

# Public Document Pack

## Full Council Wednesday, 12 October 2022 Additional Information Pack

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## FULL COUNCIL 12 OCTOBER 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 Marija Obradovic</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Coles Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</b></p> <p>I would like to inform you of the dire consequences my business is facing - and of course the whole of hospitality.</p> <p>The business rates I pay are too excessive and even with a discount for this tax year I am struggling to meet the payments.</p> <p>Now I have the added threat of an increase in utility charges which means I will not be able to continue unless I receive some help now.</p> <p>I am community minded and do my best to encourage the locals to come in but with increases in prices everywhere people are too worried to come out and spend what little they have left.</p> <p>Charlies is a wonderful place for the community. We have people of all ages and will be starting a friendship club, thanks to your donation, in October. We will be a safe and warm place as our cafe will be based in the small function room. We can't open our main premises except on match day as we can't heat both.</p> <p>We are surviving thankfully to my partner who has returned to work.</p> <p>Please can you help in any way in highlighting my concerns. I feel this may be the final nail in the coffin.</p>
2.	<p><b>Question from Fiona Oloug</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</b></p> <p>I would like you to raise the homelessness issue rampant in Peterborough. I have heard disappointingly that the winter night shelter is not going ahead again this year, I think that's awful.</p> <p>It is run mostly by volunteers and the local churches, so can the relevant Cabinet Member confirm why that's not happening again!</p>

There are so many people abandoned in this city who are vulnerable or addicted to a substance or with severe mental health issues. What kind of city/society are we to just ignore this?

What exactly is our tax etc being spent on? Surely, it's meant to help these people marginalised in this world?

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **Questions on notice to:**

- a. The Mayor
- b. To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet
- c. To the Chair of any Committee or Sub-committee

1.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Hogg (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, Education, Skills and the University</b></p> <p>In August 2020 Joel Lamy reported in the Peterborough Telegraph the numbers of students planned for ARU Peterborough had been reduced from an initial 12,500 to just 5,000 by 2028 reducing the economic benefit of the new campus from £1.1bn to £400 million. Now that the university is open can the Cabinet Member for Education please update us on where these figures stand now?</p>
2.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Day</b></p> <p><b>Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</b></p> <p>How has our local area and region been impacted by the dumping of raw sewage into rivers?</p> <p>Link to useful background information: <a href="https://theriverstrust.org/sewage-map">https://theriverstrust.org/sewage-map</a></p>
3.	<p><b>Question from Councillor John Fox (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>The Leader of the Council made it clear in his statement to the Peterborough Telegraph that we have been pushed into a new era of permanent austerity.</p> <p>Officers have also produced a four-point plan to achieve financial sustainability in this council.</p> <p>I support financial sustainability and would therefore ask the Leader to disband the privileged and un-needed Cabinet Advisors' positions straight away.</p> <p>This will show the public that we are truly in this together.</p>

4.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Skibsted (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</b></p> <p>Cllr Marco Cereste, Council Cabinet member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport, has recently stated: "To reach our ambitious goal of becoming a carbon net-zero city will require all parts of our city to come together and embrace the big changes we will all need to make"</p> <p>So far the LCWIP - Local Council Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - has no mention of linking cycling routes between the north and south and east and west of the city to enable cyclists to cycle freely and safely across the city centre. It is not acceptable or practical to expect cyclists to "get off and walk" for large parts of their journeys and will not encourage more cycling and fewer cars on the roads. Car users are not expected to do this.</p> <p>As chair of the new Task and Finish Group for Walking and Cycling, I understand that creating such routes would be a "big change" requiring a lot of resources. However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I) is this not integral to the idea of making big changes and enabling and enticing residents to cycle to work/school etc on a safe route thus reducing the need for cars and therefore air pollution in this area,</li> <li>II) Should this therefore not become a major priority for our city, and</li> <li>III) Why has it not been up until now?</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Question Councillor from Judy Fox</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</b></p> <p>Having promised to liaise with Ranjit Maharani to advise and assist him in finding suitable land on which to create a new hydrotherapy facility. Have you or any officers contacted him since your promise was made? The offer was made, I believe, to allow Mr Maharani to consider any sites specifically owned by the council, not on the open market.</p>
6.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Hogg (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</b></p> <p>The recent Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme, automatically paid out to those homes eligible that pay their bills using direct debit, but those paying by other methods had to apply for the rebate. Can the relevant Cabinet Member update us on how many homes which were eligible have not applied for the grant and what steps are PCC taking to get those grants to these households?</p>

7.

**Question from Councillor John Fox (2)**

**Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications, Culture and Communities**

It seems from the public announcements that the current administration is to solve the problems within our City Centre by tasking a hit squad to stop all the anti-social behaviour we see daily.

My questions are:-

1. How many officers will be employed to do this and when?
2. What are their hours of work?
3. What will be the total cost to the taxpayers of Peterborough for this period of operation?
4. What powers will they have to immediately enforce any necessary action?
5. Will these officers be given the right tools to carry out such work, such as body cameras, spit masks and any other protective equipment?

	<p><b><u>Questions on notice to:</u></b></p> <p>d. The Combined Authority Representatives</p>
1.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Hogg</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Fitzgerald, Combined Authority Board Representative</b></p> <p>With Stagecoach announcing bus routes being withdrawn and others being cut back specifically at the weekend, can the relevant rep on the Combined Authority please updates us on what is being done to overturn these decisions by Stagecoach which will have a devastating effect on bus users from parts of our city?</p>



## COUNCIL MEETING 12 OCTOBER 2022

### AMENDMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SANDFORD TO 'CABINET RECOMMENDATION – SUSTAINABLE FUTURE CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES 2022 TO 2025'

Amendment to be moved as follows:

**“IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council:

- ~~1. Endorsed the City Council’s “Sustainable Future City Council Strategy 2022-25” and its accompanying “City Priorities”, both artifacts which were attached as an appendix to the report.~~

Refers the document SUSTAINABLE FUTURE CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES 2022 TO 2025 and its appendices to a joint meeting of all the Council’s scrutiny committees with a request that they undertake detailed scrutiny of the documents and make recommendations to the next available meeting of Full Council.”

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## COUNCIL MEETING 12 OCTOBER 2022

### AMENDMENT FROM COUNCILLOR COLES TO THE MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAY

Amendment to be moved as follows:

“Peterborough City Council recognises that fossil fuels have played a central role in the past 150 years of social and technological development but that their continued use poses a serious risk to the stability of the climate upon which our well-being and economy depends. Climate change endangers the health of local residents in Peterborough, directly through impacts such as heatwaves and floods, like we have seen this year, and indirectly through impacts on food systems and global security. Research demonstrates that 80% or more of the world’s fossil fuel reserves will have to remain unburnt if we are to meet targets for climate change mitigation. A rapid large-scale shift away from fossil fuels towards energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy is needed to avert catastrophic climate change. This will soon render investments in fossil fuel reserves ‘stranded assets’, representing substantial risk for investors and pensioners. Research also shows that divestment actually reduces carbon emissions. Therefore, having declared a climate emergency in 2019, Peterborough City Council, should fully support this shift to a zero-carbon economy, which also presents significant opportunities for Peterborough in its mission to become Environment Capital.

In response to this Peterborough City Council pledges:

- to develop and implement an ethical investment policy, including a commitment to not knowingly invest directly in businesses whose activities and practices pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the Council’s mission and values. ~~This will include avoiding investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies. It may also include other companies associated with environmentally or socially harmful activities.~~
- ~~Call on the~~ Support Cambridgeshire County Council’s Pension Fund “Just Transition” approach with is consistent with the Paris agreement and provides a policy of engagement with businesses who are actively transitioning away from fossil fuels. Recognise that the fund expects each of its investment managers to appropriately manage environmental, social and governance risks alongside financial risks, and constructively engage with investee companies on any issues identified. Should these issues not be addressed satisfactorily, we recognise that selling or divesting from the individual stock remains an appropriate option for the fund.

~~to divest from fossil fuels by requesting its representative(s) on the Pension Fund Committee to call for the development and adoption of responsible investment policies which:~~

1. ~~Immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies.~~
2. ~~Divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years.~~
3. ~~Set out an approach to quantify and address climate change risks affecting all other investments.~~
4. ~~Actively seek to invest in companies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimise climate risk.~~

- ~~to instruct the chief executive to write to the Leaders and Chief Executives of all other councils that use the Cambridgeshire County Council Pension Fund outlining this Council's position and asking for their support to adopt the same policies.~~
- ~~with respect to its indirect investments, to work with a ratings agency to develop a workable ethical policy aligned with the above mission and values with the aim of achieving full divestment within 5 years.~~
- to work with local businesses and community groups to support further positive investment in local companies and projects, including community energy schemes, which are hastening a rapid shift to a zero-carbon economy.
- to undertake the above pledges in the context of a city-wide energy descent plan and energy security policy which will be developed with local business and community groups.
- ~~to call on the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund to adopt a similar ethical investment policy and divest from fossil fuels.~~
- to call on the national U.K. government to support the principle of a just transition from fossil fuels ~~divestment, to stop subsidising the fossil fuel industry~~ and to advocate for all other countries to commit to this in the wake of the Paris Agreement, which was reaffirmed at the 2021 Glasgow Climate Summit.”

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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