

Public Document Pack

FULL COUNCIL 10 JULY 2013

QUESTIONS

Questions have been received under the following categories:

<u>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TIME</u>	
7	<u>Questions with notice by members of the public</u>
1.	<p>Question from Alex Terry</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>Given that Community Involvement Time is a crucial element of an open and democratic council, will this council reaffirm its commitment to democratic principles by permanently extending Community Involvement Time during full council meetings to at least 30 minutes if required?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Vicky Forster</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>As the 410 bus service is discontinuing I would like to ask if you are able to give the people of Fengate any guarantee with regards to a replacement bus service (there are a number of elderly and infirm residents that rely on this mode of transport)?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Rohan Wilson</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>Every Sunday the Local Link bus service serving Peterborough's countryside carries a group of walkers known as "Peterborough Bus-Walks" on a pre-planned, led walk in the best countryside west of the city. The walks bring business to rural pubs and cafes, using a bus service which enables us and other visitors to Peterborough to visit Burghley (which is our city's most famous rural visitor attraction), John Clare Cottage, the villages and our National Nature Reserves.</p> <p>"Each week Peterborough Bus-Walks attracts between 12 and 22 walkers who join us without pre-booking from a mailing list of over 100, which we are expanding by recruitment through The Ramblers and the posters we place in Queensgate Bus Station. We take a pride in welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. We are confident that what we do boosts people's health and quality of life, and increases their knowledge and pride in Peterborough.</p> <p>"We understand that the Cabinet intends to withdraw the Sunday rural Local Link service. Our first reaction is that we shall have to disband our group.</p> <p>"Can the Council suggest a way we may continue to run Peterborough Bus-Walks, if the bus service which we have been supporting for 12 years is withdrawn?</p>
4.	<p>Question from Angela Smith</p>

	<p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>How far away will the nearest bus stop for disabled and Senior Citizens living on the Fengate Semi Retirement Mobile Home Park be situated?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Dawn Clipston</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>I was concerned to hear you mention in the weeks leading up to the Morris Fen Planning Committee (17.6.2013) that you do not have a plan B. Please confirm IS the future of the city's finances in jeopardy if the power plant proposals are not successful because there are no contingency plans for such an eventuality?</p>
8	<p><u>Questions with notice by Members relating to ward matters To the Cabinet Members and to Committee Chairmen</u></p>
1.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>Residents parking in Hythegate in Werrington are causing huge concerns with excessive parking. Currently there are no restrictions in force and the area leads to a narrowing road. Residents may have not only personal cars being parked but also have work related vans and caravans, blocking access and regress. In the event of the emergency services requiring access this would be extremely difficult to gain access e.g. fire, ambulance, police or a duty doctor.</p> <p>Can the residents be informed of any by-law or ruling to address this matter?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Ash</p> <p>To Councillor North, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member advise me if he would take steps for the area of the former school land between the College and Western Avenue, to have works carried out to present a more attractive face to the College which will also give residents along Western Avenue something better to look at?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Saltmarsh</p> <p>To Councillor North, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods:</p> <p>For over a year a great deal of work has gone into an improvement scheme for the area in front of the shops on Central Avenue Dogsthorpe. Meetings have been held to discuss the proposal to improve the landscaping, create further parking spaces and increase the safety of children crossing the road to attend the Infant and the Junior schools. Plans have been drawn up and local residents have attended a consultation event at the local library. Tenants of the shops and of the flats above them, the police, the schools, the Old Dogsthorpe Residents association and ward Councillors were made aware of the proposals and invited to comment on them.</p> <p>Can you please advise me when this scheme will be delivered?</p>

4.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>Please provide an accurate update as to what is happening with the Werrington Centre. Are Tesco Plans to develop and re-invent this area going to happen? No recent communication has been available and the residents would welcome some indication leading to the development of the site. Yet again another outlet which was formerly Storrington news is now closed.</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Ash</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources:</p> <p>It has been 5 years since consent to build on the former school sites at Western Avenue and the playing field of Poplar Avenue was given by the Local Planning Authority. Since that time the two sites have remained undeveloped and uncared for and are considered by many residents to blight the area. Can the cabinet member give me and local residents an indication as to when the two sites will be developed and does he agree with me that a well designed and constructed development, either by a single developer or several, will show what can be done for the area and demonstrate the potential and overall wellbeing of the city to anyone visiting the area as a well designed development would make a better show piece for visitors to the area and particularly to anyone visiting the City College in Western Avenue?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member let me know why the footpath along Ullswater Avenue has never been resurfaced since the 1960s, resulting in the elderly pedestrians and users of mobility vehicles having to use the road due to the uncertain and unlevel manner of the footpath and when local taxpayers can expect to see resurfacing work done along this stretch of road?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Shearman</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>I have no doubt the cabinet member is aware that it is not only rural communities that will suffer from the withdrawal of Local Link bus services, but also discrete communities within the City which may find themselves isolated. In my own ward elderly residents living in Garton End Road, and the roads leading off it, are particularly concerned over the withdrawal of Route 406.</p> <p>Could the cabinet member advise me how to respond to a resident who has written with the following words? <i>'My mother, who is in her 80s, lives on her own in Sallows Road. I am disabled and rely on the bus service that currently runs down Garton End Road to be able to visit her. If this service is removed the nearest bus stop would be Park Road Corner, which would simply not be possible for me'.</i></p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Judy Fox</p> <p>To Councillor North, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods:</p> <p>The results of two recent traffic surveys carried out in Hodgson Avenue, Werrington</p>

	<p>have revealed that there is a large volume of traffic exceeding the speed limit.</p> <p>With the proposal of moving the Post office from the Werrington Centre to Hodgson Avenue, should this happen then there will be a large increase of elderly, disabled and vulnerable people will be crossing this road to reach the Post Office.</p> <p>Can this council reassure the residents of Werrington that everything will be done to ensure their safety when crossing this road and consideration be given to providing a pedestrian crossing at this location?</p>
9.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>Can the cabinet member please inform me when work to resurface the road at Eskdale Close will occur and why it has been left so long to become so worn and torn, with the road markings in some sections barely legible?</p>
9	<p><u>Questions with notice by Members to Council representatives of the Fire Authority and Police and Crime Panel</u></p>
	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Public Health.</p> <p>Is it policy to remunerate Police and Crime panel members and since the shadow panel and panel were established, what expenses have been paid to whom and what expenses and salaries have been paid to the Commissioner and Deputy to date?</p>

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS TIME

11	<p><u>Questions with Notice to the Leader and Members of the Executive</u></p>
1.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Waste Management.</p> <p>How overgrown do the verges past the metre maintenance strip have to be before they need to be cut back; the impression that it gives of the city is not good?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Thulbourn</p> <p>To Councillor Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.</p> <p>Could the cabinet member responsible for adult social care provide an update on how the personalisation of care is proceeding, with particular reference to adults with medium/severe disabilities; how is this process working elsewhere and are there any changes to policy or implementation expected due to the feedback you are getting from services already up and running?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Public</p>

	<p>Health:</p> <p>Should council policy address rural poverty and why did the latest report of the executive on the impact of welfare reform to the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities not address rural poverty?</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor John Fox</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Resources provide me with information about the councils' ICT infrastructure in particular the number of servers that are running, the age of those servers, the efficiency records of the servers, the allocation of the overall ICT budget given to the maintenance of the servers and what measures are in place to consider and identify savings option on ICT systems and staff?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>As Leader of the City Council you previously said that the little council car with a camera on it would be used around schools to capture inconsiderate people who park on double yellow lines, while either dropping children off or collecting them from school, rather than park a few hundred yards away in a safer and legal location. Has this occurred, where is the data from this work in regards prosecutions? Both Cllr Davidson and myself would welcome the information specifically on how many visits have occurred over the last couple of years to known problem areas like Norwood School and Werrington Primary?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor John Fox</p> <p>To Councillor North, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods.</p> <p>With regards to the bedroom tax, can residents be assured that divorced or separated parents who both live in social housing will not be financially penalised for retaining a spare bedroom to ensure adequate space is provided for their visiting children?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor North Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods:</p> <p>A year or so ago, the former Deputy Leader of the Conservative group told me that the proposed motion submitted by myself calling on this Council to stop the use of neonicotinoids on their managed farms, to help prevent the decline of local bees, was not possible to enforce, due to contracts and other such bureaucracy reasons. Can the cabinet member now please inform me how they therefore intend to adhere to the EU decision earlier this year to officially ban the use of neonicotinoids and how this will be enforced to ensure that local farmers adhere to this project?</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Public Health.</p> <p>Does the Council have a legal duty to ensure organisations that are grant aided or funded by PCC comply with anti-discriminatory practice and equalities legislation and what steps are taken to ensure compliance and good practice takes place?</p>

9.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement.</p> <p>Why did the cabinet set up a cross party working group to look at the proposed cuts in public transport subsidies and then subsequently ignore the recommendations which it put forward?</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Ash</p> <p>To Councillor Elsey, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Waste Management.</p> <p>I have received complaints and heard general comments that our streets and recreation areas are not cleaned and cleared of rubbish. I understand from a recent email that Enterprise are “mapping” litter bins. Can the cabinet member give assurances that our contractors, who ever they may be, know where all the litter bins are, that bins are emptied before they are over full and spill rubbish onto the street and that our streets and parks are kept clean and free of rubbish; and does he agree that the cleansing regime needs to be sufficient to ensure that our city looks clean, feels clean and is clean? I am sure that he would agree with me that failure to meet adequate criteria gives a poor impression and has the potential to be an environmental hazard.</p>