

## Council

Wednesday, 26 January 2022

### Additional Information Pack

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**FULL COUNCIL 26 JANUARY 2022  
QUESTIONS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<b><u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u></b>	
<b><u>Questions from members of the public</u></b>	
1.	<b>Nil.</b>

## **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 Judy Fox**

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

Would you Leader of the Council please tell residents what they have in mind for the future plans for the Hodgson Centre at Werrington.

Under the Community Asset Transfer we were told that the council were looking for groups to take over the running of this centre and to date we have heard nothing.

We have put a local business man in touch with PCC as he has an interest in running this facility for the community and to date he has not really had any positive contact with anyone.

Would the leader please chase this up so the residents of Werrington have a better understanding what is going to happen to this community facility.

2.

#### **Question from Councillor Harper**

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

The people of Peterborough have been informed that the Key Theatre is projected to lose £325k this year and the council, citing budget pressures, has therefore announced its closure.

Could the leader therefore please explain as to how it was possible for this administration and the cross party financial working group, to confidently make this decision to close the theatre without being in possession of all the detailed profit and loss information from the previous year and the forecast for this and further, how the Communities Scrutiny Committee could possibly and effectively scrutinise that decision when committee members were also denied access to those figures, figures that surely and for the sake of transparency, should have been shared by way of a closed session if commercial confidentiality was as is being claimed, thought to be at risk.

3.

#### **Question from Councillor Moyo**

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

Voi electric bikes were temporarily suspended in October last year. This brought disappointing news for many residents in Peterborough who not only benefited from

	<p>cycling more across city, but felt we took a step back towards making our city greener and achieving our climate targets.</p> <p>Can members be advised of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When will the service be resumed?</li> <li>2. How is the fleet going to be protected from future vandalism?</li> <li>3. Are there prospects of expanding the service to e-scooters?</li> </ol>
4.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Skibsted</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>In view of the fact that there have lockdowns and closures of many council supported services since March 2020 and a detailed analysis undertaken of the council's finances, why was it necessary to announce the shutting of the Key Theatre and Werrington Leisure Centre as an "emergency measure" on 16th December 2021.</p> <p>There has been knowledge of the council's financial situation for some time prior to that date and making a decision in this way prevented any scrutiny or input from other councillors.</p> <p>Please can the cabinet member provide an explanation for this action taken in this way.</p>
5.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Andrew Bond (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>Following the recent announcement of the temporary closure of the well-loved Werrington leisure centre, which not only services the Werrington area but the whole of the North of the City, could the relevant cabinet member update us on plans for a long-term arrangement for the future of the centre?</p>
6.	<p><b>Question from Councillor John Fox</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>From the outset of the Leader's term of office on Peterborough City Council he promised to work with Members across the Council's political spectrum to address its current financial problems, and created a new, cross-party Financial Sustainability Working Group that has been well-attended by all political groups. He publicly stated that his door would always be open, and most Members considered this a welcome gesture of collaboration.</p> <p>Of course, one might expect that open-door policy to work both ways, and that any proposal from this administration would be discussed well in advance and at the earliest opportunity. However, at December's FSWG meeting the decision to temporarily cease public use of Werrington Leisure Centre was proposed. Amazingly, FSWG members did not receive any notification of this until a few hours before that meeting.</p>

	<p>It is obvious that a decision as bold as this was not made overnight, so can the Leader provide the timeline of events leading to this being proposed to FSWG, explaining why there was no consultation and apologise to Members for not maintaining the collaboration that he so strongly championed?</p>
7.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p> <p>The council spent a significant amount of money with Grant Thornton to assist with efficiency and transformation measures. Could you please confirm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much we spent with Grant Thornton through that process?</li> <li>2. How much was identified as savings and improvements?</li> <li>3. How much we actually saved by implementing Grant Thornton's advice and recommendations?</li> <li>4. If there are unrealised savings – when will we achieve those savings?</li> </ol>
8.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Hogg (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>With plans for the relocation of the City Market to Bridge Street now clearer, can the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities please explain why we feel that only 12 stalls are required for a city the size of Peterborough, bearing in mind that Oundle Market currently has an allocation of 19 stalls, Bourne Market has 20 traders?</p>
9.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Wiggin</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</b></p> <p>Could the relevant cabinet member please provide an update on progress of refunding fees paid for brown bin collections, and what the cost has been to the council for the administration of this?</p>
10.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Sandford (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>At the recent meeting of Communities Scrutiny Committee, we were told that City Culture only realised at the end of November that the Key Theatre was losing £300,000 a year after apparently having experts study the accounts for over 13 months. However, when the committee asked to see the accounts we were told by a lady from City Culture that this may not be possible as City Culture is a private company.</p> <p>Could the relevant cabinet member tell me if and when councillors will be given access to papers relating to the financial position of the Key Theatre?</p>

11.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Hemraj (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health</b></p> <p>Will the council be applying for part of the new £300 million funding by the government to help with retention and recruitment of social care workers?</p>
12.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Murphy (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>On the 17th of December I wrote to you.          “You may recall that full council debated a motion which was agreed that an option to be looked at for operating services previously run by Vivacity should be a co-operative model. Would you kindly let me know how far this was explored and ask the officers to provide a briefing paper on what was done and on how this option that can be revisited. It might be the sort of thing our local government and other pension schemes may want to invest in”.</p> <p>Can you please let me know what has been done concerning the motion agreed concerning these services, or acknowledge that little was done on this council decision, hence the unnecessary and unplanned closures and the cabinet member decision notice, with no call in, and what now seems, at the time of writing, to be a hasty and far from transparent deal with the private sector without oversight or scrutiny by council concerning the Key Theatre.</p>
13.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Hemraj (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p> <p>Could you please state how much funding per Ward has been spent on road resurfacing, pothole repairs and pavement works/replacements?</p>
14.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Sandford (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>Full Council at its meeting in July 2021 agreed a resolution on virtual and hybrid council meetings which said the following:</p> <p><b>“Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council to lobby central government to put forward legislation giving all councils the necessary powers to hold virtual and hybrid meetings if they choose to do so and asks the chief executive to write to the local government minister and to our local MPs the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Chairman of the Local Government Association urging them to support this proposal.”</b></p> <p>When I asked to see a copy of the letter sent by officers to the ministers and our MPs, I was told that no letters were in fact sent but officers instead decided merely to respond to an online LGA survey on the subject.</p>

	<p>There continue to be concerns about the safety of holding large meetings such as Full Council with everyone present in person and we had the farcical situation at the 16 December meeting where most members were allowed to join virtually but were not allowed to vote.</p> <p>So could the Leader of the Council tell me why the resolution of Full Council in July was not actioned as members had requested and what he is doing to move this issue forward?</p>
15.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</b></p> <p>According to the Peterborough Telegraph, it is estimated that rejected waste cost the council £197,625. What is the cabinet member doing to address this cost?</p>
16.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Andrew Bond (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>With the council currently looking at all areas of expenditure, residents have expressed concerns about the future of Werrington library which services a large part of the north of the city and surrounding villages.</p> <p>Can the relevant cabinet member please outline what plans, if any, are there to make any changes to the openings and operation of the Werrington library?</p>
17.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Hogg (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University</b></p> <p>Regarding the refurbishment of Clare Lodge, the decision paperwork suggested that funding for this was to be funded exclusively by DfE in the form of a grant, can the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University please confirm that all the refurbishment works for Clare Lodge have been funded by this grant and that there was no cost to Peterborough City Council?</p>

	<p><b><u>Questions on notice to:</u></b></p> <p>d. The Combined Authority Representatives</p>
1.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Sandford</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Fitzgerald, Combined Authority Board Representative</b></p> <p>We understand that the Mayor and the Combined Authority are in the process of developing a new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. Could our rep on the Combined Authority Board tell me what is being done to involve Peterborough councillors and residents in this process at an early stage, bearing in mind that Peterborough is by far the largest city in the Combined Authority area.</p>



**COUNCIL MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022**

**PROPOSAL FOR 'REVIEW OF PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S MEMBERS'  
ALLOWANCE SCHEME – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL'**

Proposal to be moved as follows:

"It is recommended that Council:

1. Note recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in Appendix 1 and summarised in paragraph 2 of the report;
2. Agree to adopt the recommendations of the panel in relation to the Member Allowance Scheme."

## **COUNCIL MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022**

### **ALTERATION TO THE MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANSAR ALI**

Alteration to be moved as follows:

“It is regrettable that PCC finds itself in such a difficult financial situation.

This situation has occurred because of ill-judged decisions of the Council’s Conservative administration for most of the last two decades including the decision not to increase council tax by the full amount despite being told on many occasions that our council tax banding is, on average, lower than our statistical neighbours, whilst funding from central government has reduced by 80% in the past ten years.

This situation is no fault of our Peterborough residents and Council taxpayers. Yet they are the ones who will be asked to pay a substantial increase in Council Tax for next year and future years, whilst the Council will continue to cut all but essential services.

The burden on our Council taxpayers is unacceptable.

**Therefore the Council resolves to:**

- **Ask the Cabinet to accept their responsibility for this unacceptable situation.**
- **Suspend payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to Leader Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Cabinet Advisers, Chairs of Committees and opposition Group Leaders for the next three years, commencing in 2022/23.**

This will, as the very least, send a clear, positive message to our residents and Council taxpayers.

The temporary SRA suspension will not preclude Members from claiming reasonable out of pocket expenses when attending meetings or events as part of their responsibilities, as per the Members’ Allowance Scheme.”

## COUNCIL MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022

### AMENDMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SANDFORD TO THE MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANSAR ALI

Amendment to be moved as follows:

“It is regrettable that PCC finds itself in such a difficult financial situation.

This situation has occurred because of ill-judged decisions of the Council’s Conservative administration for most of the last two decades including the decision not to increase council tax by the full amount despite being told on many occasions that our council tax banding is, on average, lower than our statistical neighbours, whilst funding from central government has reduced by 80% in the past ten years.

This situation is no fault of our Peterborough residents and Council taxpayers. Yet they are the ones who will be asked to pay a substantial increase in Council Tax for next year and future years, whilst the Council will continue to cut all but essential services.

The burden on our Council taxpayers is unacceptable.

**Therefore the Council resolves to:**

- **Ask the Cabinet to accept their responsibility for this unacceptable situation.**
- **Ask the Independent Remuneration Panel to give their view of the suggestion of suspending Suspend payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to Leader Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Cabinet Advisers, Chairs of Committees and opposition Group Leaders for the next three years, commencing in 2022/23.**
- **Ask the Independent Remuneration Panel to present their views to the March meeting of Full Council.**

This will, as the very least, send a clear, positive message to our residents and Council taxpayers.”

**COUNCIL MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022**

**ALTERATION TO THE REVISED POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY, COMMITTEE SEAT ALLOCATION, AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS**

Alteration to be moved as follows:

“It is recommended that Council:

1. Agrees the allocation of seats on committees subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 1 to the report) to reflect:
  - Planning and Environmental Protection Committee – Conservatives to lose one seat, Peterborough First to gain one seat
  - Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee – Conservatives to lose one seat, Peterborough First to gain one seat
  - Planning and Environmental Protection Committee – Labour to lose one seat, Conservatives to gain one seat.
2. Appoints the Chair of the Council’s Committees as follows:  
Children and Education Scrutiny Committee - Councillor Over  
Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Mohammed Farooq  
Planning and Environmental Protection Committee – Councillor Harper”

### 109 Seat Committees

Dec-21		Number of committee seats =					109
Group	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Peterborough First	Green	Total	
Elected	28	16	8	4	3	59	
Proportionality %	47.46	27.12	13.56	6.78	5.08	100.00	
Entitlement to seats (rounded)	51.73	29.56	14.78	7.39	5.54	109.0	
	52	30	15	7	5	109	

no. of Cllrs for each group  
group no. / 59 x 100  
total seats / 100 x proportion

There is no majority party, therefore proportionality for 109 seats will be allocated to Conservative/Labour/Liberal Democrat/Peterborough First/Green

#### CALCULATION FOR PROPORTIONALITY

Calculation	Result %
Conservative = 28/59*100	47.4576
Labour = 16/59*100	27.1186
Liberal Democrats = 8/59*100	13.5593
Peterborough First = 4/59*100	6.7797
Green = 3/59*100	5.0847
	99.9999

#### CALCULATION FOR REMAINING SEATS

Group	total seats remaining (109) / 100 x proportion%	Rounded
Conservative	51.73	52
Labour	29.56	30
Liberal Democrat	14.78	15
Peterborough First	7.39	7
Green	5.54	5
Total		109

Committee	Seats	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Peterborough First	Green	Total
Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	11	5	4	1	1	0	11
Communities Scrutiny Committee	11	5	3	1	1	1	11
Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	11	5	3	1	1	1	11
Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee	11	6	2	1	1	1	11
Corporate Parenting Committee	11	4	3	2	1	1	11
Employment Committee	7	4	2	1	0	0	7
Audit Committee	7	3	3	1	0	0	7
Regulatory Committee (Non Licensing Act 2003 Committee)	11	5	3	2	0	1	11
Planning and Environmental Protection Committee	11	6	2	2	1	0	11
Appeals and Planning Review Committee	11	5	3	2	1	0	11
Constitution and Ethics Committee	7	4	2	1	0	0	7
Entitlement to Seats		52	30	15	7	5	109
Seats Pre-allocated		52	30	15	7	5	109
Adjustment to make		0	0	0	0	0	0

Committee	Group	Group	Group	Group	Group	
Size	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Peterborough First	Green	
16	47.46	27.12	14	6.78	5.08	16.0704
15	7.5936	4.3392	2.24	1.0848	0.8128	15.066
14	7.119	4.068	2.1	1.017	0.762	12.1016
13	6.6444	3.7968	1.98	0.9492	0.7112	13.0572
12	6.1698	3.5256	1.82	0.8814	0.6604	12.0528
11	5.6952	3.2544	1.68	0.8136	0.6096	11.0484
10	5.2206	2.9832	1.54	0.7458	0.5588	10.044
9	4.746	2.712	1.4	0.678	0.508	9.0396
8	4.2714	2.4408	1.26	0.6102	0.4572	8.0352
7	3.7968	2.1696	1.12	0.5424	0.4064	7.0308
6	3.3222	1.8984	0.98	0.4746	0.3556	6.0264
5	2.8476	1.6272	0.84	0.4068	0.3048	5.022
4	2.373	1.356	0.7	0.339	0.254	4.0176
3	1.8984	1.0848	0.56	0.2712	0.2032	3.0132
	1.4238	0.8136	0.42	0.2034	0.1524	

## COUNCIL MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022

### AMENDMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SHAZ NAWAZ TO THE 'REVISED POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY, COMMITTEE SEAT ALLOCATION, AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS'

Amendment to be moved as follows:

"It is recommended that Council:

1. Agrees the allocation of seats on committees subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 1 to the report) to reflect:
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  - ~~Planning and Environmental Protection Committee – Labour to lose one seat, Conservatives to gain one seat.~~
  - Children and Education Scrutiny Committee – Labour to lose one seat, Conservatives to gain one seat.
2. Appoints the Chair of the Council's Committees as follows:  
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**109 Seat Committees**

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(Rounded)	52	30	15	7	5	109	

no. of Cllrs for each group  
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