

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING  
HELD AT 4.00PM, ON  
TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 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 – 12 December 2024](#)*

**Cabinet Members Present:**

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

**59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

**60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**62. MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2024**

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 November 2024 as a correct record.

**63. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET.**

There were none.

**64. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2025/26 AND COLLECTION FUND DECLARATION**

Cabinet received a report that presented the Council Tax Base 2025/26 and Collection Fund Declaration. 4.7 there is a deficit on collection fund largely due to levels of historic debt. Investment is taking place to collect that debt.

In response to Councillor's questions officers:

- Explained that Business Rates were set nationally and were collected locally by the Council to be passed on to the Government. There was no discretion to alter the rateable values. There was a small discretionary

relief fund for small businesses, however, the criteria for the fund were limited.

- Explained that there had been significant appeals against Business Rates that had resulted in a refund. However, this was not something that was within the control of the Council.
- Noted that the downturn in Business Rate collection was a national issue. The retail sector had been affected significantly following the COVID-19 pandemic. Focussed work was taking place to address empty premises within the city and attract new businesses that would increase Business Rate collection.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

1. Propose the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2025/26 set at a level of 63,069.59 Band D equivalent properties based on the existing council tax support scheme.
2. To note the estimated position on the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax as at 31 March 2025 being:  
£0.548m Deficit
3. Note the estimated position on the Collection Fund in respect of Business Rates as at 31 March 2025 being:  
£12.833m Deficit
4. To note these estimated positions with the Executive Director of Corporate Services reserving the right to amend the final estimated position on the Collection Fund balance as at 31 March 2025 in accordance with the statutory Determination legislation and timescales.

## **65. BUDGET CONSULTATION 2025/26 LAUNCH**

The Cabinet received a report that presented the launch of the budget consultation 2025/26. The proposals set out how the administration would close a £23m budget gap.

During discussion, members raised the following points:

- Sought clarity regarding the featured proposed increase to Council Tax. Officers explained that a government policy statement indicated that Councils may have some flexibility regarding Council Tax, however, it was unlikely that provision would be made for Councils to go beyond the current

threshold where additional financial support was not being accessed. The local government financial settlement for 2025/26 was due to be announced and further work would take place following the announcement.

- Emphasised the point that the proposals set out within the report were a consultation and that no decisions had yet been taken. Residents were able to comment on the proposals set out in the document.
- Drew attention to the responsibility of all Councillors to set a balanced budget for the Council.
- Noted that the Friends of the Lido would be contacted in order to contribute their views.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

Approve the launch of the Budget Consultation 2025/26 from 17 December 2024, closing on 14 January 2025.

#### **66. OPPORTUNITY PETERBOROUGH**

The Cabinet received a report that sought the approval for the winding up of Opportunity Peterborough. The recommendations set out in the report were amended unanimously to take account of the 5 inactive subsidiary companies that were also to be wound up.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

Agree to the proposal that Opportunity Peterborough Limited, and its 5 subsidiary companies, be wound up and delegate authority to the Executive Director, Place and Economy to undertake all necessary action to wind up the companies

#### **67. KEY THEATRE PROGRAMMED WORKS**

A report was received by the Cabinet that sought approval for a delegation to go to tender for works to ensure the continued operation of the theatre following the discovery of RAAC. The auditorium would need to be closed for 16 weeks for the works to take place and would ensure the future of the Key Theatre.

During discussion of the report, Members:

- Noted that the planned works were accounted for within the current years' capital programme and for 2025/26. The works were an exception to the current moratorium on capital spending due to the health and safety implications of the issues at the theatre.
- Sought assurance that building works would not overrun. Officers explained that two weeks had been built into the programme to absorb any delay. The tender process was on track and there was a clear understanding that the works could not overrun as it would impact on the theatre's ability to deliver the 2025 pantomime.
- Noted that the work could not be delayed owing to health and safety requirements and the likelihood of additional cost if it was delayed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

1. Acknowledge the planned works required at the Key Theatre, and
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer to award the contract for programmed works at the Key theatre following a procurement compliant competitive tender exercise.

**68. NENEGATE SCHOOL EXPANSION**

The Cabinet received a report that sought approval for the expansion of Nenegate School. Cabinet welcomed the proposals and were mindful of the increased demand for Special Educational Needs school placements. Cabinet welcomed the positive impact the school expansion would have on home to school transport costs, as over time there would be a significant increase in the number of children currently educated outside the city boundary, being educated within the city.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Cabinet resolved to:

- 1) Authorise the school extension at Nenegate Academy;
- 2) Agree the project budget as set out in the Exempt Annex to this report.
- 3) Agree Option 2 as set out in the Delivery Options at 4.3.

- 4) Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Service to authorise the award of contract for the works, subject to approval from legal, finance and procurement, or allocate funding to the academy trust.
- 5) Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Corporate Services in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance to take all necessary steps to give effect to the recommendations, including entering into any necessary legal agreements.

## **69 DISPOSAL OF GOODS SHED**

Cabinet received a report that sought approval for the disposal of the former Goods Shed building on Fletton Quays.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) Authorise the disposal of the Goods Shed building for £250,000 plus VAT
- 2) Authorise the award of Grant Funding to Farholt Goods Shed Ltd for £1,895,000 relating to the development of the Goods Shed, Fletton Quays
- 3) Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Corporate Services in consultation with the Director Legal and Governance to take all necessary steps to give effect to the recommendations, including entering into any necessary legal agreements.

## **70 APPROVAL OF THE PARISH CHARTER**

Cabinet received a report that sought approval of the updated Parish Charter and formalised the relationship between the Council and it's Parishes and highlighted the importance of Parishes in local representation.

Cabinet drew attention to the devolution white paper that sought to strengthen community engagement and welcomed the timeliness of the report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

Approve the draft Parish Charter and adopt the principles and ways of working across the Council

## **71 ROADMAP TO NET ZERO**

Cabinet received the Council's Roadmap to Net Zero that set out the plan for the Council to decarbonise by 2030.

During discussion of the report Members raised the following points.

- Noted that funding had been secured for options for energy efficiency and low-carbon heating in council buildings and further funding would be sought to deliver the measures.
- Noted that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority provided a funding opportunity for net zero villages that could be applied for that also tied into the Parish Charter and a scheme was looking to be launched in the next couple of weeks.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

- 1) Endorse the roadmap to net zero
- 2) Recommends that Council adopts the roadmap to net zero

Leader  
16:00 – 16:55  
14 Jan 2025