

## Council

Wednesday, 2 March 2022

### Additional Information Pack

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**COUNCIL MEETING 2 MARCH 2022**

**CABINET MEMBER PETITION FOR DEBATE PROPOSAL FROM COUNCILLOR HILLER**

Proposal to be moved as follows:

“To note the petition and take no further action.”

**COUNCIL MEETING 2 MARCH 2022**

**PETITION FOR DEBATE PROPOSAL FROM COUNCILLOR SANDFORD**

Proposal to be moved as follows:

Having considered the petition, this Council refers the petition to the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration, having regard to the comments made in the course of Council debate.

**FULL COUNCIL 2 MARCH 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.	<p><b>Question from Mr Richard Olive</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</b></p> <p>With reference to the news report in the Peterborough Telegraph on 16th January 2022 I note that the Council is currently facing additional costs of £197,625 per year for the disposal of materials incorrectly placed in recycling bins by Peterborough residents. This is an enormous amount of money to be wasted annually especially in these difficult times when the Council is so financially pressured. Could you please inform me whether the Council will be taking any action to try to ensure that Peterborough households recycle more accurately in order to reduce this figure? For instance, will it be providing more detailed lists for what can or cannot be recycled and if so, how will it ensure that the information reaches as many people as possible?</p>

<b><u>COUNCIL BUSINESS</u></b>	
<b><u>Questions on notice to:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Mayor</li> <li>b. To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet</li> <li>c. To the Chair of any Committee or Sub-committee</li> </ul>	
1.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Wiggin (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</b></p> <p>How much has been spent on publicity to advertise the change in bin collection days, and how what proportion of the properties in the city are changing bin days?</p>
2.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Hogg (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</b></p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment please update us on the current free bulky waste collections. Has the allocation now run out? And will the service charge of £23.50 be returning for collections from April?</p>
3.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Qayyum</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities/ Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>I'd like to respectfully ask what did the Deputy Leader misunderstand about the question he was asked at the Joint Scrutiny of the Budget meeting last month?</p> <p>For me, and I imagine most attending, it seemed straightforward that he was asked whether at the next full council meeting we will have an actual plan which will show precisely "which" libraries remain the same, "which" will change and which libraries this administration is going to close. He answered: 'Yes' and went on to repeat that he was (and I believe he told us he was being 'assertive') in stating that he will present that plan. This was, members will be aware, immediately contradicted by the current Leader who said that his deputy leader had 'misunderstood the question'</p> <p>Why was there such a contradiction between both members stating of facts and what is the reality please surrounding the original question?</p>
4.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Sainsbury</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments/ Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>Please could the relevant cabinet member advise what steps we can take to reinvigorate council assets, by better promoting use of the Reception Room at the</p>

	Town Hall for hire for private functions and events, and help boost regeneration in our city?
5.	<p><b>Question from Councillor John Fox (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>I understand the council's decision to put on hold the building of the new regional pool at Pleasure Fair Meadow car park, alongside the building of the Werrington Gym and swimming pool, due to financial restraints.</p> <p>a) Can the Leader of the Council confirm that both developments are still on hold and, if possible, when it is likely a decision will be taken for the developments to progress?</p> <p>b) Can the Leader also confirm he has had talks to develop a larger swimming pool or sports facility alongside the Lido as one of the schemes that he has indicated support for, for our Embankment?</p> <p>c) If indeed this new facility is being considered I would like to ask where this money is coming from, would it be a council or a private investment and how might this affect any of the future plans for Werrington?</p> <p>My main concern is whether this will hinder in any way the proposed sports and swimming developments in Werrington, as our residents need to be reassured that their promised development is not going to be side-lined for another City Centre development.</p>
6.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Sandford (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</b></p> <p>How can the cabinet justify allowing Aragon to waste £30,000 on a PR campaign to tell residents that their bin collection days are not changing?</p>
7.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Murphy (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>Council is aware that our former permanent CEO had planned to retire for some considerable time, yet an interim acting up appointment was made, I understand this appointment was not a decision made by members. With the lengthy notice of retirement intent from the full-time CEO, why was this not a member decision and what was the increase in annual equivalent salary to the acting up interim, if any, and the increase in the amount to any final salary pension and lump sum payment.</p>
8.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Day</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</b></p>

	<p>Cllr Fitzgerald, following your comments after the debate and vote on the ecological emergency motion at the last full council meeting you offered to work together on this issue. I have since emailed you on 28/01/22 to offer to work together on the issues raised in the motion and I followed up again with an email on the 18/02/22. I have had no reply yet, can you let me if you are prepared to work on this and are committed to ecological, nature and biodiversity issues going forward?</p>
9.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Jones (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</b></p> <p>As the end of the municipal year approaches, will we be seeing green caddy liners given out without any reference to, or requests from, residents this year? I am still seeing rolls of them that have not been used when doing street surgeries or casework many months later. Will he agree with me that, in these financially straitened times, Aragon should only be doing this on specific request from residents who need them?</p>
10.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>We have an aspiration to become City of Culture in the future. What has the administration done to move this forward in the last 12 months?</p>
11.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Knight</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>Following Cllr Sainbury's motion last year regarding knife crime, what action has been implemented to tackle knife crime?</p>
12.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Skibsted</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p> <p>We are all aware that there are high levels of poverty and deprivation in our city. The recently announced increase in fuel prices will push some people including many families further over the edge into poverty, which will include fuel and food poverty, both basic necessities for living.</p> <p>What plans are being developed in the council to support families or others facing financial hardship and food poverty once the Hardship Fund has ended at the end of March, and what will the council do to engage with central government to help to finance this?</p>
13.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Wiggin (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>

	<p>How much highway has been adopted by the council over each of the current and previous two financial years, and how much highway intended to be adopted in the long term remains unadopted?</p>
14.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p> <p>When should we expect the final version of the masterplan for the Embankment?</p>
15.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Jones (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</b></p> <p>Following our conversation on the issuing of, frankly, completely useless hard copy folders to councillors, you advised that my email had been forwarded to the MD of Aragon, as they had not involved you in the decision to issue them, something I am quite willing to believe.</p> <p>Have you had the courtesy of a reply and, if so, what is the justification of this profligacy, in my opinion at least?</p>
16.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Skibsted (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</b></p> <p>There have been recent communications from Aragon city-wide regarding changes in bin days and other information. I have been informed that this cost the council £30,000.</p> <p>I am aware that other information regarding recycling was communicated via this leaflet but is this not a luxury in our current situation, given that the council is in financially extremely difficult circumstances and as councillors we are informed regularly that there is no budget for any extra expenditure? Should this project not have been more carefully managed so that wards with no change in bin days (and there were a substantial amount of these) did not need to have leaflets and therefore save the council potentially thousands of pounds?</p>
17.	<p><b>Question from Councillor John Fox (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>On Saturday 19th February the day after Storm Eunice, I attended Goodwin Walk, Werrington as a result of a phone call alerting me to a young man who had been sleeping rough in the woods. I assisted as best I could to help this person to find a warm place to sleep out of the cold but to no avail. Due to his poor health condition, I took him to Peterborough City Hospital to seek help and contacted Social Services on his behalf to assist where they could. All departments are now aware of this person, but I was concerned there did not appear to be a homelessness outreach officer on duty over the weekend who I could have liaised directly with and would like to know from the relevant cabinet member whether this was the case and if so, why?</p>



	<p>Could the Cabinet Member also tell me what provisions are in place over the weekends to deal with such people who find themselves, sleeping rough and homeless, especially in such inclement weather?</p>
18.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Murphy (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation</b></p> <p>Much work is carried out by officers to encourage registration of electors. Some Councils actually take enforcement action and fines have been issued to those who do not register to vote. Does the Council currently take such steps and if not, when was the last time Peterborough did this (please provide some figures and dates) and do we plan to do this in the future and/or before the forthcoming elections?</p>
19.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Sandford (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation</b></p> <p>How can the cabinet justify spending over £1.7 million on buying new laptops for officers and councillors when there is supposed to be a freeze on capital spending due to the Council's financial crisis?</p>
20.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Hogg (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities please update us on the status of the paused Community Asset Transfer programme? A number of community centres are currently in limbo and it means that they are unable to bid for funding due to the temporary nature of their tenure. The delay is also affecting a number of Early Years settings which are based in community centres across the city. The uncertainty that prevails with this pause whilst the scheme is evaluated is not good for our community centres and the communities that they serve.</p>
21.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Judy Fox (1) - Ward Specific</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p> <p>Could the relevant cabinet member explain:</p> <p>a) Why have the two disabled parking spaces in Central Park, near to the Willow café been removed?</p> <p>b) Why have the newly painted disabled bays outside the main gate now been reduced to just two, when there used to be three, and I even believe that before that, there were four?</p>

c) Why have the other disabled bays surrounding the entrances to the park not been re-painted at the same time, thereby saving money by doing them all at one time?

d) Can the cabinet member reassure me that the permanent locking of the main gate leading into the park conforms on all accounts to the Disability Discrimination Act and does not discriminate against those with limited walking mobility, who equally do not own mobility scooters? This restricts their right of entrance into the jewel of Peterborough's environmental crown where they can seek tranquil and quiet surroundings to help with their mental health and wellbeing.

	<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, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>What is the CPCA board doing to reverse the cuts in bus service frequency recently imposed by Stagecoach?</p>

<b>COUNCIL</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 10(a)
<b>2 MARCH 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Interim Corporate Director of Resources	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Andy Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance	
Contact Officer(s):	Cecilie Booth, Interim Corporate Director of Resources  Kirsty Nutton, Acting Service Director: Financial Services & Deputy S151	Tel. 452520  Tel. 384590

## **COUNCIL ADDENDUM – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23**

### **Recommendation**

That Council notes the final responses to the consultation received up to the 28 February 2022

### **Background**

- 1.1. This addendum has been produced in order that Members receive the most up to date position regarding the Phase Two Budget Consultation.
- 1.2. This document contains consultation feedback received, which we were unable to include within the main report due to the timing of publication.
- 1.3. The consultation concluded at 5pm on 28 February, as set out on the website and within the Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 Report which went to Cabinet on 21 February 2022 The original timetable published in the report which went to Cabinet on 31 January 2022
- 1.4. No paper (hard copy) consultation responses were received.

### **Consultation Feedback**

- 1.5. This update contains the following:
  - The 36 additional consultation responses received. These together with the 14 responses already reported takes the total amount of responses received via the online survey up to 50. The key topics covered as part of this feedback include:
    - Council Tax
    - Councillor Allowances & Officer Pay

- Street Cleaning
  - Library & Museum Services
- Letter from Peterborough Cultural Alliance
- Letter from Peterborough Positive
- Letter from Peterborough Civic Society
- Letter from Cambridge University- Archaeological Unit
- Feedback received from Joint Mosques Group

**Additional online Survey Responses:**

Do you have any comments to make about the phase two budget proposals?	how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make savings of almost £17.8million in 2022/23?	If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money or generate additional income to protect services, please state these here:
Libraries are very important. Books encourage and engage with all age groups from the kindergarten to the senior citizen. They are a place where people can come and mix helping levitate loneliness. Computers allow for job hunters . All age groups to learn their use important in this digital world. The libraries are a community hub. We must not lose them.	A fair amount	Create a charity arm for the people and community service. Flag Fen, museum, libraries were under a charity umbrella before return them to that for the savings it would bring.
Peterborough Cultural Alliance has submitted a letter of our comments	A fair amount	Please see attached letter
We are aware that Peterborough Council is currently considering a 50% cut to the amount paid by the Council to City Culture Peterborough to run Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery and Flag Fen Archaeology Site. We understand that these are challenging times for local authorities and are aware that the Council is having to make difficult decisions about resourcing and responsibilities. As researchers and museum staff, we are writing to emphasise the international importance of the Museum to palaeontology and geology, and to urge the Council to consider this when making decisions about the future of the Museum . Peterborough Museum is home to more than 8000 unique geological specimens of international significance, found in local brickpits and quarries. Particularly notable are the giant Jurassic marine reptiles, including the ichthyosaur Ophthalmosaurus the pliosaur Pachycostasaurus, and the most complete specimen of the giant 16.5m long fish Leedsichthys. Many of these fossils are ~type ~figured and ~cited specimens and as such are international reference specimens used by researchers for study and comparison with new finds. It is rare for museums the size and scale of Peterborough to have such important collections. Equally important is the in-house curatorial expertise, gained over many years through working with these and similar collections, and which is vital to ensuring these collections can continue to be used, understood and shared. These collections reveal a unique, fascinating and highly accessible geological history of the Peterborough area, of which the City should feel proud. Through Peterborough Museums geological collections, people can engage with nature, explore their environment, gain a sense of place and belonging, and learn together. Helping people to understand and engage with this geological history can play an important role in economic and social recovery. Dr Liz Hide, Director, Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge Professor David Norman Professor Nicholas Butterfield Professor Liz Harper Dr Alex Liu Dr Daniel Field Rob Theodore Dan Pemberton	A great deal	
Absolutely appalling for you to be even considering cuts to the library service. Potentially it's of so much benefit to the community, particularly with regard to the post Covid period. Free books and other stock to help children get back up to speed with their literacy, books and other information to help others make the most of any change in circumstances e.g. redundancy, retirement and job seeking, business support, combating social and economic deprivation with free loan of stock, activities, events, pc access etc. A mobile service is not an adequate replacement and digital services are to be only of interest / usability to a percentage of the population. The general "attack" on cultural services speaks volumes about the lack of ambition of this council. Accredited studies show how much economic and social value such services add to the population. Many times the value of money spent. Shame on you... I really hope these potentially	A fair amount	Take Libraries and Heritage away from City College. Seemingly they're only interested in costly vanity projects and have done nothing to improve or even maintain the services. What expertise did they ever have in running those services? That was a terrible decision. Reform Vivacity as was and support it this time, rather than spend time and energy undermining and briefing against it. Failing that, with the joint authority in mind, why not join the services up with Cambs? I believe Peterborough have all the same library systems as they do for a start and there must be some economies of scale there? Ditto Archives and Heritage?

Do you have any comments to make about the phase two budget proposals?	how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make savings of almost £17.8million in 2022/23?	If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money or generate additional income to protect services, please state these here:
disastrous plans do not come to pass. Whatever, I assume you're not going to embarrass yourselves with the idea of going for City Of Culture status any longer?		
Yes. Churches Together in Central Peterborough (CTiCP) are extremely concerned about the future of the library service and wish to offer a separate meeting with yourselves when we could explore what help committed church members could be in reinvigorating the service for the benefit of Peterborough citizens.	A great deal	Increased use of committed volunteers.
<p>Peterborough Positive welcomes the opportunity to submit comments following the publication of the Peterborough City Council (PCC) Budget Consultation 2022/23 Phase 2. The 2022/23 Budget Consultation document published on the 21st Jan 2022 marks a recognition of the pressures faced by PCC and by implication the city stakeholders; including businesses, residents and community organisations. The Budget Consultation was published shortly before the Levelling-Up White paper on February 2nd 2022. The Peterborough Positive response to the Budget Consultation has had the benefit of placing the PCC proposed savings, changes and cuts in spend in a wider context of what the effect will be for the city in the years to come. The 2022/23 Budget Consultation makes reference to the additional monies that the city will receive in 2022/23 from the Levelling Up fund (£20M) and the Towns Fund (£22.9M). In addition to the Station Quarter redevelopment of £50M. The Budget consultation is part of a PCC Medium Term Financial Plan, but the consultation is focuses on short term actions, not the medium term outcome of those actions. With this in mind PCC need to totally explain what the cuts mean in real terms. By saying œreduce events¿ what and how much and on what basis is that event being sacrificed in what is one of the UKs fastest growing Cities. Our survey of the city business community suggests that there is an appetite for them to explain in more depth the budget decision. We suggest that the Budget consultation document should provide reference to how Levelling Up and Towns Fund monies will be spent and whether the spend will be made directly by PCC or whether the monies will be devolved to local organisations, who can provide the agility, pace and connectivity that the City needs. Peterborough Positive Business Consultation During the darkest days of the 2020 lockdown, Peterborough Positive proved its worth in their ability to collaborate with key stakeholders, including PCC to devise and deliver economic recovery plans and actions for the city. Our key role included bringing together the business voice and helping ensure the business community helped to shape recovery plans in the city. Peterborough Positive provides unrivalled local knowledge, insight and hard data on city centre business metrics. We have conducted a survey aimed at businesses in the city centre. The survey was open from 27 Jan 2022 to 18 Feb 2022. The survey was open to businesses across the city. Initial results show: Over 80% of respondents were concerned about the budget cuts. Example comments below: Cuts to safety provision and to a lesser extent events funding were the areas of most concern. Safety provision was the most important for 62% and events funding by 25% of respondents Below are example comments from the question œAre there any proposed budget cuts that you particularly agree or disagree with¿ Below are example comments from the question œDo you have any general comments about the Councils budget proposals Summary Peterborough Positive welcomes the attempt by PCC to grapple with the financial position. However we have major concerns that some of the measures for the city centre will have a long term detrimental effect on the economic and social regeneration of the city. The Peterborough Positive business consultation survey shows that the business community have significant reservations about the budget proposals. PCC need to explain much more clearly the rationale for the cuts and show that they have effectively modelled the impact on the city centre from these proposals. We have outlined below five key questions where further clarification is required to the budget consultation. Five Key Questions the Budget Consultation does not address 1. What do the cuts mean in real terms for businesses in the city? How will life be different in the city? 2. What do PCC forecast will be the economic impact (GVA) to the city from the the proposed savings? 3. Have PCC considered whether the services</p>	A fair amount	<p>Peterborough Positive welcomes the opportunity to submit comments following the publication of the Peterborough City Council (PCC) Budget Consultation 2022/23 Phase 2. The 2022/23 Budget Consultation document published on the 21st Jan 2022 marks a recognition of the pressures faced by PCC and by implication the city stakeholders; including businesses, residents and community organisations. The Budget Consultation was published shortly before the Levelling-Up White paper on February 2nd 2022. 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Do you have any comments to make about the phase two budget proposals?	how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make savings of almost £17.8million in 2022/23?	If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money or generate additional income to protect services, please state these here:
<p>identified in this response could be delivered at a lower cost by business led organisations such as Opportunity Peterborough, Nene Park Trust and Peterborough Peterborough Positive? 4. The Levelling-Up White Paper sets out 12 quantifiable ~national missions which all aim to be achieved by 2030. These ~missions will be the basis of the policy objectives for levelling up, and will form the heart of the governments agenda for the 2020s. How do the budget proposals help deliver these œnational missions? 5. What is PCCs post COVID19 œmission? for the city centre and how will this be funded</p>		<p>proposed savings? Have PCC considered whether the services identified in this response could be delivered at a lower cost by business led organisations such as Opportunity Peterborough, Nene Park Trust and Peterborough Peterborough Positive? The Levelling-Up White Paper sets out 12 quantifiable ~national missions which all aim to be achieved by 2030. These ~missions will be the basis of the policy objectives for levelling up, and will form the heart of the governments agenda for the 2020s. How do the budget proposals help deliver these œnational missions? What is PCCs post COVID19 œmission? for the city centre and how will this be funded</p>
<p>I work as a library assistant and I'm concerned regarding the consultation as I have yet to see it advertised anywhere other than online. Many of the vulnerable people who you are trying to support, do not have regular internet access so will not have a voice in regards to what happens to the services they use. I realise we are only in the early stages of the consultation but it would be nice for everyone to have a voice and to be informed from the start. It would have been good to see paper copies of the consultation available for users of the services that will be impacted, in particular libraries. The library is usually asked by the council to display such information so it seems odd that they would not be asked to display anything linked to this consultation. If you want people to fill out consultations such as these via the internet then you must provide your customers with a thriving library service for them in order to do so. Many of our customers and therefore your customers would be able to fill this consultation out if they were firstly aware of it and secondly had access to a computer with internet. There has been little mention in the press regarding the consultation but what I have seen appears to spread misinformation. For example, in the case of the library, Peterborough Matters implied that it was entirely volunteer run and that libraries were only open for 15 hours a week. All libraries have at least one member of paid staff with the larger ones having three or more. In terms of opening hours, Central Library is open 41 hours a week. I am concerned that such misinformation could impact how people view the library service and therefore how they respond to the consultation. Many of our customers do not even have a smartphone and so the library really does open up a whole new world for them. This was something really brought to light by the NHS QR codes during the pandemic. Many of our customers were not aware of the NHS app or even what a QR code was so you can see why a library would be important to them as they lack digital literacy. The only access they have to the internet is through the library service as though they may visit places with Wi-Fi, they do not have a suitable device. Even if you do have a suitable device e.g. a smartphone or tablet sometimes a desktop is better especially for important things like applying for a job as not all websites are optimised for use on devices. Also for many people, the only quiet environment they have access to would be the library. In the consultation, volunteers have been mentioned as an option, in which case it makes little sense that last year the Volunteer Development Manager was made redundant in April and all her work left to the Volunteer Development officer who had been on furlough for at least eight months and so was unable to keep in contact with the volunteers. The volunteer development officer was also responsible for the library link service where a volunteer is matched with a housebound library user and they borrow and return books on behalf of the customer. From the sounds of the consultation the council would be keen for this to continue. Unfortunately, at the time when residents most needed this, she was kept on furlough so many residents were without this service. While I understand this may have been possible to do even if she had been brought back to work, could the library have not phoned these vulnerable customers even if only to see how they were and ease their loneliness once a week? During the furlough period there was no contact from the volunteering team to the numerous volunteers we had under Vivacity so I can only assume this has drastically decreased the number of volunteers available to City Culture Peterborough. In addition to this, the Volunteer Development Officer left in August 2021 and her role has not been filled so I would imagine some discussion needs to happen as to who trains and looks after volunteers. Many of our volunteers had very good relationships with these two members of staff and were neglected by Vivacity/City Culture during</p>	<p>A fair amount</p>	<p>I have mentioned a few in question one.</p>



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<p>the pandemic so it may be difficult to either repair these relationships or find new and suitable volunteers. I would imagine that pre covid we would have at least thirty regular volunteers across the library service and now it would be less than ten. While the idea of an improved mobile library service is great, we already have a children's book bus which has hardly been used for the last two years. Why is this not being used when it is owned by the library service and therefore one would imagine cost less than leasing the current mobile library which is old and regularly off the road for repair. Obviously, I'm aware that it was originally bought specifically just to serve children and schools but for the meantime could it not act as an interim for the regular mobile library service? We currently only have one mobile driver so if we do go ahead with a new mobile library service there will have to be an emphasis on hiring for mobile library drivers. Many of our current staff are not drivers so it would not simply be a case of just moving current staff from one job to another. In the case of our staff, who are drivers, I am unaware of many who would want to drive a mobile library. If these new mobile libraries offer multiple services including computers and wi-fi then then I would hope that they would have not only a designated driver but also a library assistant on board who could assist customers. While one would hope this new mobile service would provide wi-fi and computer access, depending how long and how often these visits, it might not be enough. If a job seeker is expected to spend thirty five hours a week applying for jobs then no matter how great the mobile library service is unless it is coming at least once a week for a substantial amount of time it is not going to be much help to someone filling out multiple job applications. Within the consultation, there is mention of commercialisation of the library service which we will need further details regarding. I think this could be a great option at the central library but we must not allow this to alienate our most vulnerable customers and always keep focus on what libraries are about - providing free access to information for everyone. I think most library assistants would be in favour of a coffee shop providing it had its own designated staff. I am sure it would be well used as the area of Broadway does not boast many coffee shops. We have lots of students studying so I cannot see why we would have problems in terms of income. I would hope that a small percentage of each sale would go directly into the library's budget. Of course this would mean we would have to provide suitable amounts of toilets which first of all would require investment. It would also need some ideas of how the library would cope with any anti-social behaviour toilets attract, in particular drug taking and damage to the property. While I understand the council needs to save money, I feel sad that the library service must suffer because of this. The libraries are already run down, just take a look at the state of the carpets at the central library! nicer surroundings would not only make people more likely to use the library space but would mean the library space itself could be hired out in the evening with tables and chairs being moved aside if necessary. We could also consider running a literary festival here at the library, both Oundle and The Deepings have their own which are popular and successful. The rooms we already have available for hire need to be promoted more not only by the library itself but also the council. Staff are already providing their own fridges, kettles, tables and paying out of their own pocket for stationery/craft supplies for their libraries. Having seen numerous staff leave and not be replaced (stock manager, mobile library driver, children's book bus driver, buildings manager and multiple library assistants) we are already at breaking point. Library staff are currently paid less than they would if they got a job at Greggs. If you wish to keep your experienced and passionate staff then it is not only the work environment itself that needs to be improved but also the rate of pay. For us as library assistants, the cuts have already happened - less staff, no open plus, no increase in pay and no magazines or newspapers for customers since 2020. If the council wishes to have a thriving library service I really do urge it to invest in them. I also want them to know and understand how important the smaller libraries are for the more isolated parts of Peterborough and that a bus coming round once a week really isn't the same as having a physical building you can go to. A lot of our customers prefer their local libraries where they can be better served due to the continuity of seeing the same library assistant each week. There is also the added bonus of being able to park for free. While in the short term closing</p>		

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<p>libraries or converting to a majority mobile service, may save money, I believe in the long term the council will end spending a lot more money on issues such as social isolation, mental health problems, poor literacy and support for job seekers to name but a few. These all areas which though libraries cannot solve they can with the right funding, support and level of staffing have a positive impact on. Libraries are already an unofficial signposting service so it would already be in a good position to help the council and other partners in supporting people, making referrals or providing leaflets and forms. I also think the council has a huge part to play in promoting its library services. It should be proud to have not closed down any of the ten libraries in the last ten years despite that happening across many parts of the U.K. and should continue to safeguard them. I would like to see the council shout more about libraries on its social media, whether that is encouraging residents to use the service or sharing specific events. Please think very carefully before closing down any of the ten libraries in Peterborough and please consult the staff. We really care about this service and want the best for our customers. We do our job because we love it and want to make a difference to society.</p>		
<p>I have just been made aware of the consultation by a library assistant at Central Library but note the discussion by cabinet is taking place before the survey is complete. There is no mention in the budget proposal of Stagecoach and the saving the council must be making as they have reduced services to Hampton (my area) by one third and yet increased the weekly ticket form £15.00 to £16.80.</p>	<p>A fair amount</p>	<p>1) Claw back money form Stagecoach for reduced and poorer services. 2) Monetise Central Library by (for example) franchising a 'Costa' style coffee outlet inside to encourage greater library use and provide a more secure environment against 'difficult' users such as the woman who recently used the floor as a toilet. 3) More long term savings could be made by improving the street experience and stop the harassment of women especially, by the vast increase in drunk beggars which have recently appeared, non of whom seem to be local as their faces are not known to me and I have been travelling into Peterborough for over ten years. It makes Peterborough look like the pits, it feels dangerous and to think a new university is coming what impression does it give to new students and visitors? Businesses must dread the evenings. Other cities I have visited recently such as Cambridge and York are thriving in the evenings.</p>

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<p>I think your proposals are incredibly vague, purposely making it difficult for people to comment on specific aspects. I have also reliably been informed that a LOT of what you propose has been omitted completely. However, judging by the fact you are cutting aspects of cultural funding by 50% and explain this as "modernising", I cannot see how you can modernise something (which usually involves investment) while making cuts, unless of course what you really mean is replacing staff with computers. I also note that there has been a lot of talk among councillors and in news reports of volunteers. Your cultural sites, such as Flag Fen, the Museum, and the Libraries are currently run by experienced paid staff. You will not get the standard of service if you replace them with volunteers. We only recently pushed for funding to make us a city of culture, and now our council leader is quoted as saying culture just isn't that important. Culture is community, it brings people together, offers support, and gives a sense of belonging and companionship, something I would expect our council and government want considering they constantly push us to look after each other so they don't have to do it. Therefore surely we need to ensure we offer this as much as possible, by keeping what we have open as much as possible. I was also concerned with comments about getting children back to their homes and out of care; I do hope all the necessary precautions are being made here and we are not going to end up rushing children back into dangerous situations or to neglectful families. The cuts to cleaning and verge trimming will result in two things; either the local "Wombling" groups having to do the work we expect to be done under council tax payments, or more rats. We shall see what happens! I would also like it noted that your consultation has not been sent to any of the libraries in paper format. I believed this was legally meant to happen to allow those without online access to be able to read and offer commentary on your proposals. Is this merely an error, or a convenient moment of "forgetfulness" to purposely limit the response you receive from this?</p>	A great deal	Rental of rooms and spaces; perhaps additions of coffee shops provided by outside companies (and staffed by them too; as per Costa in Asda Living and Next in Brotherhood Retail Park); initial investment in more bins everywhere to hopefully reduce litter and so keep places outside of the city centre cleaner.
<p>I fully endorse Mr. Stuart Orme's statement regarding the proposed 50% cut in funding to the Museum and Flag Fen. I do not see how they could function after such a cut. both sites hold items of national if not world importance which need on going care and conservation. Reducing the number of days open would be counter-productive. How many councillors have ever been in the Museum or Flag Fen to see what's there? not many I would think</p>	A fair amount	Don't turn on the Cathedral Square fountains
<p>Agree that social care and children's services need support but really feel that continuing to develop areas of the city is unwise. How many more restaurants do we want? Already have a lot of empty shops.</p>	A fair amount	I totally support Stuart Orme's proposals that he explained in a letter to the local paper. With libraries money could be saved by reducing the multiple copies of one book. When new there will be a long waiting list but after that interest dies down. I often see two or more copies of a book on my local library shelves. Save the pennies and the pounds follow!!
<p>16th February 2022 Re: Proposed 50% budget cut to City Culture Peterborough Dear Peterborough City Council, The Geological Curators Group notes with serious concern the proposal to cut 50% of Peterborough City Council (PCC) funding to City Culture Peterborough (CCP), effective in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Although it is noted that this cut would likely result in a reduction in opening times for Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery (PMAG) and Flag Fen Archaeology Site, a cut of this magnitude is likely to have far more serious consequences in the longer term to the care and accessibility of the collections and sites. We recognise the need to make substantial savings in the 2022-23 budget, but the importance of the unique and internationally significant geological collections held at PMAG may not be fully appreciated by</p>	A fair amount	

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<p>PCC. There are over 8,000 specimens , which tell the story of deep time in the Peterborough area, connecting local people to the story of the Earth, and showing them their ancestors and the building blocks of their ancient city. The collections contain rocks, minerals and fossils from all over the Earth, but with a strong local focus, giving visitors, schoolchildren and scientific researchers access to the world on their doorstep. The local brick pits and quarries have yielded an irreplaceable collection, including a Bronze Age killer whale, and deep sea fossils from the time of the dinosaurs 165 million years ago . These Jurassic marine fossils are some of the best outside of the Natural History Museum in London, and include unique scientific type specimens of huge ~sea dragons, and the most complete Leedsichthys specimen in the world “ a huge fish that grew to 16 metres long. The specimen was only discovered in 2001, underlining that significant geological specimens continue to be found. The documentation and interpretation project was funded by the Esme Fairbairn Collections Fund of the Museums Association, a very competitive national fund reserved for the most impactful projects. This allowed for innovative interpretation of the specimen, including a website , childrens activities and a book, making it accessible to local people even though its enormous size precludes it being displayed. More recently in time, there is a very important Ice Age vertebrate collection from the River Nene and Welland terraces, including bison, reindeer and hippopotamus. These document climate changes over the last 400,000 years, and eventually connect to the nationally important Flag Fen and Must Farm Bronze Age settlements, 3500 years ago. Specialist expertise is vital to unlocking the stories and the educational potential within geological collections, and enabling the current access to researchers from all over the world, driving cutting edge science that advances knowledge of our shared history. PMAG is also accredited by Arts Council England, a coveted designation that conveys the highest standards of collections care, interpretation and organisational health, and unlocks many funding streams. Whilst it is not known how CCP would deal with a 50% cut in funding, clearly some fundamental changes to the museum service would have to result. It would not be possible to maintain the current high level of collections care, access and interpretation, leading to lasting impacts on the collections that have been safely cared for for well over a century, including by PCC for over 50 years. Once expertise is lost, and collections begin to deteriorate, in many cases this damage is irretrievable, and certainly very costly and time-consuming to try to reverse. Learning programmes and exhibition development and maintenance also become almost impossible, cutting off formal and informal learning opportunities for local people. Currently at PMAG there is a Collections Manager with specialist geological knowledge and geological collections care knowledge, and a cut to this provision would have an immediate effect in essentially ~mothballing the collections, and going on to jeopardise PMAGs Accreditation status with Arts Council England. These are incredibly challenging times, but we hope PCC recognises the importance of the care and use of museum collections , and will not proceed with this swingeing cut to CCPs budget. Museums are a vital part of the local and national recovery from the pandemic, supporting learning, wellbeing, enjoyment and escapism. Only with continued financial support can PMAGs unique collections be fully explored to deliver this mission, and place Peterborough in context in the wider world. PMAG is an irreplaceable community asset, and embodies Peterboroughs cultural and natural identity now and in the future. Yours sincerely Dr Sarah King FGS Chair Geological Curators Group chair@geocurator.org f About the Geological Curators Group The Geological Curators Group (GCG) is a membership organisation founded in 1974, and a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 296050). We are affiliated to the Geological Society of London (the oldest national geological society in the world) and recognised by Arts Council England as a Subject Specialist Network (SSN). We also have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Natural Sciences Collections Association SSN (NatSCA) and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). Further information can be found at www.geocurator.org. Vision: Geological collections thriving for science and society Mission: Geological collections (rocks, minerals and fossils) are vital Earth heritage that help us understand the natural world. The Geological Curators Group strives to connect every geological collection with</p>		

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appropriate resources, knowledge and skills to thrive and positively impact science and society. We do this by: Ć Supporting everyone working with and caring for geological collections of all types Ć Advocating the value of expertise in the care and use of geological collections, and their importance for scientific research and education Ć Connecting people, skills, information, and collections		
I know that money has to be saved and that vital services must be protected. However, cutting the cultural and heritage budget by the planned amount will take Peterborough back the 1970s when the city was a cultural desert. The various festivals used to pull in lots of revenue for the city - take them away and it is inevitable that we will lose more shops.	A fair amount	Don't give yourselves a pay rise. The rest of us are getting a pay cut, especially the pensioners. Promote what we have - Flag Fen, the Museum and the Key Theatre etc and not cutting funding for them. They could be making more money.
	A great deal	Gain financial support for The Museum, Flag Fen and possibly libraries from commercial partners. ie since many fossils have emerged from quarries the Museum could offer the Mick George Gallery, or even the George Museum.
I want to comment on the proposal to reduce funding to Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery and Flag Fen. I strongly disagree with a 50% cut to the budgets of these two amazing assets for the City of Peterborough. As a previous curator at Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery and a resident of the City for over 20 years I want to propose that the City council considers moving the heritage assets of the city into an independent trust, still funded by the museum, but more able to support themselves and so needing less city council funding. Not only do the Museum and Flag Fen house many amazing artefacts given in perpetuity to the City by local people over the last 150 years + but they actively promote the City as a great place to live work and play and bring visitors to the city every year, bringing economic investment with them. They also provide safe spaces where everyone in the city can meet together to celebrate heritage and the arts in their widest forms. Peterborough is an amazing city but it does urgently need to do more to bring together the many communities co-existing in the city and the heritage assets it holds are a great way to do this and should be cherished rather than down graded. When better off members of the local community feel part of the city they will be more willing to help support the city with financial help	A great deal	Turning the Museum and Art Gallery and Flag Fen with any other heritage assets into an independent trust, while retaining legal protection for the collections given to the city over generations.
Its disgraceful you are proposing these cuts to adult and child social care and the cultural and leisure facilities.	A great deal	Just go into special measure as you are clearly incapable of running council services, years of mismanagement have led to this. Stop using expensive outside consultants and make better use of the employees you have at your disposal.
The proposal to reduce the opening times of both the Museum and Flag Fen are puzzling. Flag Fen is one of the most important Bronze Age sites in Europe and is vastly under-utilised. It also provides a much need open space for people which has been vital to the wellbeing of people especially during the recent pandemic.	A fair amount	Much more could be done at Flag Fen including community engagement and partnership with archaeology projects to raise funds. Central to this however, is the need to invest in publicising this and the Museum. Peterborough also used to hold the largest city centre based Heritage festival in the UK but people even from places like Whittlesea knew nothing about it. These are all culturally significant places and gives answer to WHY we are here, lose these and we irrevocably damage our own wellbeing.
	Not very much	With particular regard to our Museum and Flag Fen I would like to see both of these services 'cut adrift' and established as independent charities. This would in my opinion remove a considerable liability from the council while allowing a very limited number of paid staff to oversee a number of volunteers to take over as guardians of the collections. The charities having a suitable group of volunteer directors to ensure an efficient and safe body whose chief duties would of course be to supervise all aspects of finances. The Nene Park Trust is a superb example how such charities could operate. There are of course 'not so perfect' charities but the appointment of a councillor to the board who surely safeguard any dubious behaviour.

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<p>When reading about our quickly growing city where is the rise in income from these businesses. The effects of the austerity forced upon all of following the 2008 crash when we funded the banks why are we funding this austere budget. The effects on our cultural assets alarms me considering the birth of a new university this year. It is counterintuitive to cut library services with degree students coming to our city. Also slashing funding to our attractions such as Flag Fen, the Museum and the theatre is not the way to go in relation to the new university students and tourists. We are just coming out of a major pandemic so need everything to be working for us again.</p>	<p>Not very much</p>	<p>My only comment is we employ the professionals in the city to manage the situation. Let them earn their salaries.</p>
<p>PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE LIBRARY SERVICES. My mum lives Werrington. She is 90 years old. She is not independent. The ONLY thing she gets enjoyment from is going to Werrington Library when someone can take her. She has used Peterborough, Walton, and Werrington libraries ALL her life. Mobile libraries and digital services are no good to her. Please, please, please leave Werrington Library alone, for the elderly and the children.</p>	<p>A fair amount</p>	<p>Keep libraries and swimming pools, but get rid of theatres. Theatres are only accessible to those with money. The poorest families can use libraries, and many people can afford to go swimming. Very few people in comparison use theatres.</p>
<p>I am very much opposed to the blunt cutting of 50% from the budgets of Peterborough Museum and Flag Fen, which will most likley be the death knell of these services.</p>	<p>A great deal</p>	<p>Whilst the city faces a very challenging financial position, any reductions need to be imposed sensitively if it is not to be the death knell for these two of Peterboroughs most valuable assets. A more considered approach could ensure their long term survival, enabling the City Council to make savings in the longer term. The Museum and Flag Fen are well loved by local people and visitors to Peterborough alike. The Museum is packed during school holidays with families, houses great temporary exhibitions and is home to nationally important collections of geology, archaeology, and Napoleonic prison work. Flag Fen is the most significant Bronze Age archaeological site in Northern Europe with recent interest thanks to the recent finds at Must Farm, the ~Prehistoric Pompeii. It is a service that I was proud to work for over many years. Both sites do require capital investment; an element of the Towns Fund awarded to Peterborough is intended for that, which may be lost if match funders lose confidence that these sites are no longer being adequately supported. They are also essential to maintain if the Council is serious about its ambition to bid for ~City of Culture. Whilst the Council has said that services must pay their way, all heritage services across the country require some form of public subsidy. This is an investment into the local economy, with visitors attracted by heritage sites spending in local shops, restaurants, bars, and hotels. Arts Council research suggests that such public investment brings a 200% return into a local economy, a return on investment that most businesses would regard as exemplary. Culture, recreation, and heritage are going to become even more important in a post-Covid world, where the accelerated decline of the high street means that towns and cities that use these assets as a means of attracting visitors and enhancing the lives of local people will be the best places to live and the most economically successful. In recent years these sites were managed by Vivacity, which had some success including the Museums refurbishment in 2012 as well as the establishment of the popular annual Heritage Festival. Vivacity collapsed over a year ago due to the impact of Covid but was an unwieldy structure with disparate services being operated by one organisation. Since then services have been in a holding position with City Culture Peterborough, effectively part of the City Councils operations. For the Museum and Flag Fen to flourish a sensible solution would be to create a heritage trust, an independent charity to manage and look after them; separate to the Council but still working in partnership with it and attracting an annual grant. Such an organisation, with a restructured staff (offering some initial savings as well as those offered by becoming a charity) and new leadership could manage the sites more effectively and generate more income. Over five years these two sites could move to the ideal funding model whereby only a third of costs would have to be met by public subsidy, a third by commercial income (ticket and retail sales etc) and a third by fundraising. This would be impossible to achieve whilst</p>

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		the sites are managed by the local authority. The blunt instrument of simple cuts will inevitably cause some impossible decisions to be made probably sending these services into a downward spiral where so that they will cease to exist in the next 5 years. A more considered response by Peterborough City Council would ensure that they not only survive but also flourish AND render the savings required longer term. Id ask Councillors to take a long view when considering these proposals and am very happy to assist to ensure that these important assets survive and prosper.
I feel to reduce the council contribution by 50% to Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery and Flag Fen Archaeology site is very short sighted as theses cultural sites are Peterboroughs œjewels in the crown œ. Flag Fen is undoubtedly one of the most significant Bronze Age sites in the whole of Europe. I feel much more could be made of the Park to encourage more visitors not to reduce its opening hours . I feel that it will make Peterborough even more of a ghost town reducing the numbers of visitors and thereby the money spent in the town especially after the loss of John Lewis and the effects of Covid. Its these cultural sites that make Peterborough special are lost without them Peterborough will be such a depressing place for all the community .	A fair amount	To make more of Peterboroughs cultural assets not to reduce funding . To encourage more visits to these amazing sites which promote Peterborough as a whole .When Peterborough Cathedral had the Tim Peake exhibition it brought many people to visit Peterborough for the first time from all over the country .
The adult care savings proposed are extremely vague. What will they actually mean on the ground. I oppose a 50% cut in the museums budget. This is way too severe. I oppose the closure of the Werrington sports centre and any plans to close the Werrington library.	A fair amount	Cancel the councillors allowance rise. Stop spending so much on bridge repairs and pointless schemes like the Rhubarb bridge works. Stop doing back hand deals with the football club. Closing the tourism information office and reducing cultural budgets is a false economy now covid is decreasing. Risks losing the revenue tourists bring in. Charge dog owners a £20 licence fee to cover the costs of poop services.
A 50% reduction in funding the museum and Flag Fen is excessive.	A great deal	Reduce the special payments to Cabinet holders.
		In line with Stuart Ormes open letter, cutting funding by 50% to valuable cultural institutions such as the city museum and Flag Fen is more destructive than constructive. Following his recommendations would allow these nationally and internationally important sites to flourish and survive. Please reconsider this desperate plan of action and give an alternative solution a chance. Thanks.
The phrase ~remodelling of library services is very vague. I suspect it is a euphemism for ~closure of the branch libraries. These provide a valuable service for many in the community, especially young people. At a time when children are still recovering from recent severe disruption to their education, we should be doing all we can to support their development, not hindering it further. Central library is not as accessible as the branches and is not conducive to the wonderful service that the staff are able to offer in the branches. I feel any further erosion in the branch library service will have a negative impact on our communities.	A fair amount	There are a number of large capital projects that appear to offer little benefit in return for significant financial risk.
Remodelling libraries based on current opening hours is erroneous and unfair given that the open plus self service system has not been re-instated since City College took over the management. Libraries offered almost full time access with this and could do again, with some staffed hours as they did before Covid. In a city that struggles with literacy rates, closing local libraries would disadvantage the population even further.	A fair amount	Avoid unnecessary expenditure such as the recent bin stickers and leaflets.
I am extremely concerned about the proposed cuts to library services, the museum and Flag Fen. The educational value of these facilities is second to none, the history of Greater Peterborough is so important to learn from. Libraries are more than just books these days, providing education and enrichment to young and old alike, delivered by skilled, enthusiastic and dedicated staff. With the best will in the world, volunteers will struggle to provide the same level of knowledgeable service.	A fair amount	Pay freezes for staff (civil servants suffered this for many years) and cuts to councillors allowances. To have agreed an increase in councillors allowances in the current climate was seen as grasping and uncaring.

Do you have any comments to make about the phase two budget proposals?	how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make savings of almost £17.8million in 2022/23?	If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money or generate additional income to protect services, please state these here:
The statutory services you are planning to make cuts to are much more than their name. The libraries protect and offer a safe place the most vulnerable in our society, the ones those making the decisions have proven time and again they cannot empathise or relate to. The museum inspires future generations and gives us all a sense of identity. It is one of the only inclusive and accessible spaces within our city. Why would you expect people to work in these services as volunteers when those making these decisions receive extra allowances to do so. We will lose the experience and passion of the teams in these places.	A great deal	Stop wasting money on consultants to tell you what anyone with any common sense could. Bring back social housing into the council so the profits made by these companies go back into the city instead of CEOs pockets.
The cuts to arts and culture will be catastrophic to the people of Peterborough.	A fair amount	Review the salaries paid to councillors and council staff, by this I mean the management at the council not the ordinary working people.
As a whole the budget cuts and withdrawals for some services will reflect badly on peterborough for years to come and when future councils look back they will identify where cuts could have been made. As many tax payers are forced to cut back as bills from all sides are rising and there is no real world wage increase do the council feel awarding themselves a very attractive pay rise which will protect them from market forces is not acceptable. This will be the downfall of the council especially if they still are not able to balance the books in this coming year	Not very much	Reverse their pay increase and look again at the new structure they are building
I am writing on behalf of the Geologists' Association, a national charity but with a number of members living in Peterborough, which has promoted the understanding and enjoyment of geology since 1858. Whilst we understand the need to save money, we are writing to highlight the importance of Peterborough Museum to the profile and cultural reputation of the city. Peterborough Museums collection of fossil marine reptiles and associated invertebrate fossils is unique and of international significance representing many years of collecting (which continues today) from the Jurassic clays which surround the city. This collection is of the highest research interest (recent discoveries including the most complete specimen ever recovered of the giant fish Leedsichthys) and is a major draw for local people and visitors alike. The Geologists' Association regularly organise visits to the museum bringing people from across the country to Peterborough, often for the first time. It is a major educational resource too for local schools and visitors. Our Rockwatch young geologists' club has also visited the museum a number of times giving children unforgettable experiences of marine reptiles which lived here hundreds of millions of years ago. The museum is an important part of Peterborough's heritage, an attraction for visitors, an educational resource and the only place where people can learn about the deep history of the City, as well as hosting an internationally important collection of fossil material. We urge you to ensure that there continues to be sufficient funding and staff to curate, manage and display this material and to keep the museum for public enjoyment, education and scientific research. The museum is a key part of Peterborough's heritage and cultural offer and with the right level of funding can become an even greater attraction than it already is, serving both the people and economy of the city in the process.	A fair amount	
Some of your proposals are far too vague to comment on. What does a remodelled library service mean? I acknowledge that PCC needs to make budget cuts and prioritise services. When making the significant proposed cuts to cultural services, please ensure that there is some neutral public space left available to access free of charge. Please ensure that schools can still access heritage on their doorsteps. Please ensure that reading and access to books and IT are still available in neighbourhood libraries. Perhaps it would be best to look at footfall to guide opening times. Please remember that school holiday times are pressured	A fair amount	Look at service footfall and things which have been popular in the past (activities that have made money). Try to retain these. Losing city centre events will have a large negative impact on the businesses and how people feel about the city.



Do you have any comments to make about the phase two budget proposals?	how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make savings of almost £17.8million in 2022/23?	If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money or generate additional income to protect services, please state these here:
for families and being able to go somewhere and do something locally without it costing a lot is an important safety valve.		
Create a charitable body to run culture and save on NNDR and VAT ....err you have a perfectly good one in VIVACITY but failed to support them during the pandemic and its ended up costing ratepayers more for a worse service	A fair amount	£50,000 on a PA for the Chief Executive - totally over valued post
I am deeply concerned about the negative impact to the most vulnerable people of Peterborough. Those who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health problems, the homeless, those for whom English is a second language, the elderly and frail. I am concerned that many of these people will not even have the opportunity to give their comments regarding the proposals. These people will feel the most impact from the reduction in services. The Covid crisis has increased the number of needy people, requiring support from services such as Citizens Advice and the libraries. To reduce these services could put the needy at risk and incur costs elsewhere, ie mental health and adult social care department. Could even increase crime and drug use. Peterborough needs a good support network for it's needy people. Without it, the quality of living for all of us will decrease. Invest in Peterborough's libraries and Citizens Advice, help them to provide top rate services to the public, especially those in need.	A fair amount	Flag Fen is such an important historic site. Could it be given to an organisation such as English Heritage? An organisation that will protect it and use their current national status to promote the site so that more visitors come to Peterborough?
Need to increase the spend on schools to raise the abysmal performance to date. If schools arent working as well as elsewhere it is the poor quality of head teachers attracted to work in Peterborough	Not very much	Take better financial advice - improve the quality of councillors and their staff.



PETERBOROUGH CULTURAL ALLIANCE  
C/O Nene Park Trust  
Interim contact via  
sarah.tanburn@workthewind.com

Peterborough City Council  
Town Hall  
Bridge Street  
Peterborough  
PE1 1Hf

Dear Councillors,

### **Corporate Plan and Budget Strategy response**

The Peterborough Cultural Alliance has been established following the recommendations of the Cultural Strategy adopted by the Council in December 2021. The Strategy followed extensive consultation and work with partners, fully documented at the strategy website. We have been grateful for the active support and participation of the Council throughout this process.

A crucial element of the context to our concerns is the government's Levelling Up agenda and the related Arts Council recognition of Peterborough as a priority place. The successful £20m bid for the Living Lab was strongly supported by the Alliance, recognising its importance to our practitioners and communities. The ACE prioritisation not only relates to need, but to ambition, timing and capacity for improvement, all of which are damaged by the severe reduction in cultural investment by the Council. The proposals inevitably pose serious risks to leverage and hence investment by multiple potential funders in the cultural resources of Peterborough.

Pride in Peterborough has been a crucial ambition for all partners and the last decade has built momentum to develop cultural assets and products of which residents and stakeholders can be proud. Cutting services only to start again is costly – not least in undermining the trust needed to continue working together, diversifying the cultural offer and meeting community needs. Although audiences have grown and become more mixed, progress is still needed to reach the levels of cultural activity suited to a city of this diversity, size, age and prestige.

The partnership we have enjoyed, especially in the last 18 months, has made the process and impact of the budget consultation the more disappointing; we hope that we can restore the spirit of collaborative working to protect and promote arts, culture and heritage throughout Peterborough. In particular we would welcome opportunities to contribute the expertise and experience of partners and stakeholders to the future planning for the strategic and financial sustainability of Peterborough's cultural infrastructure, and the opportunities arts, culture and heritage offer for residents and the economy.

Peterborough Cultural Alliance recognises and accepts the financial challenge facing the City Council which is largely created by ongoing reductions in central government support and the unprecedented demands of the pandemic. We recognise the regulatory pressure on the Council to



confine services to the minimum statutory requirements, and the difficulties this creates in delivering on the ambitions of the Council and Peterborough's communities.

Nonetheless, we believe that the non-statutory services around arts, culture and heritage have a fundamental role in education and wellbeing for all generations as well as the economic and community health of the area. We urge the Council to re-consider the long-term damage being created for short-term demands, when those facilities, services and organisations are central to recovery.

This letter is our response to **both** the Corporate Strategy and phase two budget consultations as we consider these two to be inherently and profoundly connected. Most of all, we believe that culture, arts and heritage are fundamental to the prosperity, wellbeing and finances of Peterborough's residents and businesses: they bring joy and give us all a necessary belief in the future.

### ***Corporate Strategy***

#### *General comments*

The pictures used in the introduction to the strategy are the Cathedral, a social meeting and the natural but managed environment. Yet those qualities in Peterborough are barely visible in the actual text. The priorities for the next five years, ie beyond the immediate financial sustainability challenges and throughout the life of the MTFS, are focused on the minimum of adult social care, children's services, street cleanliness and regulatory services. We are disappointed to see no reference at all to arts, culture and heritage. Together with other missing services, such as green spaces, community connections and green spaces, our sector delivers a vital part in the wellbeing of individuals and communities, while also delivering proven significant economic and reputational benefits for local authorities and their regions.

The Corporate Strategy makes almost no reference to partnerships, beyond the limited ambition to work with partners to deliver those statutory minimum services. This appears to be primarily a route to finding routes to delivery using partners' resources. Given the successful joint working on the Cultural Strategy and the importance of collaboration to all cultural development, this is a significant omission. The failure to consider the importance of partnerships is reflected in the detailed work proposals.

We reiterate our offer of the expertise and experience of the Cultural Alliance to assess strategic options for the cultural assets of Peterborough, to identify and develop future options, and to test proposals for their cultural impact. We have enormous expertise around the table, including

- Leadership of assets attracting thousands of people a year;
- decades of senior experience in running cultural, educational and heritage services;
- national connections across and beyond the sector including with funders;
- in-depth and current experience working with and amplifying the participation of excluded or disregarded communities; and
- commercial expertise in running successful venues

We emphasise that wellbeing and health are central to Peterborough's recovery, and we note that the Corporate Strategy prioritises young people, elderly people and those who are vulnerable. Yet these groups will be the most affected by this overall strategy. The lack of investment in individual or community well-being is striking. Culture - arts and heritage - plays a particularly strong and cost-



effective route to improving people’s lives and participation and its loss will be particularly damaging precisely for those prioritised groups.

We therefore recommend that the Corporate Strategy should include a priority to develop partnerships to deliver aspirations and ambitions for residents to have happy, healthy and fulfilled lives, and that this should be reflected in both service proposals and the approach to governance and organisational culture.

*Specific comments*

(1) Corporate Strategy

We repeat our recognition of the need for immediate action to achieve a legal budget. It is a disappointment that the longer-term vision and ambition for the Council does not seem to recognise the unique, diverse and valuable cultural life of the area. This is a major missed opportunity.

(2) Financial sustainability

We have commented below on the revenue and capital budgets for 2022/23 in responding to the phase two budget proposals.

We are deeply concerned about the implications of the *Asset Disposals* workstream on the cultural infrastructure. In particular:

- Fundamentally important organisations such as Metal are housed in Council buildings; simply selling those without recognition of the impact on those partners and their services in the City will indeed be a short-term benefit (even if realisable in 2022-23) for major long-term loss. Such bodies not only contribute to the welfare, education, profile and joy of the area, they also leverage in major additional resources for those ambitions;
- It is unclear how assets such as library buildings, the Museum and Flag Fen will be considered in the MTFs, or their contents including the collections;
- We recommend that the loss of leverage through partnership, and the loss of reputation and hence investment potential should be added as criteria in considering the list of possible disposal. For instance the cut of £50,000 to Metal threatens the investment from Arts Council England;
- The focus on the University is welcome, particularly as provision to raise educational attainment in the local population, but the restriction of access to libraries will undermine this aspiration of life-long learning for the local population. The wider cultural cuts will also reduce the attractiveness of the city for students from elsewhere, and nullify the positive wider change of the city that a university population can bring.

The *Capital Strategy* should similarly recognise the impact of sales, cuts and disinvestment on the willingness or capacity of cultural partners to attract further resources into Peterborough. The cultural sector is particularly adept at combining funding streams but it is always a requirement that there be some local investment. An investment strategy which fails to recognise this leverage risks significant financial loss in the medium term and this should be a part of the prioritisation process.

### (3) Service Reviews

There are elements of the deep dives where cultural partners will have specific expertise to offer, not least in relation to education, welfare of older and vulnerable adults, community services and the sustainability of companies. We note that you intend to incorporate external challenge in these deep dives and would expect to be included.

Regarding the service outcomes and Target Operating Model development we remind the Council that while in many statutory services the objective is to reduce demand and limit transactional costs (eg by on-line help for the less vulnerable), this is often not the case for cultural activities. As the Cultural Strategy makes clear, and previous investment by bodies such as Arts Council England recognises, audiences (the market, service demand) for cultural activity is low in Peterborough – and this is reflected in disengaged and poor outcomes for many vulnerable people. Further impacts are low audience numbers, difficult business models, limited visitor footfall and a low-value economy.

Encouraging demand, building audiences and footfall, are all the more important given the disbanding of the visitor information centre and delays to the Vine project. The VIC and its proposed successor at the Vine provided a central marketing opportunity for organisations and events of all sizes. The Cultural Strategy envisages a joined-up approach to marketing Peterborough as a destination for tourism, inward investment and learning. Again, failure to invest in a platform for such activity is short-sighted at best.

Thus the outcomes and TOM for cultural and related services need to seek higher demand rather than simply restrict it in certain services. The ‘minimum viable model’ is not achieved simply by moving online, reducing overheads or introducing stricter criteria.

We recognise the importance of effective and transparent contract management, after cost-effective and timely procurement procedures. We hope that the opportunities, offers and capacities of the cultural sector, characterised by locally-based micro-companies with creative solutions, are considered in approaching the review.

We are particularly concerned to understand the scope and intent of the *Review of Companies*. The identified bodies in scope include the Museum and Art Gallery Trust, but not City Culture Peterborough. There is no reason given for this arrangement and we would like to understand this better. This is particularly important given the 50% reduction in the budget for Museums and Libraries in the immediate future and the proposal to return those services to management by the core Council. These cuts and changes represent a major challenge for all heritage services.

The Alliance (formerly the Cultural Strategy Group) has also worked alongside Opportunity Peterborough, particularly in relation to the Café Culture Animation Programme. We have noted above the key recommendation of the Cultural Strategy for much more proactive and collaborative marketing of Peterborough, whether for inward investment by business or for tourism, and Opportunity Peterborough is a key part of that ambition. We would therefore particularly wish to be involved in the parameters and analysis of this review.

(4) Governance

We note that this is entitled the 'governance and culture' workstream; we understand the intention here but it gives a misleading impression that arts, culture and heritage have a higher profile than they do in this document.

The Cultural Strategy benefited from the ongoing consideration by the Scrutiny Committee in 2021, evidence that although such arrangements can always improve, the Committee has a valuable role.

On *Capacity and Capability* we are disappointed to see no reference to officers' or members' abilities to create, sustain and participate in cross-organisational partnerships. Instead the plan is almost entirely inward looking, and does little to build confidence in the commitment of the Council to long-term relationships which will benefit Peterborough.

This is particularly discouraging given the reported finding of the LGA Peer Review of '*the need for a greater strategic focus on place shaping, engagement with communities and work with partners across the city and system. The report recommended that additional strategic capacity was required to link inclusive growth and economic development with people services, demand management and community work.*' We note that the Plan says that '*the accountability and skills required to strategically link place and people will be considered as part of the review of the corporate management team*', but is silent on the capacity and expertise needed for successful partnerships with other bodies and communities.

The cultural sector has given considerable thought to issues of multiplying leadership, growing talent and creating sustainable partnerships, which is reflected and referenced in the Cultural Strategy. We would be excited to explore and develop this capacity with the Council.

***Phase Two budget proposals comments***

Of the options offered in the budget proposals document regarding understanding of the necessity for cuts, the Alliance would say we understand a fair amount. However, we are less clear about the Council's own evaluation of the savings achievable from the proposals or understanding of their long term impact on costs and demand.

The documents also ask for specific ideas about how the council can save money or generate additional income to protect services. We are unable to make such suggestions without much greater transparency about the existing costs of cultural activities, whether of the Key theatre, branch libraries or investment in cultural activities. We would welcome the opportunity for more in-depth discussion and would then make constructive suggestions. We think this is particularly important as the MTFS is developed.

We reiterate our concerns above that the proposals take no account of wellbeing, partnership nor investment risks from the cuts to cultural services. We are particularly concerned by the stated ambition to operate cultural services at net zero. This represents three major risks to the sector, to communities and to the Council:

- Loss of inclusion and diversity in the cultural offer of Peterborough. We know, from much research including the work on the Cultural Strategy, that the current offer is not seen as



## PETERBOROUGH CULTURAL ALLIANCE

supporting the ambitions, wellbeing or cohesion of prioritised communities. We also know that change is not free, whether in reviewing and re-presenting the collections, taking risks on programming and book buying or creating new events to build a new audience. The stated ambitions of the Council in these documents and in the Strategy cannot be realised in a net-zero cultural budget;

- Failure to build on the opportunities for tourism and inward investment created by a cohesive approach to marketing and product development in the cultural domain. Peterborough has a fantastic and diverse offer which is undervalued both within and outside the area yet should be capitalised on as a significant asset; Loss of leverage of investment by other funders in all sectors, including the commercial sector.

We strongly oppose proposals to take £1,431,000 from the sector. We would welcome a constructive and open discussion about the impact and alternatives.

On the specifics we are particularly concerned about the following. They are listed in the order in which they appear in the document, not necessarily of scale or impact.

- ending the funding of city centre events, for the small saving of £69,000 will damage the area both reputationally and in leverage. The City Centre Animation Programme has been popular with residents and visitors, re-attracting footfall to the city centre. Some funding is required from the Council to deliver such programmes, not least managing the diary, health & safety and related issues;
- On library services, we hope that the investment in digital services will not come at the expense of the invaluable services of librarians in encouraging literacy (at which Peterborough scores particularly badly) and the joy of reading, nor the serendipity of exploring the creative world on your doorstep;
- We know there are opportunities to delivery real-world library services in partnership in the area, given the actual configuration of library services and we strongly urge the Council to explore these urgently;
- While exploring the benefits of a charitable partner for cultural and leisure services we hope PCC will learn the lessons of past experience and ensure that any partner is freed and enabled to operate in ways which suit their objectives and long term strategies rather than solely those of the Council. The Cultural Alliance, not itself a delivery body, would be excited to offer expertise, support and sector input in identifying such partnerships;
- We are appalled at the proposal to reduce funding to the Museum & Art Gallery and Flag Fen by 50%. As stated above, the heritage offer in Peterborough is diverse and important yet sorely undervalued and under-visited. It should be seen as a major economic and learning opportunity for the area, and the site of opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalised communities to come together. The Cultural Alliance utterly opposes and condemns this proposal;
- We are disappointed at the proposal to disband the Tourism Information Centre. This service has been steadily downgraded for some years, since before the pandemic, and the implications in visitor numbers have been clear. This is a sorely mistaken and short term proposal;

### ***Other issues not explicit in the documentation***

We have noted above our concern about the impact of some savings not explicit in the documentation but nonetheless of great importance to the sector. The proposal to sell certain



properties is a significant challenge while the failure to consider either long-term wellbeing or partnership and the impact on other funders' should be relevant criteria in the decision making.

### ***Answers to equality questions as applicable to the Cultural Alliance***

The equality questions are targeted at individual responders and therefore cannot be directly answered by the Alliance.

The Peterborough Cultural Alliance is strongly committed to promoting diversity in audiences, participants and practitioners in the cultural sector. The core Vision and Objectives of our shared Cultural Strategy emphasise this:

The Vision for Peterborough in 2030 is a transformed Cultural Scene, renowned for

- Its **collective ambition** to make Peterborough a better place for everyone living working or visiting, with culture at its heart
- The breadth and **diversity of its cultural life**, driven by an inspiring range of communities and a young and engaged population
- Boundless **creative energy** and innovation that is supporting the city's growth
- Peterborough people **working together** and doing great things
- Its outward-looking and **impressive range** of cultural activities
- An **astounding heritage** accessible to everyone
- People who **make and learn** throughout their lives
- People loving **the environment** and embedding nature in their way of life

To achieve this vision, the CORE OBJECTIVE of the Cultural Strategy is to foster and promote a vibrant culture in Peterborough which

- *Drives EXCELLENT ART and CELEBRATION OF HERITAGE*
- *CONNECTS, REFLECTS and INCLUDES Peterborough's many diverse and isolated communities*
- *Is ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE and celebrates how people in Peterborough love and work with their environment*
- *Is an ECONOMIC DRIVER for creative industries, for tourism and for inward investment, growing skills valuable to all sectors*
- *Promotes and grows Peterborough as a CULTURAL DESTINATION welcoming visitors, businesses and communities*

These ambitions form the core cultural investment principles for Peterborough. We expect significant bids or proposals to all sources to reflect some or all of them, alongside aligning to the overall vision.

The first recommendation of the Cultural Strategy sets this out in detail:

1. **Grow the cultural activities of all partners to**
  - Enable everyone to have opportunities to make, enjoy or celebrate culture, whether based around their locality, or around their affinities and identities, and people coming together in peace and health;
  - Create and enhance culture which transforms lives and underpins cohesion, quality of life and prosperity in Peterborough;
  - Celebrate and reflect diversity of communities in practical ways including programming, marketing, allocation of spaces, festival access etc;





## PETERBOROUGH CULTURAL ALLIANCE

- Celebrate Peterborough's open spaces and beautiful buildings, reaching net zero by 2030 and building environmental impact into everything we do - from good practice in venue management to programmes celebrating and protecting our landscape; and
- Growing confidence, skills and capacity to make amazing work here in the city through residencies, business start-ups, workspace and other Support.

All of these ambitions, adopted by the Council in December, are threatened by the budget proposals. We urge you to reconsider your approach.

Yours sincerely,

Interim Co-Chairs, Peterborough Cultural Alliance

*Kate Hall*

*Jumped Up Theatre*

*Matthew Bradbury*

*Nene Park Trust*

### Membership of the Alliance, March 2022

Matthew Bradbury	Nene Park Trust (co-Chair)
Pat Carrington	City Culture Peterborough
Adrian Chapman	Peterborough City Council
Ivan Cutting	Eastern Angles
Jamie Fenton	Peterborough City Council
Kate Hall	Jumped-Up Theatre (co-Chair)
Penny Hanson	Cresset Theatre
Sarah Haythornthwaite	Peterborough Presents
Jack Heaton	Arts Council England
Paul Jepson	Selladoor
Rachel Nicholls	Peterborough College and UCP
Stephani Peachey	Peterborough Cultural Partnership for Children and Young People/ Norfolk & Norwich Festival Bridge
Ross Renton	ARU Peterborough
Mark Richards	Metal
Sarah Wilson	City Culture Peterborough

FAO: Cllr Fitzgerald, Cllr Allen & Cllr Cereste,  
Peterborough City Council,  
Town Hall,  
Bridge Street, PE1 1HF

24 February 2022

Dear Cllr Fitzgerald, Cllr Allen, Cllr Cereste

On behalf of Peterborough Positive I am pleased to enclose our response to the Peterborough City Council Budget consultation document.

City Centre businesses are as a whole looking at 2022 as a year of recovery. The pandemic has hit many businesses hard accelerating and forcing changes in the city centre, including much publicised losses of flagship retail brands and owner manager businesses. The recent Centre for Cities report classifies the Peterborough City centre economy as "Weak".

It is against this background that the business community needs to see a City Council that accepts that it retains a place shaping role. If we are to attract people back to the city, "core" services, such as safety, tourism and culture still need to be funded by the city council.

The proposals for the city centre represent a negative step and cannot be supported by Peterborough Positive. The effect will be felt in the short term by holding back the nascent recovery in the city and in the medium term perpetuate the scarring and stagnation that blights parts of the city centre.

Instead we propose that Peterborough City Council fully embraces the aspirations of the HM Government Levelling Up White Paper, including crucially having a city where "it makes good business sense for the private sector to invest". The City Council has an important role as we work together to embrace the mission of Levelling Up in Peterborough.

Yours sincerely



Mark Broadhead  
Chair, Peterborough Positive

Cc: Matt Gladstone - CEO & Cecillie Booth - FD, Peterborough City Council

## **Introduction**

Peterborough Positive welcomes the opportunity to submit comments following the publication of the Peterborough City Council (PCC) Budget Consultation 2022/23 Phase 2.

The 2022/23 Budget Consultation document published on the 21st Jan 2022 marks a recognition of the pressures faced by PCC and by implication the city stakeholders; including businesses, residents and community organisations.

The Budget Consultation was published shortly before the Levelling-Up White paper. The Peterborough Positive response to the Budget Consultation has had the benefit of placing the PCC proposed savings, changes and cuts in spend in a wider context of what the effect will be for the city in the years to come.

The 2022/23 Budget Consultation makes reference to the additional monies that the city will receive in 2022/23 from the Levelling Up fund (£20M) and the Towns Fund (£22.9M). In addition to the Station Quarter redevelopment of £50M. The Budget consultation is part of a PCC Medium Term Financial Plan, but the consultation is focused on short term actions, not the medium term outcome of those actions.

With this in mind PCC need to totally explain what the cuts mean in real terms. By saying “reduce events” what and how much and on what basis is that event being sacrificed in what is one of the UK’s fastest growing Cities.

Our survey of the city business community suggests that there is an appetite for PCC to explain in more depth the budget decision.

We suggest that the Budget consultation document should provide reference to how Levelling Up and Towns Fund monies will be spent and whether the spend will be made directly by PCC or whether the monies will be devolved to local organisations, who can provide the agility, pace and connectivity that the City needs.

## Peterborough Positive Business Consultation

During the darkest days of the 2020 lockdown, Peterborough Positive proved its worth in their ability to collaborate with key stakeholders, including PCC to devise and deliver economic recovery plans and actions for the city. Our key role included bringing together the business voice and helping ensure the business community helped to shape recovery plans in the city. Peterborough Positive provides unrivalled local knowledge, insight and hard data on city centre business metrics.

We have conducted a survey aimed at businesses in the city centre. The survey was open from 27 Jan 2022 to 18 Feb 2022. The survey was open to businesses across the city. Initial results show:

- Over 80% of respondents were concerned about the budget cuts. Example comments below:
- Cuts to safety provision and to a lesser extent events funding were the areas of most concern. Safety provision was the most important for 62% of respondents and events funding for 25% of respondents
- Below are example comments from the question “Are there any proposed budget cuts that you particularly agree or disagree with”

Disagree with (cuts) to events and culture

Disagree with any funding being withdrawn that directly impacts footfall in the city centre

Funding of cultural spaces

Freeing up cash from other assets seems sensible

Could the funding for events be transferred to business led organisations like the BID?

I don't agree with the events budget cut. Events is what bring money for the council, from parkings to parking tickets and other services that people are paying when they get in town center. You're looking to make the money by investing and creating foot flow. Second, the safety of Peterborough town centre should come first, if we want people to come and enjoy( spend money ) in town, they need to feel safe. Which at the minute is not happening.

Disagree with security

I disagree with them all

I agree that there can be savings made within the city centre management team, I do not agree that it should be done at the expense of funding events. Instead I believe events should be seen as a vast untapped revenue stream to support the budget.

Disband Tourist Information Centre team - £73,000 This proposal is to disband the Mini Vine on Bridge Street permanently, with all tourist information being provided online through the Visit Peterborough website

- Below are example comments from the question “Do you have any general comments about the Council’s budget proposals”

A public consultation about Flag Fen and Libraries might be useful. Who actually uses these things and when do they use them

This is an issue of (the Council’s) own making, by not increasing council tax each year, to keep up with cost increase. Any normal business would never survive doing this.

Create the need for additional funding and investment by making Peterborough as a city more attractive as a destination city

A good paper however the key part in this piece is that the council tax levels are too low for the work required.

The Council does not seem to have a long term commitment to regeneration of the city centre

On one hand we want to promote the city as a place with a vibrant culture, while stripping back theatre and museums. These seem to be at obvious odds.

Instead of cutting funding for city centre events, there should be a greater emphasis

Poorly thought through and potentially very damaging for the economy and the city - are especially the centre and its businesses

AGREE WITH The council is proposing to withdraw £20,000 of this funding and instead allow the service the use of office space on council premises to reduce its outgoings. DISAGREE WITH City centre management, £69,000. A total saving of £69,000 is proposed by ceasing the funding of city centre events.

## **Summary**

Peterborough Positive welcomes the attempt by PCC to grapple with the financial position. However we have major concerns that some of the measures for the city centre will have a long term detrimental effect on the economic and social regeneration of the city. The Peterborough Positive business consultation survey shows that the business community have significant reservations about the budget proposals. PCC need to explain much more clearly the rationale for the cuts and show that they have effectively modelled the impact on the city centre from these proposals. We have outlined below five key questions where further clarification is required to the budget consultation.

## **Five Key Questions the Budget Consultation does not address**

1. What do the cuts mean in real terms for businesses in the city? How will life be different in the city?
2. What do PCC forecast will be the economic impact (GVA) to the city from the the proposed savings?
3. Have PCC considered whether the services identified in this response could be delivered at a lower cost by business led organisations such as Opportunity Peterborough, Nene Park Trust and Peterborough Peterborough Positive?
4. The Levelling-Up White Paper sets out 12 quantifiable ‘national missions’ which all aim to be achieved by 2030. These ‘missions’ will be the basis of the policy objectives for levelling up, and will form the heart of the government’s agenda for the 2020s. How do the budget proposals help deliver these “national missions” at a local level?
5. What is PCC’s post COVID19 “mission” for the city centre and how will this be funded?



## Peterborough Civic Society

Chairman: David Turnock

David Turnock Architects, Datum House, 3 Commerce Road,  
Peterborough Business Park, PE2 6LR  
Tel: 01733 393010 e-mail: [david@dtarchitects.co.uk](mailto:david@dtarchitects.co.uk)

22 February 2022

Mr Matthew Gladstone  
Chief Executive  
Peterborough City Council  
Sand Martin House  
Bittern Way  
Fletton Quays  
Peterborough PE2 8TY

Dear Mr Gladstone

### **PCC budget consultation, 2022-23**

From reading the Phase 2 budget report to the Council's Cabinet, we note that the Civic Society is due to receive a request via Steve Cox to comment on the latest budget proposals. No such request has yet been received, but I trust that the Council will consider the observations set out below. As you know, we are entirely non-political. All our comments are intended only to help achieve the best outcomes for the city and its residents.

We do understand the intense pressure placed on the Council as a result of its inadequate resources and the stringent requirements of central government. Consequently, we recognise there is no point in our simply criticising the need to reduce net expenditure. However, such recognition does not alter the fact that some of the savings proposals put forward are deplorable by any measure and, in our view, can only reduce the attractiveness of the city as a place to live, work, and set up business.

We do not wish to make comments on individual savings proposals. However, there is one initiative that we feel could be considered to generate extra income for transport provision, reduce harmful emissions, and contribute to the city's green credentials. This is the introduction of a workplace parking levy. We note that Nottingham City Council has introduced such a levy, which produces substantial extra income, without, apparently, causing any significant economic damage to that city.

[www.peterboroughcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.peterboroughcivicsociety.org.uk)

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## Peterborough Civic Society

*Chairman:* David Turnock

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We hope that the Council will be able to achieve a sustainable budget strategy, but we remain unconvinced that the total savings proposals of £18 million are capable of fulfilment. Various figures, such as the £1.7 million to be saved by contract re-negotiation, give the appearance of having been plucked out of the air. At a time when the Council's senior management team is still undergoing major re-structuring, we feel that savings may not be achieved either to the extent or within the timescale that is necessary to achieve the budgeted outcomes. We also view the £2 million "special reserve" against any savings shortfalls as being possibly inadequate.

However, we appreciate that, if the remainder of the budget has been prepared on prudent lines, other underspends may arise to assist the Council in achieving a balanced outcome for the year as a whole.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

David Turnock  
Chairman

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**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**

Cambridge Archaeological Unit

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11th February 2022

Dear Councillor Fitzgerald

I write as Director of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit to express my concern at the proposed cuts to the funding of Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery.

The Museum holds over 200,000 items and includes a series of regionally and nationally significant archaeological collections, the study of which has shaped the understanding of British Archaeology and cemented the Fenland as a region renowned for its outstanding heritage. More recently, the Museum has begun the process of acquiring the transfer titles for the archives from the Must Farm excavations; an internationally significant Bronze Age site investigated by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Due to the extraordinary levels of preservation at the site, the Must Farm artefacts reach out and capture the imagination of the public, with the capacity to resonate with truly vast audiences in a way that few archaeological sites and finds in the UK can match.

The curation, display and presentation of the Must Farm archive is integral to the strategy to revitalise the Museum and is the highlight collection in its recently submitted Heritage Lottery Funding bid, which was fully supported by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit and McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. The bid was framed around themes and ambitions which directly chime with those set out in the new Peterborough Culture Strategy, placing community, cohesion, and the celebration of heritage at centre stage.

Against this backdrop, it is hard to see how the proposed budget cuts will have nothing less than a devastating impact on the Museum and its staffing, quelling Peterborough's ambition to become a leading cultural destination, including City of Culture in 2029-30. Whilst the Council undoubtedly faces some extremely difficult choices in relation to budget gaps (and must rightly prioritise front line services), the extent of cuts to the Museum will surely jeopardise plans for its revitalisation and risks the future of this important community and cultural asset. I would therefore urge the Council to reconsider plans for the funding cuts,



and to give the Museum the support it needs to thrive as a tourism driver and focus for the celebration of the region's heritage.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Matthew Brudenell  
Director of CAU

Copies to: Councillor Steve Allen  
Budget consultation 2022/23 Phase 2  
Adrian Chapman, Executive Director, Place and Economy, Peterborough City  
Council



## Joint Mosques Group Budget Consultation Feedback

- It is very positive that, overall, the proposals will achieve a balanced budget if they are all delivered
- It is also helpful that the council is flagging that within the proposals there are some areas of risk and concern, and this view is shared by the Joint Mosques Group
- **Adult Social Care proposals:**
  - it is positive that the council is committed to helping people stay at home longer, but there is some concern that safety may be compromised, and that the budget requirements may become a more important consideration than someone's welfare
- **Contract Savings:**
  - these are generally welcomed, but has the council considered the impact of rising inflation and increased wage bills, and the impact these issues will have on achieving the £1.7m saving?
- **Aragon:**
  - the recent issuing of stickers and leaflets informing residents of bin collection day changes was unnecessary and costly
- **Councillor Allowances and Staff Salaries:**
  - Joint Mosques Group members suggested a reduction in councillor allowances in the tranche 1 consultation, and we repeat it again now. However, we also consider that a review of executive officer salaries should also be carried out (albeit we also recognise the need to attract and retain high quality officers)
- We note that there is no provision in the budget to make grants to voluntary groups and organisations; as a Joint Mosques Group we have worked side-by-side with the council over many years, and have never received any grant funding, and this is a shame
- We would like to have an update please on actions taken following our suggestions made in tranche 1 of the budget
- In more general terms, we remain concerned that health, wellbeing, social and economic inequalities continue to disproportionately affect our communities, and are anxious that any savings proposals do not worsen this situation. Instead, we would welcome a concerted effort on the part of the council and the wider public sector to develop and lead the delivery of a shared plan of action to tackle inequalities across our communities head-on, that plan setting out the steps that need to be taken, the milestones that we will use to monitor progress, and the role we, as key partners, can play to support this vital work

**COUNCIL MEETING 2 MARCH 2022**

**AMENDMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SANDFORD TO CABINET RECOMMENDATION –  
MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 – PHASE TWO**

Amendment to be moved as follows:

“That a full review of fees and charges is undertaken, to include at least inflationary increases where possible and the potential for introducing a charge for charging battery operated cars.

Additional income raised from such increases may be added to a reserve to address green and environmental projects that will further the Council's corporate strategy commitment to getting the city to net Zero Carbon by 2030.”

## COUNCIL MEETING 2 MARCH 2022

### ALTERATION TO THE MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SANDFORD

Alteration to be moved as follows:

“Council:

1. Expresses grave concern about the situation in Ukraine and the unprovoked ~~which faces an ongoing threat of invasion~~ of the country by armed forces of the Russian Federation.
2. Supports the actions of the UK Government in trying to resolve the situation through diplomacy, ~~maintaining the threat~~ implementation of strong economic sanctions ~~to deter any threatened invasion~~ in response to the invasion and pledging support for the collective security provided by the NATO alliance and in particular towards the Baltic states and other NATO member countries in Eastern Europe.
3. Notes the presence in Peterborough of many thousands of people originating from Lithuania, Poland and other eastern European countries and the important role they play in making Peterborough a dynamic and diverse city.
4. Notes that Peterborough was twinned with Vinnytsia in 1991, making it our city’s most recent twinning partnership. With a population of 370,000, Vinnytsia is located in west-central Ukraine and has been an important location for trade and politics since the 14th century.
5. Asks the Executive Director for Place and Communities to investigate ways of strengthening and developing our twinning partnership with Vinnytsia and of supporting the people of the city and the rest of Ukraine in the current stressful and dangerous situation.
6. Specifically asks the director to proactively follow-up with the administration in Vinnytsia following the letter recently sent to the Mayor of the town which offered our support to residents, to investigate ways of offering practical help through the twinning partnership and to look at ways of raising awareness with our own Peterborough residents of the ongoing challenges that the community in Vinnytsia is facing.”

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