are we collaborating with, if any, to achieve our goals and what is our vision in this increasingly important area?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Cllr Wiggin</p> <p>For Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p> <p>Can the relevant cabinet member please confirm how performance for the Covid marshals is being measured, and whether their performance is acceptable?</p>
8.	<p>Question from Cllr Sandford</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments and Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment</p> <p>Every edition of Peterborough's Local Transport Plan since the first one in 1999 has contained a Transport User Hierarchy which states that in transport planning priority should be given to pedestrians first, cyclists second, public transport third and so on. A similar hierarchy is now a key policy in the Combined Authority's Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>So, could the relevant cabinet member tell me how their proposal to permanently close St Peter's Arcade could possibly be seen as putting pedestrians first and so is it not completely contrary to the City Council and Combined Authority's transport policies?</p>
9.	<p>Question from Cllr Murphy</p> <p>For Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p>

	<p>Following the motion agreed recently by Council on cruel sports and in particular foxhunting on Council land, what action has been taken by the Council on this matter besides the Officers at the crematorium or others writing to the Fitzwilliam Hunt about a recent encroachment on crematorium land during a funeral service?</p>
10.	<p>Question from Cllr Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>For Councillor Fitzgerald, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health</p> <p>A huge area of concern is the impact of COVID-19 on mental health and health inequalities. What is the cabinet member doing in order to address this with a specific focus on additional support for people with mental health conditions?</p>
11.	<p>WARD SPECIFIC: Question from Cllr Wiggin</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>Can the relevant cabinet member please provide an update on which triggers have been met with regards to transport infrastructure from the Section 106 agreement for the Hamptons, and which triggers are still outstanding, including the most up to date figures available for each trigger.</p>

Questions on notice to:

d. The Combined Authority Representatives

None.

COUNCIL MEETING 27 JANUARY 2021

ALTERATION TO INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT

Alteration to be moved as follows:

“It is recommended that Council:

1. Consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in **Appendix 1** and summarised in paragraph 2 below;
2. ~~Decide whether to~~ Adopt the recommendations of the panel in relation to the Member Allowance Scheme, subject to the referral of the recommendation on a Parental Leave Policy to the Task and Finish Group to promote equality and diversity amongst Councillors.”

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COUNCIL MEETING 27 JANUARY 2021

AMENDMENT BY COUNCILLOR WALSH TO MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR QAYYUM

Amendment from Councillor Walsh to be moved as follows:

“The Council notes that:

- Online abuse, bullying and harassment against women in politics is an issue which is increasingly growing in visibility.
- The LGA are aware that an increasing number of councillors and candidates are being subjected to abuse, threats and public intimidation, undermining the principles of free speech, democratic engagement and debate. The growth of social media has provided an additional and largely anonymous route for individuals and groups to engage in such activity. This abuse is more prevalent towards females
- While debate and having different views is all part of a healthy democracy; abuse, public intimidation and threats are designed to undermine democratic decision making by generating fear in those who represent it. The LGA further goes on to state that, ***“Councillors, and in particular female Councillors, are unfortunately increasingly the subject of online abuse, bullying and harassment on social media.”***

The Council resolves to refer this matter to the current Task and Finish Group to promote equality and diversity among Councillors to:

- Consider how to best assist Councillors in relation to online abuse, bullying and harassment, particularly but not exclusively against female Councillors, with a view to report back to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2 March 2021 with appropriate recommendations.
- Share any learning, training or any other opportunities that may arise from the work of the Task and Finish Group with all Councillors.”

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COUNCIL MEETING 27 JANUARY 2021

AMENDMENT BY COUNCILLOR ALLEN TO MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMIL

Amendment from Councillor Allen to be moved as follows:

“Council believes:

- Everyone ~~has a right to~~ should have a home.
- Current emergency measures put in place during the pandemic may need to be extended beyond the crisis response to support people who become homeless, or resort to rough sleeping, through no fault of their own
- The government ~~should~~ recognises the impending challenge faced by households that are ineligible for support from the housing service or have no recourse to public funds
- The current crisis has caused thousands of people in privately rented accommodation to be in possible danger of losing their homes through eviction.

Council recognises:

- It is unacceptable that we have homelessness and rough sleeping in modern day Britain.
- After the emergency measures introduced during the coronavirus pandemic come to an end, many people ~~will~~ could be left without a safety net, resulting in ~~This could lead to an increase in rough sleepers. due to less support being available.~~
- Many renters have been unable to work or lost their jobs due to the pandemic and currently the situation is worsening due to rising infection and death rates. Citizens Advice says half a million renters are now in arrears, owing an average of £750. More than half (56%) of those struggling to make payments had no previous history of arrears before the start of the COVID-19 outbreak last Spring. This could result in eviction.

This Council believes that:

- A tenant should not be evicted from their home without good reason;
- Tenants should have more stability, avoiding the need to make frequent moves at short notice and enabling them to put down roots and plan for the future;
- Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions would help to make renting more secure and communities more stable, improve standards and increase tenant confidence;
- Landlords should be able to regain their property should they wish to sell it or move into it themselves;
- Tackling homelessness, ~~which~~ should be a priority for government at all levels; and,

- The Government should bring forward its legislative proposals as soon as practicably possible.

Council resolves:

- ~~To write to the government to ask for stronger measures to help with the housing crisis and specifically:~~ 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.
- To review the priority need categories, ~~which currently support only the most vulnerable single people, to include anyone who finds themselves to be homeless and rough sleeping.~~
- To review eviction laws and offer better protection to tenants, starting with an ~~immediate~~ widening of the ban of evictions under Section 21 of the Housing Act 1998. ~~which since January 11th 2021 allows eviction of renters with just 6 months of rent arrears.~~
- ~~Follow through~~ Reinforce ~~with~~ their ambitions to end rough sleeping by ~~increasing~~ reassessing funding to local authorities ~~and providing longer term funding for rough sleeping initiatives so that services are better~~ fully resourced and equipped to deal with individual circumstances. ~~on a case-by-case scenario.”~~

COUNCIL MEETING 27 JANUARY 2021

AMENDMENT BY COUNCILLOR CERESTE TO MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SANDFORD

Amendment from Councillor Cereste to be moved as follows:

“Council notes that:

1. Initial work by the Council's Climate Change Member working group has identified that carbon emissions from domestic dwellings are one of the top three sources of carbon emissions in Peterborough.
2. The Peterborough Local Plan sets planning policies for new development in Peterborough and there is a lot of new housing proposed, so any changes to the policies within the Local Plan could potentially have a large impact on carbon emissions over coming years and decades.
3. There are also other parts of the Local Plan which have major impacts on carbon emissions and climate change, including the policies on transport, renewable energy generation and the natural environment.
4. The current Peterborough Local Plan was produced before the Council declared its climate emergency and target for reaching net zero carbon as a city by 2030.

Council therefore asks our planning policy officers to investigate whether a revision to our local plan, an addition to it or production of a supplementary planning document on climate change be of significant benefit in helping us reach our climate emergency targets and to report their findings, including budget implications of the options investigated, to the Cross Party Working Group on Climate Change and to the Growth and Environment Scrutiny Committee.”

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COUNCIL MEETING 27 JANUARY 2021

ALTERATION TO MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MURPHY

Alteration from Councillor Murphy to be moved as follows:

“Council notes that Saint Peter’s Arcade access has been closed for some time now, a decision that wasn’t taken with great transparency or consultation. An alternative route for disabled people is to use Bridge Street round a narrower entrance on a pavement where the width has been restricted due to building works. It has been commented that two wheelchair users can’t use this at the same time.

Council believes that a number of people and residents, particularly those who use wheelchairs, would wish to see Saint Peters Arcade opened as an access route into the town centre and that both routes could have been used to reduce possible COVID-19 risks with a one-way advisory in place.

Council believes that as and when Covid risks reduce Saint Peter's Arcade should be reopened.

Council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member consider, when appropriate, the reopening of Saint Peter’s Arcade to allow for and enhanced access for disabled people into the city centre, along with the potential for registering it as a public right-of-way.”

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