

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2024  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR SANDFORD**

*To be read in conjunction with the agenda and additional information pack for the meeting.*

*Should you wish to listen to the debate had, please visit Peterborough City Council YouTube Channel at*

[Full Council – 24/01/2024](#)

**Present:**

Councillors Ahmed, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Asif, Ayres, Barkham, Bi, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Casey, Cereste, Cole, Coles, Day, Dowson, Elsey, M Farooq, S Farooq, Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, John Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, D Jones, Khan, Mahmood, Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Ray, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Strangward, Thulbourn, Warren and Wiggin

**74. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fenner, A Jones, Lane, Seager, Stevenson, Trust and Tyler.

**75. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**76. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 December 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**77. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor introduced his announcement report, which outlined the recent civic events attended by the Mayoral Party. The full report can be found in the agenda pack.

The Mayor invited Chair of the Constitution and Ethics Committee address Council and they announced the winners of the Civic Awards.

## **78. Leader's Announcements**

The Leader made a number of announcements and Group Leaders were able to respond.

Topics included the Growth Prospectus, Phase 3 of the University, the Net Zero Strategy, the end of the Serco contract, the Customer Service teams' notification of excellence accreditation and Holocaust Memorial Day.

## **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

### **79. Questions from Members of the Public**

Two questions were received from members of the public in respect to financing the building of Fletton Quays and the £50 million loan the Council agreed to take out earlier this financial year.

The questions and responses are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes and are available on the Council's website.

### **80. Petitions**

#### **a. Presented by Members of the Public**

There were no petitions presented by Members of the public at the meeting.

#### **b. Presented by Members**

There were no petitions presented by Members at the meeting.

### **81. Questions on Notice**

- a. To the Mayor**
- b. To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet**
- c. To the Chair of any Committee of Sub-Committee**
- d. To the Combined Authority Representatives**

Questions in relation to (a) to (d) were raised and taken as read in respect of the following:

- 1. Keeping Peterborough road verges clear of litter and debris.
- 2. Maintenance of the Regional Pool
- 3. The disposal of the former Woolworth's building
- 4. Future swimming provisions within Peterborough
- 5. Money loaned and interest paid respect of the Hilton Garden Hotel development
- 6. Plans for the gravel car park in front of the London Road site
- 7. Location of third changing places toilet
- 8. Increasing the uptake of the MMR vaccination
- 9. Banning meat and dairy products from Council catering arrangements
- 10. How much money Empower was bringing into the Council

11. How many streetlights were not working and how many had been broken for over a year.
12. Alleged poor financial decision making by the former Conservative administration.
13. Purchase and sale of Peterborough City Football Ground
14. Consultancies with disability access expertise had been involved in the plans for the Station Quarter.

The questions and responses are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes and are available on the Council's website.

## **82. Petition for Debate - PCC to keep open Eye Youth Centre and Library Building**

The lead Petitioner addressed Council and detailed why he had submitted the petition.

Councillor Howard proposed and Councillor Mohammed Farooq seconded, a motion in response to the petition. Councillor Farooq reserved his right to speak, and Council moved to debate.

After debate, Councillor Mohammed Farooq exercised his right to speak, and Councillor Howard summed up.

A recorded vote was taken on the motion (53 voting in favour, 0 voting against, 0 abstaining from voting.) The motion was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED** as follows:

Council acknowledges the petition from Mr McKean, and propose that the petition is referred to the February Cabinet meeting when the next steps in respect of the Eye Community Centre and Library will be considered and Cabinet will be able to take into account the petition and the comments made by members this evening as part of the consideration of the next steps. This will be in line with the work that is being done on the asset review. In the meantime, the communities and property teams, and myself as the Cabinet member responsible, will continue with the high level of engagement with Mr McKean to discuss the site and ensure when a decision is made it is suitable for the Eye community.

Council adjourned at 19:56

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **83. Executive and Committee Recommendations to Council**

There were no items to consider.

### **84. Questions on the Executive Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting**

Councillor Farooq introduced the report, which outlined the record of Executive decisions made since the last meeting.

Members asked questions on the following Executive Decisions:

- Termination of Contract DEC23/CMDN/67
- Compensation for Upheld Complaint (Housing Needs) DEC23/CMDN/72

### **85. Questions on the Combined Authority Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting**

There were no items to consider.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **86. Motions on Notice**

#### **86(1) Motion from Councillor Rangzeb – Peterborough Ceasefire**

Councillor Rangzeb moved his motion, as amended in the additional information pack.

Councillor Day seconded the amended motion and reserved her right to speak.

Council debated the motion; Councillor Day exercised her right to speak, and Councillor Rangzeb summed up.

A recorded vote was taken on the motion (44 voting in favour, 0 voting against, 9 abstaining from voting.) The motion was **CARRIED**.

**Councillors For:** Councillors Ahmed, Asif, Barkham, Bi, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Cereste, Cole, Day, Dowson, Elsey, M Farooq, S Farooq, Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, John Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, D Jones, Khan, Knight, Mahmood, Nawaz, Qayyum, Rangzeb, Rush, Sabir, Sandford, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Strangward, Thulbourn, Warren and Wiggin.

**Councillors Against:** None.

**Councillors Abstaining:** Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Casey, Coles, Over, Perkins, Ray and Sainsbury

### **87. Reports to Council**

#### **87(a) Leaders Scheme of Delegations**

The recommendations moved by Councillor Mohammed Farooq and seconded by Councillor Howard were **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed as follows:

That Council note the changes made by the Leader of the Council to the members of the Cabinet as set out in Appendix 1.

#### **87(b) Members Appointments and Constitution Updates**

The recommendations moved by Councillor Howard and seconded by Councillor Mohammed Farooq were **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed as follows:

It is recommended that Council:

1. Approves the appointment of the Chairs of the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee and Licensing Committee and changes to the appointments to committees and other authorities as listed in Appendix 1.
2. Notes the consequential changes to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer as set out in Appendices 2,3 and 4.

The Mayor  
6.00pm - 8.58pm  
24 January 2024

**FULL COUNCIL 24 JANUARY 2024  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<b><u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u></b>	
<b><u>Questions from members of the public</u></b>	
1.	<p><b>Question from Ed Murphy (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor John Howard - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor. I will read the question out for the benefit of the people who do not have a written copy, it's about the hotel. In 2017, that's 7 years ago, Council agreed a loan to finance the building of the Fletton Quay Hotel. How much in total has it cost Council to facilitate and borrow to finance the £14.7 million lent and were the requirements of Peterborough City Council's fair tax declaration mark complied with at all stages?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Peterborough City Council agreed a £15m loan as you know with Fletton Quays Ltd for regeneration purposes. The original loan agreement was with Norlin Hotels Holdings Ltd and was agreed at Cabinet back on 25 September 2017. The loan was transferred to Propiteer Ltd who took over Fletton Quays Hotel on 1 May 2020, after the original contractor went into administration.</p> <p>The loan has been drawn down in stages, and a Quantity Surveyor has been employed to ensure the value of the work justifies the loan drawdown. The amount drawn down on the loan is £14.7m and the interest due on the loan has been accrued and is payable when the principal is repaid. The amount of interest is commercially confidential but for reassurance the Council is the preferred creditor, thank you Mr Murphy.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>I didn't hear the last bit of the last sentence sorry.</p> <p>Cllr Howard</p> <p>Sorry Mr Murphy, I will repeat it.</p> <p>So, the amount of interest is commercially confidential, for reassurance the council is the preferred creditor.</p> <p>Ed Murphy</p> <p>Thank you very much for your response. I looked this week at the Public Works Board</p>

	<p>and its 5% they're charging at the moment on £14.7 million - that's £735,000 per annum, that's just for one year. We have to pay on the money we've borrowed every year maybe going back seven, so it costs quite a lot and then at Joint Scrutiny I heard the council are thinking of maybe borrowing it's a round figure, may be made up, £10 million to try and finish the hotel.</p> <p>I know there's a question later on from Councillor Hogg. Do we actually know how much this is going to cost?</p> <p>Do we know when it's going to be completed and are we maybe going to be spending more money on something that's costing us a fortune already and just if people look on the website, you'll see the fair tax pledge but only one box has been ticked. Can you check for me and let me know whether there was any non-compliance with the council's own Fair Tax Policy. Maybe had we complied we wouldn't have made this big financial mistake.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Yeah, thank you Mr Murphy. I can't answer for yesterday, I can only tell you where we are today and I think it's in the public's interest, in the council's interest that we open the hotel as a Hilton Hotel, as soon as we possibly can, and that's the answer I can give you at this stage.</p> <p>There was a very positive meeting with the Hilton yesterday so they still support the hotel which is really important and I think the best outcome for the city is, is to finish the job that was started and open it as a Hilton hotel and the only reassurance I can give you is that, that's what we are working on.</p> <p>Thank you thank you Mr Murphy.</p>
2.	<p><b>Question from Ed Murphy (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor John Howard - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance</b></p> <p>Did council members or officers seek an opinion from or discuss with the external review panel, that's the people you are paying to help you, the £50 million loan it agreed to take out earlier this financial year and since then how much have the administration saved following the change of leadership from the reduction in expenditure on cabinet members and advisors allowances and how much would this be over the medium-term financial plan?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Murphy.</p> <p>The business case for the acquisition of Sand Martin House was reviewed by Individual Improvement Panel members and was also discussed with the whole panel before the actual deal was made.</p> <p>Coming on to your other question, in the current financial year there is a circa £40k reduction in the cost of Special Responsibility Allowances as a result of the Peterborough First administration coming in. This is being captured with the Councils Budgetary Control Report supporting the Councils overall financial position. No changes have been made to the budget in future years however, as these roles and</p>

associated costs can change annually, depending on the administration and the political situation at the time obviously.

**Supplementary Question:**

Yeah, thank you and so in six months you've saved £40,000, I'm just wondering how is it going, what other savings have you been able to identify. The interest on £50 million is colossal though and what are you having to cut to pay for that and how's it been going?

**The Cabinet Member responded:**

Thank you, Mr Murphy.

How's it going? Very interesting but we are getting there, but to answer your question, about the £50 million, the case for the acquisition was based on the fact that overall, over the entire term we'd be saving money against the rent expenditure that would have gone out over, over that same period of time so it is a savings led decision that led to the purchase of it just to assure you, thank you.

**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. Question from Councillor Steve Allen (2)**

**Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change**

Regretfully, it increasingly feels that our country is not unfairly described as Dirty Britain.

However, driving along our Parkways and A roads, and sadly also the lanes and farm gateways in the rural areas of this Authority there are many miles of litter together with alarming amounts of fly tipping; Plastic bags, metal cans, fast food trash, DIY rubble, discarded tyres, miscellaneous debris and garden waste; baby strollers, old hairdryers, and a comprehensive panoply of white goods.

Certain urban areas of our city are far from immune, and I am sure Councillors in this Chamber will readily agree that the challenge of keeping any degree of Civic pride at many locations is seemingly out of the control of the Authority and out of the capacity the City Council to resolve the issue.

We must be forever grateful for the unswerving commitment and selfless dedication of the group of volunteers known to us all as The Peterborough Litter Wombles. This group turn out in all weathers to give their time to the thankless task of keeping our streets cleaner, and somewhat tidier: and have now even ventured out to clearing at



the side of the A Roads and Parkways.

It is at these locations that we should not underestimate the risks of working alongside fast-moving traffic, without road management plans and road closures in place.

This is clearly a very dangerous further development of what is expected from volunteers. (Indeed it's interesting to note that the group have now acknowledged on their Website that their public liability insurance is not valid when working on roads where the speed limit is above 30mph).

Can I ask the Cabinet Member:

Are we as a responsible authority not able to better fulfil the task of keeping our roadway verges clear of litter and debris, and are we not able to ensure that contractors take with them redundant signs and frames when the work they have undertaken is completed, by fines and prosecutions if necessary?

If these arrangements are adopted it would allow the Volunteers and Wombles to concentrate on the City Streets and Green spaces without endangering themselves, uninsured, by the side of fast-moving highways.

**The Cabinet Member responded:**

Councillor Allen, I share your regret that the pride once so strong in the residents of our country, is lacking by some. Especially those with a carefree attitude to littering and fly tipping. It is abhorrent, and those responsible should be ashamed of themselves and indeed as you reference, held to account and prosecution.

The council completes two verge cuts, litter picks and sweeps of the high-speed road network each year. I fully accept that there has been issues with cleansing of the National Highways network, but like fly tipping and littering these aren't issues that have manifested themselves over the last three months. You will note as part of our budget proposals this year, an investment into a planned cleansing regime for highways going forward.

Likewise, I can confirm that I have held tripartite meetings with representatives of National Highways, Aragon and Milestone to look to implement a collaborative and conjoined approach to cleaning, maintaining and litter picking these arterial roads. Barriers such as operatives who don't and currently won't work at times commensurate to a combined approach, are being worked through. As to whether we face an uphill battle as these issues have been allowed to spiral over many years through the direction of previous administrations.

Where signage is put in place by a utility company and they fail to remove this, we can and do administer fines. We also remind our contractors to ensure all signage is removed following completion of any of our own schemes.

I have tasked Milestone through James Collingridge to provide me with a data table of the signage implemented for each scheme, confirmation that the same quantity is being returned and within what time frame. My intention is that said signage be removed within 48 hours of any scheme completion.

I would like to echo the praise you suggest for the Peterborough Litter Wombles and the other litter picking groups and volunteers who do an amazing job supporting our

	<p>city. I am a regular participant in litter picks, where appropriate to do so, and I have met with both Mark Fishpool and Harry Machin to discuss issues and derive plans going forward.</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to them, but also remind people that we do not advocate accessing the city's high speed road network on foot, without suitable traffic management in place. I like you Councillor Allen, would much prefer to see the sterling efforts of the Peterborough Litter Wombles and other litter picking groups, focused on areas around streets, parks, open spaces, and pathways, where such inherent dangers don't exist, thank you.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>I would like to thank Councillor Elsey for his response to my first question.</p> <p>We're on the same page Councillor Elsey and I think that across this chamber there is a need and a thought that we need to do better with regards to litter picking, but my question is – it is widely reported in the national press and broadcast media that National Highways are in dereliction of their duties and responsibilities with regards to roadside clearance of litter and fly tipping.</p> <p>Do we have to put up with this neglect? Are we as a local authority not able to put in place contractual agreements with National Highways to ensure that the roads, walkways, and bridges in our area, which they hold responsibility, are better maintained and cleared and establish an agreed procedure for the regulatory of the work to be undertaken, thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor. The short answer is no. Can I suggest that as he is here, you speak to your learned friend to raise it in the House of Commons, that such an item is extremely difficult and with the greatest of respect, National Highways do and see how they please, thank you.</p>
2.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Day</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Growth and Regeneration.</b></p> <p>The Regional Pool (which is now closed) clearly needed some maintenance work 10 years ago. Why did this not happen and why hasn't funding been ringfenced for a new pool?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>I thank Councillor Day for the question.</p> <p>Whilst it could be argued that regular maintenance of the regional pool wasn't a priority for the previous Conservative administration, this most likely wouldn't have prevented its current state of closure. Members will be aware this is due to the potential structural weakness of the type of concrete used many years ago during its construction. This problem here has been exacerbated by the moisture and heat generated by the pool which creates a low-level sauna type atmosphere within the building.</p> <p>Whatever the political purpose over recent years, it's a fact that some ancillary</p>

	<p>maintenance has actually happened on areas of the regional pool to facilitate its use. This has included a number of upgrades to the heating system and asbestos removal.</p> <p>Where we are with regard to the historic ring-fenced capital funding for replacement pool, Councillor Day, I'm told recent election propaganda produced by the conservative group, promised voters they would invest £37 million into a new pool.</p> <p>It didn't materialize obviously, but I can tell you the funding element of any future provision of a pool, is high on the agenda of my colleague, our Deputy Leader Councillor Howard, thank you.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Hiller, for your response.</p> <p>Just wondering as we progress with these plans and potential funding for new pool, how will you ensure that user groups particularly those that use the deep aqua sessions, are catered for and can take part in the consultation that may well take place? Thank you.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you for the follow-up question Councillor Day.</p> <p>I think that's a very valid concern obviously, we're a fair way to go before detailed pool designs are created for appraisal; but I can reassure you the needs of all groups who previously used the regional pool, will be duly considered in the final designs of a new facility. Thank you, Councillor Day, and thank you Mr Mayor.</p>
3.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Wiggin (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor John Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance</b></p> <p>The former Woolworths building was purchased for over £4m by the previous Conservative administration while recklessly chasing Towns Fund money being offered by central government. Now the Vines project is no longer destined to be homed in that building and it is now a white elephant in our high street, can the relevant cabinet member please outline the plan for its disposal and are we looking at making a profit or a loss from its sale?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you and through you Mr Mayor.</p> <p>The agreement to proceed with the disposal of the former Woolworths Building was agreed in July 2023.</p> <p>The building was identified as surplus, and the Towns Fund grant funding associated with it needs to be recovered and redistributed across the programme.</p> <p>In relation to the disposal of the building, it should be noted that there is a requirement for the Council to achieve best value under Section 123 of The Local Government Act 1972. A Red Book Valuation will be undertaken by an independent</p>

	<p>valuer prior to the completion of the sale. The proposed purchaser will be required to share full details of their development proposal.</p> <p>The negotiation with third parties for the disposal, I'm glad to say, is live and it is anticipated that the building costs will be recovered, with no loss to the Council nor the grant funding, thank you.</p> <p><b>Supplementary question:</b></p> <p>Yes, thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p>I thank Councillor Howard for his answer and for the reassurances he has given.</p> <p>Could he also outline the ongoing plans for the Vines project at the Central Library site and if we have an expectation of when this will be completed, thank you.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Wiggin.</p> <p>There is an expectation for the proposals to be finished or proposition to be finished by March 2026, but the new Vine proposals are really exciting and will be split across the Central Library and the Good Shed, with two propositions for the city. And if you haven't seen the talking about regeneration video clip done yet by our officers, it gives a really good tour of some of the projects that are on the go and thank you for the question.</p>
4.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Dennis Jones (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Growth and Regeneration.</b></p> <p>Regional swimming pool was shut by the last Conservative administration many months ago. can the relevant cabinet member update us on the progress of the city's future swimming provisions?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Jones for the question.</p> <p>It's an issue which is of concern to many residents of our city and one which our Peterborough administration is taking very seriously. We're determined to find a way forward which is sensible, economically viable and provides for a proper facility for our residents for many, many years to come but in an open transparent and accountable way.</p> <p>As was outlined at the scrutiny meeting here on Monday evening, officers are currently developing a detailed business case that will set out options for the regional pool site together with proposals for swimming provision in the city.</p> <p>It's our intention to present a report to Cabinet in March seeking agreement on future arrangements. This will of course be an expedient and refreshingly transparent public process at the relevant time and will involve consultation with all members, affected parties and as I previously mentioned to Councillor Day's question, user groups of course. What won't be included Mr Mayor, is any outside influence for political gain nor any benefit to inappropriate private interest. Thank you, Mr Mayor,</p>

	and thank you Councillor Jones.
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Christian Hogg (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor John Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance</b></p> <p>I believe the Hilton Gardens Hotel development has recently been valued at around £6.5m can the Cabinet Member for Resources please confirm if this is the case and outline how Peterborough City Council is going to recover not just the money loaned but also the interest paid on that money by the council which I believe is around £17m.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Hogg, for the question.</p> <p>The council has lent £14.7 million to Fletton Quays Hotel limited, which was developing the Peterborough Hilton Hotel. Interest was due at a commercial rate, payable at the end. Fletton Quays Hotel limited was recently put into administration as you know. The part-built Peterborough Hilton Hotel was recently valued at six and a half million by the developer that was put into administration. This is the value the developer put on an asset for sale under duress, the council would only make a loss if it chose to sell now, at this point.</p> <p>However, six and a half million, is not the value that Peterborough City Council puts on the hotel due to its financial value when the hotel is finished and the regeneration benefits for residents and businesses. We are waiting for professional advice on the value of the hotel, which is expected in February and then the council will decide its strategy for the hotel after that.</p> <p>One of the options the council is considering, is developing the hotel itself. The council has received valuations from a professional quantity surveyor for the value of work completed on the hotel, before each loan draw down; and it is due to this professional advice that the council believes its financial investment is secure. Thank you.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>I thank Councillor Howard for his answer. Would he in fact agree with me that once again we have seen the council, conservative led - get rich quick scheme, fall on its face and that council is in real danger of losing hardworking residents' money, which could have been better spent on delivering much needed services and that this administration will not be participating in foolishly gambling our scarce financial resources in this way going forward.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Hogg.</p> <p>I think the historical decision in hindsight would of course be one thing, however, I can't talk about yesterday, I can only talk about tomorrow and say the Peterborough First led administration firmly believes that the best outcome for the residents of this city, is to now have a hotel open as soon as possible with the Hilton sign on it.</p>

	<p>I can assure you that officers met the Hilton team yesterday who are still very much in favour for it.</p> <p>And I think, our role as the current administration, is to manage that process and ensure that we protect the money invested in the hotel by getting it open efficiently and quickly as we can.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Wiggin (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor John Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance</b></p> <p>Can the relevant cabinet member please inform council what plans if any it has for the gravel car park at the front of the London Road site, retained by the council for sale to developers for use as affordable city centre carbon zero housing (as announced at the time of sale) given that it has recently leased this car park to the football club?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you and through you Mr Mayor.</p> <p>Despite the London Road gravel car park now being occupied under a lease for the use of the site as a car park, I can confirm that the site will continue to be reviewed for alternative uses or development options. No specific detail on the type of future development has been considered as yet and any carbon zero requirements will be considered at the appropriate time. Councillor Wiggin, I hope that helps. Thank you.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor.</p> <p>I am always happy to hear from Councillor Howard as my Ward Councillor and I thank him for the answer.</p> <p>Could he also outline what plans exist for the Pleasure Fair carpark site currently owned by Medesham Homes.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Wiggin.</p> <p>It is part of the prospectus as you will see in the book, so we are looking at, you know, potential investors and potential offers on that site and as soon as there is any more information to share, I will gladly come back with an update.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Julie Stevenson (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Housing, Growth and Regeneration</b></p> <p>The city council has secured funding for three Changing Places toilets that will be fully accessible to city's older and disabled people (in particular). One of these will be in Ferry Meadows and another is planned for the Cathedral Precincts. There is a strict deadline (end of April 2024) by which the money must be spent. Please would the cabinet member tell us where the third Changing Places toilet will be and provide</p>

	<p>reassurance that this funding will not be lost.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>I thank Councillor Stevenson in her absence for the question and I hope she is well.</p> <p>I would like to confirm to members, that officers are in regular contact with DLUHC to guide the development of these new and important facilities for our city.</p> <p>Cllr Stevenson is right that one of the three changing places toilets will be located at Ferry Meadows, and we expect that the second facility will be located within the Cathedral Precincts and confirm that the Cathedral folk are actively working with the necessary specialists to deliver this scheme expediently, Mr Mayor. The final facility will be located within a private, yet accessible, business within the city centre. I would like to reassure members that whilst the initial funding deadline was the end of March, this has now been extended by a further three months to enable these facilities, these very important facilities to happen.</p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, and if Councillor Stevenson is watching, thank you very much for the question.</p>
8.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Jackie Allen</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Saqib Farooq, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health and/or Councillor Bisby, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services</b></p> <p>MMR Vaccination (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) is a two-dose vaccination given at 1 year &amp; 3 years, 4 months. Vaccination in Peterborough has been concerning for some time. Uptake for the MMR Vaccination against the latest published data July-September 2023 shows 1st Vaccination (MMR 1) by age 2 has an uptake of 83.8 % and 2nd Vaccination (MMR 2) by age 5 has an uptake of 78%.</p> <p>An effective vaccine requires two doses with a target uptake of 95% to eliminate/eradicate diseases preventable by immunisation so unsurprisingly Measles is on the rise and 1 in 5 children will be hospitalised, some with serious complications and even death.</p> <p>The West Midlands is experiencing a huge increase in confirmed cases of measles and Schools are being advised that any child who comes into contact with a case and has not had at least one dose of the MMR Vaccine should be excluded for 21 days to protect others.</p> <p>Real financial hardship will be the experience of families forced to isolate if Peterborough follows the path of the West Midlands not to mention the stress of watching loved ones suffer.</p> <p>Given that Peterborough is well below the national average on the MMR Vaccine, please can you give a clear and concise proposal on how this council and its partner agencies can work with Public Health &amp; NHS to increase the uptake of the MMR vaccination with a sustained campaign that targets any inequality in vaccine uptake and measures the campaigns effectiveness.</p> <p><b>Councillor Saqib Farooq, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you to Councillor Allen for raising this important</p>

	<p>question.</p> <p>As we know, there are increases of measles cases in England, especially in areas such as Birmingham. Peterborough itself does have low MMR vaccination uptake rates and it is really important for children and young adults who haven't had their vaccine, to get one as soon as possible. Even a single dose of MMR vaccine will provide a very high level of protection against clinical measles.</p> <p>In Peterborough, we are working with all settings including health, early years, schools, universities and workplaces to highlight the importance of people getting their vaccine. This is building on the work we have done with partners over the last year, including the ICB and Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>We would encourage all councillors to promote the MMR vaccination to their communities and distribute the communications that will be coming out through the council.</p> <p>I would also like to say that it is never too late to catch up. The MMR vaccine is free on the NHS, whatever the age. If anyone has missed one or both doses of the vaccine, they can contact their GP practice to book an appointment. There is also a vaccine outreach clinic being held at Gladstone Child and Family Zone on the afternoon of the 29<sup>th</sup> January for those 4-18 and Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust will be delivering other outreach clinics in Peterborough over the next month, thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>I guess that just to make sure that the publication of these additional outreach clinics are very firmly put in front of us as Councillors and any other agencies that can promote those dates, please.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Allen.</p> <p>I completely agree with that. As Councillor Elsey said earlier in a previous question, I think it is the responsibility of all of us, as Members here, to raise awareness and promote these clinics and any programmes as much as we possibly can, thank you.</p>
9.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Steve Allen (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance</b></p> <p>It has been widely reported in the media that many of our neighbouring local authorities have made a decision to ban meat and dairy products from council catering arrangements.</p> <p>Can I ask for an assurance from the current administration that this council will not take that route and we will continue to provide choice, avoid being overly prescriptive with how we cater for those attending meetings and events, and using our venues, and allow customers and consumers to make their own informed choices as adults.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p>



	<p>Thank you, Councillor Allen, for the question.</p> <p>And to give you some reassurance, Peterborough City Council has not made any decision to make changes to the Council catering arrangements and will continue to provide choice for all dietary requirements, across both civic and charitable events to the best of its ability, thank you for the question.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>I do indeed have a response and I thank Councillor Howard for his response.</p> <p>I am sort of somewhat reassured, but I am conscious that certain words that you don't like to be used in the chamber and I guess one of those would be coalition, so I will take that out of my response.</p> <p>And my response is that being conscious with elections in May, the political pendulum may well swing again and who knows where it will land. Hopefully allowing electors to select councillors who will stand by the party they list on the ballot paper. With that in mind, can I check whether your response has been agreed with the other parties in the chamber, who in alliance with you, are currently supporting the minority administration with its response, thank you.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, and through you Mr Mayor. I would be delighted to answer.</p> <p>Councillor Allen, I have always seen you as a sensible voice and one of the last One Nation Conservatives, and it does sadden me to see you initiate some sort of culture war out of choice of food. No doubt a motion will come forward soon on the same thing.</p> <p>The administration, very sad to see, but the administration, firmly believes in offering food choices, thank you for the question.</p>
10.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Iqbal</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance.</b></p> <p>Once Empower failed to pay council £23m loan (loaned by last conservative administration) the company was brought in house. How much income is it bringing into the council currently?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, it is me again.</p> <p>The Council invested £23m into Empower and on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2021, the company was put into administration and on the same day, the Council purchased the assets for £20.4m.</p> <p>The asset is treated as land and buildings in the Councils financial statements and depreciated in accordance with the Council's agreed policy. The Council receives income from the Feed In Tariff and deemed Export. The amount of income received each year is commercially sensitive and unfortunately cannot be disclosed tonight.</p>

	<p>However, I can say that the value we place on the panels is based on the Feed In Tariff income we receive and is consistent with their value as in the annual accounts.</p> <p>The income rises with RPI each year and the scheme finishes in 2037/38, thank you for the question.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Christian Hogg (2)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Gavin Elsey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change</b></p> <p>It has been noticed that many streetlights are not functioning, can the relevant cabinet member please inform us how many streetlights are currently not working and how many of those have been out of service for more than a year?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, and through you and thank you Councillor Hogg for your question.</p> <p>We currently have 28,200 streetlamps across Peterborough and of these, 193 have live issues which could include cable faults, faulty lamps and the need for full column replacements. Fifty-four of these issues have been open for over a year for various reasons. The team are working closely with Milestone to address these faults and designing the larger schemes such as Bourges Boulevard where we have old private power cables that need mass replacement, thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Elsey for your response.</p> <p>Where streetlights have been damaged as a result of a road traffic accident, I believe the cost of replacement repair can be recovered from the vehicle's car insurance or the Motor Insurance Bureau for uninsured loss.</p> <p>Is the council able to make repair and claim for the cost, or do we have to get the cost approved first, before proceeding with the repair.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Hogg.</p> <p>The short answer to that is – I don't have that information to hand so I will gladly provide it to you in a written response, thank you Mr Mayor.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Coles</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Mohammed Farooq, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>I was intrigued to read recently in the Hampton Gazette under the headline " A better future for us all", you stated, and I quote, "We have found many examples of poor financial decision making by the former Conservative administration which has wasted millions of pounds". You go on to say this has led to our property team considering the disposal of council owned properties to balance the books. You also</p>

	<p>criticise past investments by the council such as in the Hilton Hotel development and in solar energy investment.</p> <p>I'm always keen to learn, so could I ask you to detail the poor financial decisions I was responsible for, or that our former council leader Councillor Fitzgerald was responsible for that led to your statement?"</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Coles for the question.</p> <p>When I took over the leadership, I promised transparent and compassionate politics and a new style of leadership. I wrote an article in local magazine as a local representative.</p> <p>Most of the members are well aware of those bad financial decisions in this chamber and in fact, many of them are being discussed here today in many of the member questions. Those question being question 2, question 3, 4, 6, 5 and 10.</p> <p>As a leader and strategist, I am moving on from, where we are, to where we need to be and how to get there and to deliver best possible outcomes for our residents, thank you.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>Thank you very much Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Farooq for your response.</p> <p>I'm not entirely sure you answered my question which is - I would really have liked to know the amount of millions that we have, that I have personally been responsible for.</p> <p>I took over, had to remove £27 million out of the budget, and then £20.7m out of the budget and the issues that you talk about, well, we've heard about these things you say that we were responsible for, 2017, when I was a back bench Councillor then and Councillor Fitzgerald was Deputy Leader, it wasn't his responsibility. If you want to know about it, it would have been Councillor Seaton it would have been Councillor Holdich, our esteemed former Leader and it would have been someone else involved in Growth I think it is Councillor Hiller who is currently in that post now.</p> <p>So, it's unfortunate you have to use this sort of commentary about a group that you were formerly a member of.</p> <p>The fact is, there have been challenges because of COVID we know that there's been challenges because of Ukraine and the Russia's attacks.</p> <p>So, please would you answer the question specifically, why you had to use these terms of there being millions wasted when that's not the case. Just stop that, we don't need to do that, let's move on and let's look to the future, thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>We both agree on that, that what Councillor Coles just said – let's move on and let's look at the future.</p>
13.	<b>Question from Councillor Nick Thulbourn</b>

	<p><b>Councillor Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance.</b></p> <p>The Posh football ground was bought by the last Conservative administration for £8m and sold for £3m (incurring a loss of £5m to taxpayers) How much of the £3m has been paid to PCC?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p> <p>Thank you and through you Mr Mayor.</p> <p>The Council bought the Peterborough United football stadium and the surrounding and in 2010 for £8.4 million.</p> <p>Over that period of time since, we've sold the land and buildings at London Road, which includes the Weston Homes Stadium itself, the Business Centre and surrounding land at a value of £6.1million, which was in March 2021.</p> <p>The terms of the sale included an element of deferred consideration, but all monies due to date have been received.</p> <p>The London Road gravel car park was retained with a suggested value of £0.7m, and during the period of Council ownership, £4.5million in rent was received from Peterborough United football Club.</p> <p>In addition, business rates, council tax and section 106 has been received from the new properties developed. These include carbon neutral and affordable properties which have been developed on the land.</p> <p>Posh adds an estimated £7million to the city's economy each year, through wages, buying goods and services from local companies and its supporters spending money outside of the ground.</p> <p>There has been an economic and social benefit to Peterborough from the decision, as well as greater security to the football club so far, thank you.</p>
14.	<p><b>Question from Councillor Julie Stevenson (1)</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Housing, Growth and Regeneration</b></p> <p>There is disquiet and concern among Peterborough's disability groups, representatives, champions and disabled people that those responsible for producing plans for the new Station Quarter are not taking the needs of older and disabled people and people with long term conditions as seriously as they should. Initial drawings that have been released to the public seem to imagine a public realm where only the physically fit can participate. This is a recipe for social isolation for a very large section of our society. Please would the cabinet member confirm which consultancies with disability access expertise have been involved in the development of the plans for a fully accessible Station Quarter and what their design-for-all credentials are.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member responded:</b></p>

Thank you Mr Mayor and I would be very happy to. It is a very valid question from Councillor Stevenson as a timely reminder, I think to all of us here that building design should be inclusive and accessible for all user groups, not just as Councillor Stevenson says – the physically fit.

By way of reassurance, I can tell Members that the Council has engaged a multi-disciplinary designer, Arup, some may recognise the name, to develop the proposals for the Station Quarter.

British firm Arup was founded in 1946 and now has 94 offices in 34 countries. They have extensive experience of designing places, spaces and buildings which are fully inclusive and accessible-for-all, specialising in visible and non-visible disabilities.

They were recently involved Mr Mayor, in creating 6 of the 10 new central stations on the new Central London cross, cross rail Elizabethan line and helped shaped the oversight development for the commercial developer Partners.

They have experience in rail inclusion, and I can state that embedded within their own policy statements, is their commitment and I quote, to work with clients and collaborators with due consideration that their equality diversity and inclusivity commitments are consistent with their own.

Mr Mayor, the design work is currently at a very early stage, and it is important to note that what we are seeing now is just the illustrative ideas used to support the business case to confirm funding. More detailed design work will be undertaken over the coming months, to include extensive engagement with stakeholders including disability, access, cycle, and frail user groups, and the highway authority.

A planning application for the works in the public highway will be needed of course, with further open and transparent consultation occurring during the pre-app and statutory review stages.

Peterborough City Council welcomes the input and ideas of Peterborough’s disability groups in this design process and I’m confident Mr Mayor, that their views will be incorporated in the final design proposals.

Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Stevenson if indeed she is watching, thank you very much.

	<b>Questions on notice to:</b>
	The Combined Authority Representatives:
	<b>There were none.</b>