

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR JOHN FOX

Present:

Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Barkham, Bisby, Bond, Brown, Bull, Casey, Cereste, Clark, Coles, Davidson, Ellis, Elsey, Ferris, Fitzgerald, Fower, JR Fox, JA Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Johnson, Khan, King, Lamb, Lane, Mahabadi, Martin, Murphy, Nadeem, G Nawaz, S Nawaz, Okonkowski, Over, Peach, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sandford, Seaton, Serluca, Shaheed, Simons, Smith, Stoke, Walsh, and Whitby

The Mayor permitted Councillor Davidson to address the Chamber. Councillor Davidson announced her resignation from the Liberal Democratic Group. She would now sit on the Council as an independent Councillor.

64. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dowson, Fuller, Lillis, Sylvester and Sharp.

65. Declarations of Interest

There were no declaration of interest received.

66. Minutes of the Meetings Held on 13 December 2017

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 13 December 2017 were approved as a true and accurate record.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 13 December 2017 were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the alteration of “Councillor Murphy exercised his right to speak and explained that the it was felt the Police and Crime Commissioner was not currently aligning with Peterborough City Council’s priorities,” to “Councillor Murphy exercised his right to speak and explained that it was felt the Police and Crime Commissioner was not currently aligning with Peterborough City Council’s priorities.”

COMMUNICATIONS

67. Mayor’s Announcements

The Mayor announced that a number of Mayor’s Charity events were taking place in the following months, including and event at the Greyhound Stadium on 9 February 2018, the Blitz Bash on the 24 February 2018, the Mayor’s Civic Service on 25 February 2018, and the Last Night at the Proms on 4 March 2018.

68. Leader’s Announcements

There were no announcements from the Leader.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

69. Questions with Notice by Members of the Public

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

1. The reopening of Hampton Police Station.

This question and its response are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes.

70. Petitions

(a) Presented by Members of the Public

There were no petitions presented by members of the public.

(b) Presented by Members

Councillor Davidson presented a petition to Council requesting the introduction of road safety measures on Fulbridge Road, signed by local residents.

(c) Petition for Debate '20mph Default Speed Limit on The Green, Church Street, Amberley Slope, Twelvetree Avenue and Parts of Lincoln Road Werrington Ward'

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, '20mph Default Speed Limit on The Green, Church Street, Amberley Slope, Twelvetree Avenue and Parts of Lincoln Road Werrington Ward' called on the Council to "... Introduce a default 20 mph speed limit on The Green, Church Street, Amberley Slope, Twelvetree Avenue and parts of Lincoln Road and Fulbridge Road approaching the Lincoln Road / Church Street and Fulbridge Road / The Green junctions."

Roger Proudfoot, the lead petitioner, addressed the Council. In summary the key points highlighted included:

- Residents of the area had raised concerns about speeding issues near homes and community buildings.
- The local area had been subject to near misses, pet fatalities and non-reported issues.
- The local demographic was weighted towards the elderly, who were suffering from noise pollution and lack of sleep.
- The Department for Transport set the local limits to be kept under review in light of changes in circumstances. It was felt that circumstances had changed as the increased facilities in Werrington meant that there was a high level of short foot journeys and vehicle visit.
- With the newly opened Lidl, it was anticipated that the situation would only worsen.
- It was felt that community support had been clearly demonstrated. The neighbourhood council supported the petition.
- Concerns had been raised around the enforceability of the proposals, however, it was suggested that law abiding residents would have a pacing affect.
- It was anticipated that a speedwatch programme would be set up to assist with enforcement.

Councillor Hiller introduced the report and advised that as the petition requested action that was an executive function, Council could not agree anything this evening. Councillor Hiller did, however, feel that referral to Cabinet would be appropriate and that the formation of a working group to investigate the request was the best approach. It was noted that issues around 20mph areas had been considered before and there were several arguments both for and against their introduction. The formation of a working group would allow evidence from experts to be properly evaluated.

Members debated the petition and in summary raised points including:

- Evidence was available that showed that 20mph speed limits evened traffic flow with increased stopping distances and a decreased likelihood of fatalities.
- It was considered an important issue and suggestion was made that residents be included within the proposed working group.
- Members congratulated residents on the work they put into submitting the petition.
- Comment was made that a number of other areas in the city would also benefit from a 20 mph speed limit and it was suggested that consideration be given to a wider area than that outlined in the petition.
- Members expressed interest in seeing what progress had been made in the introduction of 20mph limits since the conclusion of the previous working group.
- Comment was made that around 20 council's had policies around 20mph speed limits.
- It was considered that, although many road users did not obey 20mph speed restrictions, they typically only travelled a few miles per hour over this speed.
- It was further suggested that such schemes were more practical over larger areas and that the whole of Peterborough should be considered in a phased approach.
- The previous working group on the topic was discussed and it was noted that advice had been provided at the time that such a scheme was too expensive across the city.
- The importance of considering the matter in light of the current budgetary position was raised.
- It was noted that often increasing speed limits was not sufficient to impact on drivers. The Council's attention was drawn to examples in Bath where a 20 mph had been introduced and speeds had actually increased.
- Comment was made that any decision needed to be evidence based. Areas would vary in their suitability for 20 mph speed limits.

Mr Proudfoot summed up as the lead petitioner and suggested that there were still a lot of myths around the impact of 20mph zones. Mr Proudfoot advised that he was woken by speeding cars every morning and would like to see the matter seriously considered. He welcomed the formation of a working party and hoped that representation from local residents could be agreed. In response to a number of comments raised in debate, Mr Proudfoot advised that enforcement of 20mph limit could be done successfully and that training courses were available for those that breached 20mph speed limits.

Councillor Hiller moved a recommendation to refer the petition to Cabinet and establish a cross party working group to investigate the options available. Councillor Hiller confirmed that he wasn't involved in any previous 20mph working group, and wanted to undertake a thorough investigation of the pros and cons of the proposal.

Councillor Walsh seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken (52 in favour, 1 against, 0 abstaining) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council referred the petition to Cabinet with a recommendation to establish a cross party working group to explore the options for introducing a 20 mph speed limit on The Green, Church Street, Amberley Slope, Twelvetree Avenue and parts of Lincoln Road

and Fulbridge Road approaching the Lincoln Road / Church Street and Fulbridge Road / The Green junctions, to review and make recommendations on the precise area to be covered, and to report back to Cabinet with their recommendations.

71. 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**

Questions (b) and (c) to the Leader or Member of the Cabinet and to the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee were raised and taken as read in respect of the following:

1. Lighting on Bourges Boulevard and Marholm Road.
2. John Mansfield School Planning Permission.
3. Road Adoption and the Potter's Way Development.
4. Councillor Bisby's Allowance.
5. Athene Communications.
6. The Ministry of Defence Employee Recognition Award Scheme.
7. Services with Carillion.
8. Councillor Walsh's Allowance.

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

(d) To the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Representatives

There were no questions to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Representatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

72. 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 extraordinary Cabinet meeting held on 18 December 2017.
2. Decisions from the Cabinet meeting held on 15 January 2018.
3. Cabinet Member Decision taken during the period 7 December 2017 to 22 December 2017.

Questions were asked about the following:

Proposal for the Termination of the Contract with Enterprise Managed Services Limited and the Future Provision of Services

Councillor Sandford asked for an explanation as to why, 12 months ago terminating the Enterprise Managed Services Limit contract was going to save £100,000, yet Council was now being told it would cost an extra £500,000.

Councillor Eley advised that the previous projected savings were based on a partnership with Norse, which was now not to go ahead. £500,000 was the cost to procure the new contract and was not related to terminating the existing arrangements.

Councillor Ellis asked whether the idea of bringing the services back to the Council was considered.

Councillor Elsey confirmed that the option to bring the services back in house was thoroughly explored.

Councillor Fower asked what consultation had been undertaken with Amey staff.

Councillor Elsey advised that he, the Corporate Director for Growth and Regeneration, and the Enterprise Partnership Manager had met with the workforce on three separate occasions. Trade Unions had also been consulted on the proposals.

Councillor Murphy asked how much consideration was had on this decision, as it appeared to be quite last minute.

Councillor Elsey confirmed that whichever route the Council followed, the cost of procurement would remain the same. Every option was considered as the Council started from a blank slate. Going out to tender ensured that the best providers were reached for the best value for money.

Acquisition of Accommodation to Reduce Homelessness

Councillor Fower asked why Cross Keys Homes were operating as Medesham Homes.

Councillor Hiller advised that the decision to create Medesham Homes had already taken place, as had the decision to approve investment into the company. It was further advised that, as a director of the company, Councillor Hiller had not taken part in this or any related decision.

Cabinet Meeting Held on 15 January 2018, Items iv - viii

Councillor Ferris asked whether the Leader felt it was appropriate for the Scrutiny Committee considering these items to be completed within an hour and 20 minutes, giving the issues to discuss.

Councillor Holdich advised that the items were for public consultation at the current time and the more detailed debate would take place following the consultation responses from the public.

Direct Payment Support Services

Councillor Khan asked what the level of take up for the service currently was.

Councillor Fitzgerald advised that he had spoken on this point at detail at the Scrutiny meeting. He was disappointed with the take up of the scheme. The contract was now with PCBS and contained conditions around performance. Councillor Fitzgerald would like to see performance increase.

Waiver of Call-in 'Proposal for the Termination of the Contract with Enterprise Managed Services Limited and the Future Provision of Services'

Councillor Ellis asked why this decision was considered urgent.

Councillor Holdich advised that for legal reasons, notice of the contract termination had to be provided to Enterprise Managed Services at a specific time.

Councillor Sandford asked whether waiving call-in to adhere to Enterprise Managed Services financial year end requirements was in the public interest or the Council's interest.

Councillor Elsey confirmed that the call-in period was waived on legal advice and was in the interests of all parties involved.

Extension of the Homecare Framework Agreements

Councillor Fower asked what the value of expenditure was in relation to this decision and whether each provider had been assessed.

Councillor Fitzgerald advised that the figures would vary, but was substantial. Detail was included in the report. The decision was an extension of existing agreements and each provider would have undertaken an assessment at the point they were originally added to the framework.

Councillor Davidson queried how providers were scored, as she was aware of three on the list that undertook bad practice.

Councillor Fitzgerald advised that the framework had been in existence for a long time, but would be entirely reviewed in July. If Councillor Davidson had concerns about particular providers she was encouraged to raise these with the safeguarding team.

73. Questions on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Representatives Made Since the Last Meeting

The Mayor introduced the report which detailed Combined Authority decisions taken since the last meeting including:

1. Decisions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 November 2017.
2. Decisions from the Board meeting held on 29 November 2017.
3. Decisions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 December 2017.
4. Decisions from the Audit and Governance Committee held on 18 December 2017.
5. Decisions from the Board meeting held on 20 December 2017.

Questions were asked about the following:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 27 November 2017 – Review of the Combined Authority Agenda

Councillor Whitby asked for some further information on the independent review of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Councillor Holdich advised that the report had been to advise the Board of the problems. Members of the LEP resigned to allow the Combined Authority to approach central Government about combining the two together. The TUPE should be completed by the end of February.

Councillor Mahabadi raised concerns around the funding available for a Peterborough University in light of the rapid transport system proposed for Cambridge.

Councillor Holdich advised that there was no threat to Peterborough's University proposals, as the scheme was self-funding.

Councillor Murphy advised that the report had been provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members had been given a private briefing on the dissolution of the LEP.

Board Meeting 19 November 2017 – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategic Bus Review

Councillor Sandford questioned whether it was prudent to allocate £150,000 to a review of the bus service when Peterborough's total bus subsidy was £600,000 check figure.

Councillor Holdich advised that he believed it was good value for money. It was explained that the Combined Authority Mayor wished to expand the subsidies provided.

Audit and Governance Committee 18 December 2017 – Combined Authority Board Update

Councillor Sandford asked if it was felt that using a small amount of core staff at the Combined Authority, with the rest made up of highly paid consultants was the way forward?

Councillor Seaton advised that the structure itself would be determined by the Board. The other option would be to have a large permanent staff to deal with a range of issues, rather than bring in expertise as and when need. There was not considered to be a simple answer.

Board Meeting 20 December 2017 – Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Councillor Sandford asked whether as Councillor Holdich had submitted his apologies for this meeting and there was no recorded substitute, Peterborough City Council was unrepresented at this meeting.

Councillor Holdich advised that Councillor Fitzgerald attended as his substitute, and he would raise the matter when the minutes were submitted for approval.

Board Meeting 20 December 2017 – Transport: Developing our Decision Making and Delivery Arrangements

Councillor Fower asked for greater clarity around the Combined Authority's transport role and how the Combined Authority principles would impact on those that relied on the bus service.

Councillor Holdich advised that he was not an expert in the matter. In order for the Combined Authority to get the opinion of an expert they were required to spend money.

COUNCIL BUSINESS TIME

74. Motions on Notice

(1) Motion from Councillor Shaz Nawaz

In moving his motion Councillor Shaz Nawaz advised that he was proud that the local team FC Peterborough had membership from over 20 ethnic backgrounds. However, there had been incidents at the club of verbal and physical abused with prejudiced motivations. It was considered that this issue was not limited to one club. While cohesion work had been undertaken, this should not go to waste. A clear message must be sent to bullies to ensure that residents could continue to enjoy Peterborough's diversity.

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

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

- Members agreed that players experiencing prejudice within Peterborough's football clubs was unacceptable.
- It was commented that there was an existing issue with the low report of hate crime. The hate crime monitoring group was not aware of any such reports in Peterborough, but were aware of a number received in Huntingdonshire.
- Suggestion was made that the motion should be extended to include all teams and not just FC Peterborough.
- The organisations 'Kick it Out' and 'Show Racism the Red Card' were mentioned as bodies that could assist in achieving the aims of the motion.
- It was suggested that the motion could be broadened to include other communities and to address other forms of discrimination.
- Comment was made that football and other sports should be a way to bring people together, rather than somewhere where people suffer abuse.

Councillor Ferris exercised his right to speak and expressed his belief that individuals from the British-Asian community had a right to enjoy football free from discrimination. It was considered a problem not just in Peterborough, but nationwide. Concern was expressed that the 'Kick it Out' organisation had not successfully tackled the issue. This motion came to Council following the lack of commitment from the Football Association to take action. In response to points raised about inclusivity, it was confirmed that the motion referred to collaboration and that discrimination should not be tolerated in any shape or form.

Councillor Shaz Nawaz summed up as mover of the motion and confirmed that instances of reporting hate crimes to the police had taken place in Huntingdon and Northampton. FC Peterborough had been mentioned specifically as Councillor Shaz Nawaz was familiar with this club, however, other clubs would be welcome to get involved.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the motion was **CARRIED AS FOLLOWS:**

Peterborough is proud of its diverse and multicultural demographic composition. As a city we have always celebrated and promoted the core values of tolerance, inclusion and unity.

We have a local football club, FC Peterborough, which has players from over 20 different racial backgrounds. Unfortunately, in their experience, these same core values are not encountered on the football pitch. FC Peterborough's players have been subjected to numerous incidents of verbal and even physical abuse, motivated by racial, Islamophobic and or other prejudicial views.

This Council should offer whatever assistance it can to FC Peterborough as part of its work on antidiscrimination and promoting wider community cohesion in the city with a view to find a long term solution to the problem. The Council's Chief Executive should arrange a round table meeting with all relevant stakeholders, including Hunts and Northants FA in close partnership with local and regional agencies working to promote sports in the city, to discuss how we can all collaborate to send a clear message that racism will not be tolerated in any shape or form. The Council should also request regular updates from stakeholders including the FA on what progress has been made regarding these complaints from FC Peterborough and how they intend to address the issues highlighted in future.

(2) Motion from Councillor Saltmarsh

In moving her motion Councillor Saltmarsh advised that a similar motion had been agreed in 2015, however, no change was seen. It was considered important for the democratic system – particularly in light of the centenary of the Representation of the

People Act this year – to maintain the highest possible standards in elections. Local Councillor must be fairly elected.

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

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

- It was suggested that no other profession would employ someone who had been found guilty of malpractice in that field.
- Comment was made that once a sentence was spent, individuals were free to stand for election. It was up to the public to decide from that point on.
- The matter of offender rehabilitation was raised, and that individuals should be given a second chance after their sentences were spent.
- It was noted that it was not within the power of the Electoral Commission to change the law, that that power lay with government.
- Concern was raised that such a change in the law would be the thin edge of the wedge.
- It was reiterated that it was for the people to decide who represents them. One person's morals may not be the same as another person's.
- Comment was made that requesting such a change in the law would undermine the rehabilitation process.
- It was further noted that the law could not be changed retrospectively.
- It was highlighted that the issue was not in relation to employment, but standing as an elected Member. The offence of electoral fraud was considered to be an offence against the democratic process, and it would be a legitimate move to not allow those committing such an offence back into that process.

Councillor Ellis exercised his right to speak and advised that the issue was one of probity and faith in politicians. It was considered that a change in the law needed to be pursued in relation to those that had been convicted of a crime directly related to the Code of Conduct. The issue was not limited to Peterborough, but should be addressed on a countrywide basis.

Councillor Saltmarsh summed up as mover of the motion and thanked those that had expressed support. While it was the right of the public to elect their local Councillors, the question behind the motion was whether the voting process would be conducted fairly.

A vote was taken (21 in favour, 19 against, 10 abstaining) and the motion was **CARRIED AS FOLLOWS:**

This Council passed a motion in October 2015 recommending to the Electoral Commission that the law should be changed so that any person convicted of electoral fraud should receive a lifetime ban from standing as a candidate at a local government election. However the law has not changed and the disqualification period for those convicted of corrupt practices under the Representation of the People Act 1983 remains at five years. We feel it is important that voters in Peterborough should have confidence in the people they elect to represent them that they will uphold the law and agree to write to the Electoral Commission again asking it to review this issue with a view to introducing a lifetime ban for those convicted.

(3) Motion from Councillor Mahabadi

In moving his motion Councillor Mahabadi advised that the motion should refer to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Murphy seconded the motion and was pleased that Councillors were open to considering alternative options.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the motion was **CARRIED AS FOLLOWS:**

Council resolves that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee look into the benefits, social value and business case for new council house provision and report back its conclusions and any recommendations to Full Council.

The Mayor
7.00pm – 10.00pm
24 January 2018

FULL COUNCIL 24 JANUARY 2018

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
6.	<u>Questions from members of the public</u>
1.	<p>Question from Callie Hargreaves</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p> <p>Statistics sourced from the Police UK website show that in September of this year, 138 crimes were reported in the Hampton area. 27 of these were violent or sexual offences.</p> <p>This number has significantly risen since closing the local police station. In September 2015, the number of crimes reported in Hampton were 96 and only 5 of those violent or sexual offences.</p> <p>This means the crime rate of a single month in the area has risen by around 30% when compared to the same month two years ago, and Violent/sexual offences have risen by over 80% which is staggeringly worrying.</p> <p>What I would like to know on behalf of the residents of Hampton is that with the ever growing concerns locally regarding bullying, anti-social behaviour and lack of things to do for young adults, combined with an ever rising crime rate in the area, will the police station be reopened? If not, how can we tackle these issues in a way that will have a positive long term effect that ensures the safety of all who live in Hampton is a priority at all times?</p> <p>Councillor Walsh responded:</p> <p>I'd like to thank Ms Hargreaves for asking her question although it will be a bit of a reply of the Radio Cambridgeshire programme this morning, during which Councillor Cereste did respond also.</p> <p>The decision regarding the police estate that as you know Ms Hargreaves is an operational matter for Cambridgeshire Constabulary, but we have consulted with Area Commander and he has confirmed the following:</p> <p>That Hampton Police Station is not closed and remains in use. It is no longer a home base for 24/7 shift officers, but is used by officers as a drop-in point.</p> <p>There is no evidence to show that removing 24/7 officers from Hampton has contributed to a rise in crime. <u>In fact, shift officers were removed from Hampton in November 2014, well prior to any statistical changes were identified.</u></p> <p>In relation to crime rises, the statistics provided by Ms Hargreaves compare September 2015 to September 2017. It is important to note that in April 2016 there were significant changes to crime recording standards and a re-categorization of</p>

serious offences. Subsequently the Office of National Statistics reported that the changes had contributed, not only to a rise in overall crime, but to substantial rises in both sexual and violent crime. It is also important to note that violent and sexual crime forms a relatively small proportion of total crime, and therefore relatively small rises can lead to high percentage swings.

We do know that Hampton has recently been subject to a concentrated rise in ASB and violent crime in public spaces, and work is ongoing to address this.

The Police, Council, Fire Authority and other statutory partners remain fully committed to providing a neighbourhood response to crime and anti-social behaviour via the Prevention and Enforcement Service (PES). Specifically, an action plan is in place to address drug-related ASB around the Hampton Vale shops, provision of youth outreach work and the introduction of a multi-skilled 'PES' officer full time into Hampton. This new post is expected to take effect from April 2018.

With regard to bullying this is being dealt with by Hampton College.

With regard to youth activities, I would urge Ms Hargreaves to have a look at the various sports and leisure offers for young people in the Hampton area. There's a range of sports and activities delivered through Active Hampton, a very popular skate park, cricket in summer. There's Romsey Mill based at Christ the Saviour Church. Just some examples.

So in conclusion, there are serious issues to be dealt with, but there is an awful lot of action being taken to deal with them.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

8. Questions on notice to:

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

1. **Question from Councillor Sandford**

To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development.

There has been much debate recently about the future of Rhubarb Bridge. One issue which I have raised with officers repeatedly over several years is the constant problems with the lights illuminating the bridge. Some lights on Bourges Boulevard just to the south of the bridge have been out of action for months as have several of the tall lights on the junction itself. On visiting the bridge recently, I found that more than half of all the lights were out of action, including some lights on the bridge itself and the footways leading up to it.

I also visited the Marholm Road footbridge nearby and found that over one third of the lights illuminating this bridge were out of action, making some areas on the ramps leading up to the bridge very dark.

Given that both of these bridges are important routes for pedestrians and cyclists, including many school students, would the relevant Cabinet Member agree with me that it is important that the lighting is kept in good working order so as to ensure public safety? Would he agree to come with me (and other ward councillors) on a site visit to the area (during hours of darkness) to see for himself the extent of the problem and agree a plan of action for dealing with it?

Councillor Hiller responded:

Rhubarb Bridge Lighting

I do of course agree that all public highway lighting should be maintained to the highest possible standard, that funding and circumstances allow. Members will recall that traffic implementation of traffic improvements to this junction, which has attracted significant grant funding has been delayed and will now not start until January next year, a year later than originally planned. The scheme that should have started this month will include a full upgrade of street lighting and cabling. I thank Councillor Sandford also for his kind offer of a walk in the dark and even though I would no doubt enjoy the experience, regrettably I will decline as I have already requested a scout of the area to identify the exact number and locations of the lighting units that are already out.

Repairs have already been made to a number of lights on the north Lincoln road side of the junction, but it is unfortunate given this bridge design and infrastructure layout a number of the lights at junction 18 are inaccessible without significant traffic management works to allow our highways engineers safe access to make repairs. That's lane closures in lay speak, which means traffic signals and bollards.

For example, £39,000 of repairs were made at Junction 18 in January 2017,

highways has not received a report of the problem at Marholm Road footbridge, but this is now being investigated.

Councillor Sandford asked a supplementary question:

I do regret that he cannot be bothered to come out and have a look at the problem, because you do need to be there to actually see the public safety concerns that do arise from these street lights being out of action. Can I suggest to him that this is a problem not just at that location, but across the whole of Peterborough and every time I raise problems with street lighting, I am told that is cable fault, it's UK power networks or it is the Highways Agency's fault. Would he accept that having street lighting in proper working order is an essential issue regarding public safety and surely would he recognise that if there is one area of the Council's responsibility that if we need to put additional resource in to ensure public safety, that is what should happen?

Councillor Hiller responded

As I said in my first address, I agree that all public lighting should be maintained to the highest possible standard. I did actually say that and I mean that. Regarding the walk in the dark with Councillor Sandford, there is no point. I have sent Highways engineers are going out there, they will report in full. Me and you standing there pointing at lights that don't work really I just do not see the point in that to be frank. As I said earlier a scout of the area has been requested to identify the exact number of lighting units out and indeed their locations. It is highly likely that some level of traffic management will be required to make repairs and a quote will obviously need to be provided and agreed, road space booked and standard repairs instructed. It isn't just a matter of changing lightbulbs Councillor Sandford as I am sure you well know. I might also state that if it is found that the cabling is a problem and try and bear in mind just how old the cabling is that any major repairs may have to be deferred until the major scheme is implemented to avoid abortive costs and wasting council tax payers money, a considerable amount of money.

2. **Question from Councillor Saltmarsh**

To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development.

Currently there is a shortage of affordable and social housing in the city so can the cabinet member advise me why there is a delay in the development of the two sites associated with the former John Mansfield school in Dogsthorpe ward?

Planning permission has been granted so why is there still no sign of any building work commencing?

Councillor Hiller responded:

The residential site now has planning permission and the adjacent Doctor's surgery site has exchanged contracts with completion due shortly. Bringing sites of the size and type forward is a fairly involved process as I hope you might appreciate. The residential site is being sold to Cross Keys and Heads of Terms have been agreed. Legal officers have been instructed and I'm pleased to say that contracts should exchange very shortly. Completion of the sale after the exchange is due in this financial year and we have been advised that the owner will be starting construction as soon as completion has been reached.

3.	<p>Question from Councillor Mahabadi</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development.</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member please confirm when residents of the Potters Way Development off Fengate can expect roads to be finished and fully adopted by the council?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller responded:</p> <p>The legal agreements for the whole development are now complete. The developer's contractor is currently on site working through the outstanding work, which includes work within Potters Way itself. The developer has estimated that the remaining work will take around 6 months to complete, which is completely within their remit and schedule of works and control, not Peterborough City Councils (PCC). Once the work has been completed to the Council's satisfaction the area will enter a normal 12 month maintenance period, following which the roads will become highway maintainable at public expense. As such, adoption is expected to take place during the summer 2019. Members will appreciate that the Council cannot adopt roads until they meet PCC's normal standard of highways construction. If PCC did it would potentially leave Peterborough's council tax payers liable to pay for remedial works on roads that were not constructed properly or finished to prescribed standards PCC lay down and they are quite stringent standards.</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Bisby, Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Committee</p> <p>Is it true that, in addition to the payment of £28,000 he receives in his role as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Councillor Bisby receives £17,675 per annum in his role as a Councillor and as chair of corporate parenting? Can Council please be informed of what engagements he took part in specifically and exclusively in his role as chair of corporate parenting in the first week of January?</p> <p>Councillor Bisby responded:</p> <p>The allowances that all Councillors receive are available within the public domain for people to check.</p> <p>The first week of January 2018 I was working hard within my ward for the residents, including calls on New Year's Day, where people had issues that needed resolving.</p> <p>In relation to Corporate Parenting I had no official meetings. However, I raised the issue of the involvement of our local Children in Care and Care Leavers with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The benefits to self-esteem, confidence, learning new skills, team work etc are a good thing to have on a CV and so I was looking into this.</p> <p>I asked for a note as to who was involved in pushing the Children in Care involvement forward with this and how many of our Children in Care and Care Leavers were involved. I asked if the uptake is only a few, what is being done to promote the involvement of our Children and Care Leavers as well.</p> <p>In the first week of 2018, I collected money from my allowances to pay for the Chairman's Award that I have started and will be given to those children selected at the award ceremonies on the 12 and 15 of February in fact I have actually doubled</p>

what I said I would give.

Our Corporate Parenting Committee is now being used as an example to other Councils. Through this have also made connection with the Cambridgeshire Chair of Corporate parenting, who has been invited to a visit to see how our committee works and talk about our committees and with the Children in Care about possible future events together and I met her at an event and confirmed that.

John Reilly of the LGA has previously suggested a National Seminar for Corporate Parenting and how our Committee and Children in Care with our Care Leavers could take a central role. I therefore began to look at the benefits for our Children, Committee and indeed the Council if we were to take this role. I also began to look at the negative points as well and I have asked for a meeting with John Reilly and that request has gone forward.

My New role within the Office of the Police and Crime Commission only started officially in the First week of January 2018 and so I am in the induction phase at the present time.

Councillor Murphy asked a supplementary question:

Thank you for your answer. My question was quite specific it asked you what engagements you had in your role as corporate parenting in your first week of January and I asked about the £45,000 plus you were getting paid at the bequest of the Police Commissioner and the Leader of the Council in their patronage. Your reply was that you collected some money in that week, I wasn't sure what that was for and you wrote a note to somebody. So you had no engagements £7,000 per annum in that week. What engagements have you had this week in your role as the Chair of Corporate Parenting?

Councillor Bisby responded:

That was nothing to do with the original question and you will note that I have actually included that I met with the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee from Cambridge. We had already arranged that they would come to our meetings and I was there confirming that and also how we can work on other possible ventures, so that is what I was doing when we had no official business, thank you.

5. **Question from Councillor Fower**

To Councillor Holdich, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Combined Authority

In December 2016 you told me you'd paid Athene Communications over £300k in less than two years to do work that many in this city believe should be able to be done by your own Media and Communications Team. More recently you disclosed further external spending on PR exercises. Therefore, could you a) let me know exactly how long many years you have been using Athene Communications and how much you have paid them, b) how much in total you will be paying PS Media and what the contract/agreement entails, and c) why when there are at least 50+ other marketing companies in our city do you keep using Athene?

Councillor Holdich responded:

Athene

We have used Athene in each of the last three years. In the current year they have so far been paid £79,852. Last year (2016/17) they were paid £182,000.

Athene have been used to provide the Council Marketing and Communications staff and support when these have been required.

Specific examples are restructures, staff absences and when the Council required urgently staff to deal with media interest on higher profile issues such as with Whirlpool around trading standards, devolution phase two, the upcoming elections and homelessness.

This Company has been used as they provide an excellent service with appropriately skilled staff who have the relevant knowledge of our organisation.

Procurement exercises could not take place each time individual needs are determined due to the time the process would take to complete.

Moreover, if we need to seek support from a particular person with particular knowledge, we have to use the agency that person is assigned to.

The total value of the contract is below the EU threshold for procurement of services contracts and therefore there is no requirement to follow the EU procurement regime.

Going forward we are restructuring Comms in a way we can better provide internal and external communications and a factor of any new structure would be to negated or restrict the future need to use such agencies.

PS Media

PS media have been engaged to support the Stand Up For Peterborough campaign from November 2017 to October 2018.

Our Marketing and Communications Manager began maternity leave before Christmas and we didn't have the resource in-house to lead this.

Furthermore, we required expertise in video production which PS media has and we do not have in house. PS media have been engaged on a daily fee providing support for two days a week.

Councillor Fower asked a supplementary question:

Since this tory regime took control of this city council, they have wasted hundreds of thousands of pounds by providing unused and unrequired websites for Members and regularly advertise well paid positions in the media machine including once offering £90,000 for a Head of Communications. It would seem from this response that previous ones that comms are spending even greater than we first thought. Presently frontline staff are struggling, the average individual in this city are having their money stretched and the Council tax is set to rise significantly. Does the Cabinet Member agree with me and others that the idea of chucking money at your mates and their businesses or handing hundreds of thousands of pounds at external PR and media companies to do the work that our own comms internal marketing officers should be able to do must end now.

Councillor Holdich responded:

We don't go completely out to get the expertise we need. My colleagues in that department are working extremely hard and long hours. We thought we had got every member of staff in place and the manager has gone off to have a second lovely child. Steve Titman is going to emigrate. We have employed somebody else and we have got somebody else started this week which negates the need to employ outside

	<p>agencies. If you go back a period, I think you said last time I said it was £300,000, we had more than cut it in half and they have taken more than their fair share of reductions in this council, but we feel that we have to provide a service. It is a continuing service whether it is for television, radio or PT, whoever it is and productions and consultations that we have to do. It is a very busy department and if you really need to know something about it instead of messing about with blogs, you would know that that is a considerable amount of work.</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Bull</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p> <p>This city has a long and proud record of its links with the Armed Forces and given the significance of this year's commemorative centenary – can the Cabinet Member tell us what's happening as regards the MoD Employee Recognition Award Scheme and where we are with obtaining funds for a dedicated Armed Forces Covenant Officer? Will she join me in praising the work of the Armed Forces Partnership Board, the Armed Forces Day Committee, and our Armed Forces Champion?</p> <p>Councillor Walsh responded:</p> <p>This Council was proud to sign the Armed Forces Community Covenant in January 2013, which confirms our support for serving armed forces personnel, veterans, their families and their communities.</p> <p>The Council has reflected the spirit of the Covenant in much of its work (for example our housing allocations policy), and this work is overseen by our Armed Forces Partnership Board chaired by our Armed Forces Champion, Cllr John Fox. At this Board partners from the Royal Air Force, Sea Cadets, British Legion, Army Reserves and supporting agencies work with officers to continue to ensure the Covenant is upheld across the organisation.</p> <p>To further extend this important work, we have begun to collaborate with the same board in Cambridgeshire, and have recently submitted a funding bid to the Ministry of Defence for a Covenant Development Officer to work with and across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A decision on the bid is expected to be made in February 2018.</p> <p>Work is also underway for the council to apply for a Silver Employer Recognition Scheme Award which is administered by the Ministry of Defence, in recognition of our efforts to date.</p> <p>The Council will also be aware that Peterborough celebrates Armed Forces Day annually with parades, military bands and supporting concert activities, with the organising committee chaired by Cllr Gavin Elsey.</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to echo the praise reflected in Cllr Bull's question for the wonderful work done by the Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership Board, the Armed Forces Day Committee and our Armed Forces Champion, Cllr John Fox.</p> <p>May I also take this opportunity to record our sincerest appreciation to all members of the Armed Forces, including those who have given their lives in the line of duty, and those who are serving, as well as veterans and families, for their work to keep us safe.</p>

7.

Question from Councillor Fower

To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources

Could the Cabinet Member please let me know the names of each of the Cabinet Members that signed off on any Executive Decision relating to procuring services from Carillion, when the last Executive Decision was signed off and how much money the Council has borrowed and given to the aforementioned company?

Councillor Seaton responded:

The Executive Decisions relating to the procurement of works from Carillion have been signed off by the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University in consultation with myself, Cabinet Member for Resources, in line with the constitution

I presume Councillor Fower, in asking how much money has been borrowed and paid, you do not want that I go back and repeat all the successful projects such as Hampton Gardens School which, by the way, was funded by the EFA under the Free School programme. Rather you probably want that I focus on the Jack Hunt school which is the current one. The executive decision for that was signed in May 2017 contract I believe was signed in June 2017, contract value was £6.6 million with half a million pounds contributed by the school.

The profit warning given by Carillion was in July 2017. Upon identification of the issue on 10 July, I asked for a list of projects, costs and the project status. I also highlighted the need for inclusion on our Corporate Risk Log. The contract had already been agreed well before the profit warning, and start on site was just two weeks later on 24 July.

I'm sure Members will appreciate Cllr Holdich, with the Director of Legal and Director of Resources, met on 17 July, just a week after the issues was highlighted, with the Group Finance Director of Carillion and we received a formal letter of "reassurance" and commitment to PCC.

I'm sure Cllr Fower will understand that whilst a profit warning signals an issue, it is not an uncommon thing. It does not necessarily mean stop everything and clearly in this case there was no way of doing that.

Whilst Carillion has subsequently been involved in two design projects, payment has only been made for work delivered, we own the designs, no borrowing has been involved and checks have been established at key stages, given the profits warning, before any further work requests were issued.

At Jack Hunt, to date £3.1m has been paid with the last stage payment on 3rd January based on a valuation mid-December 2017.

Councillor Fower asked a supplementary question:

Thank you for the response Councillor Seaton. My question is very simple, will you now be writing to your Conservative masters as Whitehall to record your disappointment regarding their negligence in spotting the crises coming down the line and can you assure myself and this chamber that this authority will not be losing any money in the coming months or year in relation to any contracts or relations with Carillion.

Councillor Seaton responded:

Councillor Fower, you have just left the Labour Party, you were not there very long. It

	<p>was the Labour Party who delivered the vast majority of PFI contracts.</p> <p>Councillor Holdich also responded:</p> <p>Carillion have done a sterling bit of work always delivered it on time and always delivered on budget. They have done some great work and it is tragic... Unintelligible.</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p> <p>Can you tell me how much Councillor Walsh receives in special responsibility allowances, for what roles, the number and type of engagements in relation to this role(s) she undertook in the first week of January, and the length of these engagements?</p> <p>Councillor Walsh responded:</p> <p>Regarding my role, this is Cabinet Member for Communities. Information regarding this is in the public domain and can be accessed through the Council's website. However, I will give some detail on this in response to Cllr Murphy's question.</p> <p>The Scheme of Cabinet Delegations provides details of Executive Functions of the Cabinet as a collective body, as well as the individual portfolio holders. The responsibilities in my portfolio are itemised on page 90 of this document and include neighbourhood and community support, enforcement and operational community issues, community cohesion, community safety, drugs prevention, targeted youth services, youth offending service, environmental protection, trading standards and food safety, and responsibility for rural communities.</p> <p>I have been appointed to the following bodies: Safer Peterborough Partnership, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership, Cohesion and Diversity Forum, Youth Justice Board, Natural Cambridgeshire, Inspire Peterborough and Peterborough Association for the Blind.</p> <p>Regarding remuneration, the document "Members Allowance Scheme" details the special responsibility allowance payable to all Councillors. Cabinet Members receive £15,150 per annum in addition to the basic salary.</p> <p>With regard to the part of the question in connection with how I allocate my time, my response is as follows:</p> <p>On-line is a recording of Councillors' participation in required meetings and committees. My attendance record at Cabinet, Full Council and Parish Council Liaison is 94%.</p> <p>Cllr Murphy asks about my activities during the first week of this year. This was a truncated week as New Year's Day fell on the Monday. For the remainder of the week I was, unfortunately, suffering from a severe cold and advised to stay indoors. However, I do wish to give a flavour of the sort of meetings and engagements I attend, because I think that is what Councillor Murphy wants to understand and so have looked at the following week, beginning Monday January 8th.</p> <p>During this week I attended two meetings on Asset Transfer, a meeting on Inspire Peterborough, a briefing with the Leader, a Cabinet Policy Forum meeting, a further briefing, a CAP (Community Action Peterborough) Forum, a meeting with Assistant Director Rob Hill, and a meeting with Clair George. I spent several hours reading</p>

	<p>Cabinet papers in preparation for a Cabinet meeting on the following Monday. I also spent considerable time on the preparation of a report that I submitted to Scrutiny on January 16th, which set out a review of my portfolio area, as well as my vision for the future. Cllr Murphy was present at that meeting and I'm sure he recalls that.</p> <p>Councillor Murphy asked a supplementary question:</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Walsh and thank you for confirming that you get paid £15,000 and you did not attend engagements in the week in question. I accept that you were poorly you also failed to point out that you have responsibility for rough sleepers which you had recently so lets add that to the list.</p> <p>What engagements, not in connection with this meeting tonight have you attended this week officially for that £15,000?</p> <p>Councillor Walsh responded:</p> <p>That is a different question and I was not advised that I had to answer that question. I would suggest to Councillor Murphy that instead of looking at time in motion studies that belong on the factory floor, he looks more towards outcomes and value added that people bring to their roles and my officers have said that I am a highly engaged cabinet member who gives a clear sense of direction, which I believe is what I am required to do.</p>
9.	<p>Question from Councillor Khan</p> <p>To Councillor Elsey, Cabinet Member for Waste and Street Scene</p> <p>The bulky waste collection was a popular initiative across the city. It helped reduce fly-tipping in the area. Could the Cabinet Member please clarify if this initiative will continue?</p> <p>Councillor Elsey may have responded:</p> <p>The bulky waste trial is just over halfway through and whilst it is proving popular the council will need to review the initiative at the end of the trial to see whether it has reduced fly tipping compared to previous year's figures.</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please confirm what the allocated time is for supporting housing repairs to be carried out once an issue has reported to the Council?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller may have responded:</p> <p>If the question relates to Council housing –</p> <p>The Council is no longer a landlord, so any housing repairs would be the responsibility of the landlord, for example Cross Keys Homes. If there are issues in the response times of the landlord these can be escalated to our Housing Enforcement Team who will investigate and, if necessary, take enforcement action to rectify any issues.</p> <p>If the question relates to repairs in relation to the 2 permanent travellers sites –</p>

	<p>Reports of issues are managed by AMEY and approved by housing. Issues of disrepair and response times will vary dependent on the severity of the issue reported, but would be acted upon promptly. Most repairs are dealt with on the first visit however some repairs may require specialist equipment or parts and may have to be revisited once these have been procured.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Ellis</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member responsible for Street Lighting please explain why so many Street Lights are not working in Bretton, along Bretton Way going North and South and in estates like Essendyke, Barnstock, Benland and others, though I probably don't have to list the areas as Officers will probably have a full list, which probably affects other areas of the city as well?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller may have responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of Bretton Way and Bretton Gate to Mowbray Road: Members will appreciate that much of our infrastructure dates from the Development Corporation and is coming towards the end of its serviceable life. There are irreparable cable faults at these locations and the decision was made to upgrade cables prior to LED upgrade. The cable replacement is programmed in to be completed by end of March 2018. • Barnstock: A cable fault has been identified and a cable fault investigation and minor works order has been raised with a target date of 13 February. • Benland - A cable fault has been identified and a cable fault investigation and minor works order has been raised with a target date of 14 February. • Essendyke and Kirkmeadow repairs now complete. <p>The severity of a cable fault is not known until excavation and investigation has taken place. During the initial visit a full cable investigation will take place and if the repairs are minor they will be repaired at this time. If the repairs require additional resource, specialist equipment, large lengths of new cable etc. further attendance will be required and works completed at a later date.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Ash</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p> <p>I am sure the Cabinet Member is aware and shares my concerns about parking and traffic around our schools as well as inconsiderate and dangerous parking generally.</p> <p>Can we have assurance that officers are given the necessary resource to work with schools and other agencies to ensure that roads near our schools are safe and unnecessary dangers and congestion are avoided.</p> <p>Councillor Walsh may have responded:</p> <p>I do share your concerns that children and young people need to be able to get to and from school safely, and schools continue to be a priority for the council's Prevention and Enforcement Service for both traffic enforcement and education activities.</p>

	<p>Since 1 April 2017, 339 separate enforcement visits have taken place outside schools resulting in 163 Penalty Charge Notices being issued.</p> <p>A campaign to reduce inconsiderate parking is available free of charge for all schools to deliver. The campaign includes banners to display outside the school, information for parents and support for schools to encourage safe and sustainable travel. Our officers can also support schools to deliver various road safety activities including Junior Travel Ambassador Schemes, Pedestrian Training, Scooter Training, Cycle Training as well as various workshops tailored to meet the specific needs of the school. If any Members are interested to find out more I would encourage them to contact me or the Director.</p> <p>Our officers are also keen to work with parents and schools to introduce new ideas, including for example Park and Stride schemes, where parents park further away from the school gates and organised walking routes are provided from there to school. Again, if Members are interest to find out more do get in touch.</p>
13.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources</p> <p>A £300m business rates hardship fund was unveiled by the Chancellor 10 months ago, ahead of a revaluation which saw some small firms facing rocketing bills. How much of the hardship relief, in monetary terms, have we distributed to qualifying businesses?</p> <p>Councillor Seaton may have responded:</p> <p>Every five years business rates are re-calculated by the government based on the rental value of properties. This re-valuation can lead to significant increases in business rate bills for some companies.</p> <p>The government announced three support schemes in its spring budget to help those customers most affected. The support schemes aimed at Pubs and Small Businesses were fully implemented by the Council at the end of the summer.</p> <p>The final scheme involved local authorities being awarded money to support those businesses most affected by the re-valuation but were required to shape their own schemes.</p> <p>Our share of this money totalled £272,000 and the scheme has been available to ratepayers since November 2017. Letters were issued to the 381 customers the Council believes meets the qualifying criteria. We have received 2 applications so far which has resulted in an award of £948 relief.</p> <p>I have discussed with officers the actions we can take to improve the position and will be happy to update members shortly.</p>
14.	<p>Question from Councillor Bond</p> <p>To Councillor Elsey, Cabinet Member for Waste and Street Scene</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member please advise me on how often dog waste bins are emptied? As I have been speaking to many residents who have highlighted issues with either dog fouling and more precisely in this case, the bins over flowing, forcing those dog owners who clean their dog waste up, to leave it either on the bin or just in the vicinity of the bin.</p>

	<p>Councillor Elsey may have responded:</p> <p>Dog waste bins are emptied as a minimum weekly, if a resident finds any waste bins in the City to be overflowing they can report this to Peterborough Direct and Amey then have 1 working day to have the bin emptied. If you could confirm the locations of the bins that are of concern we will ask Amey to re look at the frequency that these are emptied.</p>
15.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Integrated Adult Social Care and Health</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please advise whether any action is being taken to investigate any possible mental health concerns around individuals leaving excrement and urine in various containers around the city?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald may have responded:</p> <p>There are a number of reasons why this behaviour might be occurring, so it's difficult to give a full answer to your question without more information about the issue. The Director of Public Health has offered to meet with you to discuss your concerns further and feed back to me.</p>
16.	<p>Question from Councillor Bull</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources</p> <p>How well is the digital inclusion programme being managed for those elderly and vulnerable adults requiring online support and access to services. What sort of numbers are going through the programme and how do we compare nationally?</p> <p>Councillor Seaton may have responded:</p> <p>Our Digital inclusion Programme is undertaken in a number of ways with our primary focus being on the elderly and the vulnerable. We support people with online basics through drop-in sessions, one-off events/roadshows and via a more structured 5-week lesson plan. These sessions cover every thing from staying safe on line, uploading documents and photos to what equipment people need and sensible buying.</p> <p>The aim of the work is to enable an increase in channel-shift to online platforms, preventing digital exclusion which in turn will support the council with its drive to improve efficiency.</p> <p>To date we have worked with a variety of different organisations including Age UK, sheltered housing schemes, the job centre, local libraries and voluntary organisations, such as Senior Stop and from September - December 2017, we have worked with over 179 visits at various sessions. Numbers are increasing as more sessions are being pre-booked throughout 2018. The numbers we see are comparable with "Learn my Way" which is a national programme. That being said our work with the Senior Stop regularly sees higher numbers than the "Learn my Way" classes.</p> <p>In addition to the above, we are also utilising the work to push out key messages to support council initiatives, such as cash office closure and promoting the training and support for residents to use future council online services.</p>

	<p>We have a dedicated page on the website which provide you with more information about our work and up coming workshops.</p>
<p>17.</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Whitby</p> <p>To Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p> <p>I've watched with some concern the increasing loss of public houses across the city over recent years. At first it was establishments that couldn't survive financially, but more recently it has become pubs where the landowners have sold the premises to developers.</p> <p>In many instances, the land area of a public house is substantial, sufficient to provide much needed accommodation, and therefore a good profit to the developer.</p> <p>But, while I fully understand the need to build homes and develop new communities, how does this work by removing a considerable community asset in the process?</p> <p>Across the city, successful public houses have either been taken away from the communities they serve like the Golden Lion in Stanground, or are in danger of being lost, such as, potentially, The Heron also in Stanground, up to the Ploughman in Werrington.</p> <p>How can we as a council, protect such valuable community assets from being developed in such a way that it deprives the community of their use, in order to provide developers with a handsome profit?</p> <p>Councillor Walsh may have responded:</p> <p>The protection of Public Houses does not fall within the Council's remit. However, there are some areas in which the Council is able to have a role.</p> <p><u>Assets of Community Value</u></p> <p>Since the Localism Act 2011 it has been possible for local communities to contact the Council and nominate properties in their area as Assets of Community Value. If it can be demonstrated that a pub has community value because it "furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community" and it is realistic for that use to continue, then the Council will list it as an <i>Asset of Community Value</i>. This means that, if the pub's owner wishes to sell it, it must first be offered for sale to the local community.</p> <p>Since April 2015 pubs are also protected from being demolished or converted to another use without first gaining planning permission, following changes to the permitted development rights for pubs which have been listed as Assets of Community Value. This provides local communities with a safeguard against a valued local pub being changed by developers without their input as the views of the local community will be taken into account as part of this process. If a building or land is included on a local authority's Asset of Community Value list, it will remain on the list for five years. When a local planning authority then considers planning applications in its area, it is "<i>open to the LPA to decide whether listing an asset of community value is a material consideration</i>".</p> <p>And having decided that this is a material consideration, the LPA must then decide how much weight to attach to this.</p> <p>The fact an asset is listed therefore may or may not be a significant factor in the balance when the Council considers applications. More information about the</p>

process and who can nominate, and how, can be found on the Council's website: <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/strategies-polices-and-plans/council-strategies/assets-of-community-value/>). The Council is currently reviewing its procedures for Assets of Community Value to ensure community groups are clear about what is needed to make a nomination.

Business Rates

In addition, the Council has recently been able to allocate £1,000 each in business rates relief to the 43 local pubs that qualified under a government scheme to reduce the impact of revaluation on these properties. Each pub that qualified for the scheme has already received the award, with their bills having been reissued earlier in the year.

18. **Question from Councillor Coles**

To Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University

Could the cabinet member for education detail how the Council is safeguarding building works and other services to our schools following the liquidation of Carillion?

Councillor Ayres may have responded:

The Council utilised the Education Funding Agency Framework to appoint Panel Member Carillion Construction Limited in December 2015 to deliver the Hampton Gardens School works (as the sample scheme) as part of a batched programme of works which included other schools as follow-on projects. These projects are as follows:

Currently on-site and under construction:

- Jack Hunt School – expansion project to support a 1 form entry expansion of the school with effect from September 2018. The scheme will provide additional accommodation at the school. Contract value £6.6m. Contract signed in June 2017. Works commenced in July 2017 and were due for completion in August 2018.

In design:

- Hampton Lakes Primary (free school) – new build 2 form entry primary free school. Planning submission programmed for the end of January 2018.
- Heltwate Special School – new build of Heltwate School on a new site at Newark Road. School to cater for 200 children with special educational needs and includes a new hydrotherapy pool. The planning application was submitted in December 2017.

Completed works:

- St Michael's Church School – The contract is now in the 12 month defect liability period which expires in February 2018. The Council has retention funds of £62k under the terms of the contract.
- Hampton Gardens School – The contract is now in the 12 month defect liability period which expires in August 2018. There are outstanding snags to be resolved. The Council has retention funds of £330k under the terms of the contract.

Under the terms of the design and build contracts between the Council and Carillion Construction Limited, the Council is entitled to serve a notice of termination upon a contractor default, this includes a court making a winding up order against the company. As a result of this proposed action the Council can terminate the contracts

	<p>and in relation to Jack Hunt School, the school as a foundation trust can take re-possession of the site where the new accommodation is under construction.</p> <p>If the Council does not terminate the contract relating to the Jack Hunt expansion and the site does not revert to the school, there are financial, health and safety and security implications. A site inspection was carried out by the Council's representative on 16 January 2018, which revealed that building materials and equipment had been removed from the site. There is a risk that further assets will be removed from the site (i.e the site hoarding which segregates the construction site from the rest of the school site) which in turn could leave the site and the school exposed to security and health and safety risks.</p> <p>The works at Hampton Gardens School were completed and handed over in August 2017. At St Michael's Church School the works were completed and handed over in February 2017. However, the contracts are still in operation and both are in the 12 month defect liability period. If any defects are identified during this period the contractor is liable and will rectify the defect. In addition, the Council, under the payment terms of the contract, hold retention funds.</p> <p>The Council is considering its options regarding the procurement of a new contractor and has been in discussions with the Education Skills and Funding Agency regarding this. The Council has also been in contact with PWC as Special Managers to the Liquidator to obtain further information.</p> <p>Carillion provide no other services to the Council in relation to schools.</p>
19.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford</p> <p>To Councillor Elsey, Cabinet Member for Waste and Street Scene</p> <p>In 2008 Peterborough City Council agreed a strategy on waste management entitled "Waste 2020: Doing nothing is not an option". This strategy set a target for the Council to be recycling or composting at least 65 per cent of household waste by 2020.</p> <p>As this deadline is now less than two years away, could the relevant Cabinet Member tell me how we are getting on and what progress has been made towards meeting the target?</p> <p>Councillor Elsey may have responded:</p> <p>The recycling rate for this year to date is 47%, if the method Wales and other EU countries use which allows additional materials to be included as recycling then our rate would around 55%. Local authorities in England are continuing to lobby government to include these materials and recognise the effort made by LA's to recycle this waste material.</p> <p>The Waste 2020 strategy detailed a number of key interventions PCC would deliver to achieve this target, some of the key ones achieved being the addition of glass and a wider range of plastics to the green bin, this was achieved in 2008 and 2015 respectively; the collection of food waste which commenced in 2012 and diverts significant quantities from waste disposal with 4,300t collected in 2016/17. Construction of Peterborough ERF which has been operational since 2015 and is diverting a significant proportion of the residual waste collected in the City resulting in only 2.5% of waste going to landfill.</p>

