

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

**THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR MARCO CERESTE**

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

[Public Pack, Council, 24 July 2024](#)

[Additional Information Pack, Council, 24 July 2024](#)

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

[Full Council 24/07/2024 at 6.00pm \(youtube.com\)](#)

**Present:**

Councillors: Ahmed, Z. Ali, Allen, Antunes, Ayres, Bi, Bisby, Blakemore-Creedon, A. Bond, S. Bond, Boyce, Cereste, Cole, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Elsey, Farid, M. Farooq, S. Farooq, Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, John Fox, Geraghty, Harper, Hemraj, Hiller, Hillier, Hogg, A. Iqbal, N. Iqbal, Jamil, Jenkins, A. Jones, D. Jones, Khan, Knight, Mahmood, Ormston, Perkins, Qayyum, Rafiq, Ray, Rush, Sabir, Seager, Ann Shaheed, Asif Shaheed, Skibsted, Strangward, Walsh, and Warren.

**12. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: I Ali, Howard, McNally, Rangzeb, Thulbourn and Wiggin.

**12. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

**14. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 May 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**15. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor confirmed he had no announcements.

**Leader's Announcements**

The Leader made several announcements and Group Leaders were able to respond.

Topics included welcoming the new Monitoring Officer and Interim Director of Public Health to the Council, three Peterborough Parks that had retained green flag status and the Council's role as a Corporate Parent.

## **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

### **16. Questions from members of the public**

Two questions were received from members of the public in respect of Werrington Fields

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

### **17. 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.

### **18. 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. Grounds maintenance and clearing litter
2. The key priorities of Town Fund Board meetings
3. City centre toilet facility improvements
4. The Cabinet meeting held on 16 July 2024
5. The regional pool
6. The Dementia Resource Centre
7. The Dementia Resource Centre
8. Youth Service Provision
9. Housing Waiting Lists

The questions and responses are attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

### **19. Executive and Committee Recommendations to Council – Cabinet Recommendation - Peterborough Housing Strategy 2024-2029**

#### **RESOLVED THAT:**

Council approve the Peterborough Housing Strategy 2024-2029 for adoption.

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

Councillor Jones introduced the report, which outlined the record of Executive decisions made since the March 2024 meeting of Full Council.

Members asked questions on the following Executive Decisions:

- Sale of 441 Lincoln Road – MAR24/CAB/102
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP) Inter Authority Agreement – JUNE24/CMDN/05.
- Citizens Advice Peterborough Grant 2024/25 – JUN24/CMDN/06

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

There were none.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **22. Motions on Notice**

#### **22(1) Motion from Christian Hogg – Displaying of Food Hygiene Ratings**

Councillor Hogg moved his motion.

Councillor Mohammed Farooq seconded the amended motion and reserved his right to speak.

Council debated the motion; Councillor Farooq exercised his right to speak, and Councillor Hogg summed up.

A vote was taken on the amended motion and the motion was **UNANIMOUSLY** carried.

### **23. Reports to Council**

#### **23(a) Report of the Peterborough City Council Independent Assurance Panel**

It was proposed by the Mayor to suspend standing orders, seconded by Cllr Hogg.

The recommendations moved by Councillor Denis Jones and seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald were **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed as follows:

1. Requests the Cabinet to consider this report and respond with any action it wishes to take, including the recommended internal audit review on Peterborough Limited.
2. Requests the Growth, Resources, and Communities Scrutiny Committee to review this report, the Cabinet's response to it and the progress being made with the delivery of the Improvement Plan.

#### **23 (b) Update of the Children's Improvement Board.**

The Mayor invited the Cabinet Member for Children Services, Councillor Katy Cole to update Council on the work of the Children's Improvement Board.

The Mayor  
6.00pm - 8.00pm  
16 October 2024

**FULL COUNCIL, 16 OCTOBER 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 Louise Yates</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Qayyum, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health</b></p> <p>Since the new budget was implemented in September 2024, the Dementia Resource Centre in Peterborough has only been open for 3 days a week rather than the usual 5. The Council have said that it will be open for 5 days a week, so who is going to run the service on the remaining 2 days, what will the service on these days look like and when will it be effective from?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member may respond:</b> Updated 15.10.2024</p> <p>The new Dementia Support Service at the Dementia Resource Centre provided by the Alzheimer’s Society came into effect on the 13th of September. It will be moving to a new unit at The Cresset with a planned opening date in March 2025.</p> <p>The revised budget for this service, a result of the council ensuring the viability of its services, means that there have been some changes to the way it operates.</p> <p>Specialist Dementia Advisors and all of the core, valuable activities like Singing for the Brain and the Peer Support Groups continue to operate three days a week. On the other two days, service users can continue receiving important support from the Dementia Advisors in person, over the phone or virtually. We are also looking to enable external groups to utilise the space with other dementia friendly activities during these 2 days. These discussions with the voluntary sector are ongoing and I hope to be able to say more about that soon.</p>
2.	<p><b>Question from Nick Sandford</b></p> <p><b>Councilor Ellis, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport</b></p> <p>Does the Cabinet member for Environment and Transport share my concern about the state of evening bus services in Peterborough? Bus services only run hourly in the urban area and they all leave Queensgate at different times each hour, which means that passengers making cross city journeys have to spend extended periods of time in a bus station which has little visible security presence, where the roof leaks and where the toilets are closed after 5pm</p> <p>Will the cabinet member lobby the owners of Queensgate to make improvements to the bus station and press Stagecoach and the Combined Authority to improve the frequency and connectivity of evening bus services in the City?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member may respond:</b></p>

I share your concerns about the Bus Station. Council officers are meeting with Queensgate regularly to discuss the bus station, future improvements and accessibility considerations. Queensgate undertook several repairs earlier this year which included the toilets, escalator and lift.

Bus services are a lifeline for many of our residents and I would like to see better services and facilities so I will continue to work with the Combined Authority who have responsibility for commissioning bus services, as well as with Queensgate and Stagecoach to improve provisions across all of Peterborough including outside of the city centre connecting communities for work, school and visiting shops and attractions.

## **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

**PART B**

1.

**Question from Cllr Ann Shaheed**

**for Councillor Alison Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

In July, the National Policing Statement for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) was published. The report stated that over one million VAWG crimes were recorded during 2022/3 accounting for 20% of all police recorded crime and that police recorded VAWG had increased by 37% between 2018-23. The report calls this an 'epidemic' and a 'strategic threat'.

Police leaders are calling for a whole system approach to bring together criminal justice partners, government bodies and industry.

I note that PCC are working with White Ribbon UK however please can the responsible Cabinet Member explain what this will look like in practice and whether VAWG is being treated as an emergency by the Cabinet?

**The Cabinet Member may respond:**

I would like to assure you that this council absolutely treats Violence Against Women and Girls as a priority and we have made great progress this year to enhance our commitment to this important subject.

Our council officers lead the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence partnership, and we are instrumental in directing countywide strategies designed to improve our joined-up approach.

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership works closely with both internal partners such as Housing, Children and Adults Social Care; and external partners such as Police, Health and Probation. All these partners attend the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board which is co-chaired between the police and local authority. All partners contribute towards the countywide DASV Strategy, which is currently being refreshed.

Additionally, the council has refreshed its own policy and guidelines for our staff and elected members. This includes compulsory training modules for all staff, and we will continue to offer bespoke awareness training sessions to members so that you are all better equipped to support your residents.

We have also refreshed our Safe Accommodation Strategy to improve our support offer for victims, and this year we secured White Ribbon re-accreditation having successfully completed our action plan to evidence our good work in this area.

White ribbon's '16 Days of Action' for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls will be held this November, and there are a series of events and webinars which can be accessed free of charge to PCC staff and elected members, details of which can be found on our Domestic Abuse Partnership Website:

[www.cambsdasy.org.uk](http://www.cambsdasy.org.uk)

I would recommend you to check out the website as it is extremely comprehensive and will provide you with more information than I can do justice to tonight.

2.

**Question from Cllr Hogg (1)**

**For Councillor Alison Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

Can the relevant cabinet member please inform us what the current compliment of Pollution Control Officers is for the council and what the required establishment

	<p>should be, also when was this capacity last reviewed</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member may respond:</b></p> <p>The Pollution Control team comprises seven qualified staff who oversee pollution control and environmental health matters.</p> <p>We do know that demand for this service is high and so a full review of our Regulatory Services, of which this particular team forms a part, is being carried out.</p> <p>This review will conclude early in the new year and will include benchmarking our investment in the service with other similar councils.</p> <p>Meanwhile if any member has any specific pollution control issues that need to be addressed, please do make contact with the service so that they are able to help.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Question from Cllr Hogg (2)</b></p> <p><b>For Councillor Alison Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities</b></p> <p>At the time of a recent home game between Peterborough and Wrexham there were only two parking enforcement officers tasked with patrolling the city, this seems to be a woefully under resourcing given what seems to be a growing problem with antisocial and illegal parking by some. Can the relevant cabinet member please inform us on any action, if any, that is planned to redress this situation?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member may respond:</b></p> <p>The council currently employs 16 Civil Enforcement Officer working shift patterns to provide 7-day coverage across Peterborough. On the day in question 4 officers were on duty during the football match, tasked with patrolling residential areas along with car parks and on-street pay and display bays.</p> <p>Patrols took place on residential roads around the stadium including Glebe, Fairfield as well as Pleasure Fair Meadow Car Park. The officers who were allocated to other areas on that day would have also been on football patrols from 4pm and they managed the traffic at Sand Martin House after football.</p> <p>A review of the current resource level is in progress, any increases in staffing to be implemented by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 subject to no budget constraints as part of the implementation of our Moving Traffic Offence project.</p> <p>The introduction of Automatic Number Plate Recognition on several Car Parks across the city will also enable us to deploy officers to focus more on on-street parking offences which impact on residents across the city. Car parks affected are, Sand Martin House, Car Haven, Riverside is due to live later this week.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Question from Cllr I Ali</b></p> <p><b>For Councillor Angus Ellis, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport</b></p> <p>Following the recent news and noise on Social Media about potential sewage dumping in Kings Dyke river, what is Council's responsibility with respect to looking our environment and waters? Do we have any authority to work with the Environment Agency and ensure that our waters are protected?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member may respond:</b></p> <p>The Environment Agency is the primary regulator with regards to watercourses and will generally handle all sewage dumping and pollution issues internally, liaising with the council if required. However, the council's drainage team works closely with our partners at the Environment Agency on various projects and offer support as and when required. We also ensure that the issues and challenges relevant to</p>



	<p>Peterborough are both raised and well understood by the Agency, in order that they can be addressed. If Members have any specific issues they would like to raise, please do contact our drainage team for discussion.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Question from Cllr Allen (1)</b></p> <p><b>For Councillor Angus Ellis, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport</b></p> <p>The recent heavy rainfall has exacerbated a known issue with areas of highway and footpath flooding throughout the City.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways please update Councillors on the current arrangements in place for drain flushing, and the clearly neglected task of gully sweeping and clearing, including the regularity of these processes? Additionally, can any locations which might appear be the responsibility of National Highways be outlined and shared with the chamber. Can we also be updated on whether in these cases Peterborough City Council have an arrangement in place for this work to be undertaken by the authority as a discharged duty?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member may respond:</b></p> <p>The Council's gully cleansing program operates on a bi-annual basis by area, this is in addition to the ad-hoc reactive work completed to problem areas and in response to reports from FixMyStreet, which can be accessed on our website. We encourage its use to report concerns so our engineering team can attend site to assess the problem and prioritise work if required.</p> <p>Councillors will be aware that, as part of previous budget discussion, gully cleansing was reduced by a third and it is therefore not possible to cleanse the entire system every year, especially considering that the cost of doing this work has increased significantly.</p> <p>Aragon Direct Services carry out our street cleansing function and aim to cleanse the highway network that falls within our responsibility up to twice per year depending on road space availability.</p> <p>National Highways are responsible for the drainage systems associated with the major roads such as the A47, and the council does not carry this out on their behalf.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Question from Cllr Allen (2)</b></p> <p><b>For Councillor Dennis Jones – Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>Can I ask the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communications whether they agree with many in the City who believe that issuing Press Releases and Social Media posts implying 'Christmas would be cancelled' in the city unless sponsorship was forthcoming for the Christmas Tree and Lights Switch-On this year was a bad idea?</p> <p>I am sure that across this chamber there is an understanding of the financial challenges the Authority is facing.</p> <p>However, many businesses in the city are also facing difficult trading conditions; so, it must be accepted that threatening events will not happen is a commercially naive approach to achieving financial participation and support for an event that engenders such excellent goodwill and is seen as a popular well attended kick-start start to the festive season.</p> <p><b>The Leader may respond:</b></p> <p>Thank you for your question, Councillor Allen.</p>

	<p>In short, no I don't think it was a bad idea. To misquote none other than Hippocrates: "Difficult times call for difficult measures".</p> <p>To my mind and, clearly from the heartwarming and positive speed of the response to my appeal, neither did the respondents feel it was a bad idea. I am sure that you will agree that it was better than cancelling our city celebrations altogether, something other councils have had to do because of their own dire financial position.</p> <p>Our financial situation is well documented. We have around £11m to save in the current financial year because of the huge demand for services and in the next financial year we have a budget gap of between £13m and £24m, depending on whether you look at the best- or worst-case financial modelling.</p> <p>Lest we forget that we voted, unanimously, as I recall, that the cost of Christmas celebrations would be covered by sponsorship. Despite six months of attempting to raise the sponsorship, we were still £22,000 off our target. Given the financial situation that I have described, I was simply not willing to add to that challenge by using council funds to plug the gap.</p> <p>I don't think our communications were in any way threatening. They were honest and genuine.</p> <p>There are a large number of businesses in the city that have budgets to spend on community good causes, and it was a decision for those businesses whether they could support the event or not.</p> <p>For those that did, they are reaping the rewards of the publicity surrounding their collective effort to save Christmas.</p> <p>In summary, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you and all the other councillors who rallied to our cause and donate so swiftly and generously.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Question From Cllr Stevenson</b></p> <p><b>For Councillor Qayyum, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health</b></p> <p>Would the relevant cabinet member please provide an update regarding the relocation of the Dementia Resource Centre (where, when and how will it be funded going forward)?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member may respond:</b></p> <p>The council has identified a unit within The Cresset for the relocated DRC. Our Property team completed a review of all our buildings and identified an opportunity to use space within Bretton Library at The Cresset to incorporate the DRC. This will maximise the use of the space and support with delivering more efficient and cost-effective services.</p> <p>The programme has targeted a works start date in January 2024 which will run for 6-8 weeks, with a planned opening date in March 2025.</p> <p>The funding going forward originates from the same source as before, which is the main Adult Social Care budget.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Question from Cllr M Farooq</b></p>

	<p><b>For Councillor Nick Thulbourn – Cabinet Member for Regeneration To be answered by the Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>A vibrant city centre is often a measure/contributor of successful economy of city. At the beginning of the year Peterborough First administration funded for a business case to be done on the regeneration of Guild Hall and the Cathedral Square further funding to come from CA and other grants to conduct the regeneration. We also had all the partners such as Cathedral, Queensgate, NPT etc.. onboard. Can the cabinet member please brief the council what progress if any has been made in this regard?</p> <p><b>The Leader may respond:</b></p> <p>£40,000 was secured in March 2024 to fund a Viability Report for the regeneration of the Guildhall. This report will include a condition survey, structural survey, and an architects' feasibility study with four potential concepts. Preliminary discussions with Historic England and the Building Control service have also begun. The next steps involve passing the feasibility study and survey reports to the Quantity Surveyor for cost estimation and engaging the Regional Inspector for Ancient Monuments. Once complete, these elements will form the Guildhall Viability Report, which will outline the preferred option, funding strategy, and benefits. Should we be successful in this mission to breathe new life into this historic and iconic building, it will provide benefits as broad as combating anti-social behaviour, increasing civic pride, providing a new community space in the heart of our city, and providing a new facility through which to promote and support our visitor economy and stage a wide variety of events.</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Farid</b></p> <p><b>For Councillor Alison Jones – Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities</b></p> <p>Why has the decision regarding the mandatory licensing of CCTV cameras in taxis been deferred and delayed when the report was supposed to come to this full council meeting?</p> <p><b>The Cabinet Member may respond:</b></p> <p>The Licensing Committee met on 12th September to discuss the results of a recent public consultation in relation to the proposed mandating of CCTV cameras in Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles. A full debate was held with representatives from the trade, councillors, and council officers, after which the Licensing Committee gave recommendations to refer this to full council to allow all councillors the opportunity to consider this proposal.</p> <p>This council recognises that this proposed policy is of great interest to our Taxi operators, drivers, and users. Councillors will therefore need to take the time to consider all the facts carefully prior to full council. Additionally, officers are seeking to engage more with the relevant taxi trade representatives and unions who we know have a key part to play in this policy. It is therefore necessary to defer this until December's full council meeting to allow this further engagement to enrich the debate.</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Ray</b></p> <p><b>For Councillor Mohammed Jamil – Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance.</b></p>

I am aware that given the current situation of the councils finances a large proportion of the farm/rural estate is being sold off. Please could the relevant cabinet member provide council with an update regarding these sales and outline what consultation is taking place with current tenants of the land?

**The Cabinet Member may respond:**

In September 2022, the principle to dispose of the rural estate was approved at Cabinet as part of the Asset Disposal and Review Plan. Savills were instructed by Peterborough City Council to act as agents on disposals but also to provide support on tenancy and land management matters. Since this date, a number of holdings have been disposed of, either on the open market or terms agreed directly with the original tenants

As previously agreed at Cabinet it was confirmed that we would ensure that all tenants have a fair and reasonable opportunity to acquire their holding before the remaining estate is offered on the open market. This exercise has been concluded by Savills with regular updates and meetings taking place between the agents and Council Officers. Following additional successful terms agreed with other tenants including surrenders and sales, the final configuration of the remaining estate is now being marketed. The total acreage being marketed is 1,218 but also includes dwellings and outbuildings and the guide price is £9m. Any final terms will be brought back to Cabinet following the period of marketing.