

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020, VIRTUALLY**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR GUL NAWAZ

Present:

Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Barkham, Bashir, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Fower, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Haynes, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Holdich, Howard, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lamb, Lane, Lillis, Murphy, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Sandford, Seaton, Shaheed, Simons, Skibsted, Warren, Walsh, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

8. Amendment to the Virtual Meetings Protocol

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (45 voted in favour, 11 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) to agree to amend the 'Virtual Meetings Protocol' as adopted by Council on 29 July 2020, to restrict Questions on Notice from Members to be answered in writing only (on a trial basis for this meeting only), as per the wording set out in paragraph 2.4, to enable more time for the debate of council motions.

Councillors For: Ali, Aitken, Rush, Judy Fox, Cereste, Dowson, Walsh, Lane, Casey, John Fox, Joseph, Gul Nawaz, Yasin, Over, Robinson, Ellis, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Howell, Jones, Ayres, Jamil, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Harper, Murphy, Farooq, Shaz Nawaz, Bisby, Fower, Skibsted, Holdich, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Coles, Fitzgerald, Hussain, Day, Hiller, Simons, Lamb, Bashir

Councillors Against: Sandford, Barkham, Hogg, Wiggin, Warren, Ash, Haynes, Lillis, Sandra Bond, Shaheed, Andrew Bond

Councillors Abstaining: Seaton, Allen

10(a). Cabinet Recommendation – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Phase One

A vote was taken on an amendment from Councillor Wiggin. The amendment was **DEFEATED** (12 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 17 abstained from voting).

Councillors For: Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Haynes, Hogg, Howell, Lillis, Sandford, Shaheed, Wiggin

Councillors Against: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lamb, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Warren, Walsh

Councillors Abstaining: Ali, Ash, Ellis, Fower, Hemraj, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Skibsted, Yasin, Yurgutene

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (29 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 0 abstained from voting, the Mayor exercising his casting vote in favour of the recommendation) to approve:

1. The Phase One service proposals outlined in Appendix C to the report.

2. The updated budget assumptions, to be incorporated within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2021/22-2023/24. These are outlined in sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the report.
3. The revised capital programme outlined in section 5.5 and referencing Appendix B to the report.
4. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Phase One, as set out in the body of the report and the following appendices to the report:
 - Appendix A – 2021/22- 2023/24 MTFS Detailed Budget Position - Phase One
 - Appendix B – Capital Programme Schemes 2021/22- 2023/24
 - Appendix C – Budget Consultation Feedback, including Phase One Budget Proposal detail
 - Appendix D – Financial Strategy pre-C-19
 - Appendix E – Financial Risk Register
 - Appendix F – Equality Impact Assessments
 - Appendix G – Carbon Impact Assessments
 - Appendix H – Budget Consultation Feedback
5. The strategic financial approach taken by Council outlined in section 5.4 of the report.
6. The forecast reserves position, and the statutory advice of the Chief Finance Officer outlined in Section 6 of the report, The Robustness Statement.
7. The feedback received on the budget proposals, received via the consultation detailed in Appendix H to the report and the supplementary report.

Councillors For: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lamb, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Warren, Walsh

Councillors Against: Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Fower, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

Mayor's Casting Vote: In Favour

10(b) Licensing Committee Recommendation – Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative Impact

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous) to adopt the final Statement of Licensing Policy (**Appendix X** to the report).

13(1) Motion from Councillor John Fox

A vote was taken on an amendment from Councillor Hogg. The amendment was **DEFEATED** (28 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

Councillors For: Ali, Sandford, Dowson, Barkham, Hogg, Wiggin, Joseph, Yasin, Haynes, Robinson, Ellis, Howell, Lillis, Jones, Jamil, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Murphy, Sandra Bond, Shaz Nawaz, Shaheed, Fower, Skibsted, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Andrew Bond, Hussain, Day

Councillors Against: Aikten, Judy Fox, Cereste, Walsh, Lane, Casey, John Fox, Seaton, Warren, Gul Nawaz, Ash, Over, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Ayres, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Harper, Farooq, Bisby, Holdich, Coles, Allen, Fitzgerald, Hiller, Simons, Lamb, Bashir

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Fox in relation to upgrading Carr Dyke as a cycle path. The motion was **AGREED** (56 voted in favour, 1 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) as follows:

“During the recent lockdown members will have noticed the increase of cycle use within our City and more importantly our Rural areas.

Sadly, since the lockdown has been eased there has been an increase in road traffic accidents nationally and many have happened in the rural areas of our cities.

The Roman towpath from Peakirk to Eye, known as Carr Dyke was originally used to transport materials by barge, linking up the river Welland and Nene, creating the towpaths for the horses that towed the barges along its route.

This length of pathway is still there and is mainly only used for grazing horses and cattle. However, the route is equally used by walkers a lot and would make an ideal cycleway.

This would encourage more people to use a much safer route between the areas, especially bearing in mind the new estate at Manor Farm and proposed new estate on the Newborough Road, of which Carr Dyke passes alongside both estates.

Council resolves to:

Undertake a feasibility study regarding an upgrade of Carr Dyke to be used as a cycle path, linking up Peakirk, Werrington, Gunthorpe & Eye, with the results of this feasibility study to be considered by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments.”

Councillors For: Ali, Sandford, Aikten, Judy Fox, Cereste, Dowson, Walsh, Barkham, Lane, Casey, John Fox, Hogg, Wiggin, Seaton, Warren, Joseph, Gul Nawaz, Ash, Yasin, Haynes, Over, Robinson, Ellis, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Howell, Lillis, Jones, Ayres, Jamil, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Harper, Murphy, Farooq, Shaz Nawaz, Bisby, Shaheed, Fower, Skibsted, Holdich, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Coles, Allen, Fitzgerald, Andrew Bond, Hussain, Day, Hiller, Simons, Lamb, Bashir

Councillors Against: Sandra Bond

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

13(2) Motion from Councillor Ali

A vote was taken on the altered motion from Councillor Ali in relation to trail hunting. The motion was **AGREED** (30 voted in favour, 26 voted against, 1 abstained from voting) as follows:

“Peterborough City Council notes that Fox hunting, Deer hunting and Hare hunting with Dogs is illegal under the terms of the Hunting Act 2004, except where an exemption applies.

Most registered hunts claim to now be ‘trail’ hunting, an activity invented after the ban which allows hunts to claim that any chase of a wild mammal is an accident rather than intentional

This Council resolves to do everything within its legal powers to prevent that it will not permit trail hunting, exempt hunting, hound exercise and hunt meets on its land.”

Councillors For: Ali, Sandford, Dowson, Barkham, Hogg, Wiggin, Joseph, Ash, Yasin, Haynes, Robinson, Ellis, Howell, Lillis, Jones, Jamil, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Sandra Bond, Shaz Nawaz, Bisby, Shaheed, Fower, Skibsted, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Andrew Bond, Hussain, Day, Murphy

Councillors Against: Aitken, Judy Fox, Cereste, Walsh, Lane, Casey, Seaton, Warren, Gul Nawaz, Over, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Ayres, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Harper, Farooq, Holdich, Coles, Allen, Fitzgerald, Hiller, Lamb, Bashir, Simons

Councillors Abstaining: John Fox

13(3) Motion from Councillor Howard

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Howard in relation to a Peterborough marathon. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Council Notes:

- Running has become an ever increasingly popular pastime, with Marathon events selling out and growing increasingly the last few years.
- A Marathon would be a welcome boost to the local economy, especially with the new hotels due in our City and the proposed cafe culture, this event would bring new people to our City and would increase tourism and local investment.
- Becoming a University City, hosting a City Marathon would be another major asset to Peterborough’s reputation
- Hosting a City Marathon would give us the chance to help support important local charities with preferential fund-raiser entries for nominated charities, with a view to focus on Charities that do so much in our City, making this a true Peterborough event.
- Hosting a City Marathon in line with the Great Eastern Run, already a popular event, would boost the popularity of the event further still by making the Great Eastern a running festival, and would give us a vital start in having infrastructure and logistics in place to add the Marathon option.

Council resolves for Officers to conduct a feasibility study on hosting a City Marathon including the option of enabling The Great Eastern Run to come back even stronger as a full running festival, and report to Cabinet on their findings about the feasibility of holding this event.”

13(4) Motion from Councillor Bisby

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Bisby in relation to cycle races. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“This council recognises the value of residents having opportunities to live active lifestyles, and our open spaces, footpaths and cycle lanes further support this. Never more so than now has it been important for all of us to look after our health and wellbeing in safe and appropriate ways. To further promote an active lifestyle in Peterborough, there is an opportunity for the Council to organise, support and promote a cycling race and associated events within the city centre, also serving to showcase our vibrant city centre environment. As part of this event, relevant businesses could be invited to participate, including those involved with green energy solutions enabling the promotion of home energy efficiency options to reduce emissions and household costs, cycle and cycling equipment vendors, and electric car retailers.

Council resolves to request the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation to investigate the possibility of re-establishing a cycle race and associated events in Peterborough City Centre.”

13(5) Motion from Councillor Yasin

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Yasin in relation to domestic violence. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Domestic abuse is a complex social issue which affects people from all groups, genders and cultures and impacts across all services. However, it is important to note that Domestic Abuse remains a gendered crime. The Office of National Statistics states that in 2019 up to 2 million adults aged 16-59 experienced domestic abuse out of which 1.6 million of victims were female. Almost one in three women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime and two women a week are killed by a current or former partner.

However, it is important to note that we were not in the midst of a global pandemic when these figures were obtained. Covid-19 has significantly impacted domestic abuse as more than 40,000 calls were made to the National Domestic Abuse Helpline during the initial three months of lockdown and Men’s support lines received 8,500 calls.

Furthermore, it is reassuring to see the Domestic Abuse Bill has been finally brought to Parliament. This Council welcomes the Bill as it is urgently needed but will only be effective if it is supported by funding for specialist services.

Council resolves to:

- **Call upon the government to fully fund the Bill. This is vital piece of legislation which could change the lives of the estimated 2 million people a year who are subjected to forms of Domestic Abuse. Whilst the Bill is welcomed as an initial step, the safety of Domestic Abuse must be made an economic priority.**
- **Call upon both Peterborough MPs to lobby for funding to ensure we are in the best position to support our residents and to respond to the increasing demand in Domestic Abuse services in light of the current pandemic.**
- **Ensure that we promote awareness and raise the profile of Domestic Abuse across the Council and all partner organisations.**
- **Ensure elected members have training available to them so that members are able to offer support and guidance to residents if/when needed, this will include both basic e-learning and bespoke training.**
- **Recognise the work currently being done around Domestic Abuse services and congratulates the team for all their efforts.**
- **Encourage ALL employers within the Council’s area to implement a Domestic Abuse policy in the workplace to ensure support is available for ALL employees in the event of a Domestic Abuse and/or Violence situation.”**

13(6) Motion from Councillor Hemraj

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Hemraj in relation to COVID-19 testing. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“The residents of Peterborough know that it is likely that some people in the large proportion of the Peterborough population and nationally will have COVID-19 yet have no symptoms.

The impact of Covid-19 in Peterborough is manifested by the increasing number of cases since mid-September into the second lockdown. Locally, the North West Anglia Foundation trust has lost 286 patients to Covid-19. Sadly, this number is rising.

With this rise sees a renewed pressure on the NHS locally as the hospital is trying to address the backlog of cancer patients and urgent appointments, coupled with the annual winter pressures which will no doubt have additional challenges this year.

It has also been recognised by government to mass test NHS employees twice weekly.

The Council recognises:

- That it was reported in the first half of November that over 146 children were self-isolating at home due to Covid-19, which demonstrates one of the risks that the population is exposed to, as children as well as adults can be a source of infection in households. · The stark reality appears to be that in such circumstances, we are not effectively able to control all disease propagation. Although disease rates appear to have levelled off in the last week, they are still high compared to the summer. This means that rapid steps must be taken to ensure we contain the spread of the virus and take the pressure off the local hospital. We can be hopeful of a less challenging winter than normally seen, to the detriment of valuable lives lost.
- The more the transmission rate is reduced, the quicker we will be able to get closer to a more normal way of life and do the things we all enjoy, such as meeting family and friends.
- All of the above and agrees that implementation of the following measures would lead to a swift and safe recovery of our city, enabling a faster return economically too.

This Council resolves to:

- **Ask the Director of Public Health to investigate the risk posed by the number of self-isolating children within the city, and whether mass testing of all teaching staff and children with their families would be an appropriate intervention. If so whether this would be feasible using the resources already available within the Local Authority. The urgency and need for this has been suggested by Education Trade Unions.**
- **To revisit the potential and need for the city to become a pilot project for mass testing as originally proposed by the Labour Group at the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting in April 2020 in view of the rising cases. To work with Director of Public Health Dr Liz Robin to assess whether this would be an appropriate intervention for the city, and the feasibility of this being carried out within current resources. If not, to consider a modification in approach by utilising current mobile testing facilities to actively test populations within the "hot spot" areas in the city, through mobile outreach operations rather than stationary operations.**
- **To call upon the city's two MPs to make representations on behalf of the local authority if this is required, to support the need for more funding**

towards further testing resource or for further testing capacity to be made available.”

13(7) Motion from Councillor Fower

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Fower in relation to Postal Service workers. The motion was **AGREED** (42 voted in favour, 10 voted against, and 6 abstained from voting) as follows:

“Council notes the effort shown by Postal Workers in Peterborough during the pandemic.

Council records its appreciation for the commitment shown by these key workers.

Council notes Peterborough Posties, along with working throughout the pandemic, have seen workload increase by 34% in some areas, worked during record heat waves, through several significant storms, including Saturday 3 October, the wettest day for UK-wide rainfall since records began in 1891.

Council most importantly notes that without our local posties, a range of essential items, such as Covid Testing kits, Legal Documents, NHS information, medication and even letters from MPs would not have reached their destination.

Council resolves:

1. **That the leader of the City Council to write a letter of thanks and gratitude to Royal Mail and the CWU Eastern No5 Branch, Papyrus Road, Peterborough PE4 5PE as soon as possible.**
2. **To urge councillors to take a solidarity photo in the next week, to be shared on their social media using the tags @cwunews @RoyalMail and #PboroPostiesMatter.”**

Councillors For: Ali, Aitken, Judy Fox, Cereste, Dowson, Walsh, Lane, Casey, Seaton, Warren, Joseph, Gul Nawaz, Yasin, Robinson, Ellis, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Jones, Ayres, Jamil, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Harper, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Bisby, Fower, Skibsted, Holdich, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Coles, Fitzgerald, Hussain, Hiller, Simons, Lamb, Bashir, Rush

Councillors Against: Barkham, Wiggin, Haynes, Over, Lillis, Sandra Bond, Shaheed, Andrew Bond, Day, Sandford

Councillors Abstaining: John Fox, Hogg, Ash, Howell, Farooq, Allen

13(8) Motion from Councillor Shaz Nawaz

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Shaz Nawaz in relation to motions. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“This council notes:

1. Motions are an integral part of council business
2. Motions are a useful mechanism for proposing substantive issues for consideration including council action
3. Motions enable the council to adopt a particular course of action, to do some act, or to document a specific approach or attitude
4. Motions are an opportunity for members to debate and discuss important issues
5. Motions are part of our democratic process and serve as a vital instrument to help the council move forward

The council believes:

It is the democratic right of its members to table motions to create a robust and forward-thinking Local Authority.

The council resolves to:

Request the Constitution and Ethics Committee to review the situation in terms of allowing more time for debating motions. In particular, it is to review and consider introducing additional full council meetings to discuss and debate motions specifically.”

13(9) Motion from Councillor Casey

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Casey in relation to arts, heritage and theatre. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Arts and Culture are recognised as important elements for the creation of confident communities, towns and cities.

With the demise of Vivacity and its former provisions being taken back in house, it is important that Peterborough reconfirms its dedication to recognising arts, culture, heritage and theatre as central to its identity.

In doing so, the Council’s plans should reinforce the commercial and social value of arts and culture to the city, not only for our residents but with a commitment to the future development of our tourism appeal regionally, nationally and internationally. The Council will need to consider a post Covid world and the dramatically reshaped demands of our High Street, and the leisure and recreation spend.

Importantly the plans need to recognise and embrace the valued contribution of all groups and partners in the sector.

The Council resolves:

To task the Cabinet Member for Culture to work with officers, all partners, and stakeholders, to develop an ambitious Culture Strategy for Peterborough; recognising the outstanding assets in place, and the potential for further development of the arts, heritage and theatre scene in our City.

Additionally, as part of our aspirations, we provide a commitment that a bid for City of Culture status will be refreshed and prioritised as a short to medium term project.”

13(10) Motion from Councillor Sandford

Councillor Sandford advised that he no longer wished to move his motion.

13(11) Motion from Councillor Hogg

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Hogg in relation to fireworks. The motion was **AGREED** (33 voted in favour, 17 voted against and 7 abstained from voting) as follows:

“This Council notes that:

- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) says the law is failing. It does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing

distress, injury, or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury, or distress to animals.

- That further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and people. In the meantime, several things can be done to improve the situation for wildlife and people at risk of being affected by firework explosions.
- Applying the same Challenge 25 (whereby anyone who is over 18 but looks under 25 is asked to produce acceptable ID when they want to buy alcohol) legislation to fireworks as there is with alcohol will ensure that less young people will be injured by fireworks.
- Review of the licensing all public firework displays is needed, ensuring displays are better advertised to the public informing of noise levels and how it may affect people and animals.

This Council resolves to:

- **Encourage public firework displays within the Peterborough area to be advertised in advance of the event, with appropriate advertising for the size of the display, allowing residents to take precautions for people in their care and pets. To include a webpage on the council's own website giving details of public firework displays.**
- **Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks. To be included on the fireworks webpage.**
- **Encourage local suppliers of fireworks to separate 'quieter' fireworks from the loud ones so people can choose which ones they prefer with animal and people safety in mind. Provide large labels to sticker the products with green for quiet, red for loud.**
- **Encourage local suppliers to apply Challenge 25 policies in the same way alcohol sales are conducted.**
- **To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays."**

Councillors For: Sandford, Rush, Dowson, Barkham, Lane, Hogg, Wiggin, Joseph, Ash, Yasin, Haynes, Robinson, Ellis, Howell, Lillis, Jones, Jamil, Azher Iqbal, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Harper, Murphy, Sandra Bond, Shaz Nawaz, Shaheed, Fower, Skibsted, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Andrew Bond, Hussain, Day, Lamb

Councillors Against: Walsh, Casey, Warren, Gul Nawaz, Over, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Ayres, Burbage, Farooq, Holdich, Coles, Fitzgerald, Hiller, Bashir, Bisby

Councillors Abstaining: Aitken, Judy Fox, Cereste, John Fox, Seaton, Allen, Simons

14(a) Appointment of the Section 151 Officer

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

1. Note the decision by the Employment Committee on 17 November 2020 to permanently appoint the role of Director of Resources; and
2. Formally appoint Peter Carpenter to the Section 151 Officer role.

**FULL COUNCIL 9 DECEMBER 2020
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	None received.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Questions on notice to:

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

1.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>Recently several temporary cycle lines have been setup around the city due to central government funding being made available, what mechanism was used to make the decision to approve the sites and was this decision eligible for call-in?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member response:</p> <p>The council was provided with funding from central government and instructed to install pop-up walking and cycling measures through reallocating road space to ensure there was enough space to socially distant whilst encouraging more people to walk and cycle. The funding required that these measures needed to be implemented in a very short time period so discussions took place between Officers and some members of the Cabinet to approve where these temporary measures should be installed. These were approved via the Council's protocol for the approval of Covid-19 spending and that decision was not eligible for call in. For the second tranche of funding we will be able to undertake a full consultation exercise before any schemes are implemented and we have established a Cross Party Working Group to review and assist with these measures.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>For Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p> <p>Council will no doubt be aware of the financial difficulties of the police service in Cambridgeshire, which is one of the fastest growing areas of England. Peterborough's population is rising; however, police funding is not rising proportionately. The police executive has proposed a reduction in civilian staff including reducing PCSOs to a fraction of the previous levels.</p> <p>Do you agree:</p> <p>(a) That this is not the correct time during a pandemic to be cutting established staff who know their communities and in particular have been able to help engage with the public and educate on public health COVID matters and the rules? This is the time for security and continuity rather than the insecurity of cutting these staff.</p> <p>(b) Do you agree that the police service should seek additional funding for the additional Coronavirus work it is and has been undertaking and not progress any plans to cut these police service staff who play such a significant role in protection our communities here in Peterborough?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member response:</p> <p>Police resourcing decisions are a matter for Cambridgeshire Constabulary. I am aware</p>

	<p>that this issue is still at proposal stage and that a formal consultation is yet to be started. On this basis I am unable to pass comment given that the outcome is yet to be decided.</p> <p>Further, decisions around police funding are also out of our control and should be directed to the Chief Constable or the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>For Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Constabulary intends to halve the number of police community support officers. This will have major repercussions for many areas in the city. Will this create extra work for council staff in terms of receiving more casework and how will the council budget for any likely additional budgetary pressure?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member response:</p> <p>Officers have spoken with Cambridgeshire Police, who confirm that the proposal to reduce PCSOs is not yet at consultation stage, and it would be inappropriate to pre-judge the outcome or to comment upon impacts until they are fully known. However, I am reassured from the information provided by the Police that they are placing strong emphasis on neighbourhood delivery. I am also reassured that Police Constable numbers are at an all-time high and will continue to improve with a further 140 officers expected in the next 2 years.</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford</p> <p>For Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment</p> <p>Could the relevant cabinet member tell me how many non-woodland trees were planted on Peterborough City Council land between 30 November 2019 and 1 December 2020 and how many non-woodland trees were felled or removed during the same period?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member response:</p> <p>576 non-woodland trees were planted on Peterborough City Council land between 30 November 2019 and 1 December 2020. 466 non-woodland trees were felled or removed during the same period.</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz</p> <p>For Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Finance</p> <p>What plans does the council have to support small local businesses post-pandemic in view of the financial difficulty most of them have endured?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member response:</p> <p>I'm not sure anyone knows when we will be post-pandemic so I presume the question seeks to understand work already undertaken together with current and future activity. It is considerable and I'm grateful for the opportunity to set it out.</p> <p>We worked hard to help the city centre re-open and obtained £800k of funding from the Combined Authority to deliver improvements and our cafe culture ambitions. I have had discussions with Cllr Cereste on additional exciting opportunities to go even further that</p>

	<p>should be cost neutral.</p> <p>Free parking helped many local businesses and our Enforcement staff are working hard to ensure businesses are Covid compliant and can keep trading.</p> <p>We received £23.9m through the Towns Fund Grant, covering a range of great projects, to help us build back better. That includes ideas to revitalise Lincoln Road in Millfield from Windmill Street to Searjeant Street (close to the Triangle)</p> <p>Our pension fund has committed £50m with £50m from Foresight to invest in local business. As part of that, nearly 30 events have happened including advice on how small businesses can respond to the pandemic and come back stronger.</p> <p>Just this week a new scheme was launched with help from the British Library. It involves a dedicated programme to support SMEs to transform, future-proof and grow their business through the Covid-19 pandemic. Open to all, Reset. Restart offers practical, jargon-free training and advice. It covers opportunities in the 'new normal', product and service innovation, marketing, finance and new business models. Businesses can also access 1:1 sessions and an extensive online programme of workshops.</p> <p>We continue to support small local businesses with work for the Council and, as we come out of the pandemic, buy local will be really important.</p> <p>Throughout the pandemic we have also promptly delivered funding including;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) £41.3m of business rates relief to 1,299 Retail, Hospitality, Leisure and Nursery providers. 2) £32.2m of Small Business Grant funding to 2,654 small, rural, retail, hospitality and Leisure businesses 3) £1.6m of Discretionary Grants to 110 local businesses <p>We were in the top 10 nationally for the speed of delivery.</p> <p>Presently we are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) delivering £2.8m to businesses closed during the lockdown 2) launching a Discretionary Scheme that will deliver £4m to businesses that are open but have restricted trading <p>As the Council are in Tier 2 we will also administer further support grants and, specifically, a scheme for £1,000 payments to pubs where wet sales are the predominate business</p> <p>In addition, we are always pleased to engage with businesses who have difficulties paying rates or businesses renting Council properties by reviewing payment schedules.</p> <p>We give ongoing support to a variety of enterprises with partial rate relief.</p> <p>I hope that gives a flavour of our work.</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg – Ward Specific</p> <p>For Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Finance</p> <p>Stanground Community Centre has recently transferred from the Stanground Community Association to a new provider Wildheart. What funds, if any, has the SCA received from the council and what committee meetings has the council</p>

rep on the SCA attended in the last three years?

The Cabinet Member response:

The council has worked closely with Stanground Community Association and with the Wildheart Collective through the community asset transfer process. The Wildheart Collective has been selected as the new operator of the Stanground Community Centre following a competitive process. Legal work is now underway to agree the lease and handover the building; this is expected to conclude early in 2021.

No grants have been awarded to Stanground Community Association in the last three years, however the council has invested £11,662 in repairs and maintenance of the building, which we own, since 2018.

The council does not hold records of meetings attended by Members appointed to external organisations. However, I can confirm that officers have attended three formal meetings of the Stanground Community Association and have had numerous informal meetings and correspondence with the organisation as part of the asset transfer process.

Questions on notice to:

d. The Combined Authority Representatives

None received.