

Council

Wednesday, 28 July 2021

Additional Information Pack

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**FULL COUNCIL 28 JULY 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 Stephen Jones</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>Over the past two decades, Orton Northgate has become a residential area. Before this it was home to the Showground and the Lynch Wood Business Park, but people did not live there. There are now over three hundred properties at Orton Northgate, with many more to be built over the next few years. However, as families have settled here, and children have reached school age, the road infrastructure has not changed at all and residents are increasingly concerned about road safety. Our local councillor was able to get the speed limit on Oundle Road reduced from 50mph to 40mph but this is still too fast. It has become common for cats, foxes, deer and hedgehogs to be killed on this stretch of road and we wonder how long it will be before a child is knocked over. Many parents drive their children to the primary school in Orton Wistow because they worry that local roads are not safe. The pedestrian crossing on Oundle Road near Skye Close is not safe, as it is common for drivers to fail to stop at the red signal. What will the council do to make Orton Northgate safer for pedestrians?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Julie Fernandez</p> <p>To Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>At the last meeting of full council, the leader stated that he had tasked council officers to look into the provision of public toilets for the city centre. Can we have an update on this. Where will the toilets be situated?</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. **Question from Councillor Warren**

For Councillor Bisby, Cabinet Advisor for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen our children's education disrupted for in excess of 15 months. It is vital that we do all we can to get these pupils back on track. We also know that children who have English as an additional language are likely to have seen significant losses in learning during this time. Can the Cabinet Member for Education please outline the support available for pupils during the summer holidays to catch up and what is the Local authority doing to support outcomes for children whose families don't speak English at home?

2. **Question from Councillor Sandford**

To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments

Could the relevant cabinet member tell me whether any consideration has been given to the financial viability of the Council continuing to occupy a small section of the Town Hall or would we be better off transferring all activities including council meetings to Sand Martin House?

3. **Question from Councillor Tyler**

For Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities

Most social housing tenants are hardworking, conscientious and law abiding. Lots are community minded and do their bit where they live. But I've had reports from residents, as have councillors in other wards, of some tenants bringing anti-social and criminal behaviour with them.

Residents should be able to walk around their homes without fear of being abused, robbed, beaten up or worse. I believe social landlords are letting our communities down by placing tenants who display anti-social behaviour into areas without ensuring that existing tenants are protected from this sort of behaviour from new tenants.

Can the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing advise me on what risk assessments are undertaken by our social housing providers to ensure anti-social behaviours by tenants can be prevented, and what duties they have to protect other tenants from such behaviours?

4. **Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz**

	<p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>Flooding is a huge concern in certain area of Peterborough. We saw the worst of it a few weeks ago. However, it is a recurring problem whenever it rains. I know residents are frustrated and councillors are equally as frustrated. What is the Cabinet Member doing to fix this problem once and for all?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Iqbal</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>How successful has the Selective Licensing Scheme been in building a working relationship between the Landlords, tenants and the Council, and once the scheme is approved for a further 5-year tenure is it going to be rolled out throughout the city?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Qayyum</p> <p>For Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member for Waste have any data on the income generated by the Council since the charge for the extra brown bins was implemented?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>The horrific scenes after England lost to Italy are totally unacceptable. The social media onslaught was just as bad. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. We have a huge problem in our society that needs addressing immediately and urgently. What is the council doing in order to send a clear message that such behaviour is abhorrent and will not be tolerated?</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Qayyum</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>Under the Government's Vulnerable Persons resettlement scheme the Council pledged to receive 100 Syrian Refugees for a duration of five years. We now have families who are being asked to evacuate their accommodation by the end of July when their tenure is over (day after tomorrow) with underlying medical issues and dependants. Can the Cabinet member offer us reassurances that the families will not be left homeless and not be put up in accommodation that could have a detrimental impact on their wellbeing, given their traumatic past of migrating from a war-torn area?</p>
9.	<p>WARD SPECIFIC: Question from Councillor Iqbal</p> <p>For Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p> <p>The planting beds throughout the Gladstone area are neglected and in a deplorable state. Officers tell me that there are no funds whatsoever to manage these examples</p>

	<p>of so-called "landscaping". The verges along Bright Street are particularly unsightly and reflect badly on a neighbourhood that deserves better. The beds were introduced by the Council forty years ago but increasingly overlooked as time has gone by. When will funds be made available to correct this failure?</p> <p>Cabinet Member response:</p> <p>The planting beds were historically planted with shrubs and are currently on the maintenance contract with Aragon Direct Services for a once per year cut. In the past we have been asked to turn certain beds into parking areas of which we do not have the budget to fund this. One of my officers has walked the area and we proposed to put a long-term plan in place to bring the beds back into a respectable condition working both with the local community and through Aragon Direct Services.</p>
10.	<p>WARD SPECIFIC: Question from Councillor Ansar Ali</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>The sports and recreation facilities at Gladstone Park were built to serve the specific needs of the local community, however it seems the local community are being priced out of using the much-needed outdoor facilities. The outdoor cricket nets are in demand but beyond the affordability of local groups and residents. Hence this facility, although very popular with the local community, has hardly been used by the locals. Can I ask the Cabinet Member for an assurance that this issue will be addressed urgently so local residents and groups can avail themselves of this facility?</p> <p>Cabinet Member response:</p> <p>For information we have had a specific question raised about this directly to Cllr Ali from Jabeen Maqbool (Chair of City Cricket Club) and we will be contacting her directly to discuss access to living sport funding to cover costs over the summer. We will then be inviting her to a meeting with the school who own the land the cricket nets are on to see if there is an arrangement we can come to where the club maintain the nets in exchange for free usage. However, this last part could take some time. It would be easy to consider a free rate but then every community group would ask for one which would significantly reduce our already reduced income as a result of covid.</p>

	<u>Questions on notice to:</u> d. The Combined Authority Representatives
Nil	

COUNCIL MEETING 28 JULY 2021

**AMENDMENT BY COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD TO ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY**

Amendment from Councillor Fitzgerald to be moved as follows:

“It is recommended that Council:

1. Adopts the Parental Leave Policy for Councils as set out in this report and attached at revised Appendix 1.”

Family Leave Policy for Councillors

This Policy sets out Members' entitlement to maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave and relevant allowances.

Introduction

The council recognises that elected Members are not employees of the council and therefore are not entitled to the same rights and benefits that staff receive. Currently, there is no legal entitlement for councillors to have paid parental leave of any kind.

However, the council is committed to ensuring that Peterborough is a city where families are supported to develop and flourish, and the introduction of a family leave policy for councillors may help to remove barriers that existing and prospective Members may face. This will help the council in its endeavours to increase the diversity of experience, age, and background of elected Members. It will also assist with retaining experienced councillors – particularly women – and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it.

The objective of the policy is to ensure that insofar as possible, Members are able to take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption.

This policy is based upon national best practice developed by the Local Government Association.

1. Leave Periods

- 1.1** Members giving birth, adopting, fostering for adoption, or becoming surrogate parent(s) are entitled to up to 6 months maternity leave from the due date. It is anticipated that Members take a minimum of two weeks maternity leave following the birth of a child. In the case of premature births, maternity leave will start from the date of birth for a period of up to 6 months. A Member who adopts a child through an approved adoption agency shall be entitled to take up to six months adoption leave from the date of placement.
- 1.2** In exceptional circumstances, and only in cases of prematurity of 29 days or more, additional leave may be taken by agreement, and such exceptional leave shall not be deducted from the total 6-month entitlement. Consideration should also be given to those who have experienced a still birth, late term miscarriages and if the baby dies after being born. In those circumstances the provisions of this policy would apply, except where the councillor has a miscarriage, termination, or stillborn delivery before or in the 24th week of pregnancy.
- 1.3** Members shall be entitled to take up to two weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth of their child(ren).
- 1.4** A Member who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements through their employment is requested to advise the Council of these at the earliest possible

opportunity. Every effort will be made to replicate such arrangements in terms of leave from Council.

- 1.5 Where both parents are Members, leave may be shared up to a maximum of 24 weeks for the first six months. Special and exceptional arrangements may be made in cases of prematurity.
- 1.6 Any Member who takes maternity, shared parental or adoption leave retains their legal duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to attend a meeting of the Council within a six month period unless the Council Meeting agrees to an extended leave of absence prior to the expiration of that six month period.
- 1.7 Any Member intending to take maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave will be responsible for ensuring that they comply with the relevant notice requirements of the Council, both in terms of the point at which the leave starts and the point at which they return.
- 1.8 Any member taking leave should ensure that they respond to reasonable requests for information as promptly as possible, and that they keep officers and colleagues informed and updated in relation to intended dates of return and requests for extension of leave.
- 1.9 During a period of absence, the relevant Group Leader may assign another elected Member to cover routine ward enquiries from residents. Any replacement will be temporary and will cease upon the return of the Member who has taken leave. Replacement Members will not be entitled to vote as part of their temporary role.
- 1.10 Members should notify the Monitoring Officer of any request to take leave under this policy 28 days before the qualifying parental leave is due to start.

2. Basic Allowance

- 2.1 All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full whilst on maternity, paternity, or adoption leave.

3. Special Responsibility Allowances

- 3.1 Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall not receive their allowance during their period of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave.
- 3.2 Where a replacement is appointed to cover the period of absence that person shall receive an SRA on a pro rata basis for the period of the temporary appointment. However, should a Member appointed to replace the member on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave already hold a remunerated position, the ordinary rules relating to payment of more than one Special Responsibility Allowances shall apply.

3.3 Unless the Member taking leave is removed from their post at an Annual General Meeting of the Council whilst on leave, or unless the Party to which they belong loses control of the Council during their leave period, they shall return at the end of their leave period to the same post, or to an alternative post with equivalent status and remuneration which they held before the leave began.

4. Resigning from Office and Elections

4.1 If a Member decides not to return at the end of their maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave they must notify the Council at the earliest possible opportunity. All allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.

4.2 If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

COUNCIL MEETING 28 JULY 2021

ALTERATION TO MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SKIBSTED

Alteration to be moved as follows:

“The use of herbicides such as glyphosate in the UK has increased by 60% in real terms since 1990 [1]. Italy, Portugal and the Canadian city of Vancouver have all banned the use of glyphosate [or glyphosate-based weed killers] and France is working towards this. Monsanto and German owner Bayer face 9,000 lawsuits in the USA from those that believe their illnesses are caused by their products, the first plaintiff won unanimously with many more to follow [2]. Recent studies published in ScienceDirect show a 41% increased risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma caused by exposure from glyphosate-based weed killers and products [3].

Council believes:

- There are some studies that glyphosate and a wide range of other herbicides may be harmful to human health. However, it is currently regulated and permitted for use in the UK by the HSE.
- The use of weed killers reduces biodiversity, impacting negatively on insects, birds and bees, in a time when the world is losing 2.5% of its insect population per-year [4]
- Harmful weed killer residues can creep into the food chain, although it is recognised that the Councils does currently dilute the chemical used on PCC land.

Council resolves to recommend that the Cabinet Member agrees to:

- **Investigate over the next 12 months alternative methods of weed control to establish if they are both economical and operationally viable in wards deemed appropriate and on land maintained by Aragon Direct Services.**
- **Trial herbicide-free alternatives during this period. Particularly those adopted by the likes of Hammersmith and Fulham and Lewes Councils who use biodegradable foam or hot steam treatments on weeds.**
- **Arrange to visit areas that have already moved to phase out the use of Glyphosate to learn from their practice.**
- **Report to Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the findings of the above and implement new procedures where possible.**
- **Grant an exception to the above ban regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, or other invasive species, where there are currently no effective mechanical techniques available. However, in this case chemicals such as glyphosate will only be stem-injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment.**
- **Grant an exception on sprays only in relation to Giant Hogweed where it's not safe to be dug out or safely removed by other means and then cordon off the surrounding area.**

1. <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticides-agriculture-uk/> Link to external page/site
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/oct/07/monsanto-trial-cancer-appeal->

[glyphosate-chemical](#) Link to external page/site

3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887> Link to external page/site

4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature>- Link to external page/site”

COUNCIL MEETING 28 JULY 2021

AMENDMENT BY COUNCILLOR WALSH TO MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR QAYYUM

Amendment from Councillor Walsh to be moved as follows:

“This Council notes that:

On 3rd June 2021, England had reached an important milestone in that 75 % of adults had received the first dose of the covid – vaccine, whereas 50.2 percent had received the second dose.

The data demonstrating vaccine uptake in Peterborough, however, is less than the national average.

It is important from a Public Health and Local Authority perspective to ensure that whilst mitigating factors, such as the disproportionate impact that Covid – 19 on BAME communities is being addressed and worked towards, negative perceptions surrounding the vaccination as well as accessibility issues are posing as challenges within populations that could be a possible contribution to the less than national average uptake of the Covid- 19 vaccine within the city.

The challenges faced by the visually impaired, disabled, less able bodied and elderly populations with no access to transport due to the distance of vaccination centres must be revisited whilst there are increasing infection rates of the delta variant of covid.

It is notable that the concentration of the city’s population is within its centre, with reports of long queues and waiting times at available vaccination centres, contributing to vaccine hesitancy and delay as people from outside the city also use the vaccination facilities within Peterborough.

We have already seen some excellent examples of covid testing facilities set up within Mosques, Churches and other faith-based sites and community centres in various cities which are accessible and a familiar venue for residents to access for a covid vaccine. Examples of this have been seen in Birmingham, London and Manchester.

On Thursday 4 March, SNP MP Chris Stephens tabled an Early Day Motion in the Houses of Parliament, calling for the vaccination roll out and vaccine testing to be made accessible for blind and partially sighted people, a factor that should be considered at available vaccination sites

This Council resolves to:

- **Continue to identify strategies actively and swiftly by working with relevant stakeholders such as NHSE and Peterborough and Cambridgeshire CCG, in identifying and encouraging more risk assessed premises within the city such**

as Mosques, community centres and Pharmacies to make the Covid vaccination programme within the city, more accessible.

- **Continue** to give faith groups and their representative committees the opportunity to propose their grounds and building spaces as vaccination hubs after adequate risk assessment has been provided and staff are identified as fully trained and facilities standardised with governance in place.
- **Continue** to distribute, update and implement and ensure staff working at the vaccine centres are aware of managing and guiding those who are visually impaired by reading through the vaccination management as recommended by the sight council uk's guidance thus:
[https://www.sightlosscouncils.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Covid-19-Vaccine- Rollout-Advice.pdf](https://www.sightlosscouncils.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Covid-19-Vaccine-Rollout-Advice.pdf)"

COUNCIL MEETING 28 JULY 2021

ALTERATION TO MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CERESTE

Alteration be moved as follows:

"The Article 4 direction relates to development comprising change of use from a use falling within Class C3 (dwelling houses) to a use falling within Class C4 (houses in multiple occupation).

This means that a property owner within the defined area who may want to convert their property (Class C3) into a small HMO (Class C4, 3-6 persons) would be required to apply for planning permission.

More and more family homes are being turned into Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Residents are worried as this can lead to increased parking, traffic issues, health and safety (tenants and neighbours), as well as affecting the environment and fabrication of the area, which was not designed or planned for this impact.

Peterborough City Council, having received the report on the Article 4 direction, should start the consultation to implement the article 4 in the Hampton Wards and any other ward in the City that is thought to be appropriate.

The Council agrees to initiate a further and formal public consultation with a view to introducing an Article 4 Zone trial in the Hamptons and any other ward in the City that is thought to be appropriate, subject to evidence that the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation in the area is having an adverse effect."

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