

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING
HELD AT 6.30PM, ON
MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2019
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Members Present:

Councillor Irene Walsh	Chairman
Councillor Vince Moon	Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Councillor Neil Boyce	Castor Parish Council
Councillor Keith Lievesley	Ufford Parish Council
Councillor Jane Hill	Deeping gate Parish Council
Councillor Phil Thompson	Deeping Gate Parish Council
Councillor Jason Merrill	Bretton Parish Council
Anthony Hovell	Clerk, Thorney Parish Council
Councillor Jeff Bell	Glington Parish Council
Councillor Joss Edge	Eye Parish Council
Councillor Dawn Magnus	Eye Parish Council
Councillor Pamela Blades	Eye Parish Council

Officers Present:

Peter Carpenter	Acting Corporate Director, Resources
Sylvia Radouani	Community Capacity Officer and Parish Coordinator
David Beauchamp	Democratic Services Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Susie Lucas, Junaid Bhatti (Bainton and Ashton Parish Council), Councillor June Bull (Orton Longueville Parish Council), Diane Templeton (Clerk, Deeping Gate Parish Council), Cllr Olive Leonard (Hampton Parish Council) and Sally Weald (Werrington Neighbourhood Council).

2. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/2021 PHASE ONE BUDGET CONSULTATION

The Acting Corporate Director of Resources delivered a presentation on Peterborough City Council's 2020/2021 Budget Consultation.

Slides of the PowerPoint presentation may be found in Appendix 1. The main sections of the presentation included:

- Budget gap in our budget set for 2020/21 - £18,409,000
- Pressures emerging in our budget in this financial year 2019/20 of - £5,370,000
- Pressures emerging since budget set in financial year 2020/21 - £9,764,000
- Total figures and reserves
- Chancellors Spending Review – 2019
- Schemes
- Overall HR implications

Councillors asked questions during and after the presentation. In summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Councillors raised concerns regarding broken street lights and asked that these were fixed before the lights were dimmed. The Acting Corporate Director responded that lights had not been replaced due to a major road refurbishment. It was agreed that the director would liaise with Highway Services regarding broken street lights in North Bretton to ensure that dimming did not take place until they were fixed.
- Councillors commented that L.E.D. lights were only brighter when compared with bulbs of the same size and warned that reducing their intensity to 80% in rural areas might result in complaints that they were insufficiently bright as their light was more focused than traditional street lightning producing dark spots. It was agreed that the Acting Corporate Director would consider maintaining street light intensity at 100% in rural areas where street lights are more widely spaced to avoid dark spots.
- It was agreed that the Acting Corporate Director, Resources would clarify with the Head of Highway Services that the control system to allow selective dimming of street lights had been installed alongside the new L.E.D. lights and that no further expenditure was required to enable this functionality.
- It was clarified that the £4.50 per week lifeline service would be available to all Peterborough residents, not just those living in social housing.
- The Chairman stated that the traditional models of service delivery were being replaced with a more community focused, voluntary, approach with the Good Neighbours Scheme being a good example of this. Community hubs would be developed for more urban areas. A programme for supporting people who were isolated, had disabilities or were frail and vulnerable would be provided via the City Council.
- Councillors requested an update on the progress of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme and asked if this was producing budgetary benefits. The Acting Corporate Director responded that the CAT programme involved transferring the running costs of running community centres (approximately £300,000/year) to the communities themselves. It was important the centres were transferred to community ownership in a good state of repair. 12 centres had already been transferred and 8 were in progress. The Community Capacity Officer and Parish Coordinator added that she was currently working with 32 centres. This had been RAG-rated as they were in various stages. 5 centres did not want to proceed. By March 2020 the majority of centres would be on new leases.
- The Chairman stated that the police were aware that they would need to take on responsibility for tackling anti-social behaviour, since the Council's team was being disbanded.
- It was noted that PES officers had been successfully deployed in rural areas, who knew their enforcement zone well, as was the case in the City Centre. It was agreed that the Acting Corporate Director would identify the cost of employing a full time P.E.S. officer working across several parishes.
- The reduction in agency staff in the Budget Book only applied to Children's Social Care though similar work had been undertaken in Adult Social Care in the past. This could be challenging as some workers might earn more money being self-employed. 'Anti-Gazumping' work with other councils was being investigated.
- It was clarified that each taxi firm negotiated the cost of individual home to school transport trips with Peterborough City Council.
- Members asked if fixed costs could be used instead, noting that tail lift taxi providers charge different amounts. Officers responded that there were safeguarding issues which increased costs. Officers were keen to ensure services were delivered in the most cost effective way.

- Members commented that the school allocations process needed to be reviewed as school transport issues would not arise if pupils were able to attend schools close to their address. The Member raised an example of two students with the same special education need, one of whom was allocated a place at a local SEN school, while another had to attend their second preference school further away. It was agreed that the Acting Corporate Director would raise a Parish Councillor's specific concerns regarding inconsistent school placements with the School Admissions Team.
- Members commented that if a child had special education needs or was required to travel more than 3 miles, the City Council had to pay for transport. It was noted that the Council could not control the admissions criteria of independently managed schools. The Acting Corporate Director stated that there was significant spend in this area and it should be possible to improve performance.
- The Chairman stated that the Council had not delivered youth clubs or similar services for several years, despite perceptions to the contrary. The focus of youth services was on helping people at risk of criminalisation and supporting the victims of crime. The Safer Peterborough Partnership was doing a large amount of work in this area. It was not expected that budget savings would have a negative impact. Many other organisations offered youth clubs skills training etc. in Peterborough. The impact of the reduction in expenditure would be monitored closely.
- It was agreed that the Acting Corporate Director would provide information regarding the reduction of the Discretionary Youth Budget and the impact this could have on Youth Workers placed within schools.
- Members asked how Vivacity's services would be maintained when they had previously stated they were having funding difficulties. The Acting Corporate Director responded that that was the case six months ago but following conversations with the City Council, it had been agreed that savings could be generated without cutting services e.g. via income generation and asset transfers.
- The Cabinet Member stated that many community centres transferred to communities would be eligible to apply for additional funding. Vivacity could pursue similar opportunities as it was a charity.
- A Councillor felt that the £20 bulky waste collection charge would be unaffordable for many families. The Director asked Councillors if the bulky waste collection scheme had been successful in their area. The Councillor responded that they did not know as Bretton Parish organised their own collections via Aragon Direct Services. The Community Capacity Officer added that many parishes organised their own skips for bulky waste collection.
- The Chairman asked for feedback on the success of bulky waste collection schemes, such as the one operated in Hurlington, and raised concerns that they may not deter potential fly-tippers even if they proved popular.
- The Chairman stated that it was difficult to enforce fly-tipping more vigorously in rural areas due to the amount of evidence required. There had been a recent successful prosecution but the fine was disappointingly low. The Chairman would aim to have discussions with the local MPs regarding this issue. The nature of fly-tipping was different in rural areas, e.g. more commercial vans being used. The Chairman encouraged councillors to come forward with ideas for improving work in this area.
- A Member commented that feedback from residents regarding bulky waste had been positive but felt that it did not deter fly-tipping as it was servicing ordinary residents. In response, the Chairman commented that bulky waste collection services were important regardless of their impact on fly-tipping but budgetary considerations also had to be taken into account.
- A Councillor commented that an approximate £3 charge might discourage fly-tipping but acknowledged the potential of saving money was limited. It was

agreed that the Acting Corporate Director, Resources would investigate whether a small nominal charge for one-off bulky waste collection in villages (e.g. £3) would be viable.

- A member commented that the same-day fly-tipping collection provided by the City Council was regarded as negative factor by Keep Britain Tidy, whose advice was to leave it for 2-3 days and use 'police tape' as a deterrent and CCTV cameras.
- Members commented that fly-tipping in rural areas was often conducted by tradespeople whereas urban fly-tipping was more often caused by Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs), with landlords unable to dispose of former tenants' waste as it was classed as commercial waste. The Chairman acknowledge that fly-tipping was a complex issue with many different perpetrators
- In response to a Councillor's concerns, it was agreed that the Acting Corporate Director, Resources would investigate disputes between Peterborough City Council and Cross Keys Homes regarding responsibility for collecting fly-tipping in Bretton.
- It was agreed that the Acting Corporate Director would consider the provision of a financial reward to members of the public for reporting fly-tipping when this led to a successful prosecution.
- In response to a Councillor's concerns, it was agreed that the Acting Corporate Director would investigate reasons for parish councils not adopting the secure .gov.uk email addresses. The Community Capacity Officer added that Parish Clerks had already been provided with '.gov.uk' email addresses as this had been funded by the City Council. This was not the case for Parish Councillors. The Chairman added that that the widespread adoption of 'gov.uk' email addresses by parishes would be hugely beneficial as it would mean all Councillors could receive all information, despite concerns in some areas about using the parish precepts for this. Parish Councils were the first tier of local government and providing easy access to information was important. Adopting a generic email address meant that there was no risk of parish work affecting personal email addresses. The Chairman added that the 'gov.uk' addresses also provided better security and data protection as they were backed by the City Council.
- The Acting Corporate Director welcomed any additional questions and requested that these sent via the Community Capacity Officer and Parish Coordinator.
- The Community Capacity Officer reminded Councillors that Councillors' comments would be included in the budget consultation documents.

ACTIONS AGREED:

It was agreed that the Acting Corporate Director of Resources would:

- Liaise with Highway Services regarding broken street lights in North Bretton and to ensure that dimming does not take place until they were fixed.
- Consider maintaining street light intensity at 100% in rural areas where street lights were more widely spaced to avoid dark spots.
- Clarify with the Head of Highway Services that the control system to allow selective dimming of street lights had been installed alongside the new L.E.D. lights and that no further expenditure was required to enable this functionality.
- Identify the cost of employing a full time P.E.S. officer working across several parishes.
- Raise a Parish Councillor's specific concerns regarding inconsistent school placements with the School Admissions Team.
- Provide more detail to Parish Councillor Dawn Magnus regarding the reduction of the Discretionary Youth Budget and the impact this could have on Youth Workers placed within schools.

- Investigate whether a small nominal charge for one-off bulky waste collection in villages (e.g. £3) would be viable.
- Investigate disputes between Peterborough City Council and Cross Keys Homes regarding responsibility for collecting fly-tipping in Bretton.
- Consider the provision of a financial reward to members of the public for reporting fly-tipping when this led to a successful prosecution.
- Investigate reasons for parish councils not adopting the secure .gov.uk email addresses.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26 February 2020

CHAIRMAN

6:32pm – 7.40pm

16 December 2020

Budget Update – Parish Councils

Monday 16 December 2019



Budget gap in our budget set for 2020/21:-



£18,409,000

This is made up of the following:-

- Government grant has been reducing
- there are demographic pressures
- there are legislative changes with associated costs
- there has been a reduction in commercial income

Pressures emerging in our budget in this financial year 2019/20 of:-



£5,370,000

This is mainly made up of:-

- deferred delivery of back office savings

Pressures emerging since budget set in financial year 2020/21

£9,764,000

The pressures emerging are:-

- homelessness pressures
- parking income down
- markets income drop
- pressures in home to school transport



All of these figures add up to:-

- pressures of £9,764,000 in financial year 2019/20 which have to be addressed
- a financial gap of £23,779,000 to find proposals to create a balanced budget for 2020/21

Reserves

General Fund Reserves	£6m
Other usable reserves of	£8.2m

NB The suggested reserve level is 5% of gross expenditure which is about £20m.

Chancellors Spending Review - 2019

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000	£000
Additional 1% Council Tax*	784	818	845
Additional Social Care Funding	3,308	3,308	3,308
Continuation of IBCF (3 year ASC grant)	1,121	1,121	1,121
Homelessness	279	279	279
Public Health and Better Care Fund (NHS)	419	419	419
Tackling Troubled Families Grant extension	753	-	-
Revenue Support Grant (Current CPI- 2%)	205	205	205
Total	6,868	6,149	6,176

Schools – Significant funding over the next 3 year period – However ring-fenced
Still not known how distributed

- New Cities Fund – PCC are one of 100 Cities Approved
- Homelessness Fund

Schemes

Proposal	2020/21		
	£000		
Building on successful transformation	2,312		
Review of care packages to promote independence	1,749		
Dimming of street lighting between 9pm and 5am	100		
Revised Services for low level support for older people discharged from hospital	45		
Revised funding for Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme	418		
Changing services to reflect the council of today	7,171		
Changes to the Serco contract	4,536		
HR Controls	1,487		
Place and Economy directorate shared services progression	139		
Reshaped Human Resources Function	450		
Reshaping of departments and further shared services	483		
Support provided for members	76		

Line items with HR Implications highlighted in yellow

Schemes

Proposal	2020/21 £000		
Contract And Commercial	1,167		
Removal of unused project budget for road safety	30		
Facilities management service costs within the Schools PFI	168		
Joint commissioning of our Healthy Child Programme	541		
Joint commissioning of our Integrated Lifestyle Services	80		
Realignment of drug and alcohol budget	40		
Reduction in the repair and maintenance budget through commercial review	80		
Self-funding of Lifeline service after six weeks	57		
Revised Extra Care Contract	47		
City College Peterborough	74		
Revised Stay Well in Winter campaign	50		
Reduction of Provision	1,061		
Prioritising street cleansing work	129		
Reduction in discretionary youth services budget	516		
Reduction in response time to non-hazardous fly tipping	59		
Vivacity	357		

Line items with HR Implications highlighted in yellow

Schemes

Proposal	2020/21 £000		
Redesign of Service	1,735		
Deprivation of Liberties Safeguards (DoLS) assessments	107		
PAMS – reduction in outsourcing of assessments	22		
Recommissioning children's centre contracts	100		
Redesigned commissioning team through shared working	60		
Reduction in agency staff in children's social care	173		
Reduction in NHS Health Checks budget due to low uptake	55		
Removal of social care lead practitioner post	50		
Removal of vacant housing case worker post	40		
Reshaping community and safety directorate	127		
Restructure and remodelling of the Prevention and Enforcement Service (PES)	380		
Review of school transport costs	501		
Review of security and cleaning at Sand Martin House	120		
Using our assets	646		
Changing frequency of property condition surveys	67		
Increase in income from council-owned commercial units	23		
Introducing auto-scale product	45		
Move from Educate system to Synergy	60		
Reduction in property contingency budget	126		
Vivacity People's Network support maintenance budget reduction	6		
Income generation and business rates from Sand Martin House	319		

Line items with HR Implications highlighted in yellow

Overall HR Implications

In order to deliver Tranche 1 of the budget as outlined in this document, it is anticipated that some posts across the council will be affected. It is estimated at this stage that there may be a headcount reduction of up to 75 people of a total workforce of 1,244, some of which could occur during 2019/2020 whilst others may happen during 2020/2021.