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PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL SUMMONS TO A MEETING

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Peterborough City Council, which will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Peterborough on

WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2017 at 7.00 pm

AGENDA

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1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on:**
 - (a) **17 November 2016 - Extraordinary Meeting** 3 - 8
 - (b) **14 December 2016 - Special Meeting** 9 - 12
 - (c) **14 December 2016** 13 - 42

COMMUNICATIONS TIME

4. **Mayor's Announcements**
5. **Leader's Announcements**

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

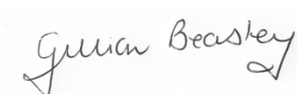
6. **Questions from Members of the Public**
7. **Petitions**
 - (a) **Presented by Members of the Public**
 - (b) **Presented by Members**
8. **Questions on Notice**
 - (a) **To the Mayor**
 - (b) **To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet**
 - (c) **To the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee**

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

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| 12. | Reports to Council | |
| | (a) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority - Scrutiny Arrangements | 63 - 66 |



Chief Executive

17 January 2017
Town Hall
Bridge Street
Peterborough

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**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR DAVID SANDERS

Present:

Councillors Aitken, Allen, Ali, Ash, Ayres, Bisby, Bond, Brown, Bull, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Dowson, Ellis, Elsey, Ferris, Fitzgerald, JR Fox, JA Fox, Fuller, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Johnson, Khan, King, Lamb, Lane, Martin, Murphy, Nadeem, Nawaz, Okonkowski, Over, Peach, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sanders, Sandford, Seaton, Serluca, Sharp, Shearman, Sims, Stokes, Sylvester, Walsh and Whitby.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Barkham, Clark, Davidson, Fower, Lillis, Shaheed, and Smith.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution

Council received a report which contained a number of recommendations relating to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution proposal. A copy of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2016 had also been circulated to Members prior to the meeting within a supplementary information pack.

Councillor Holdich introduced the report and moved the recommendations contained within. The opportunity before the Council was considered to be a once in a generation chance for people who lived and worked in Peterborough. It was advised that in moving the recommendations, item 6.5 was altered to read "Councillor John Holdich," instead of "Leader of the Council." The proposals were ambitious and had been back by public consultation. The funding that would be provided through the proposals would be essential in providing further affordable homes, infrastructure, a university, and an enterprise zone. Concerns surrounding the Elected Mayor were acknowledged, however, central Government had identified this as a requirement to the devolution deal.

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

A motion was moved by Councillor Jamil to adjourn the meeting in order to allow for sufficient time to digest and consult on the draft Order, which was thought to be substantially different to that which had been previously considered.

Councillor Ferris seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Members debated the motion and in summary raised points including:

- The majority of papers were published and circulated to Members a week in advance of the meeting. The paper circulated at a later date was six pages long. It was thought that Members had had long enough to consider the information.
- If the adjournment were agreed Wednesday, 23 November 2016 would be the most appropriate date.
- Members required time to take advice on the changes that had been included within the draft order.
- It was felt that a significant portion of the draft order now included transferring powers from the local authority.
- Concern was expressed in relation to conferring the Elected Mayor with the General Power of Competence, and more time was required to understand the implications of this.
- A briefing note had been provided to Members which clearly outline the implications of the changes set out in the draft order.
- Members knew what they were voting on and an adjournment for a few days would not serve any purpose.

The Legal Officer clarified that the advice from the Local Government Association was that both the Combined Authority and the Elected Mayor requested the same powers in terms of General Power of Competence. As such, the Power was proposed to be conferred to both. This power is limited, however, by specific restrictions within legislation.

A vote was taken (17 voted in favour, 35 voted against, 1 abstained from voting) and the motion was **DEFEATED**.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Murphy. Councillor Murphy advised that following the circulation of the draft order, the wording within the amendment in relation to the transfer of transportation powers was simply to note, as the draft order catered to the request. It was considered that the amendment sought for further consideration on the Elected Mayor option, and provided room for the Government to agree to remove the requirement. The amendment ensured that the devolution deal agreed included quality assurance and relevant targets.

Councillor Ferris seconded the amendment to the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Members debated the amendment and in summary raised points including:

- It was promising to see such issues championed, however it was not the appropriate stage of the process to consider them.
- It was noted that any additions to the proposed deal, although may be agreed by Peterborough City Council, would not have been agreed by the other Councils within the Combined Authority. As such, the proposals were illogical.
- It was suggested that a similar recommendation would be more relevant during the next stage of devolution discussions.
- It was questioned what the alternative to an Elected Mayor would be.
- The proposed deal was criticised in relation to the benefits provided to Peterborough in comparison to those provided to Cambridge.
- It was suggested that Elected Mayors were an expensive option to pursue.

Councillor Ferris exercised his right to speak and considered that the amendment, though modest, provided detail to the agreement that was currently lacking. It was suggested that the results of the public consultation was of little weight, as less than 1%

of the city's population had responded. It was believed that environmental criteria should be at the forefront of the deal, in order to ensure that Peterborough was truly sustainable.

Councillor Holdich, as mover of the original motion, advised that the devolution deal as put before Council provided Peterborough with a wealth of benefits, including a university, infrastructure, skills, and funding. The amendments proposed were premature and would be considered in greater when the constitution of the Combined Authority was established.

A vote was taken (18 voted in favour, 35 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) and the amendment was **DEFEATED**.

Members debated the original motion and in summary points raised in support of the proposals included:

- The proposals represented a one off opportunity and would be to Peterborough's benefit.
- Devolution was not a new idea.
- The proposals would be developed in further detail following the initial agreement from all the member authorities.
- The relationships between the member authorities was good and provided for a positive chance to work together.
- Officers had undertaken good work in achieving the best deal possible for the city.

Points of concern raised against the proposals included:

- Issues were raised in relation to the speed at which the proposals had been presented for approval.
- It was considered that conferring the General Power of Competence on to the Elected Mayor was providing one person with too much power.
- Concern was expressed that no written agreement had been provided in relation to the grant for funding of the Combined Authority.
- It was suggested that powers were to be transferred up from the Council to the Combined Authority, which had previously not been the case.
- The distribution of votes within the Combined Authority was queried, and concern was expressed that Peterborough, as the largest authority, only had 1 vote.
- It was questioned why the proposals for a university had not been formally included within the agreement.
- It was considered that no firm proposals were in place in relation to housing.
- Concern was raised in respect to Peterborough City Council's voice and whether the Combined Authority would diminish this.

Councillor Fitzgerald exercised his right to speak and explained that the model of governance proposed for the Combined Authority was the same as the Council, with Cabinet, except that the Combined Authority would have an Elected Mayor instead of a Leader. It was further highlighted that the Council had an exit strategy in place if the arrangements were not agreed, though such a manoeuvre would not be simple.

Councillor Holdich summed up as mover of the recommendations and in so doing, identified that no cost would be incurred by the Council for the election of the Elected Mayor. The devolution deal provided Peterborough and Cambridgeshire with an additional £100 million for housing. The Council had veto powers on any transport issue. Improved rail and road routes were to the city's benefit. Plans for a university and £50 million of funding for infrastructure was also provided for within the proposed deal.

A vote was taken (33 voted in favour, 18 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) and it

was **RESOLVED** that Council:

- (i) consented to the Secretary of State making an Order to establish the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (Appendix A of the Council report);
- (ii) consented to the Council being a constituent member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority with effect from the commencement date determined by the final Order;
- (iii) authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to consent to the final draft Order and associated documents, specifically:
 - to agree minor drafting amendments to the Combined Authority Order to be laid before Parliament;
 - to consent to the Council being included within the draft Parliamentary Order thereby reflecting this Council's decision
- (iv) authorised the Combined Authority to have a power to issue a levy to the constituent Councils in respect of any financial year. (This will be subject to the inclusion of a unanimity clause in the Combined Authority constitution on this specific matter).
- (v) recommended to the Combined Authority that the costs of establishing the Combined Authority, holding the elections in May 2017 and running the Combined Authority (including Mayoral Office) for 2016/17 and 2017/18 are funded from the gain share grant provided by Government (as outlined in para 9.11)
- (vi) appointed Councillor Holdich to act as Council's appointee to the Shadow Combined Authority and once established, to the Combined Authority;
- (vii) appointed Councillor Fitzgerald, as Deputy Leader of the Council, to act as the substitute to the above (ref (vi));
- (viii) noted the outcome of the public consultation on the establishment of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority as outlined in paragraph 4.1 and 4.2 and Appendices 2A - 2D;
- (ix) noted the timetable for the implementation of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution Order as summarised in paragraph 6.1;
- (x) noted the Government's response to the outline business case for Housing capital investment funds secured as part of the devolution deal as set out in Appendix 3 of the Council report.
- (xi) agreed in principle, for a protocol requiring the Council Leader and the representative on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report to each meeting of Council setting out the activities and decisions related to their respective roles within the Combined Authority.

- (xii) requested that the Member Officer Working Group develop the protocol through the Audit Committee with a view to inclusion of the protocol in the Council's constitution.

The Mayor
7.00pm – 8.26pm

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**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

The Mayor – Councillor David Sanders

Present:

Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Barkham, Bisby, Bond, Brown, Bull, Casey, Coles, Davidson, Dowson, Elsey, Ferris, Fitzgerald, Fuller, Fower, John Fox, Judy Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, King, Lamb, Lillis, Martin, Nadeem, Okonkowski, Peach, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sanders, Sandford, Seaton, Shearman, Sims, Smith, Stokes, Walsh, and Whitby

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Cereste, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Nawaz, Serluca, Khan, Clark and Shaheed.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Honorary Alderman Award

Councillor Hiller addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations contained within the report. It was noted that Sheila Scott was also in receipt of an OBE.

The recommendations were seconded by Councillor Jamil.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Awarded the status of Honorary Alderman to the following former members of Council:

Charles Swift OBE
Adrian Miners
Sheila Scott OBE

2. Awarded badges of office to any former Councillor awarded the status of Honorary Alderman, at a formal ceremony on a date to me agreed.

4. Honorary Freedom of the City

(a) James Fox

Councillor Hiller addressed the meeting and moved the following motion:

“Council resolves:

THAT we, the Members of Peterborough City Council, assembled in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 acknowledge the eminent service rendered to the City by **Mr. James Fox**.

James Fox first started rowing at Peterborough rowing club at the age of 11, and went on to represent Great Britain as a junior at the Coupe de la Jeunesse. Whilst studying in London, he continued rowing for the University of London Boat Club, where it seemed he was set to achieve great things. Unfortunately, not long after he started university, tragedy struck and rendered James unable to train properly for two years due to a broken back.

Many may have let such a horrendous accident stop them in their tracks and determine a new course for their lives, but James showed tremendous courage and strength as he refused to let this hold him back from doing what he loved. Today, James trains full time with the Great British Para-rowing squad, and moreover has contributed to Peterborough's Olympic success.

James and his coxed fours team mates won the para mixed gold medal in Rio 2016, finishing ahead of the United States and Canada. This success comes at the price of much hard work and training, as James trains for up to about 3 hours a day. This isn't taking into account all the preparatory work he needs to do before each training session.

James has taken part and succeeded in many other competitions, including the World Championships in South Korea in 2013. This was his first world championship win, and a very proud moment for James. He had planned to pursue rowing success from a young age, and this moment saw his dream realised, even after facing the immense setbacks that he did.

Even through all this, James hasn't forgotten his hometown of Peterborough, and the ways in which the city has contributed to his success. He credits Jack Hunt School for teaching him how to balance his various workloads, as he strove to do the best he could do in both sporting and academic fields. The Peterborough Masons supported James earlier on in his career by raising funds to help him on his way. Such an admirable journey has no doubt inspired many young sportsmen in Peterborough, and the world over, to never give up on their dreams.

In recognition of the above, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the honorary freedom of the city upon **Mr. James Fox**, of Peterborough."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Jamil.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the motion was **CARRIED**.

(b) Lee Manning

Councillor Hiller addressed the meeting and moved the following motion:

"Council resolves:

THAT we, the Members of Peterborough City Council, assembled in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 acknowledge the eminent service rendered to the City by **Mr. Lee Manning**.

Lee Manning began his wheelchair basketball career at the age of 15 after experiencing a taster session of the sport at school. He then joined the Peterborough Phoenix club, and only 3 months later was invited to attend the Great British Junior Camp and went on to represent Great Britain at the under 22 European Championships only a year after starting the sport.

Taking part in various tournaments around the world, such as the BT Paralympic World Cup, he continued to excel and develop his natural talents. He played for several clubs, including the champions of the Europe Challenge Cup in 2012, the Sheffield Steelers. In 2014 Lee represented Great Britain in the World Championships, followed by winning gold in the 2015 European Championships and culminating in the admirable achievement of assisting the Great British team to win a bronze medal at Rio in 2016.

Lee acknowledges the support he received from Papworth Trust and the role this charity played in helping him along his journey. The charity sponsored Lee for two years, and Lee notes that he would not be where he is today without that support. That being said, Lee has certainly worked very hard in his own right, to develop his career. He undertakes an intense daily training programme, including gym work, on and off the court preparation and even video analysis of his previous games and future opponents.

Another former Jack Hunt student, Lee has done Peterborough proud through his many successes and unstoppable passion. When he isn't competing, Lee is a qualified Grade 2 wheelchair basketball coach, passing on his knowledge and love of the game.

It is always phenomenal to see a person overcome physical disabilities, and even more so when they go on to find such commendable success as Lee has. He is truly an inspiration to many young athletes who aspire to compete professionally and more so to all who hear of his phenomenal journey.

In recognition of the above, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the honorary freedom of the city upon **Mr. Lee Manning**, of Peterborough.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Jamil.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the motion was **CARRIED**.

(c) Louis Smith MBE

Councillor Hiller addressed the meeting and moved the following motion:

“Council resolves:

THAT we, the Members of Peterborough City Council, assembled in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 acknowledge the eminent service rendered to the City by **Mr. Louis Smith**.

Louis Smith has done a commendable service for the city of Peterborough through his Olympic achievements. In 2008 he became the first British male gymnast to win an Olympic medal since 1908. Following this, in 2012, he added another 2 pommel medals to the tally. Representing the United Kingdom again in 2016 he obtained another silver pommel medal.

Born in 1989, Eye, Peterborough, Louis has dedicated his life to the sport of gymnastics, training in Huntingdon Gymnastics Olympics Club, and he has the accolades to show for it. Since 2006 he has won in the region of 20 medals while representing the United Kingdom (and of course, Peterborough). Perhaps his proudest moment and esteemed accolade was bestowed in 2013 when he was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours 2013.

In order to get to where he is today Louis has had to overcome various barriers. Diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder at a very young age, this couldn't stop him from discovering his passion for gymnastics, and focussing on progressing himself through the sport. He gave up his social life to focus on his goals and through such commitment has no doubt inspired many young sportsmen to fight their own battles and keep pushing for success.

Gymnastics has not been Louis' only stage. In 2012, the same year he brought home 2 Olympic medals, he also managed to dance his way through to the final of Strictly Come Dancing, winning the series and gaining yet another trophy for his wall.

Louis himself claims that he is "the result of people" around him. This simple statement alone highlights how proud the city of Peterborough can be of the success that Louis Smith has achieved. Peterborough is shown to be a diverse city, encouraging champions of all kind to dream big and believe in world-wide success.

In recognition of the above, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the honorary freedom of the city upon **Mr. Louis Smith**, of Peterborough."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Jamil.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the motion was **CARRIED**.

The Mayor
6.30pm – 6:45pm

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR DAVID SANDERS

Present:

Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Barkham, Bisby, Bond, Brown, Bull, Casey, Coles, Davidson, Dowson, Ellis, Elsey, Ferris, Fitzgerald, Fuller, Fower, JR Fox, JA Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Johnson, King, Lamb, Lillis, Martin, Murphy, Nadeem, Nawaz, Okonkowski, Over, Peach, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sanders, Sandford, Seaton, Serluca, Shaheed, Sharp, Shearman, Sims, Smith, Stokes, Sylvester, Walsh, and Whitby.

A minute's silence was held at the request of The Mayor for James Crowden, CVO, Olympic oarsman and former Lord Lieutenant of Cambridge.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cereste, Clark, Khan and Shaheed.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Legal Officer advised that a general dispensation had been granted for all Members by the Audit Committee to enable them to vote on the budget item.

The Mayor requested that any Member who was more than two months in arrears with their Council Tax should declare this to the meeting.

In relation to agenda item 7(c) 'Petitions for Debate – Please Help to Stop St Michael's Gate Residents Being Evicted' Councillor Whitby declared that his wife was a friend of the lead petitioner, though it would not impact on his decision.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 October 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record subject to the inclusion of an updated list of attendees.

COMMUNICATIONS

4. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that parts the evenings meeting were being filmed. It was further advised that the Council had a new Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager,

Pippa Turvey, which was to commence with immediate effect.

5. Leader's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Leader.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

6. Questions with Notice by Members of the Public

Questions from members of the public were raised in respect of the following:

1. The purchase of St Michael's Gate Peterborough; and
2. The presence of ethically sound and social responsible business models within companies the Council has business with.

The questions and responses are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes.

7. Petitions

(a) Presented by Members of the Public

There were no petitions presented by the public.

(b) Presented by Members

Councillor Ash presented a petition signed by 117 signatories to request measures were put in place on Eastern Avenue near the Welland School to ensure safe pedestrian crossing during busy periods.

(c) Petitions for Debate - Please Help to Stop St Michael's Gate Residents Being Evicted

A petition had been received by the Council containing over 500 signatures from people who lived, worked, or studied in the city. This had triggered the right to a debate at the meeting of the Full Council in accordance with the Petitions Scheme.

The petition, "Please Help to Stop St Michael's Gate Residents Being Evicted," called on the Council to take action and not support the deal with Stef and Philips Limited for the use of St Michael's Gate, Parnwell, as interim accommodation for homeless families. A request for a debate at the Council was requested, for the Council to reconsider its position.

Miss Stevic, the lead petitioner, address the Council on behalf of the residents of St Michael's Gate. In summary the key points highlighted included:

- It was believed that the Council had taken too little action too late;
- That the actions of Councillors in taking the decision was felt to amount to the mistreatment of residents;
- Residents of St Michael's Gate felt they had not been kept informed and it was suggested that using newspapers and Facebook was an inappropriate form of communication;

- It was believed that the Council should help residents stay in their homes until alternative local accommodation could be found and that financial assistance could be provided to those residents accumulating legal fees;
- The stress and upheaval caused to tenants faced with losing their homes was significant;
- It was suggested that the Council was not transparent in the manner in which it had made the decision;
- A change in the law was considered necessary in order to prevent repeat occurrence of this situation;
- It was requested that the Council did not repeat this type of business transaction in the future; and
- The Council's business acumen was questioned.

Councillor Holdich introduced the report and moved amended recommendations asking for support in his request for assistance from the Local Government Association. Councillor Holdich advised that a contract had been entered into with Stef and Philips. As such it was now too late to withdraw. It was advised that the Council stood by the original decision. This had been done in the best interests of the city as, in entering the contract, the properties in St Michael's Gate could not be occupied by homeless people from other local authorities. It was noted that any course of action would have resulted in the residents of St Michael's Gate being served eviction notices. Councillor Holdich advised that the decision had released £2 million which could be spent on support services for the homeless rather than hotel rooms. Council officers would continue to support those in need to find new homes as quickly as possible. It was suggested that attention should now be focused on preventing the same situation from arising in the future.

Councillor Walsh seconded the motion and reserved her right to speak.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Fower. Councillor Fower questioned the suggestion that Luton Borough Council would have been approached had Peterborough turned down the deal. Concern was expressed that the Cabinet Member had authority to make such a decision, rather than Council.

Councillor Davidson seconded the amendment and suggested that not all the potential options had been sufficiently investigated. It was further suggested that the scrutiny process needed to be utilised more effectively. Councillor Davidson considered that further information should be required from private landlords.

Members debated the amendment and in summary raised the points including:

- The costs incurred to the Council in relation to temporary accommodation were significant and had a subsequent impact on Council taxpayers;
- The area was currently facing a housing shortage;
- It was suggested that the decision was made in the best interests of the largest number of local people;
- Similar situations had occurred in other local authority areas, where homeless individuals from London had been absorbed into other authorities, including 300 in Thurrock and 200 in Luton; and
- These were now putting considerable strain on those authorities.

Councillor Holdich, as mover of the original motion, advised that the first knowledge that he had of the approach from Stef and Philips was at the Cross Party Budget

Group meeting, at the same time as others were told. It was confirmed that Stef and Philips would have approached other authorities should Peterborough have passed on the deal. Nothing that the company had done had been illegal. It was considered that the amendment simply heightened the expectations of the residents of St Michael's Gate without basis.

A vote was taken (21 voted in favour, 28 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) and the amendment was **DEFEATED**.

Members debated the original motion and in summary raised points including:

- It was claimed that the Cabinet had voted against the Council looking into ways to prevent this situation reoccurring in the future;
- Concern was expressed that this situation could re-occur in St Michael's Gate on expiry of the new lease in two years' time;
- More short term accommodation was required to provide decent affordable housing for all;
- It was suggested that the decision was driven by a private company seeking to make a profit. Stef and Philips had used this business model in other areas;
- It was hoped that residents had been contacted by officers to offer alternative accommodation;
- Government policy was believed to have led to this problem arising, as Councils had been required to sell their housing stock;
- It was suggested that Councillors that lobbied the Government and local MP would have little effect until there was change in the housing policy;
- There was a need for more to housing stock, as people had a right to a home;
- Concern was expressed that media coverage had had a negative effect on the national perception of Peterborough;
- Calls were made for the Leader to meet with residents of St Michael's Gate and to apologise;
- Confirmation had been requested from on the start date of the contract with Stef and Philips, however this had not been provided;
- It was noted that legislation for housing benefit had been capped this year, compounding the situation residents found themselves in;
- It was considered that the Council should take responsibility for its actions and put the people of Peterborough first, in order to support its own growth;
- Although Stef and Philips had not acted illegally, it was considered that the Council should not be supporting such business models;
- Concern was raised that the proposal did not take sufficient action, as any housing stock could be sold to Stef and Philips, but a housing association;
- Stef and Philips status as a mutual company was questioned. Examples were given of families being split up in order to allow children to remain in school;
- It was suggested that sending a letter to the Local Government Association was the equivalent of doing nothing;
- Attention was drawn to the prevention of homelessness legislation and the housing white paper currently going through Parliament. This was interpreted to mean that homeless people must be housed within the borough or the travel to work area, in keeping with the spirit of the Act;
- Disappointment was expressed that the matter had not been referred to Scrutiny;
- It was suggested that the motion requested support for something that had already happened and, as such, no immediate change in either the homeless situation or St Michael's Gate would be realised.

Councillor Walsh exercised her right to speak and acknowledged the feelings of the residents and advised that it was not within the Council's power to prevent private landlord evictions. The residents of St Michael's Gate would have been evicted irrespective of the Council's decision. Councillor Walsh confirmed that the owners was acting within the law in seeking vacant possession. An increase in housing stock was required locally to meet the current housing need and further reports were expected in the coming months. Work was underway within the Local Government Association to address the situation.

Councillor Holdich summed up as mover of the motion and reiterated that the residents of St Michael's Gate would have been evicted regardless. Looking forward, it had been reported that Stef and Philips were still looking for properties in the city. It could be possible for the Council to unknowingly place individuals in one of their properties.

It was agreed to suspend standing orders to allow Ms Stevic to address the Council for a second time. Ms Stevic advised the Council that it was not a forgone conclusion that residents would be evicted. She referred to a similar case in Maidenhead where 33 tenants had been served with Section 21 Eviction Notices however they were still in their properties, as the judge had rejected the Possession Orders.

A vote was taken (31 voted in favour, 19 voted against, 4 abstained from voting) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Noted the petition and debated the request to take action;
2. Noted the letter sent to the Chair of the Local Government Association from the Leader of the Council on 5 December 2016 (Appendix 1), which outlines the concerns of the Council in relation to homelessness and the prevalence of, in our opinion, unethical business models among private housing investors; and
3. Supported the Leader of the Council in his request for assistance from the Local Government Association to ensure that neither Peterborough City Council, nor other local authorities, are placed in such an impossible situation again and to investigate these issues at a national level.

8. Questions on Notice

- (a) **To the Mayor**
- (b) **To the Leader or member of the Cabinet**
- (c) **To the Chair of any Committee of Sub-Committee**

The Legal Officer advised that the order in which questions were asked was determined by ballot.

Questions (b) to the Leader or Member of the Cabinet were raised and taken as read in respect of the following:

1. Internet broadcasting of council meetings;
2. Steps to encourage the adoption of sustainable school transport plans;
3. A concert hall/arts venue in plans for development on the North Westgate site;
4. The effectiveness of the Child Poverty Strategy and the Neglect Strategy in

- combating child poverty;
5. The regeneration of Millfield and the Lincoln Road corridor;
 6. Bonfires on allotments;
 7. The use of vacant property to house the homeless;
 8. Traffic congestion across the city;
 9. Road safety;
 10. Community skips; and
 11. Transactions between the Council and Athene Communications.

The questions and responses are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

9. Executive and Committee Recommendations to Council

(a) Cabinet Recommendation - Executive Procedure Rules

Cabinet, at its meeting of 7 November 2016, received a report which requested its approval to the amended Executive Procedure Rules. Cabinet approved the proposed changes to the Executive Procedure Rules (Part 4 – Section 7).

Cabinet recommended that Council noted the changes to Part 4 – Section 7 of the Constitution (Executive Procedure Rules).

Councillor Holdich introduced the report and moved the recommendation.

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Members debated the recommendations and in summary the points raised included:

- Concern was raised that the proposals had not been fully considered, as when previously presented to Council, the guillotine prevented a full discussion of the item.
- It was noted that the proposals were very similar to those procedures already in place.

Councillor Fitzgerald exercised his right to speak and confirmed that the matter had been through various stages of scrutiny prior to its submission to Council.

Councillor Holdich summed up as mover of the motion and advised that the procedures set out within the Executive Procedures rules had adopted the general principals of pre-decision Scrutiny.

A vote was taken (34 voted in favour, 18 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council noted the changes to Part 4 – Section 7 of the Constitution (Executive Procedure Rules).

(b) Audit Committee Recommendation - Appointing Person Arrangements for the ApPOINT of the External Auditor

The Audit Committee, at its meeting of 21 November 2016, received a report which set out the options available to the Council regarding the adoption of an appointing person arrangement for the appointment of an external auditor for 2018 /2019 and later years.

The Audit Committee recommended that Council agree the adoption of Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) as the appointing person for the Council, subject to receiving a satisfactory invitation to opt into the PSAA's appointing person arrangements, and agree to delegate acceptance of the invitation to the Corporate Director: Resources, as the Council's Section 151 Officer.

Councillor Fuller introduced the report and moved the recommendation. It was advised that the role of appointing person was undertaken by the Audit Commission in the previous year. Under the 2014 Act the Council is required to put in place an alternative arrangement to appoint an external auditor.

Councillor Aitken seconded the report and reserved her right to speak.

Members debated the recommendations and in summary the points raised included:

- With reference to the Cadbury Report it was questioned whether the requirement to change auditors regularly was still the case.
- Concern was raised following the most recent Audit Committee meeting, where it was suggested that the Committee were out of order and did not allow a Member to move an amendment, contrary to Council's Standing Orders.

Councillor Aitken exercised her right to speak and advised that the auditors had recently been changed. It was further advised there was a legal representative present at the Audit Committee meeting.

Councillor Fuller summed up as mover of the motion and advised that the external auditor was independent. Councillor Fuller was not at the most recent Audit Committee meeting due to illness, however offered to discuss the matter further following the close of the Council meeting.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Adopted of Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) as the appointing person for the Council, subject to receiving a satisfactory invitation to opt into the PSAA's appoint person arrangements; and
2. Delegated acceptance of the invitation to the Corporate Director: Resources, as the Council's Section 151 Officer.

(c) Cabinet Recommendation - Budget Phase One Proposals

Cabinet, at its meeting of 5 December 2016, received a report as part of the Council's agreed two-stage budget process and requested that Cabinet consider the feedback from the consultation undertaken to date with scrutiny, residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties to recommend to Council approval of phase one budget proposals. Cabinet had regard to the consultation feedback to date, noted the timetable for the phase two consultation, and noted that the budget proposals to be considered by Council would note form part of the second stage of consultation.

It is recommended that Council, having regard to feedback, approve the phase one budget proposals, summarised in Appendices 1 and 2, to enable implementation of the

budget proposals to commence. These proposals included a council tax increase of 2%, plus the increase of 2% for the Adult Social Care precept.

Councillor Seaton introduced the report and moved the recommendation, thanking everyone for all their hard work. The Council's finances were carefully managed and it was advised that they had received a clean record and a value for money endorsement from the Council's auditors.

A motion to adjourn the debate was moved by Councillor on the grounds that an announcement from Government was anticipated the next day to alter the 4% cap on increases to Council Tax.

Councillor Ellis seconded the motion and agreed this was an opportunity for reconsideration of the proposals, if extra powers were announced to increase council tax further.

Debate took place around the following points:

- Inadequate time had been allowed to investigate the implications of the removal of the 4% cap.
- It was unknown if the cap would be removed.

A vote was taken (12 voted in favour, 34 voted against, 6 abstained from voting) and the motion was **DEFEATED**.

Councillor Seaton resumed his introduction of the report and confirmed that the team had been fully briefed on many difficult issues and had been working on the proposals for six months. Of the additional revenue created by the proposed 4% increase in council tax, half would be allocated for Adult Social Care. Should the situation change a review could be undertaken by Council in March. Peterborough's council tax had been frozen for the past six years and was currently one of the lowest in the country. It was advised that the budget was balanced last year with no cuts to services and the same was expected this year, though challenges were expected. Councillor Seaton also noted recent improvements and regeneration across the city and highlighted the current successes in local growth and economy.

Councillor Holdich seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Debate took place around the following points:

- Support was expressed for shrub cutting, park attendant proposals and Westgate development.
- It was considered that Peterborough had a low wage economy.
- Services had been outsourced and it was suggested that, therefore, it was not possible to say there had not been any cuts to services.
- Expenditure appeared to exceed income.
- Following a consultation it had been agreed that Members allowances would remain unchanged however they were subsequently increased. This could not be changed as, within the Standing Orders, items agreed within the last months could not be reversed.
- It was noted that cuts in government grants had forced budget restrictions upon the Council.
- The value of the grants lost, it was advised, was similar to the amount received under the Combined Authority.

- Concern was expressed over highway maintenance which would see a budget decrease of £450,000 in the first phase.
- It was not thought possible to form an opinion on the budget until Phase 2 was available to present a complete picture.
- There was a budget deficit of £18 million, which had been reduced to about £5.5 million.
- It was suggested that the principle of Members voting on their own allowances was flawed.
- Amey's budget would, it was noted, be increased by £250,000 whilst the council had reduced budgets.
- Investment was considered to be needed in the city centre to create a good impression and encourage new business to the city, which would in turn generate wealth.
- Members of the budget working group were not allowed to discuss the budget outside of their meetings and therefore, it was suggested, there was no possibility of items being debated.
- It was considered that no one could have anticipated the 1% in the precept which was announced today, or how this may be spent.
- The budget came as a package, it was advised, and all elements would have to be accepted. It was not possible to pick out any specifics.
- Suggestion was made that the Adult Social Care budget was insufficient.
- Comments were made in relation to the changes in attendance allowance, which was not set by the Council, but by central Government.

Councillor Holdich exercised his right to speak and explained that the reduction in services that had already been made amounted to approximately £60 million. The Council had been subject to a number of reductions in government grants at the same time as taking on approximately £60 million worth of additional responsibilities.

Councillor Seaton summed up as mover of the motion and highlighted the reduction recorded in unemployment levels. He advised Council that they did not have to accept the increase in allowances and confirmed that he agreed with the principle that Members should not vote on their own allowances. Further explanation was provided on highway maintenance and that this was covered by capital expenditure, to which there would be no cuts. The claim that the proposed expenditure on Fletton Quays was £6 million was considered questionable. It was further noted that the Budget Party Working Group consisted of two Members from each group who could present to the Group their ideas for reinvestment in the city.

A recorded vote was taken:

Councillors For: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bisby, Brown, Bull, Casey, Coles, Elsey, Fitzgerald, Fuller, JR Fox, JA Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Azher Iqbal, King, Lamb, Lane, Nadeem, Okonkowski, Over, Peach, Rush, Sanders, Seaton, Serluca, Sharp, Sims, Smith, Stokes, Walsh, and Whitby.

Councillors Against: Ali, Dowson, Ellis, Ferris, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Johnson, Martin, Murphy, Shearman, and Sylvester.

Councillors Abstaining: Ash, Barkham, Bond, Fower, Lillis, Saltmarsh, and Sandford.

Following the vote (35 voted in favour, 12 voted against, 7 abstained from voting) it was **RESOLVED** that Council, having regard to feedback, approved the phase on budget proposals, summarised in Appendices 1 and 2, to enable implementation of these budget proposals to commence. These proposals included a council tax increase of 2%, plus the increase of 2% for the Adult Social Care precept.

10. Questions on the Executive Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting

Councillor Holdich introduced the report which detailed Executive Decisions taken since the last meeting including:

1. Decisions from the Cabinet Meeting held 7 November 2016.
2. Decisions from the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting 17 November 2016
3. Decisions from the Cabinet meeting 5 December 2016.
4. Call In by Scrutiny Committee or Commission.
5. Special Urgency and Waiver of Call In provisions
6. Cabinet Member Decision taken during the period 1 November 2016 and 5 December 2016.

Questions were asked about the following:

The Draft Peterborough Housing Strategy 2016 – 2021

Councillor Ellis asked when the last Peterborough Housing Strategy ended.

Councillor Hiller advised that it was still in place and that the Peterborough Housing Strategy 2016-2021 would replace the current strategy.

Councillor Murphy asked if Councillor Hiller knew the run dates of the last strategy, when it ran out and how long the gap between the Strategies had been.

Councillor Hiller responded that he didn't know the run dates of the last strategy, he did know when it ran out, and he did not know how long the gap had been between the two.

Integrated Healthy Lifestyles Service NOV16/CMDN/75

Councillor Murphy enquired about the consultation with the trade unions and how many former NHS workers had been moved to a private company. He also requested details on the tendering process and asked who, other than Solutions for Health Ltd, were considered.

Councillor Lamb advised Members that details were in the report.

Councillor Ferris asked what measures of success would be applied, whether the Council would decide on these, and whether it would be possible to compare those levels of success achieved with the current in-house team.

Councillor Lamb replied this would be announced in due course.

COUNCIL BUSINESS TIME

11. Notices of Motion

Councillor Ash moved a motion to suspend standing order 14.2 so that the meeting be extending beyond the 11:00pm guillotine.

Councillor Jamil seconded the motion.

A vote was taken on the motion (19 voted in favour, 32 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) and the motion was **DEFEATED**.

Concern was expressed that, due to the guillotine, the Council would not be able to discuss the recommendation in relation to the Scrutiny Procedures Rules and any amendments proposed.

1. Motion from Councillor Murphy

That Council acknowledges that many families have been affected by the current housing crisis, homelessness and locally pending evictions and notes:

- 1) The current housing emergency that is affecting Peterborough and England. Nationally £27 billion per annum is spent on housing benefit and government funding for house-building has gradually moved into subsidies for rents, especially to private landlords; and*
- 2) That there is public concern over Saint Michaels Gate and that some are profiteering out of the misery of homelessness by making people homeless to use dwellings to maximise their profits.*
- 3) The local stories and case histories provided and set out as **Appendix 1** to this notice of motion.*

That Council believes that there are medium and emergency measures that the city council are and should be taking to resolve the problem. Better solutions such as investing in new build and the provision of social and council housing will be much more cost effective than the use of bed and breakfast and other temporary accommodation.

That Council resolves to support:

- 1) Measures to provide quicker homeless persons decisions, sympathetic assistance and prevention work with and for families in Peterborough faced with homelessness; and*
- 2) The investigation of the installation of prefabricated emergency housing and increased use of leased homes as a short term measure and in the long term increasing the supply of social dwellings and council houses; and*
- 3) The acquisition of empty buildings to convert and refurbish to provide*

accommodation and the development of the joint venture housing company to focus on the delivery of social housing to eradicate the use of bed and breakfast accommodation.

In moving his motion, Councillor Murphy advised that the number of houses in the authority area increased greatly after WW1 and again after WW2. This included Council housing which continued until the 1990s although sheltered housing continued after this date. Grants were then given to housing associations to continue building to provide rented housing. Councillor Murphy questioned whether this funding had been used to build St Michael's Gate and requested this be investigated by the regulator as these grants were not intended to be used to build properties which could be sold on to private speculators. He highlighted that errors were included within the amendment.

Councillor Ellis seconded the motion and highlighted the local and national housing shortage and the need to build more homes. It was believed that the joint venture company with Cross Keys Homes would help. Private builders could not, it was suggested, be relied on to alleviate the situation as they were taking too long to bring new homes to the market and their affordable houses were not truly affordable. There were currently 3500 people on the council waiting list and 800 people in urgent need of housing. The choice based letting scheme wasn't not believed to work. Councillor Ellis considered there was an urgent need for more temporary accommodation, affordable and social housing to rehouse people, and to give them the choice to rent or buy.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Walsh. Councillor Walsh advised that the idea that central government hold a pot of money for housing which had been diverted elsewhere was not accurate. It was expected that business wished to make a profit. Stef and Philips had identified a lucrative business opportunity. Homeless people currently living in hostels and hotels would be rehomed in the refurbished St Michael's Gate which, it was advised, would greatly improve their living conditions. The main problem was considered to be the scale of the evictions which had taken place. Those served eviction notices had been supported by the Housing Team and would be assisted in finding accommodation elsewhere. The number of individuals designated as homeless resulting from the evictions was eight.

Councillor Seaton seconded the amendment to the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Members debated the amendment and in summary raising points including:

- It was suggested the motion be withdrawn and discussed again, involving cross party discussions with the Cabinet Member.
- A solution needed to be reached to solve the problem of social housing.
- Migration numbers in the city had placed pressure on available housing stock.
- It was suggested that the amendment included an error and, subsequently, did not make sense.

At this point the guillotine was reached and in line with standing order 14.2 all debate was ceased Members were directed to move to the vote on the remaining agenda items, where all motions, amendments and recommendations would be deemed formerly moved and seconded.

A vote was taken (29 voted in favour, 19 voted against, 4 abstained from voting) and the amendment was **CARRIED**.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion (27 voted in favour, 18 voted against, 5 abstained from voting) and the substantive motion was **CARRIED** with the amendment as follows:

That Council acknowledged that many households had been affected by the current housing crisis, homelessness and, locally, pending evictions, and noted:

- 1) The current housing emergency that was affecting Peterborough and England as a whole. Nationally, there was £27 billion per annum of revenue expenditure on housing benefit and this had massively increased over the last two decades. In addition, following the financial crisis Government and councils were left with the stark reality of less capital financing at a time when inward migration had continued particularly in this city, putting a huge strain on our housing stock;
- 2) That there was public concern over the situation at Saint Michaels Gate and that, despite the new owners having acted lawfully, they had the ability to charge uncapped rates to this or any other council;
- 3) The local stories and case histories provided and set out as Appendix 1 to this notice of motion.
- 4) There were medium and emergency measures that the city council were taking to resolve the problem.

That Council noted that decisive and proactive steps were being taken to resolve the problems of homelessness in our city including investing in new-build and refurbished temporary accommodation. The Council noted too that a national solution was required to address the issue of the movement of homeless households between Council areas. Finally that Council noted and welcomed the changes proposed in the Homeless Reduction Bill which would require councils to offer assistance to households at risk of becoming homeless far sooner than was currently required.

That Council resolved to support:

- 1) Ongoing measures to provide quicker homeless persons decisions, sympathetic assistance and prevention work with and for families in Peterborough faced with homelessness;
- 2) The investigation of the increased use of private second leased homes as a solution to address the shortage of housing and, in the long term, increasing the supply of affordable dwellings;
- 3) The acquisition of empty buildings and the increased support to owners of empty dwellings to convert and refurbish to provide accommodation; and
- 4) The Local Government Association's work programme to mitigate the impact of homeless placements out of London on Councils in the East of England.

12. Reports to Council

(a) Review of Constitution - Scrutiny Procedure Rules

An amendment to the motion was moved and seconded. A vote was taken (9 voted in favour, 22 voted against, 12 abstained from voting) and the amendment was **DEFEATED**.

A vote was taken (32 voted in favour, 16 voted against, 3 abstained from voting) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council approved changes to the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules (Part 4 Section 8) and consequential amendments to Article 11 of the Constitution, to take effect from 1 January 2017 (Appendix 1 and 2).

(b) Report of the 2018 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review Working Group

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council agreed the proposed response at Appendix 1 to the Boundary Commission for England consultation in respect of the 2018 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review.

The Mayor
7.00pm – 11:35pm

FULL COUNCIL 14 DECEMBER 2016

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**6. Questions from members of the public****1. Question from Mr John Knowles**

To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital

Were the Council aware at the time, that by purchasing the excellent established Community of properties in St. Michaels Gate, even at the asking price of circa £9 million, that they would have made a fantastic rental investment. Also that this fine Community could have been kept together, people could have kept their jobs children would have kept their school places and that families would have kept their homes?

Councillor Walsh responded:

Thank you Mr Knowles for your question. The answer to which is that it is not generally the Council's practice to buy occupied properties in order to become landlords. In fact, we are at the moment going through a process of divestiture in connection with community assets.

However, due to our growing concern about homelessness, when we became aware that St Michael's Gate was for sale on the open market we did make general enquiries to the agent and a number of officers visited the location. Before we had any time to give formal consideration to the idea of buying the properties, the offer made by who we now know to be Paul Simon Magic Investments Ltd was accepted.

We didn't arrange for our own independent evaluation of St Michael's Gate. However, our property experts felt, that the properties should have been valued at around £7m, far below the owner's asking price and far below the price we understand the properties finally sold for.

So in conclusion Mr Mayor, this Council or any other Council for that matter would not be in a position ever to compete with Stef & Philips or Paul Simon Magic in the way suggested by Mr Knowles. The business model operated by them is predicated on the high financial receipts that can be obtained through occupation of properties by homeless households. Unless there is a change in the law and/or some mechanism found to preclude such business models operating they would always be in a position to outbid others and if necessary pay over the odds. Thank you.

Mr Knowles asked a supplementary question:

Did any communications take place between council officers in Peterborough, Luton or the London councils such as Newham where I believe Stef and Philips did a similar deal? If they did why did not officers warn the council of the dangers of not buying these properties? The fact is that we all know that there is great communication particularly between Peterborough and Newham and there's great communication between this Council and other councils I know that as an ex Councillor. Thank you.

	<p>Councillor Walsh responded:</p> <p>The answer to the question is no we were not aware at that time. Thank you.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Mr Jonathan Wilde</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources</p> <p>Given the unpalatable position the Peterborough City Council now finds itself in; having committed itself to a course of action that was not initially transparent - Cllr Johnson not having been notified of this issue of considerable value and social impact which was to be applied in the ward she represents - what measures or guarantees have been put in place to ensure that such transactions are fully scrutinised for impact assessment on tax paying residents, school and nursery attendance, employment and social services prior to entering into such a contract, and will the Leader give his assurance that the operational backgrounds of companies transacted with are not limited to financial checks and returns to Companies House, but that the business models are also ethically sound and socially responsible?</p> <p>Councillor Seaton responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Wilde for your question. I recall your attendance at the Call In on the St Michael's Gate issue as a representative of the Labour Party and I do appreciate your continued interest in this issue.</p> <p>With regard to your question your point about Councillor Johnson I think I should note that I appreciate Cllr Johnson's input on this issue. I know that she has met with officers, we have exchanged emails and she has attended public meetings. However just to respond to your suggestion she was not notified, I would advise you that contact was made with all ward Councillors prior to this proposal being made public. Councillor Johnson was not available on the telephone so a voicemail message was left. Councillor Johnson then made contact after listening to her voicemail and met with Adrian Chapman and Sean Evans our housing manager to discuss the proposal. Councillor Johnson advised she was aware of the proposal prior to it being made public as it was discussed at a previous cross party budget working group.</p> <p>With regards to the scrutiny of business models, and the impact of the actions of this Council, on such transactions, we do, of course, already consider this. Indeed the cross party member officer working group looked at the issue of ethical behaviour across a range of Council activity and ultimately did not recommend any changes. However such an approach is ultimately highly subjective with St Michael's Gate being an example of this.</p> <p>You will be aware from the Call In that this Council had to make a very difficult decision. We knew that the residents would be given notice, whatever we did, and we had to consider the impact on this City of a constant stream of homeless people being moved to this area by another Council. Now to anyone who suggests that would not happen, please search on-line – it's not only London Boroughs but also, for example, the Labour-led Milton Keynes, who are moving 110 families to Luton.</p> <p>You quite rightly highlight the added pressure this would have placed on schools and nurseries, employment and social services, but also GP surgeries, the NHS and, after six months the people moving here would be eligible to apply for social housing.</p> <p>I fully acknowledge that to enter into this agreement was distasteful. I've said that today on the Paul Stainton show, I've said it to BBC television, I've said it to ITV.</p>

However, as you say, an impact assessment must be made, and our view was that the impact would have been far greater on a much larger number of residents had we not signed a contract, than if we did. Thank you Mr Wilde.

Mr Wilde asked a supplementary question:

Thank you Councillor for your considered response. Very briefly are you able to provide the Council here with an assurance that St Michael's Gate is the only example of this particular contract that has been entered into or are there other developments under consideration perhaps with Stef & Philips or others?

Councillor Seaton responded:

Thank you Mr Wilde. It is certainly the only contract of this type that Peterborough City Council has entered in to. I'm sure if you're asking, you weren't specific to Peterborough, there are a very large number across London boroughs across the country and indeed if you hang around I will give you some details of that later on. Thank you.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

8. Questions on notice to:

- i) The Mayor
- ii) To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet
- iii) To the Chair of any Committee or Sub-committee

1.

Question from Councillor Sandford

To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources

In 2009 (ie over seven years ago) Full Council passed a motion calling for investigation of the possibility of internet broadcasting (live or recorded) of Council meetings.

Could the relevant Cabinet Member tell me what is happening with this, as numerous other councils (including Cambridgeshire County Council) have introduced such a facility.

Given that our chief executive now heads up both Cambs County and PCC, could she be asked to get relevant officers together as soon as possible to share relevant knowledge, so that people in Peterborough can have an easy way of viewing and listening to PCC debates and decisions.

Councillor Seaton responded:

The webcasting project was initially considered in 2012, and detailed research was undertaken, but this was subsequently halted due to financial implications and additional resources that were required.

During 2014 members requested that this project be looked at again and taken to the Joint Member Officer and Constitutional Working Group.

This project was discussed in detail, which included cost implications which were considered to be substantial by the Working Group. The costs were in the region of £15,000.00 for the first year and around £10,000.00 per annum as ongoing costs, these costings did not include additional officer time required to support this. The initial review of the meeting rooms and associated works that would be required, to support the initial review of the meeting rooms, and associated works that would be required prior to implementation of any equipment.

The working group therefore recommended that no further progress to be taken on this project at that time, the rationale being the Council's current financial position and the ongoing position likely to be faced going forward.

The Member Officer Working Group will be meeting in February 2017, and this will be added to the agenda for discussion at that meeting. I will ask that details from the county are shared then and I believe Councillor Sandford you will sit on that group. Thank you Mr Mayor.

Councillor Sandford asked a supplementary question:

I am grateful to Councillor Seaton for that answer but I'd like to ask him what

	<p>cost £15,000.00? The costs of video technology is dropping all the time. You can go to Argos and buy a camera for £20.00-£25.00 that sort of thing. We already have a council PR officer who sits in the meeting. Could they not hold the camera or have a camera next to them. How is it we have councils up and down the country including Cambridgeshire County Council that have been doing this for an awful long time, why is it we can't move into the 21st century and enable the people of Peterborough to see what's going on in this council chamber?</p> <p>Councillor Seaton responded:</p> <p>I actually said those were the costings from 2014. It's interesting. I'm sure we can bring it in at a cheaper rate but you have to take into account that the county council probably get about 100 people viewing their meetings perhaps more than the 5 or 6 hardy stalwarts including myself who watch the local Lib Dem videos on YouTube. When I was looking at the local Lib Dem videos on YouTube I did notice one that had substantially more views and it was one by Russell Brand. It's a video if you want to look at it, it has 24,000 views, are the Liberal democrats the most pointless party? Thank you Mr Mayor.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Ferris</p> <p>To Councillor Holdich, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, University, and Communications</p> <p>Acknowledging the health benefits of walking and cycling to school, and noting the growing road safety problems encountered outside Park Ward's schools (Kings, TDA, Queens Drive and All Saints) and most other schools in the city, what steps does the Cabinet Member responsible think can be taken to encourage the adoption of sustainable school transport plans?</p> <p>Councillor Holdich responded:</p> <p>The safety of children and young people on their school journey or at any other time is a key priority for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Road Safety Partnership. During 2015, 90 young people (aged 0 - 15 years) were injured on Peterborough's Roads.</p> <p>As schools expand to meet increasing demand congestion outside is increased as you have seen in Park Ward. The Prevention and Enforcement Service works closely with schools to deliver various road safety activities ranging from parking enforcement to delivery of practical training which aims to give children the skills they need to keep them safe on the road.</p> <p>The health benefits of walking to school are well publicised. The Travel Choice and Road Safety teams work closely together to promote safe and sustainable travel to school. Various programmes are available to schools including pedestrian training, scooter training and Bikeability training.</p> <p>Although School Travel Plans are not compulsory unless part of a Planning Application, then the Travel Choice Team has developed a School Travel Plan toolkit which has been distributed and promoted to all schools outlining the benefits of such a plan. The team as well as the Road Safety service are also on hand to offer advice to schools to develop their own individual travel plans if required.</p> <p>Councillor Ferris asked a supplementary question:</p>

	<p>May I suggest that school travel plans and enforcement are merely sticking plasters and so my question is what plans are there to design and fit retrofit engineered solutions which discourage car use and encourage responsible driving, ease congestions and improve air quality around all our city's schools as is being done elsewhere?</p> <p>Councillor Holdich responded:</p> <p>Perhaps if that question is recorded I will get a written answer. It's rather a long concluded question which I don't have the answer to in detail so.</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Sylvester</p> <p>To Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism</p> <p>In view of the likely loss of the Broadway Theatre as a performance venue will the Cabinet Member responsible give an undertaking to include a concert hall/arts venue in any plans for development on the North Westgate site?</p> <p>Councillor Goodwin responded:</p> <p>I know this is a very important issue to a number of people around the city. We are at the very early stages of considering what the future mix of land use in the North Westgate regeneration area could be. We will be working with key landowners as well as potentially using our compulsory purchase powers to assemble the land to bring forward this development. It will be important to ensure that any scheme is financially viable, and that investment in the site achieves a financial return for the Council rather than of course resulting in any further revenue pressures. However I can confirm that we will review with partners whether a concert hall and/or an arts venue would be financially viable.</p> <p>Councillor Sylvester asked a supplementary question:</p> <p>That was the sort of answer I was expecting. It is a far cry from the feedback in the budget conversation survey which said the plans to invest in North Westgate would unblock the regeneration of this area, providing a new gateway to the city, making Peterborough a more attractive place to live and work in and what we have just been told.</p> <p>My question is where was your vision?</p> <p>Councillor Goodwin responded:</p> <p>As I've just said we really are in the very early stages of this development and I'll certainly keep Councillor Sylvester informed of anything of what's going on in Peterborough. I'll keep you informed.</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor Saltmarsh</p> <p>To Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services</p> <p>Noting that out of 48,400 children in our unitary authority area 12,000 are still living in poverty will you please advise members if the Child Poverty Strategy and the Neglect Strategy are proving effective in combating this problem</p>

particularly in the city's most deprived areas?

Councillor Smith responded:

Both these are both important issues that are of concern to me and both strategies are newly adopted and I will take two parts as I wouldn't want people to think that living in poverty means that you neglect your children.

Neglect is largely about parenting and tackling neglect is therefore about making sure that parents receive the support around parenting in factors such as post-natal depression, which left untreated, can be associated with neglect.

The Safeguarding Children Board Neglect strategy was launched in September of this year and is focused on helping those who work with children and their families to recognise the early signs of neglect, and to give them the tools to help families address these issues.

Since the launch of the strategy, the Safeguarding Board has organised a large number of training courses to support practitioners at all levels who work in areas with children.

Ultimately, we should be able to measure the impact of the neglect strategy through things like the number of children being referred to children's social care because of neglect, but with the strategy having just been launched in September it is a little bit too early to report on that yet.

Tackling child poverty is a long-term goal, and the strategy is one that has been developed this year and runs through to 2020.

Senior officers have been allocated to each of the strategic areas and there are eight within that strategy, and they are currently working through a range of performance measures to help us progress that strategy through and I will personally be working with Cabinet Members to make sure that strategy is championed.

Tackling child poverty is an issue that we need to make a concerted effort to break the cycle between generations. And that's why it's a long term strategy. We also need to raise aspirations and that's why the longer term, council priorities such as getting University, attracting high levelled skilled and highly paid employment to the City is an important one. There are other examples of how we are currently tackling poverty in the city. For example I know the resources team are working with families on fuel poverty, the housing team are working with landlords to improve the standards of private rented housing so hopefully families can spend less on their fuel bills and have more money for other child related things.

We also have a Connecting Families programme which is working very closely with a number of families and we're working with 1,200 currently and we are getting success in those areas.

Councillor Saltmarsh asked a supplementary question:

I would just like to ask if Ward Councillors for the more deprived areas are kept informed of developments and any specific actions which are happening in their wards.

Councillor Smith responded:

	<p>Yes, absolutely. I know there are at least four areas of the city that are highly deprived. We have a number of children living in poverty and one of those wards is my own and yes I would absolutely feedback to Members and to the Scrutiny panel on how we are performing on that.</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Ali</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member responsible outline what efforts are being made to regenerate Millfield and the Lincoln Road corridor, and when can local people expect to see some genuine improvements to the local environment?</p> <p>Councillor Walsh responded:</p> <p>I am pleased to report that the long term commitment from this Council to leading the improvement of the Millfield and New England area is set to continue, although there is clearly much more to be done.</p> <p>Our current focus is on tackling the issues associated with the streetscene - litter, graffiti and fly tipping in particular that is blighting the lives of the residents and businesses in the area. We have already put in place a dedicated Prevention and Enforcement Service Team. Our community development programme, now delivered by City College Peterborough, is focussing on this area of Peterborough and will be supporting local people to improve their skills, take up volunteering opportunities and start new businesses. We are also working closely with the business owners along Lincoln Road supporting them to come together to identify opportunities to attract new investment and to increase their footfall.</p> <p>Alongside this activity we want to turn our attention to the physical improvements needed in the area. Although there is no existing budget to improve this public realm, this will be considered alongside other capital bids as part of the phase 2 budget proposals. Meanwhile the area is included in the first phase of the LED street light replacement programme and as of November the LED lighting team has replaced 201 lanterns in North Ward, 158 in Park Ward, and is due to start work in Central Ward in December.</p> <p>Finally, as part of discussions linked to Devolution 2, we are assembling a package of proposals that will, if approved, see devolved powers and funding coming from Central Government targeted specifically on the Millfield and New England areas. We expect to be able to report more on this in January.</p> <p>All of this will help us achieve our ambition of seeing Lincoln Road become a destination similar to many previously challenged streets around the country that now have a regional or national reputation for food, social interaction and celebration. And Councillor Ali may recall a meeting of cando, the last one, I did say it has always been my dream to see that area become the golden mile.</p> <p>Councillor Ali asked a supplementary question:</p> <p>I know that we have been talking about this area quite considerably and quite a lot of initiatives have been started but my issue is we have not seen any sustained improvement that the community can feel and that business owners can feel. Only last week you weren't present but the Deputy Mayor was, we</p>

	<p>actually had a look at Christmas decorations that were put up by the business owners and I had another opportunity to talk to the people and again it's a consistent question, the area doesn't look welcoming enough. All I'm asking this Council and Councillor Walsh some firm commitment that we will see some genuine sustained improvement in the area. We keep talking about the great diversity that we have in this city but we have yet to see some real action. When can we see some real improvements? Thank you.</p> <p>Councillor Walsh responded:</p> <p>Obviously this cannot be done overnight but I do share your commitment and I do understand your frustration you feel based on what has happened in the past. We mean to change that. Thank you.</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Shearman</p> <p>To Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Waste and Street Scene</p> <p>I have received complaints from residents living in Newark Avenue about the regular bonfires being lit on the allotment site behind their homes. Their concerns were brought to a head with the lighting of a huge bonfire on Firework night. This happened despite the allotment holders being told by the council's PCC/Amey liaison officer that such a bonfire was contrary to the rules for allotment holders.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member explain what action the Council/Amey intends to take in order to bring to an end the thoughtless behaviour of a number of allotment holders on this site.</p> <p>Councillor Eley may respond:</p> <p>I have to say I'm struggling to find an awful lot of sympathy for somebody whose complaining about bonfire being lit on a night which for 100s of years across the country has been known by millions of people as 'Bonfire Night' it is part of our culture. Having said that with regards to what has been happening on this site I am aware that we have only received a complaint from one resident in Newark Avenue and that both Pollution Control and other officers have been in contact. To enable us to take any enforcement action we need to be able to prove a statutory nuisance. As such Pollution Control have asked the resident to fill in a log sheet with dates and times of incidents to which he is unhappy and to this date he has not done it.</p> <p>Due to the very nature of allotment gardening not all by-products can be composted and items might need to be burned, we agreed following a request, several requests from both Councillor Fox and Councillor Murphy to look at a policy of reinstating bonfires for allotments which we have done with strict guidelines which means bonfires can only be lit between October and March, which rules out any bonfires being lit on allotments in the summer months when most of our city residents will be enjoying their gardens and hanging out their washing.</p> <p>Finally I would like to inform Councillor Shearman that since the bonfire night bonfire, the secretary of the Rowan Avenue Allotment Association who arranged the community event has since resigned.</p> <p>Councillor Shearman asked a supplementary question:</p>

	<p>The main thrust of my question was that James Collingridge ordered that organisation not to have a bonfire on firework night. One it was something like 15 foot tall, and secondly that regulations do state that fires have to be lit in an allocated area. I'm going to ask you a question that's not meant to be critical of you, are you saying that you don't support the views of our Amey/PCC Liaison Officer who instructed these people to have no bonfire and it may be the answer to my question is the result of some intervention from James has been the resignation of this particular person you are talking about. Thank you very much.</p> <p>Councillor Elsey responded:</p> <p>The short answer is of course I support the officers and I've spoken at length with James about this and at no point has he told me that he instructed them not to do so. I will take it up with him and I will report back to Councillor Shearman.</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member confirm if all avenues were explored in relation to vacant buildings and properties, which were sat empty! Why was the iconic building in Laxton Square not considered for providing temporary accommodation for the homeless?</p> <p>Councillor Walsh may respond:</p> <p>The Council has worked with its partner NPS to identify a suitable empty property which could be used for accommodation purposes.</p> <p>The Council is in discussion with Cross Keys Homes regarding the use of the empty property at Elizabeth Court, which is already constructed as housing and therefore needs limited renovation for occupation.</p> <p>Officers continue to work with owners of empty properties across the city to enable or encourage them to bring them back into use. To further support this, and to provide additional opportunities for using empty properties to house people in housing need, a new Empty Homes Strategy will be presented to Scrutiny Committee in January - this includes more incentives for owners to work with the council.</p> <p>In relation to Laxton House, this property was leased from Jellings Properties Ltd for a term of 25 years expiring on 17th July 2013. The property was returned to the Landlord on 18th October 2013, and is therefore in private ownership and not at the disposal of the Council.</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Ferris</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development</p> <p>Recognising the increasing frequency with which routes in and out of the city are experiencing gridlock, does the Cabinet Member responsible agree that the city's transport plan needs to be revisited, to set out costed, deliverable plans to encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking in order to show</p>

genuine commitment to sustainability and our claim to be the UK's Environment Capital?

Councillor Hiller may respond:

I know through conversations I have had with him (Councillor Ferris) that he is a firm advocate of growth and economic success over recent years and by the nature of his question he appears to appreciate it certainly brings challenges. Telling a commuter in a traffic jam that we have one of the best road networks in the country with one of the fastest commuting times isn't always helpful Mr Mayor in assuaging their frustration. That said I would direct anyone to nearby cities during their rush hour to see what gridlock really looks like. On Thursday last week I walked from Cambridge station to the Council HQ and arrived sooner than one of my colleagues who took a taxi. That's gridlock Mr Mayor. And we have to make sure that does not happen in our city of Peterborough. The main challenge we face and that any would have to face is that our much envied parkway system was designed to manage a traffic volume probably a tenth of what it is today. We recognised that and years ago planned an upgrade of improvements and capacity increases with the challenges we face today and for our planned future growth. It is inevitable that motorists will experience some delays whilst the programme for capacity improvements is implemented. In my time as the Cabinet Member responsible I have been lucky enough to have worked through some of the largest network infrastructure programmes ever to happen within Peterborough. The multi-faceted Van Hague roundabout scheme, the Boongate slip road capacity expansion, the parkway flyover bridges upgrades, the massive Fletton Parkway scheme to facilitate our planned growth near the A1 and the current A47/A15 junction works. These are essential works Mr Mayor, essential to keep our city moving and a committed investment in an asset which directly supports both the local economy and also helps attract inward investment. I don't actually agree our plan needs revisiting Mr Mayor.

Our fourth Local Transport Plan was adopted after extensive consultation in April this year. Publicly through Scrutiny in this chamber and it clearly sets out the sustainable modes of transport cited and additionally how transport improvements will support the planned growth in housing and employment.

We also recognise in that plan that sustainable transport has a key role to play in Peterborough. Through our Travelchoice project, we have been successful in securing large amounts of Government funding to promote walking, cycling, public transport, car sharing and ultra-low emission vehicles.

Councillor Ferris asked a supplementary question:

We heard a huge amount there, a list of road asset improvements. I think that highlights one of my concerns actually. My supplementary question is other than the large number of rather cheap city centre car parks, and by that I mean cheap as in value for money or price, why does Peterborough differ from Bedford or Cambridge Chelmsford, Ipswich, Leicester, Milton Keynes, Norwich and Nottingham where park and ride schemes operate successfully reducing traffic flows in and out of the town and city centres and improve air quality.

Councillor Hiller responded:

To answer the question succinctly we have tried park and ride as you well know we have tried park and ride Councillor Ferris. People just don't use it. We tried it at Christmas time over many years, its popularity just declined so we

	decided not to do it I'm afraid.
9.	<p>Question from Councillor Ash</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that road safety seems to be far from uppermost in people's minds when they're out and about? Be it pedestrian, driver, or cyclist there is a lack of thought shown to others.</p> <p>Does the Member also agree that particularly at this time of year visibility is essential and that good street lighting is an important part of road safety?</p> <p>Can the Member therefore give assurances that our roads, footpaths and cycle ways are well designed and properly lit so as to be safe for users.</p> <p>Can the Member also tell us what action, if any, is being taken to remind people that they should consider their own safety and the impact of their actions (or lack of action).</p> <p>Councillor Hiller responded:</p> <p>I have separated my response into four parts Mr Mayor but I'll try and be as quick as I can. You ask Councillor Ash whether I agree if road safety seems far from uppermost in people's minds when they out and about. I don't imagine anyone here tonight is qualified enough to determine peoples thoughts about their own safety or indeed their attitudes towards others in this regard. I think we would all agree that there appears to be on occasion a lack of thought in these areas. Councillor Ash will be aware of our Safer Peterborough Partnership is very active in the promotion of road safety issues and their road safety action plan contains key areas of work to reduce casualties by focusing on many areas including Winter driving, and cycling and I'm sure my colleague Councillor Walsh will provide Members with more details about this if they want to talk to her after the meeting. You go on to ask if I think good street lighting us important and again I think we would all agree that it is.</p> <p>Your question continues with a requested for me to assure you that our footpaths and cycle ways are well designed and properly lit ensuring the safety of all users. As this is my area of responsibility I guess I would have responded as a professional and highly regarded local authority we would want to ensure that that is the case and I've no reason to think otherwise. All new highway infrastructure in Peterborough is designed in accordance with relevant local and national standards including public lighting. Additionally Mr Mayor despite there actually being no statutory requirement on local authorities to provide public lighting Councillor Ash will be aware that the Conservative administration has embarked upon a massive infrastructure upgrade which is currently happening across our city, some 17,000 lights are being replaced with high output, super-efficient LED units over the next three years Mr Mayor.</p> <p>To conclude you asked me about any action being taken to remind folk that they should consider their own and others safety and I think Councillor Walsh will probably be more up to date in this regard but as a former Member I do know that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership deliver various road safety campaigns throughout the year which are aimed at influencing the attitude and behaviour of road users. Thank you Mr Mayor.</p>

	<p>Councillor Ash asked a supplementary question:</p> <p>Could I just ask could we be assured that some of the LED lighting is powerful enough? I know in my Ward there are now some streets that are now very badly light and I do seek assurances that that's improved and I do think that perhaps we could use as other cities do, our street lights to have banners to remind people about road safety particularly along Bourges Boulevard. I do know that one section of Bourges Boulevard is now in total darkness and whether he agrees that's safe for a busy road particularly at this time of year.</p> <p>Councillor Hiller responded:</p> <p>This is a grey area and I know I speak for Councillor Walsh has introduced a very effective and new enforcement service which is delivering the annual Be Safe, Be Seen campaign which I think is probably close to Councillor Ash's heart. Various activities and I'm sure Councillor Walsh will correct me if I'm wrong, various activities taking place across the city in partnership with primary school, secondary schools and businesses and will continue the Winter months to remind all road users of this important message. With regard to your specific question points LED is actually a lot brighter and better than the existing old orange lights. If there are specific areas which he feels aren't properly light after they've been replaced then please let me know and I'll get our engineers to have a look at that. Decorating lampposts with signage you'll get as many people complain about that as think it's an advantage especially I have to say in the Leader's and my rural areas and Councillor Over's rural areas and street signage is, unless it's absolutely necessary is normally frowned upon. Thank you Mr Mayor.</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Shearman</p> <p>To Councillor Elsey, Cabinet Member for Waste and Street Scene</p> <p>Following the great success of Community Skips, provided regularly by Labour Party members and councillors in Park, Dogsthorpe, North and Central Wards, will the Cabinet Member responsible for street scene give an undertaking to reintroduce free bulky waste collections, and draw up a plan for free community skips to be provided across the city, in order to address the fly tipping and littering problems that are now so common?</p> <p>Councillor Elsey may have responded:</p> <p>Thank you for your question, in short no, unfortunately I cannot give this undertaking however we are looking at a number of initiatives to mitigate against fly tipping which include community skips and bulky charges.</p> <p>We need to be mindful that community skips will not be the answer for all areas and as an example Bretton Parish Council are offering a free community freighter initiative and we have actually seen fly tipping on the increase.</p> <p>At this time we cannot indicate what initiatives will be put forwards but we will come back with proposals for phase 2 of the budget.</p>
11.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital</p>

	<p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member advise when Luton Borough Council confirmed that they were interested and in the frame to purchase the 74 dwellings at St Michael's Gate, Parnwell, Peterborough, and from which officer this confirmation was received.</p> <p>Councillor Walsh may have responded:</p> <p>First, let me be clear that Luton Borough Council have never approached us in relation to making use of the homes at St Michael's Gate. Luton Council is known to have many hundreds of families in temporary accommodation and was used as an example of one of many councils who may look to house their own homeless households in St Michael's Gate. Additionally, Luton happens to be one of the areas where Stef & Philips have purchased other properties, which were offered to Luton Council but then taken up by a London borough.</p> <p>As has been made clear in much of the recent publicity, a significant number of councils across the UK are facing unprecedented levels of pressure on temporary accommodation, many far in excess of Peterborough's current challenge. We have correspondence from Stef & Philips Ltd which makes it very clear that St Michael's Gate would be very attractive to other councils, including London boroughs, should we have decided not to make use of the properties.</p>
12.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Holdich, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, University, and Communications</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member please tell me how much money we pay each year to Athene Communications, whether we have an actual contract with them and if we do what it is for, and how long it is for and how much have we paid them in total so far?</p> <p>Councillor Holdich may have responded:</p> <p>We, like every council in the country, use contractors when there is a need which cannot be met in house. This is usually for two reasons; when a level of expertise is needed which we do not have in house, or if there is a short term need for additional resource.</p> <p>In the past year a number of departments have required external support for communications and have used Athene Communications. These projects have included:</p> <p>Adults and Communities, selective licensing - included a large scale piece of work to inform landlords and tenants in the affected areas of the change to the law. Communicating the new scheme well has been crucial to its success.</p> <p>Governance, HR - change projects such as Going Google and the move towards agile working and Fletton Quays. It is crucial staff understand and embrace these new ways of working as this will save us money and allow us to provide more co-ordinated services for our residents - communications is key to this.</p> <p>Resources - support in the media team was required whilst a member of the team was on maternity leave. The decision was made to not appoint a 12 month replacement, but to use support from Athene on a 'when required' basis.</p>

	<p>Overall the council has reduced its budgeted spend on communications in the past few years and therefore there has been a need to use external companies when there are large scale pieces of work which cannot be handled in-house.</p> <p>In the current year to date we have spent £159,603 with Athene Communications. In the last financial year the spend was £187,727. We do not have one contract with Athene, individual departments use the company for individual projects as required.</p> <p>There is always likely to be a need to use external companies for communications projects which require significant support, however we are looking to reduce the spend in the new financial year.</p> <p>A new service manager for communications is now in post and she will be carrying out a restructure of the communications team to ensure there is sufficient resource to be able to meet the council's needs in house, therefore reducing the spend on external suppliers.</p>
13.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member, please inform me how much the wooden barrier located on the footpath at the Gunthorpe Road end of Elter Walk cost to install, which company undertook the work and why there is a gap between the nearby bush and where the barrier ends?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller may have responded:</p> <p>The cost to supply and install the timber knee rail fence was £891.00 and this cost was included in the capital project to install the new pedestrian crossing at this location.</p> <p>The work was undertaken by Skansa [Peterborough Highway Services], the Council's service provider for highway works.</p> <p>A gap was provided in the fencing to enable Amey grass cutting equipment to access the site for routine landscape maintenance.</p>
<p>The following questions were submitted in accordance with Standing Order 17, however were omitted from the Council Questions Report in error. The answers are attached below for information.</p>	
14.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development</p> <p>Recently I was asked by residents at Heartwell court why planning had been granted for bedsits on the old boiler house site, despite objections which they and I raised. Can you please provide an explanation and apologise to these folk who were very very worried that this may affect their quality of life. I did provide reasons for planning as to why this could be turned down showing that such dwellings are related to an increase in antisocial behaviour and that there</p>

	<p>are anticipated parking problems however I understand that the developer raised a complaint with the inspector who revoked the council's decision because the administration failed at the planning committee to cite the reasons for refusal. Further as I recall I asked for the matter to be looked at again but for some reason planning permission has been given without it going to committee.</p> <p>Councillor Hiller may have responded:</p> <p>The 2016 application followed the 2015, which was allowed on appeal having been refused by the Committee, with clear reasons for that refusal. I'm not aware why you are confused about this.</p> <p>The 2016 application wasn't called in to be determined by the Planning Committee by any Ward Councillor or any other party, so it wasn't determined by Committee. And, of the 89 affected residents' letters issued by our planning team asking for commentary, they had just one response. So, and with proper consideration given to the Inspector's reasons for upholding the applicant's appeal against the previous refusal, it was decided by delegated officer to be policy-compliant.</p> <p>Again, I'm unaware of why you are confused about this.</p> <p>You've requested an apology but haven't given me a reason to apologise.</p> <p>If I might clarify (for you) anything else about this very straightforward process please don't hesitate etc.</p>
15.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital</p> <p>Following my request at the last council meeting for information concerning the total amount of rent allowance each year paid to tenants who happen to be in properties owned by councillors or their relatives and my clarification about the question at that meeting and the assurance that this would be provided as I have not seen any response can this figure now be made available.</p> <p>Councillor Walsh may have responded:</p> <p>An answer to this question was provided at the previous meeting of Council.</p>

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 9(a)
25 JANUARY 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

(a) COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2017/2018

Cabinet, at its meeting of 16 January 2017, received a report which set out proposals on the Council Tax Support Scheme in Peterborough for the financial year 2017/18. There was a statutory requirement for the council to set a localised council tax support scheme by 31 January 2017 and formed part of the formal budget process under the Budget and Policy framework.

It is recommended that Council agrees a Local Council Tax Support scheme for Peterborough that contains the following local components:

- a) No change to the existing scheme reduction of 30% for all eligible working age claimants; and
- b) Aligns the Council Tax Support Scheme to Housing Benefit rules making it less complicated for claimants.

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ITEM 9(a) – FOR INFORMATION

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
16 JANUARY 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	John Harrison, Corporate Director: Resources Steven Pilsworth, Service Director Financial Services	Tel. 452520 384564

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2017/18

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Corporate Director: Resources	Deadline date : 31 January 2017
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considers the consultation on the council tax support scheme; 2. Notes the continuation of the discretionary council tax hardship policy; and 3. Recommends to the meeting of Council on 25 January 2017 a Local Council Tax Support scheme for Peterborough that contains the following local components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) No change to the existing scheme reduction of 30% for all eligible working age claimants b) Aligns the Council Tax Support Scheme to Housing Benefit rules making it less complicated for claimants. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following consultation to date on proposals for the Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/18 including discussion at the cross party Budget Working Group.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to make a recommendation to Council on the Council Tax Support Scheme in Peterborough for the financial year 2017/18. There is a statutory requirement for the council to set a localised council tax support scheme by 31 January 2017 and forms part of the formal budget process under the Budget and Policy framework.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference Number 3.2.1 which states 'to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the council's overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	Yes	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	16 January 2017
Date for relevant Council meeting	25 January 2017	Date for submission to Government Dept – Communities and Local Government	31 January 2017

4. BACKGROUND

Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS)

- 4.1 Peterborough City Council's Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) is based on the Council Tax Reduction Default Scheme Regulations amended each year through changes to the government regulations. The council is obliged to consult on the local scheme for the forthcoming financial year (2017/2018).
- 4.2 Since April 2013 council tax benefit was abolished by Government and replaced with a localised Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS). This meant councils had to develop a local scheme, and had less funding to do so. This change meant that:
- Some people who did not have to pay any council tax will now have to pay something
 - Some people who have some help may have to pay more
- 4.3 From 1 April 2013, the council introduced a scheme whereby council tax benefit would be reduced by 30% for working age claimants at an estimated overall cost of £2.4m. The 30% reduction has remained the same since its introduction.
- 4.4 Following further grant reductions in 2015/16, the council consulted on whether to change the scheme to 35% or 40%. Ultimately the scheme remained at 30%. Further grant reductions experienced in 2016/17 and the planned reductions for 2017/18 will affect the grant provided for council tax support (which is now subsumed within the councils main grant – which is due to phased out by 2019/20).
- 4.5 A one per cent increase or decrease in the scheme is approximately £75k per annum. Currently council tax support payers now pay an average of £228.00 more and a one percent increase or decrease would amend this amount by £7.60. Since the introduction of the scheme there has been a sharp increase in the number of households being issued with court summons which adds an additional cost of £75.00 and if referred onto enforcement action a further £235.00 of costs and the possibility of a further £110.00 if goods are removed. These costs are paid off first before recovery of council tax.
- 4.6 The provisional settlement funding assessment reduction in 2017/18 is a further £6.4m or 9.8%. Scaling proportionately the original roll in of the council tax support scheme into the settlement funding assessment, it is estimated that the council tax support component has decreased by £3.3m since 2013/14 (36%). The scheme has remained at 30% during this time with savings having to be made elsewhere. If the scheme were to reduce from 30% to 25% the council would require to find an additional £375k of savings from the budget.
- 4.7 Claimants have been reducing year on year. The caseload in June 2013 was 11,435, in April 2014 10,760, April 2015 10,497, April 2016 10,198, and currently there are 9,556 cases. This is positive for the council as either these claimants now pay more council tax or have left the area.
- 4.8 The council introduced a discretionary council tax hardship policy under current legislation that operates alongside the operation of council tax. Claimants need to meet policy eligibility criteria to qualify for a reduction in council tax.
- 4.9 The council acts responsibly in collecting council tax and recognises that in some instances people may struggle to pay their council tax. In March 2014, the council signed up to the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) Collection of Council Tax Arrears Good Practice Protocol. The protocol confirms the commitment by the council to do all it can to support people struggling with debt to help them avoid becoming in arrears.

5. PROPOSED CHANGES CONSULTED UPON

Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

- 5.1 Peterborough City Council's Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) is based on the Council Tax Reduction Default Scheme Regulations amended each year through changes to the government regulations. Government announced last year that it was proposing changes to Housing Benefit rules and tax credits with some further amendments not being effective until April 2017. Last year the council introduced amendments to the council tax support scheme to align the scheme with changes that were introduced this financial year. By continuing to align the council tax support scheme to Housing Benefit Rules will make it less complicated for claimants and enable an easier transition to implementing Universal Credit.
- 5.2 This report sets out the changes to the local components to Peterborough's CTSS to:
- a) Maintain an overall reduction in entitlement of 30% for all eligible working age claimants;
 - b) Continue to align the scheme to Housing Benefit rule changes. Based on proposed government known changes the council is anticipating:
 - a) Child allowances will no longer be applied for the third and subsequent children born after 6 April 2017 in claims, for child tax credit, housing benefit and universal credit, although there will be provision for 'exceptional' circumstances' such as multiple births. This amendment is to help government with welfare budget savings.
 - b) Housing Benefit element of Universal Credit removed for under 21 from April 2017. It is expected that there may be exceptions to this change, for example:
 - Vulnerable young people
 - Those who may not be able to return home to their parents
 - Parents
 - Those in work for six months prior to making a claim
- 5.3 It should be noted that at this point in time, it is still unclear as to when some of the expected changes to Housing Benefit will be introduced. The changes mentioned above were anticipated to be introduced from April, but as yet no draft regulations have been released. Draft regulations are expected sometime during January 2017.

6. CONSULTATION APPROACH AND FEEDBACK

- 6.1 The proposed changes outlined in this report will amend Peterborough's council tax support scheme for 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018, following consideration of any feedback received during the consultation exercise. Cabinet launched the consultation after 7 November 2016 and it will remain open until 13 January 2017. This report considers feedback received to date.
- 6.2 An online consultation document is available to respond to the consultation and hard copies are available on request in the Town Hall and Bayard Receptions and Central Library. Members' scrutiny was undertaken as part of the scrutiny meeting set aside for phase one budget discussions, including stakeholder consultation meetings.
- 6.3 To date, no responses have been received. In addition, there were no comments to note at the Scrutiny committee in November or the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS) Board meeting in December. PCAS is a valuable consultation body as it consists of Peterborough Citizen's Advice Bureau, Kingsgate Community Church, Credit Union, MIND, Disability Peterborough and Age UK Peterborough, all of whom have regular, direct contact with vulnerable individuals. Therefore, Cabinet is recommending to approve the changes outlined in section 5 of this report.

- 6.4 The consultation remains open. An update will be provided to Cabinet at their meeting, and the final picture will be reported to Council.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 7.1 The November Cabinet report launched the consultation for the council tax support scheme from 1 April 2017 and the discretionary council tax hardship policy as part of the formal budget process outlined in the council's Major Policy and Budget Framework. The consultation responses will inform the design of the operational scheme and any financial implications arising from the final design will be factored into the medium term financial strategy.
- 7.2 As no responses have been received to date, Cabinet recommends to Council the updated Council Tax Support Scheme.
- 7.3 In addition, the current council tax discretionary hardship policy will continue.
- 7.3 The council tax support scheme can be found on the council tax support pages of the council's website.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The council is statutorily required to approve a council tax support scheme by the 31 January 2017 having had regard for the council's financial position and feedback from responses to the consultation. As part of this consultation, the council is consulting on a council tax discretionary hardship policy.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The council is statutorily required to approve a local scheme by 31 January. Cabinet have discussed the current 30% council tax support scheme with the cross party Budget Working Group as part of ongoing budget discussions. Options discussed were:
- One option would be to increase the 30% scheme, however this would have a negative impact on low income households with claimants having to pay more council tax.
 - Another option would be to reduce the 30% scheme, however, this would require the council to find savings of up to £2.4m from elsewhere in the budget.

10. IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 In maintaining a scheme with a 30% reduction, the Council will need to cover the reduction in grant referred to in paragraph 4.4 through savings elsewhere in the Council's budget. This will be dealt with in the overall budget proposals.
- 10.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is appended to this report to assess the implications which may arise from the proposed technical changes. However, the assessment does remove reference to tax credits that previously would have given the council a budget pressure following a decision by Government not to amend tax credits as announced in the Autumn Statement 2015.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (England) Regulations 2012
The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013
The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014
The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015

The Housing Benefit (Abolition of the Family Premium and date of claim amendment) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015 No. 1857)
The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016 No. 1262)

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Appendix 1 - Equality Impact Assessment

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Equality Impact Assessment:

Full assessment

Name/title of the policy area/strand or programme with which this assessment is concerned

Further potential changes to Council Tax Support (formerly Council Tax Benefit) in Peterborough in 2017/18

Description/summary of the policy area/strand or programme

See Appendix C for further guidance

Previously CTB was a means tested benefit which compared the claimant's income and capital against needs assessment of how much they need to live on with 100% of any benefit awarded reimbursed to Peterborough City Council by the Government (individual households paying less or no council tax).

In the 2010 spending review the Government announced its plans to abolish Council Tax Benefit (CTB) and localise support for council tax from 2013-14, reducing expenditure by 10%. This meant Peterborough City Council had around £2.4m less to help low income households with their council tax. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contained provision for the abolition of CTB and the Local Government Finance Act 2012 enabled billing authorities to construct Local Council Tax Support (CTS) schemes by 31 January 2013 for implementation by 1 April 2013.

The Department for Communities and Local Government produced an impact assessment on the original policy of localising support for council tax which can be found through the following link:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/lgfblocalisingcounciltax>

During the second half of 2012, PCC consulted and developed a scheme that would see a reduction in council tax support of 30% for working age claimants (originally consulted at 35%, but improved funding enabled this to be reduced).

As part of this project, an initial and Full EIA (EIA-12-0048) were developed and can be found at the link below:

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/equalities/equality_impact_assessment.aspx?&EIA=59

The original consultation proposals included an option to protect recipients of disability premiums, in the same manner as pensioners, so that these households had no reduction in benefit. Such protection would have meant higher reductions for working age claimants to keep the scheme self-funding in line with the MTFs strategy. Rather than the 30% reduction proposed, the reduction in benefit for working age claimants would have been 7.5% higher at 37.5%. If the protection were not covered by working age claimants, it would have cost the Council around £0.5m to protect all.

Given the additional impact on working age claimants, or the costs to the Council if funded directly, it was not recommended that the protection is included. It should be noted that when the means testing is undertaken to assess whether the claimant is eligible for benefit the applicable amount is increased by the amount of any disability premium that the disability benefit attracts. As such the system does already have an element of protection built in for such claimants.

Further details can be found in the Cabinet report from January 2013:

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=116&MId=2856&Ver=4>

The original EIA and decision remain relevant to the proposed draft scheme for consultation. The proposed amendments to the scheme are as follows:

1. Make no changes to the existing 30% reduction for eligible working age claimants
2. Aligns to governments proposed changes to Housing Benefit rules which would equally apply to Universal Credit

The 30% scheme has been in place since its introduction in April 2013 and every year since. During this time there has been no representations that impact the original equality impact assessment.

The evidence base (list the principal sources of relevant evidence, both quantitative and qualitative. [See Appendix C for further guidance](#)

Quantitative evidence:

Currently 9,556 working age households receive council tax support.

Information relating to equalities groups are not held on the council tax system as a matter of course. There is some proxy information in the case of disabilities.

The number of households receiving disability premiums as part of their council tax benefit is outlined below. As outlined above, it should be stressed this can only be a proxy for whether there is a disabled resident for the following reasons:

- It should be noted that households can claim more than one of these benefits, so the numbers do not necessarily relate to individual households (one household could be in receipt of disability premium and Enhanced Disability premium).
- Some households may not claim a premium – this can potentially happen if the case has been ‘passported’ through by DWP

The current position is as follows:

- 366 claim the Disability premium
- 77 claim the Disabled Child premium
- 968 claim the Enhanced Disability premium
- 1,078 claim the Severe Disability premium

What the evidence shows – keys facts [See Appendix C for further guidance](#)

Particular Age Groups:

- Up to 9,556 working age claimants will be disadvantaged by the new CTS scheme
- Under Council Tax Law the following groups are not included or treated differently in the council tax calculation:
 - Children under 18 years old
 - Apprentices
 - 18 and 19 year olds in full-time education
 - Full-time college and university students
 - People under 25 years old receiving funding from the Skills Funding Agency or Young Peoples Learning Agency
- People who have reached pension credit age are protected and not affected by the new scheme

Disabled people:

- The initial consultation included options for additional protection of households in receipt of disability premia – ultimately this was not recommended
- Current levels claiming premia are outlined in the evidence section above
- Under Council Tax Law the following groups are not included or are treated differently in the council tax calculation:
 - People who have a severe mental impairment
 - Live-in carers who look after someone (not a partner, spouse or child)
- The consultation process will include the disability forum

Married couples or those entered into a civil partnership:

- Not affected; Marriage, civil partnerships and polygamous marriages will continue to be recognised by the new CTS scheme as they currently are under CTB

Pregnant women or women on maternity leave:

- Not affected; will continue to be recognised by the new CTS scheme as they currently are under CTB

Particular Ethnic Groups:

- May be affected by these changes if the communications are not clear and available in a format that is easily understood and presented

Those of a particular religion or who hold a particular belief:

- Not affected; will continue to be recognised by the new CTS scheme as they currently are under CTB – for example, members of religious communities are not included or treated differently in the council tax calculation

Male/Female:

- Not affected; will continue to be recognised by the new CTS scheme as they currently are under CTB

Gender reassignment:

- Not affected; will continue to be recognised by the new CTS scheme as they currently are under CTB

Sexual orientation:

- Not affected; will continue to be recognised by the new CTS scheme as they currently are under CTB

Challenges and opportunities

(indicate the policy's potential to reduce and remove existing inequalities)

- Public and direct consultation will take place until 13 January 2017
- The negative impact is to align government's proposed amendments to the Housing Benefit rules, however this will make it easier for claimants to understand if the scheme contains the same criteria as Housing Benefit criteria. The scheme would also align to Universal Credit which is due to be rolled out within the Peterborough area over the next few years
- A neutral or positive impact those affected is the introduction of a council tax discretionary hardship policy for claimants that are experiencing significant financial hardship and sought financial advice on their debt

Summary of Equality Impact Assessment

[See Appendix C for further guidance](#)

Adverse impact for those in receipt of council tax support but consulting on the draft scheme as a whole can be justified. Cabinet will need to consider all feedback in making their recommendation, including revisiting the EIA as necessary.

Next steps [See Appendix C for further guidance](#)

This Equality Impact Assessment as a whole is a living document that will be revised and updated as appropriate in the light of further evidence, discussions and representations.

This will include the consultation, which will be open to the public to respond to via an online consultation document, and hard copies will also be available on request in the Town Hall and Bayard Receptions and Central Library. Members’ scrutiny will be undertaken as part of the scrutiny meeting set aside for phase one budget discussions, including stakeholder consultation meetings.

The next steps are:

- Analyse consultation responses with the affected groups. The consultation closes 13 January 2017
- enable a recommendation to be made to the Council meeting of 25 January 2017
- Use this data to formulate an updated CTS scheme for Peterborough City Council to approve by 31 January 2017

Policy review date	Autumn 2017
Assessment completed by	Steven Pilsworth
Date Full EqIA completed	Original scheme - 10 September 2012 Revised EIA published – November 2015 Revised EIA published – January 2016 Final EIA published – January 2017
Signed by Head of Service	

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
25 JANUARY 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING

1. DECISIONS FROM THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2017

i. Council Taxbase, Business Rates, and Collection Fund Declaration 2017/18

Cabinet received a report, the purpose of which was to form part of the preparation for setting the Council's budget. It was required to be considered so that figures for the tax base, the Collection Fund, and the amount of business rates to be collected could be used in setting the Council Tax and Business Rate income and could be notified to other affected authorities.

Cabinet considered the report and:

1. Proposed the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2017/18 set at a level of 54,879.00 Band D equivalent properties based on a council tax support scheme of 30%, delegating authority of final confirmation of the Band D equivalent properties to Corporate Director Resources following approval of the council tax support scheme by Council on 25 January;
2. Noted the estimated position on the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax as at 31 March 2017 being:

Council Tax	£0.210m surplus
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3. Noted the estimated position on the Collection Fund in respect of Business Rates as at 31 March 2017 being:

Business Rates	£2.228m deficit
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4. Delegated to the Corporate Director Resources authority for approving and returning the final NNDR1 return to the Secretary of State by 31 January 2017 to include any further revision to the business rates position 2016/17 and Business Rate income 2017/18.

ii. Schools Budget

Cabinet received a report, the purpose of which was to provide Cabinet with the schools budget proposals for the financial year 2017/18. This detailed the basis for the allocation of budgets to schools and identified pressures resulting from government policy.

Cabinet considered the report and:

1. Approved the 2017/18 draft budget proposals for schools;
2. Delegated authority for any minor adjustment to proposals to the Corporate Director Resources following the Government's publication of the final 2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Education Services Grant (ESG) arrangements; and
3. Noted the resultant pressures arising, and that the impact will be included in the phase 2 budget proposals.

iii. **Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/2018**

Cabinet received a report, the purpose of which was to make a recommendation to Council on the Council Tax Support Scheme in Peterborough for the financial year 2017/18. There was a statutory requirement for the Council to set a localised council tax support scheme by 31 January 2017 and this formed part of the formal budget process under the Budget and Policy framework.

Cabinet considered the report and:

1. Considered the consultation on the Council Tax Support Scheme;
2. Noted the continuation of the discretionary council tax hardship policy; and
3. Recommended to the meeting of Council on 25 January 2017 a Local Council Tax Support scheme for Peterborough that contains the following local components:
 - a) No change to the existing scheme reduction of 30% for all eligible working age claimants
 - b) Aligns the Council Tax Support Scheme to Housing Benefit rules making it less complicated for claimants.

iv. **School Organisation Plan 2015-2020**

Cabinet received a report, the purpose of which was to update the Cabinet further to the School Organisation Plan (2015-2020), which was published in December 2015. This update to the School Organisation Plan (2015-2020) described the 2016 position with regard to school place planning and demography, and proposals for expansion of primary and secondary schools.

Cabinet considered the report and:

- 1) Noted the 2016 update to the School Organisation plan (2025-2020); and
- 2) Agreed its contents for publication.

2. **CALL-IN BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OR COMMISSION**

Since the publication of the previous report to Council, the call-in mechanism has not been invoked.

3. **SPECIAL URGENCY AND WAIVER OF CALL-IN PROVISIONS**

Since the publication of the previous report to Council, the special urgency provision has not been invoked.

Since the publication of the previous report to Council, the waiver of call-in provision had been invoked once.

- i. This was in respect of the decision taken by Cabinet on 16 January 2017 relating to 'Schools Budget', as school budget returns had to be submitted to Department for Education by 20 January 2017, and the late release of guidance from Department of Education had not allowed the issue to be brought forward to an earlier Cabinet meeting.

4. CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

CABINET MEMBER AND DATE OF DECISION	REFERENCE	DECISION TAKEN
<p>Cabinet Member for Growth, Housing, Planning, and Economic Development</p> <p>Councillor Peter Hiller</p> <p>6 December 2016</p>	<p>DEC16/CMDN/77</p>	<p>Real Time Passenger Information</p> <p>The Cabinet Member:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorised the renewal, extension and variation of the Provision and Installation (Maintenance and Expansion of a Bus Real Time Passenger Information System) Contract and the Maintenance Agreement with VIX Technology UK Limited until 28 February 2018, for up to £245,068.02. 2. Authorised the renewal and extension of the Local Authorities Partnering Agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council, Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Luton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council until 28 February 2018, for up to £55,000. 3. Authorised the entering into of contracts with Stagecoach Group PLC and such other bus operators who wish to join the scheme, in relation to the provision, installation and maintenance of Real Time Passenger Information equipment on vehicles and/or the provision of information to allow the system to function, until 28 February 2018.
<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p> <p>Councillor David Seaton</p> <p>7 December 2016</p>	<p>DEC16/CMDN/78</p>	<p>Peterborough City Council Construction Framework</p> <p>The Cabinet Member:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the award of a Framework Agreement for the provision of construction contractors to operate from the 1 January 2017 for a period of four years. <p>The Framework Agreement will include the following contractors:</p> <p>Lot 1 (Value up to £1m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Burmor Construction Limited · D Brown Building Contractors Limited · Garfield Builders Limited · Lindum Group Peterborough Limited · RG Carter Cambridge Limited <p>Lot 2 (£1m to £2m)</p>

CABINET MEMBER AND DATE OF DECISION	REFERENCE	DECISION TAKEN
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Coulson Building Group · Jeakins Weir Limited · Lindum Group Peterborough Limited · Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Limited · RG Carter Cambridge Limited <p>Lot 3 (£2m to £5m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Coulson Building Group · Jeakins Weir Limited · Kier Construction Limited · Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Limited · RG Carter Cambridge Limited <p>2. Authorised the Director of Governance or delegated officers to enter into any legal documentation on behalf of the Council in relation to this matter.</p>
<p>Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital</p> <p>Councillor Irene Walsh</p> <p>8 December 2016</p>	<p>DEC16/CMDN/79</p>	<p>Request for Public Consultation for Public Space Protection Orders</p> <p>The Cabinet Member authorised commencement of necessary public consultation for the Public Space Protection Orders under Section 72 (3) of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014.</p>
<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p> <p>Councillor David Seaton</p> <p>15 December 2016</p>	<p>DEC16/CMDN/80</p>	<p>Provision of Non Social Care Temporary Agency Workers</p> <p>The Cabinet Member:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorised the award of a Contract to Reed Specialist Recruitment for the provision of Non-Social Care Temporary Agency Workers for a period of 3 years with the option to extend for a further 1 year period, to run from 1 January 2017. The total value of the contract is estimated at £1million per year, £4 million over the period of the contract; and 2. Temporary Agency Workers will be provided through a Publicly Procured Framework, from Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) which is titled Managed Services for Temporary Agency Resources (MSTAR2).

<p>Cabinet Member for Integrated Adult Social Care and Health</p> <p>Councillor Wayne Fitzgerald</p> <p>16 January 2017</p>	<p>JAN17/CMDN/01</p>	<p>Learning Disability Independent Sector Day Opportunity Services</p> <p>The Cabinet Member:</p> <p>Approved the award of a place on a framework contract, for the provision of Day Opportunities for adult social care service users with learning disabilities, to the following providers:</p> <p>The Helping Hands Group Papworth Trust Sense Thera East Anglia Turning Point Voyage Care</p> <p>The framework contract would run from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020 and had an estimated total value of £3,000,000.</p>
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COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 11
25 JANUARY 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The following notices of motion have been received in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 13.1:

1. Motion from Councillor Sandford

This Council believes that the need to tackle climate change through reducing carbon emissions and the worsening situation with regard to air quality necessitate a large scale shift in the UK to use of energy from renewable sources, such as wind, solar, wave and tidal power Council notes that:

1. Other countries such as China, USA and India are investing massively in renewable energy: for example China proposes to invest an additional £200 billion in renewables by 2020;
2. Peterborough has a good record on promoting solar energy but we have seen little investment in wind energy;
3. The Peterborough Core strategy policy CS11 gave strong support to expansion of renewable energy but this is weakened in Policy LP31 of the draft new Peterborough Local Plan and in particular the new policy allocates no sites as suitable for construction of wind turbines; and
4. Despite Peterborough promoting itself as "Environment Capital", the Council's Peterborough Energy Scheme supplies electricity which is only 33% from renewable sources, with the remainder coming from fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet to:

1. Take all necessary steps to ensure that our new Local Plan does contain a strong commitment to expansion of renewable energy in Peterborough and that residents, employers and developers are given positive incentives to install renewable energy capacity in homes and commercial/industrial developments; and
2. Negotiate with Ovo Energy a new tariff under the Peterborough Energy Scheme so that residents signing up to the scheme are given an option to go for 100% renewable energy.

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COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM 12(a)
25 JANUARY 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Appoint two members (one from the Labour Group and one from Conservative Group) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority; and 2) Appoint Councillor Jamil as the Labour Group member and Councillor Over as the Conservative Group member.

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report requests the Council to appoint two representatives to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

2. BACKGROUND (& CONSULTATION)

2.1 The Council at its Special Meeting on 17 November agreed to being a constituent member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This includes a requirement under the draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Order 2016 (Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Ref: 17 November 2016 Appendix 1B) to establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The scrutiny arrangements were summarised in that Council report (Ref: Appendix 1C).

2.2 The composition of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must reflect the political balance across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. To ensure an equitable representation across each constituent authority, two members from each Council will be appointed to the Committee representing a total membership of fourteen members.

2.3 The implications of applying political proportionality to a fourteen member Overview and Scrutiny Committee are detailed in **Appendix 1**. Peterborough City Council is required to appoint two members, one from the Labour Group and one from the Conservative Group. Although the formal Combined Authority will not be established until the end of February or early March, the appointment of members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will enable them to begin discussions on the practical arrangements for the scrutiny of the Combined Authority.

2.4 It is proposed that Councillor Over is nominated as the Conservative Group member and Councillor Jamil as the Labour Group member.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Combined Authority will not have a Member Allowance Scheme. Any expenses for out of borough travel and subsistence can be claimed under the Council's Member Allowance Scheme.
- 3.2 The Draft Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2016 currently before Parliament states, "The combined authority must (a) appoint such a number of members of each of the constituent councils to an overview and scrutiny committee, so that the members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils when taken together". This means that the Scrutiny Committee must be politically balanced based upon the membership of political parties within the Councils across the county.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 4.1 None

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee proportionality calculations.

POLITICAL BALANCE ACROSS THE COUNTY JANUARY 2017

	Total	Vacancy	Conservative	Labour	Independent	Liberal Party	Liberal Democrat	Green	UKIP	Total	Entitlement
CAMBRIDGESHIRE		0	33	8	4	0	14	0	10	69	2 seats = 1 conservative, 1 ukip
PETERBOROUGH		0	31	14	3	3	7	0	2	60	2 seats = 1 conservative, 1 labour
HUNTINGDONSHIRE		0	34	2	7	0	6	0	3	52	2 seats = 1 conservative, 1 independent
EAST CAMBS		0	36	0	1	0	2	0	0	39	2 seats = 2 conservative
SOUTH CAMBS		0	36	1	6	0	14	0	0	57	2 seats = 1 conservative, 1 liberal democrat
CAMBRIDGE CITY		0	0	26	2	0	13	1	0	42	2 seats = 1 labour, 1 liberal democrat
FENLAND		0	34	0	3	0	2	0	0	39	2 seats = 2 conservatives
TOTAL		0	204	51	26	3	58	1	15	358	
POLITICAL BALANCE %			56.98	14.25	7.26	0.84	16.20	0.28	4.19	100.00	
Seat allocation January 2017			8	2	1	0	2	0	1	14	
Scrutiny Committee seat allocation	14		7.98	1.99	1.02	0.12	2.27	0.04	0.59	14.00	

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