

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 4.00PM, ON
TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2024
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

To be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting.

Should you wish to listen to the debate had, please visit Peterborough City Council Website and select Audio - [Cabinet Meeting – 6 August 2024](#)

Cabinet Members Present:

Councillors Dennis Jones (Leader), Katy Cole, Angus Ellis, Mohammed Jamil, Alison Jones, Shabina Qayyum and Nick Thulbourn.

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

35. MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2024

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 August 2024 as a correct record.

36. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET.

There were none.

37. Budget Control Report June 2024 – Quarter 1

Cabinet received a report that presented the quarter 1 iteration of the budget control report. In presenting the report the cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Governance highlighted the current in-year overspend together with the impact of interest rate rises that affected the costs of borrowing and demand for services within children's adult's services.

In response to Councillor's questions officers:

- Advised that a locality asset review was progressing as planned and 4 disposals were in the process of being completed. A maintenance plan for those remaining assets was being developed. It was anticipated that approximately £20m in capital receipts would be generated by year end.
- Explained that borrowing rates were linked to gilt yields that were monitored continuously Capital moratorium are interest rates likely to come down over what period – borrowing rates are linked to guilt yields, see that rates are dropping.

Always look out for opportunities to re-finance aging loans. Capital receipts can only be used for capital. Rates are volatile.

- Drew attention to the assistive technology and automation within adult services enabling it to operate in a smarter way. It was anticipated that the in-year position would improve over the remainder of the financial year.
- Provided assurance that the additional measure that requires Service Director approval for children entering care would not put vulnerable children at risk. The additional checks and balances reflected the severity of the situation.
- Advised that efficiencies had been identified in relation to transport costs for children with Special Education Need and Disabilities and proposals were being developed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

It is recommended that the Cabinet notes the Councils financial performance and forecast for 2024/25 as at 30 June 2024 (Quarter 1).

38. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-2028 Quarter 1 Update

The Cabinet received a report that provided an update on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for quarter 1. Introducing the report, the cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Governance informed cabinet that officers had reviewed assumptions for inflation, interest rates and demand forecasts. The estimated budget gap had increased significantly and proposals to reduce the deficit over coming years were being developed and presented to Cabinet and Full Council in February 2025.

During debate, members raised the following points:

- Highlighted the trend relating to Business Rates that were affecting Local Authorities as a whole. Officers explained that part of the issue was the estimated collection levels of Business Rates were too optimistic. Forecasts had therefore been improved. There were a significant number of empty premises in Peterborough, and it was essential that they were taken over for income and investment in the city.
- Questioned what the main issues were that affecting the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Officers explained that children's services required transformation in order to meet increasing demand. Inflationary pressures, pay awards and market conditions would require management. The key solution was to manage demand through prevention and service improvement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

Note the revised assumptions included within this quarter one Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025-2028 update as outlined within Appendix A of the report.

39. Shaping Our City Corporate Strategy and Budget Consultation

The Cabinet received a report that sought approval for the launch of the Shaping Our City public consultation that would run for a period of 6 weeks from 18 September 2024 to 27 October 2024.

During discussion of the report Cabinet:

- Noted the comments of the Chief Executive that the strategy set out a future for the city and redefined what the Council did. There had been good cross-party engagement regarding the strategy and there were lots of positive opportunities across the city. However, there were significant financial pressures and there would be difficult choices as a result. It was therefore essential to prioritise and look at value for money.
- Sought clarity regarding what plans were in place to enable all residents were able to contribute. Officers informed members that there were 8 meetings scheduled to take place across the city. There would also be a virtual session held online together with a survey, social media polls and a series of briefings that would be rolled out with partner organisations. More people that get involved will help.
- Expressed support for the work being carried out and the consultation being undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION:

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

Approve the launch of the Shaping Our City public consultation, which covers a refresh to the Corporate Strategy and budget position. This will run from 18 September 2024 for a period of 6 weeks, closing on 27 October 2024.

40. Healthy Child Programme Recommissioning Approach

A report was received by the Cabinet that sought approval for the Council to enter a Section 75 agreement with Cambridgeshire Community Services to provide a Universal 0-19 Healthy Child Programme, including Health Visiting and School Nursing.

During discussion of the report, Cabinet

- Questioned whether the Section 75 agreement would improve services. Officers provided assurance that Cambridgeshire Community Services was able to deliver the local authority functions through the agreement as it has experience of delivering such services.
- Noted that the recommendation was to enter a Section 75 agreement which represented a transfer of Council functions and was not a procurement or commissioning exercise.
- Expressed support for the change and emphasised that all children should have the best start in life, noting how the approach supported the Early Years' Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

1. Commission a Universal 0-19 Healthy Child Programme including Health Visiting and School Nursing that follows national commissioning guidance, has a focus on improving outcomes and reducing inequalities and allows flexibility to adapt to local needs by working in place-based integrated teams with other Local Authority (Education, Social Care and Community), Public Health and NHS services.
2. Peterborough City Council to enter into a Section 75 Partnering Agreement with Cambridgeshire Community Services for delivery of this service starting on 1st April 2025 for a duration of 2 years with the option to extend for 2+2 years (Total 6 years).
3. Agree the annual budget of £4,092,144.00 p.a.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to exercise the option to extend the Section 75 Partnering Agreement after each 2-year period. Additionally, grant the discretion to the Director of Public Health to amend the extension period into shorter durations based on service requirements.

41. ACADEMY CONVERSION OF A SCHOOL

The Cabinet received a report relating to the academy conversion of a school.

During discussion of the report Cabinet:

- Noted that the reason the schools was being converted to an academy following two OFSTED judgements that found the school required improvement.
- Noted that there would become a point where the increasing number of academies would impact on the standards and performance of remaining non-academy schools. However, assurance was provided that point had not yet been reached.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Cabinet resolved to:

1. Authorise the Council to enter into the following:
 - a. A Commercial Transfer Agreement (CTA) between the Council, the Governing Body of Newborough Church of England Primary School (the "School") and Peterborough Diocese Education Trust ("PDET").
 - b. Deeds of Novation/Assignment between the Council, PDET and (if applicable) the relevant third-party contractors including any building/constructions contracts, for the Council's interest in the contract entered into by the Council for the purpose of operating the school to be novated or assigned to PDET.
2. Authorise the Council to enter into the following:
 - a. A lease of 125 years of the playing fields occupied by the School, at a peppercorn rent granted by the Council to PDET
 - b. A statutory transfer of hardstanding areas and built land on the school site from the Council to Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance ("Diocese")

the main terms of which are set out in Appendix 1 (or such alternative terms as the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Director for Legal and Governance and the Executive Director for Corporate Services, determines are necessary to facilitate the academy conversion of the School).

3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Director for Legal and Governance and the Executive Director for Corporate Services to negotiate and enter into any documentation reasonably required to facilitate the academy conversion of the school.

Leader
16:00pm – 17:01pm
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