

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD
7 DECEMBER 2011**

The Mayor – Councillor Paula Thacker MBE

Present:

Councillors: Allen, Ash, Benton, Burton, Casey, Cereste, M Dalton, S Dalton, D Day, S Day, Dobbs, Eley, Fitzgerald, Fletcher, Fower, JA Fox, JR Fox, Harper, Harrington, Hiller, Holdich, Jamil, Khan, Kreling, Lee, Martin, Miners, Murphy, Nadeem, Nash, Nawaz, North, Over, Peach, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sanders, Sandford, Scott, Seaton, Serluca, Shaheed, Shearman, Simons, Stokes, Swift, Thacker and Walsh.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Arculus, Goldspink, Goodwin, Lamb, Lane, Shabbir, Sharp, Todd and Winslade.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor M Dalton declared a personal interest that was prejudicial in motion 4 of item 14 on the agenda and would leave the meeting for that section of the meeting.

Councillor S Dalton declared a personal interest that was prejudicial in motion 4 of item 14 on the agenda and would leave the meeting for that section of the meeting.

Councillor Khan declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda as he was involved in work with Gladstone Connect that had received a grant.

Councillor Sandford declared a personal interest in item 13 due to his employment with the Woodland Trust.

Councillor Shearman declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda as he was involved in work with Victoria Residents Association.

Councillor Murphy declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda as he was involved in work with Gladstone Connect that had received a grant.

3. Minutes of the meetings held on 12 October 2011

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 October 2011 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as an accurate record.

COMMUNICATIONS TIME

4. Mayor's Announcements

Members noted the updated report outlining the Mayor's engagements for the period 1 October 2011 to 27 November 2011.

Councillor Fower questioned whether the report that showed use of Civic resources for a political group event caused conflict to the Mayor in her duties. It was confirmed that the Mayor's car was not used for the event and that the Mayor had travelled independently.

5. Leader's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Leader.

6. Chief Executive's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TIME

7. Questions with Notice by Members of the public

One question was raised by a member of the public concerning accessibility and recording of council meetings.

A summary of the question and answer raised within agenda item 7 is attached at **Appendix A**.

8. Questions with notice by Members of the Council relating to ward matters to Cabinet Members and to Committee Chairmen

Questions relating to Ward matters were raised in respect of the following:

- Resurfacing of pavements in Werrington South ward;
- Street lighting replacements in Walton Ward;
- Traveller Sites in Dogsthorpe Ward; and
- Resurfacing of Southview Road in Walton Ward.

A summary of all questions and answers raised within agenda item 8 are attached at **Appendix A**.

9. Questions with Notice by Members of the Council to representatives of the Police and Fire Authorities

Questions to the representative of the Police Authority were raised in respect of the following:

- Actions to tackle cruel animal sports following spending cuts.

No questions to the representative of the Fire Authority were raised.

A summary of all questions and answers raised within agenda item 9 are attached at **Appendix A**.

10. Petitions submitted by Members or Residents

Lisa Forbes submitted a petition from local residents in Orton Longueville requesting immediate and ongoing action to tackle graffiti.

Councillor Seaton submitted a petition from young people in the Hampton area requesting an urban sports park be constructed in Hampton.

Councillor Saltmarsh submitted a petition from local residents against a permanent Gypsy and Traveller site in the Welland area of the city.

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS TIME

11. Questions with Notice to the Leader and Members of the Executive

Questions to the Leader and Members of the Executive were taken as read in respect of the following:

- Support for the Ploughman public house in Werrington Centre;
- Public take up of the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme with Lloyds bank;
- By-laws for dogs off leads in public places and play areas;
- School place provision; and
- Action to tackle homelessness.

Questions unable to be dealt with at the meeting due to time constraints were in respect of the following:

- Healthy school meal provision;
- Outsourcing of council services;
- Localism Bill and the Cabinet system of governance;
- Lord Mayor of Peterborough;
- Previous Directors of Children's Services;
- Use of public transport and park and ride schemes; and
- Progress on the installation of photovoltaic panels.

A summary of all questions and answers raised within agenda item 11 are attached at **Appendix B**.

12. Questions without Notice on the Record of Executive Decisions

Members received and noted a report summarising:

- Decisions from the Cabinet Meeting held on 7 November 2011;
- Use of the Council's call-in mechanism, which had not been invoked since the last meeting;
- Special Urgency and Waiver of Call-in provision, which had been invoked twice since the previous meeting; and
- Cabinet Member Decisions taken during the period 4 October 2011 to 18 November 2011.

Questions were asked about the following:

Street Lighting Efficiency Programme 2011/12 – Award of Contract

Councillor Sandford requested whether the process for reporting and repairing street lights could be made more efficient for the public considering the number of organisations responsible for different street lights across the city area? Councillor Hiller advised Council that all faulty street lights should be repaired promptly and ward councillors should make him aware of any difficulties in having street lights repaired.

Councillor Khan requested whether the contract was a new contract or a renewal as some works that started have stopped and was this related to the new contract? Councillor Hiller advised Council that this was a new contract and any problems or delays with repairs could be reported to him.

Award of contract: Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Services for Children and Young People

Cllr Murphy requested whether the TUPE for officers referred to in the contract would be completed in the timescale and why the £500,000 Key Decision limit was exceeded. Councillor

Murphy also requested why a call-in request for this decision was not dealt with. Councillor Cereste advised Council that a written response would be provided regarding the TUPE question. Councillor Scott advised Council that the decision was not about money but about ensuring the right services were obtained for Peterborough. The monetary value of the contract was weighted at 20% when considering the final contract award. The contract was about the best service for Peterborough.

Award of Grants to not-for-profit organisations 2011 through to 2011-2012

Councillor Fower requested how the work and success of the Faith and Cohesion Network and East of England Faith Council projects were managed and assessed. Councillor Seaton advised Council that agreements with organisations were in place for all of the grants awarded and that a new project was under way to ensure that best value was received for all the grants awarded and he would be happy to keep Councillor Fower updated on the progress of the project.

Councillor Shearman requested why there was a delay in awarding the grant to the Victoria Park Residents Association and other organisations. The Mayor advised Councillor Shearman that the question was not about the decision taken.

Councillor Saltmarsh requested why the residents' associations listed had not yet received the grants. The Mayor advised Councillor Saltmarsh that the question was not about the decision taken.

Discretionary Rate Relief from Business Rates for Charities, Similar Organisations Not Established or Conducted for Profit (renewals)

Councillor Jamil requested whether Appendix A and B were available for public inspection. Councillor Cereste advised that the papers were available on the Council's website. The Solicitor to the Council advised that the appendices referred to were published with the Cabinet Member Decision Notice and not in the Council papers.

Councillor Khan requested why it took over 6 months to determine which organisation would be accepted or refused. Councillor Seaton advised Council that challenges to the budget meant that additional consideration and information was needed for the applications and to advise him of any particular cases that were of concern.

Manor Drive Managed Service – Outcome of Final Tender Evaluation and Identification of Preferred Bidder

Councillor Fower requested what savings would be realised in the privatisation of the services. Councillor Lee advised Council that the savings were set out at the start of the partnership and were around £2 million a year. The expertise of Serco would also be used to identify other areas of Council business for further savings that could be reinvested into front line services.

Councillor Ash requested whether services for residents would be compromised especially regarding customer services function and related call centres. Councillor Lee assured Council that services would not be compromised and this was specified in the partnership agreement with external organisations. The Council was still responsible for the services provided by other organisations.

Councillor Fower requested why the bereavement and registrar services were not included in this contract. Councillor Lee advised Council that these services either had to be provided by the council or that there were no perceived benefits to the Council, financial or service improvements, when deciding to outsource services which were the main reasons for outsourcing services.

COUNCIL BUSINESS TIME

13. Committee Recommendations

a) Peterborough Local Development Framework - Planning Policies Development Plan

Document (Pre-Submission version)

Cabinet at its meeting of 7 November 2011 received a report following approval of the Consultation Draft version of the Peterborough Planning Policies DPD for the purposes of public participation at the meeting of Cabinet on 13 December 2010 and following the ensuing public participation and further evidence gathering since that date.

Councillor Hiller introduced and moved the recommendation that Council approves the Peterborough Planning Policies DPD (Proposed Submission Version) for the purposes of public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State.

During debate, a concern was raised regarding the wording of PP17, Ancient, Semi Natural Woodland and Ancient and Veteran Trees and the protection offered from development 'unless it was in the public interest'. Councillor Hiller confirmed that protection of trees and woodland was considered and policies retained in the document.

Following debate, a vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** to:

Approve the Peterborough Planning Policies DPD (Proposed Submission Version) for the purposes of public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State.

14. Notices of Motion

1. Councillor Murphy requested the consent of the meeting that an alteration was made to his first motion to the effect that the words in paragraph four were left out. Council did not consent to the alteration (5 in favour, 34 against, 3 abstentions). Councillor Murphy moved the following motion:

That this Council:

1. Recognises the current challenging financial circumstances it is facing and notes the considerable amount of money spent on member's allowances and expenses, with a high number of cabinet members and special responsibility allowances being paid to councillors in what is a relatively small unitary authority;
2. Recognises that in view of the need for public services to be efficient and economic, bearing in mind the reduction and scope of responsibilities carried out by Peterborough City Council since the introduction of expenses and payments following local government reorganisation, it will ask the Leader to consider an immediate reduction in the number of members of the administration receiving additional allowances and the amount being spent on these allowances;
3. Resolves to reduce expenditure this financial year by £40,000 by reducing payments to the council leader, and asks that the Leader cuts the number of cabinet members and special advisers and reduces the amount paid to these council members' allowances; and
4. Will seek further reductions to achieve a budget saving of £150,000 next year.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Jamil.

Following a brief debate the motion was **DEFEATED**: 8 in favour, 35 against, 2 abstentions.

2. Councillor Murphy moved the following motion:

That this Council:

1. Notes the government's reintroduction of the kick start housing programme and desire to see brown field sites and publicly owned land made available for housing development and job creation;
2. Notes that in Peterborough we have a public owned site at the former Peterborough District Hospital (PDH), a need for homes both for social housing and a desire to develop some prestige homes; and
3. Notes that there is an identified need to urgently address the shortage of adequate primary school places in the neighbourhood around the PDH site; and
4. Instructs the corporate property officer to investigate the acquisition (perhaps in partnership with a local housing association) of the PDH site or part of it to be used to provide a new primary school, additional council/social housing and in doing so provide local jobs and apprentice opportunities.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Khan.

Following debate on the motion in which issues raised included budget constraints to buy and develop the land and development of the whole site was preferable to small pieces, a vote was taken and the motion was **DEFEATED**: 11 in favour, 31 against, 0 abstentions.

3. Councillor Fower moved the following motion:

Supporting Local Businesses

That in order to assist local businesses during the current difficult economic times, this Council:

1. Resolves that any business in the Peterborough unitary authority which provides goods or services to the Council be paid within 20 days of receipt of the invoice instead of the usual 30 day period in order to help the businesses' cashflows;
2. Encourages large businesses, particularly those who supply services to the Council, to pay invoices from their suppliers and sub-contractors promptly; and instructs officers to consider and make recommendations about what steps the Council can take when procuring goods and services from main contractors to ensure that sub-contractors are paid without delay; and
3. Instructs officers to review and recommend proposals for amending Contract Standing Orders with a view to preference being given when ordering goods and services to using wherever possible businesses within Peterborough and making contracts of sizes that are accessible to small businesses, whilst continuing to demonstrate value for money.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Sandford.

Following a brief debate, the motion was **DEFEATED**: 9 in favour, 30 against, 1 abstention.

Councillors M Dalton and S Dalton left the meeting.

4. Councillor Fower moved the following motion:

Bee and Pollinator Friendly Council

That this Council notes:

1. Neonicotinoids are a comparatively new group of pesticides that work systemically, meaning that the seed or soil is treated and the chemical pervades every part of the plant, from the roots to the nectar in the flowers;

2. Laboratory studies have shown that neonicotinoid pesticides reduce the activity levels and breeding success of bees, they have also been shown to make bees more susceptible to disease;
3. In addition their effects on wild pollinators (including bumblebees, hoverflies and moths) have not been studied and their environmental safety has not been proven;
4. Neonicotinoid pesticides have already been partly banned from flowering crops in Italy, Slovenia and France, because of concerns relating to their safety to bees; and

That this Council resolves to:

Make this council a neonicotinoid free council; we will not use, purchase or allow the use of neonicotinoids, neonicotinoid treated seeds or neonicotinoid treated pot plants on the council's land or within our other operations, by our staff, contractors or tenants.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Sandford.

Following a brief debate, Council **AGREED** that Cllr Fower could **WITHDRAW** the motion to allow further time to research the uses of and impact that a ban on neonicotinoids would have on the Council.

Councillor M Dalton and Councillor S Dalton returned to the meeting.

5. Councillor Sandford moved the following motion that included amendments from Councillor Fitzgerald to paragraph three (add words), paragraph four (leave out words) and to paragraph 5 (also additional words to be inserted) as below:

That this Council:

1. Notes that the BBC Trust is currently carrying out a public consultation on the future of BBC local radio http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/consult/local_radio.shtml. The consultation is being carried out with a view to implementing spending cuts and one of the suggestions made is that BBC local radio services and/or programming should be merged to cover larger areas;
2. Further notes that Peterborough has recently lost the last of the commercial radio services based in the city and that the BBC now provides the only Peterborough based local radio service, with Radio Cambridgeshire broadcasting some Peterborough based programming at certain times of the day, principally at breakfast time on weekdays;
3. Believes that it is important that Peterborough continues to have a locally based radio service, both public service and commercial, providing news, discussion and comment specifically related to Peterborough, to complement the written news service provided by the Peterborough Evening Telegraph;
4. Requests that the Chief Executive write to the BBC Trust in response to their consultation arguing the case for retention of Peterborough based programming by the BBC and ~~that our local MPs also be asked to take up this issue with the BBC and relevant Government ministers;~~ and
5. Will also do all it can to re-establish a local commercial radio station that is actually based in Peterborough as opposed to broadcasting from Kettering and Cambridge studios and ask that our local MPs take up these issues with the BBC and relevant Government ministers to ensure that we keep local radio programming in Peterborough from both the independent sector and the BBC.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald.

Following a brief debate the motion was **CARRIED** unanimously.

15. Reports and Recommendations

a) Review of Peterborough City Council's Members' Allowances Scheme - Report of the Independent Members' Allowances Panel

Councillor Cereste moved a report requesting Council notes the recommendations of the Independent Members' Allowances Panel as summarised in paragraph 3 of the report and determine the action it wished to take in response to the recommendations contained within the report. Councillor Cereste recommended that:

1. Council notes the recommendations and agrees with the principle of the member's allowances panel and I recommend to council that it takes the following action in response:-

The Panel's recommendations would result in an increase to the overall members allowance budget despite what the report indicates and in these very difficult economic times I recommend that the Members Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances remain the same for the next year. I am minded to agree the panel's recommendation for seven Neighbourhood Chairs and will call a meeting of the various group leaders in order to discuss the practicalities and possible implementation next year.

2. There are no changes to Members Allowances.

This was seconded by Councillor Lee.

Councillor Sandford moved an amendment to the recommendation from Councillor Cereste so that:

1. Council welcomes the report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances and its proposed measures which seek to rebalance the Members Allowances Scheme away from excessive use of special responsibility payments and in favour of an enhanced level of basic allowance for all councillors;
2. Council agrees to implement in full the proposals of the panel with the exception that, in view of the current severe economic situation facing the city and the country, the level of basic allowance for councillors be frozen at its current level until the council meeting in December 2012, when it will be reviewed again. This will result in a saving on the members' allowances budget of over £100,000; and
3. Council recommends a change to the administration arrangements for car parking permits in that each councillor should only be allowed to purchase one permit.

This was seconded by Councillor Shaheed.

During debate Councillor Sandford confirmed that the amendment would see the current level of Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) retained but would reduce the number of councillors in receipt of an SRA by reducing the number of Cabinet members by one.

Following debate the amendment was **DEFEATED** (11 in favour, 30 against).

Following debate of the recommendations from Councillor Cereste a vote was taken (29 for, 10 against, 2 abstentions) and it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Retain the current Members Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances for the next year; and

2. Hold a meeting of the group leaders in order to discuss the practicalities and possible implementation next year of a reduction to the number of Neighbourhood Chairmen.

b) Review of Polling Districts and Places

Councillor Seaton moved a report recommending Council approves the polling districts and polling places as set out at Appendix A to the report. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their Parliamentary polling districts and places at least once every four years. The Council's last review was undertaken in 2007. Polling districts and places for local government elections are not automatically part of this review. However, reviews of local government polling arrangements should nevertheless be conducted simultaneously with a review of UK parliamentary arrangements. This was seconded by Councillor Cereste.

An updated report had been circulated to all Members to include a full list of polling places for West Ward (to include WES 3 - West Town School Williamson Avenue and WES4 - Ramada Hotel, Thorpe Meadows).

During debate it was noted that corrections were needed to be made to polling places listed for Fletton and Woodston Ward (FLE1 should be Queensgate Hotel; and FLE4 should be Riverside Pavilion) and also to polling places listed for Barnack Ward (BAR - Barnack Village Hall; HEL - Helpston Community Centre; and SOU - Barnack Village Hall).

It was **AGREED** to:

Approve the polling districts and polling places as set out at Appendix A to the report subject to the noted corrections being made.

c) Budget and Policy Framework – Revised Budget Timetable

Councillor Seaton moved the recommendation to approve a revised budget process and timetable to include commencing budget consultation during January 2012. This was seconded by Councillor Matthew Dalton.

It was **AGREED** to:

Approve a revised budget process and timetable that included commencing budget consultation during January 2012.

Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

MAYOR

FULL COUNCIL 7 DECEMBER 2011

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SUMMARY

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TIME</u>	
7	<u>Questions with notice by members of the public</u>
1.	<p>Ms Morag Irving asked the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning and Business Engagement:</p> <p>Following a letter sent to all Council Leaders and Monitoring Officers in February this year from Bob Neill MP of the Department of Communities and Local Government requesting Local Authorities increase the accessibility of their meetings by using and allowing a greater range of audio and visual recordings, how much progress has the council made with putting in place a system of audio recording of its Council meetings, making meetings more accessible to the public and more closely in line with the forthcoming the Localism Bill?</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning and Business Engagement responded:</p> <p>The Council already routinely records some meetings particularly regulatory meetings, which relate to planning and licensing matters.</p> <p>The Council is currently exploring ways of extending this facility to other meetings in order to upload the recordings onto the Council's website and other social media sites to enable public access.</p>
8	<u>Questions with notice by Members relating to ward matters To the Cabinet Members and to Committee Chairmen</u>
1.	<p>Councillor Fower submitted the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>Several months ago, the City Council resurfaced the footpath of the old Lincoln Road, south of the Cock Inn, but only on one side, that with the jet garage on it. Could the cabinet member please inform me how much this work cost and whether it is now policy for this local authority to resurface just 50% of a road's footpaths, and if not why has this action occurred?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:</p> <p>The resurfacing work on the west side of (old) Lincoln Road was completed as part of the 2010/11 footway resurfacing programme and the final cost was £30,156.</p> <p>The subject of the part completion of footway schemes is not one that is specifically mentioned in current policy or indeed national guidance. Rather the overriding philosophy when identifying such schemes is to prioritise schemes using a consistent approach and to follow up with appropriate treatments in a timely fashion; it is common</p>

	<p>for different parts of an asset to be at a different point in its life cycle thereby necessitating different treatments at different times. The east side of (old) Lincoln Road is programmed for a footway surface treatment during the 2012/13 season. It should be noted that Cllr Fower and John Rumbelow (Senior Engineer) did meet at Lincoln Road on the 31st May 2011 to discuss this very same issue.</p> <p>Councillor Fower asked the following supplementary question:</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member agree to attend the site to see the situation that has been created?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:</p> <p>Yes, this is possible.</p>
2.	<p>Councillor Shaheed submitted the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>Could you please explain to me why Croyland Road and Holland Avenue, in Walton, have received new street lighting and when other parts of the ward might be afforded the same luxury?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:</p> <p>Thank you for your enquiry regarding the street lighting capital replacement scheme in Croyland Road and Holland Avenue in Walton.</p> <p>This scheme is part of a capital programme of work that improves the street lighting asset within Peterborough. This programme targets those areas where the replacement of the street lighting is considered a priority due to the condition of the existing asset. The street lighting condition in Croyland Road and Holland Avenue lead to their replacement this financial year.</p> <p>I would like to add that our proposed capital programme for 2012/13 includes Churchfield Road, Willesden Avenue and Montagu Road in the Walton Ward. The condition of the asset in these streets justifies their inclusion in next years capital programme.</p> <p>In addition to this the efficiency street lighting programme, (which replaces the street lantern only) proposes to carry out works in Ihlee Close and Patterdale Drive in 2012/13.</p> <p>Councillor Shaheed asked the following supplementary question:</p> <p>When will financial savings for the new street lighting be realised?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:</p> <p>Savings will be immediate.</p>
3.	<p>Councillor submitted asked the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>The recent encampment at Welland has led to tensions between the local community and the Travellers as this is third time in the past three months that caravans have parked on the Welland estate close to residents' properties.</p>

Could I have an update on the review of the location of the provision of emergency stopping places throughout the city to alleviate the pressure on the residents of Dogsthorpe Ward?

Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:

I understand the concerns of local residents in the area whose daily lives are being disrupted by unauthorised encampments close to their homes. Officers have also kept both me and Cllr Walsh updated on the tensions that have arisen as a result. Work is underway to assess the effectiveness of our existing arrangements to evict Travellers from unauthorised encampments with a view to strengthening our powers where public disorder or community tension is an issue.

Meanwhile, and pending the outcome of the process review, the work to progress the provision of emergency stopping places is on hold. Currently Norwood Lane Traveller Site is identified in the Site Allocations document as the location for a Transit Site, unless an alternative provision is identified.

Please be assured that this issue is being treated as an urgent priority, and officers will provide updates as and when they can.

Councillor Saltmarsh asked the following question:

Will only one site be provided at Norwood Lane instead of several sites as recommended?

Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:

A review is being undertaken and is expected to be finished soon. Further information can be provided once the review has been completed.

4. **Councillor Sandford submitted the following question:**

To Councillor Hiller, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:

The Council has recently resurfaced part of Southview Road up the junction of Council Street but has left the rest of the road untouched. This is not the first time that I have seen, in Walton and elsewhere, the Council resurface part of a road and then have to come back a year or more later to do the remainder.

Can I ask the cabinet member, would it not be a more sensible use of resources to resurface whole roads, especially when they are quite short ones such as Southview Road?

Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:

The resurfacing work at Southview Road, Walton was not completed by Peterborough City Council, it is directly related to recent and ongoing development works at Morrisons and more recently Larkfleet Homes with the latter development necessitating significant utility works along Southview Road.

The subject of the part completion of PCC schemes is not one that is specifically mentioned in current policy or indeed national guidance. Rather the overriding philosophy when identifying such schemes is to prioritise them using a consistent approach and to follow up with appropriate treatments in a timely fashion; it is common for different parts of an asset to be at a different point in its life cycle thereby

	<p>necessitating different treatments at different times. Whilst we always endeavour to resurface the whole length of roads this is often impractical on long roads given budget limitations in these cases a phased approach must be used.</p> <p>Councillor Sandford asked the following supplementary question:</p> <p>Could consideration be given to complete resurfacing being done and the works included in the annual scheme of works?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:</p> <p>It does make sense to consider full resurfacing where possible.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><u>Questions with notice by Members to Council representatives of the Police and Fire Authorities</u></p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Councillor Murphy asked the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Lee, the Council's representative on the Police Authority:</p> <p>How have the cuts to the police service impacted on the policing of cruel sports and illegal hare coursing in the Peterborough rural area?</p> <p>Councillor Lee, the Council's representative of the Police Authority responded:</p> <p>At this time, cuts have had no negative impact on tackling hare coursing crime. The constabulary's Rural Community Action Team (RCAT) has continued to prioritise response across the county, including the rural areas of Peterborough. Prior to the introduction of RCAT and Operation Dornier (force response to Hare Coursing 2004-2005), there were around 1,400 annually reported hare coursing incidents across the county. Currently, in 2011/2012, there have been 72 incidents compared to 99 this time last year, which highlights the continued success of positive action taken by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.</p> <p>The Force has recently trained a Wildlife Officer within RCAT, who has responsibility for the investigation of other cruel sports and wildlife issues, in partnership with other agencies.</p> <p>The proposal for the future is that RCAT forms part of a Centralised Intelligence Bureau (CIB) which will enhance the flow of intelligence information and pro-active resources able to respond quickly to incidents of Hare Coursing and other rural crime across Cambridgeshire, doubling the resources available.</p> <p>Councillor Murphy asked the following supplementary question:</p> <p>Will the wildlife officer's post be protected as budget pressure continues and how will policing of other cruel sports continue?</p> <p>Councillor Lee, the Council's representative of the Police Authority responded:</p> <p>The importance of the officer's post has been highlighted and a more detailed response can be sent. The second question is a separate issue and not a supplementary question.</p>

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS TIME

11 Questions with Notice to the Leader and Members of the Executive

1. **Councillor Fower submitted the following question:**

To Councillor Hiller, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:

Werrington Centre's only public house, the Ploughman, is under threat of closure, thanks to supermarket giant Tesco, whose plan to double in size, does not include space for the pub! With hundreds of signatories having already signed the petition, support given by all local ward councillors, as well as the City MP, could the relevant cabinet member please inform me and the chamber as to what plans this administration has to support the views of the local Werrington Community, to prevent this popular venue being lost forever?

Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:

At the time of the granting of planning permission for Phase 1 of the Werrington Centre redevelopment in 2009, the land was owned by the Howard Property Group. The planning permission granted included the demolition of the existing public house and the construction of a new one in a different location but within the same application site. It is therefore not true to say that the redevelopment does not make space for a new public house. Since the grant of planning permission the Howard Property Group sold part of the site to Tesco. This included the site of the existing public house but excluded the site of the new one. Tesco, whilst entitled to demolish the existing public house straight away under the terms of the planning permission, decided to allow the public house to operate on a short term basis and it is on these terms that the landlord took on the property. The City Council cannot prevent the demolition of the public house as permission has already been granted for this. The provision of a replacement facility is in the hands of the Howard Property Group who are fully aware of the strength of local feeling. However, they can only start to market the site as and when the Tesco redevelopment gets under way as this will free up the land for construction of the new public house.

Councillor Fower asked the following supplementary question:

Is a revised application being resubmitted by Tesco and as Cabinet Member could you secure an acceptable solution concerning the retention of the facility?

Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:

It is not possible to discuss applications that have not yet been made and as a member of the Planning and environmental Protection Committee it would be wrong to make comment on any potential future application.

2. **Councillor Fower submitted the following question:**

To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources:

In a recent article in the Evening Telegraph that corrected a previous piece of misinformation relating to this authority's Local Authority Mortgage Scheme having already started in cooperation with Lloyds, it stated that the scheme would be implemented at the end of November? Could the Cabinet Member for Resources please advise me if this scheme has indeed started and if so, how many applications have so far been processed?

Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources responded:

Members will recall that the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme aims to help first time buyers get on the property ladder, and in turn help promote economic growth in Peterborough. First time buyers have often stated that raising enough money for a deposit is the biggest challenge they face.

We are joining forces with Lloyds TSB to help first-time buyers purchase a home with a deposit of just five per cent. It will enable borrowers to buy their first home with a deposit of less than the 25 per cent required by most mortgage lenders.

Since the details of the scheme were approved by Council at our last meeting, we have been working with Lloyds to complete the necessary legal documentation and prepare for launch.

I am pleased to confirm that we will be able to launch the scheme on Thursday 15th December. The scheme will be available in the Westgate, and Long Causeway branches of Lloyds TSB in the city centre as well as branches in Bretton, Fletton and Millfield from that date.

Anyone interested in the scheme will need to deal directly with Lloyds, and we will ensure the relevant contact details are available on our website. I will also ensure that these are shared with all Members, in case you are contacted directly.

As we expect interest to be high, I would urge anyone who is interested to make an appointment with Lloyds to discuss further.

Councillor Fower asked the following supplementary question:

Will the Cabinet Member submit a report to Council advising it of the success of the scheme?

Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources responded:

Yes. This can be done.

3. **Councillor Saltmarsh submitted the following question:**

To Councillor Hiller, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:

Dogs not on leads when being exercised in public places can cause great concern to children and elderly people when they are allowed to run loose.

Can you please advise me of the By Laws which can be enforced by the city council to prevent uncontrolled dogs in our public parks, school playing fields and other open spaces where children play?

Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:

There are currently no bye laws that exist in Peterborough to request that dogs are kept on leads whilst being exercised. A Dog Control Order under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 would need to be installed.

There are many variables that impact upon making a decision to install a Dog Control Order, therefore this topic was debated on 9 November 2011 at Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed at this stage that rather than enter into the expensive and lengthy process of adopting Dog Control Orders a programme of education to promote responsible dog ownership would be undertaken. An update will be fed back to the scrutiny committee in 6 months time.

Neighbourhood Officers from Regulatory Services have the delegated authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to any person who is not seen to clear away faeces left by their dog. This order was created in 1998 under the Dogs (Fouling of Land Act) 1996 and covers the entire City Council area and includes any new development that may be created within the Local Authority boundaries.

If any person feels alarmed or threatened by a dog's behaviour the Police are the authority that must be contacted. They have power under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to seize animals that are causing the distress or disturbance.

Councillor Saltmarsh asked the following supplementary question:

Out of office hours and at weekends there is no officer to call regarding the round up of stray dogs. Can you clarify this position?

Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded outside the meeting:

There is no dog warden on duty at weekends. This has been the position since April 2009. There is however a reception centre facility which runs 365 days a year between the hours of 0900hrs and 1900hrs in addition to the warden. Adjustments to these times may be made on Bank Holidays. Monday through to Friday there is dog warden cover between 0900hrs and 1700hrs.

If a person calls PCC out of hours regarding a stray dog they are put directly through to a comprehensive message service which advises exactly what people can do should they have come into contact with a stray dog. The person is also asked to leave a message with the details to allow the warden to make contact. The options are; if found between 0900hrs and 1900hrs to drop the dog off at Broadway Vet, Broadway, Peterborough or keep the dog until the next working day when the warden will attend to collect the dog.

The cabinet member is (I am) unaware of a huge problem with strays in the city. I have asked our officers to monitor and report to me the actual instances of dog-related incidents over a three month period, to gauge whether in fact our current service during weekends is adequate.

4. **Councillor Shearman submitted the following question:**

To Councillor Holdich, Cabinet member for Education, Skills and University:

The government recently announced funding to assist in tackling the shortage of school places in Peterborough. Was the Cabinet Member disappointed with our allocation and how does he intend to overcome this shortfall?

Councillor Holdich, Cabinet member for Education, Skills and University responded:

The government allocated a fund of £500m to support the shortage of school places across England. This was allocated to Local Authorities on the basis of 2010/11 capacity information and 2013/14 forecast numbers. I am disappointed that Peterborough has only received £555k. The figure is limited as a result of the fact that within parts of the city (particularly in the rural areas) there are surplus places that at a local authority wide level mask the localised pressure on places particularly within the PE1 and Hampton area. We have made representations to the Department for Education (DfE) that their methodology is flawed and this has been backed by Stewart Jackson MP who has written to the Minister of State for Schools. The proposals for increasing school places in the city continue funded from a combination of borrowing and existing DfE grant. We have also successfully drawn down further funding to support the reopening of the former Hereward

	<p>Community College as the City of Peterborough Academy and a new autistic special school. This funding is likely to exceed £8m.</p> <p>In the pre-budget speech, around £600m has been made available in 2012/13 to support school places.</p> <p>Councillor Shearman asked the following supplementary question:</p> <p>Is a further shortfall of places ahead for the city or is planning already under way to alleviate predicted new immigration to the UK?</p> <p>Councillor Holdich, Cabinet member for Education, Skills and University responded:</p> <p>New funding proposals have been put to government and the Council has already spent more than ever on increasing school places. It is a challenge to predict future numbers.</p>
5.	<p>Councillor Murphy submitted the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>Is the Council meeting its gross targets for house building within the authority area and what plans exist to tackle the growing number of homeless people in the city?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded:</p> <p>The Council's growth target to provide 25,500 new dwellings during the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2026 is ambitious and proving challenging in the current economic climate. House building, like the economy, is cyclical and therefore it is reasonable to expect peaks and troughs over the period to 2026.</p> <p>Between 1st April 2009 and 31st March 2011 a total of 1,861 dwellings have been completed. To meet our growth target, an average of 1,578 dwellings would need to be delivered per year for the remaining 15 year period.</p> <p>In terms of build activity during 2011/12, an accurate figure for the number of completions will not be available until the council completes a comprehensive monitoring exercise of all sites on the close of the financial year. However, an interim indication of build activity in Peterborough based on returns from the National House Building Council and Building Control up until the end of October provides confirmation of 394 starts on site during this financial year. These returns only provide part of the picture and therefore cannot be treated as a comprehensive indication of activity to date. The complete picture of building activity during 2011/12 will be available in June 2012.</p> <p>The primary focus of our strategic housing service is to prevent homelessness, and we run a number of initiatives to achieve this, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Rent Deposit Scheme which assists with an interest free loan to be used to secure alternative suitable accommodation in the private sector - the Sanctuary Scheme which provides increased security measures in someone's home where they are at risk of violence from an ex-partner - Budget/Debt Advice funded by PCC and provided by Citizens Advice, to provide prioritised debt advice to those who approach us at risk of losing their homes because of financial difficulties - the Tenancy Relations Service, which supports tenants who are at risk of illegal eviction - our Empty Homes work, which aims to bring long term empty homes back into use providing much needed housing. <p>Work is also continuing to tackle the number of rough sleepers in the city. We still conduct</p>

	<p>regular operations with the UKBA and work in partnership with police, voluntary groups and the health service to gather intelligence about rough sleepers. The current estimate of people rough sleeping based on this data is 17, considerably fewer than 3 years ago.</p> <p>We are also planning ahead, particularly relating to the changes to the Local Housing Allowance scheme – we will be making sure that residents who will be affected by the changes are made aware of them and where possible we will be working with their landlords to reduce the risk of people losing their homes.</p> <p>Councillor Murphy asked the following supplementary question:</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member advise me of the numbers of affordable homes that have been completed over the previous two financial years and this to date in this year?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning responded outside the meeting:</p> <p>In 2009/10 708 affordable homes were completed.</p> <p>In 2010/11 331 affordable homes were completed.</p> <p>Up until December 2011 in <u>this</u> financial year 40 affordable homes had been completed.</p> <p>The affordable housing programme has a target to deliver 94 affordable homes during 2011/12. The anticipated delivery is lower than in recent years for a number of reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A number of units that were anticipated to complete during 2011/12 completed ahead of schedule due to the increased availability of contractors to deliver affordable housing sites, as a result of reduced activity on market sites. 2. The HCA placed a 3 month (December 2010 - February 2011) embargo on the allocation of grant. This embargo created the knock-on effect of Housing Association partners being unable to commence on site with schemes which were otherwise deliverable, due to a lack of certainty regarding funding. Although some schemes did receive a grant allocation during March 2011 the majority will not deliver any completions during 2011/12. 3. The reduced number of market sales of new build properties caused by the economic downturn since 2008 has meant that private sector developers are not being as ambitious with their development programmes. The gross overall build rates in Peterborough are 1125 units in 2009/10 and only 713 units 2010/11. This slowdown has naturally resulted in fewer affordable units coming through from S106 sites and is impacting on the rate of delivery of affordable units. <p>Positively, although the anticipated rate of affordable housing delivery is low during 2011/12 the level of funding coming through from the Homes and Communities Agency for affordable housing schemes in Peterborough has remained consistent (£15,288,496 in 2010/11 and £14,650,400 in 2009/10). The delivery programme for 2012/13 is looking healthy and is likely to deliver in excess of 300 affordable homes.</p>
6.	<p>Councillor Ash submitted the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Holdich, Cabinet member for Education , Skills and University:</p> <p>It has been suggested recently that there is a chance that providing healthy meals in England’s Schools will be eroded. Can we be assured that the cabinet and officers will do everything they can to ensure that youngsters are given a sound food education and not offered unhealthy food in schools?</p> <p>Councillor Holdich, Cabinet member for Education, Skills and University sent the</p>

	<p>following response:</p> <p>The nutritional standards set by the School Food Trust are still in place and schools are required to take due regard to these when designing menus in schools. Decisions on school meal planning are for Heads and Governors but the Local Authority continues to encourage schools to have healthy meals that are balanced and meet the aspirations of the nutritional standards. However, the take up on school meals across the city is low so we are encouraging schools to provide a more child friendly menu that is of a good nutritional standard and will provide each child with a healthy daily meal. The number of pupils accessing meals in both primary and secondary schools is only around 1/3rd (below national average) whilst obesity levels remain above national average.</p>
7.	<p>Councillor Ash submitted the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Lee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning:</p> <p>Following on from his announcement that another department is now in the hands of an external organisation can he please give his assurances that the services to councillors and the residents of the city will not be compromised? Can he also say if the council will still have full control of services provided and that the council will give directions for how those services will operate rather than an external organisation taking the helm?</p> <p>Councillor Lee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning sent the following response:</p> <p>I can assure Councillor Ash that services to Councillors and the residents of Peterborough are not to be compromised, and this has been made very clear to, and accepted by, the Council's key partners. This is backed up by provisions in the partnership agreements which require partners to work to the Council's standards and to find more innovative, more efficient and more cost effective ways of continuing, not only to provide services, but to improve them - with customers at the very heart. If partners do not provide the standards the Council expects, they can find themselves subject to financial deductions and in severe cases rights for the Council to step in and take over the services.</p> <p>The services provided by external organisations to the Council, residents and Councillors, ultimately remain the responsibility of the Council. This is notwithstanding those services are carried out by an external organisation. As I have already said, key partners have to provide those services to standards set by the Council or face the consequences of not doing so.</p>
8.	<p>Councillor Miners submitted the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Business Engagement:</p> <p>The Localism Act, for the first time, will enable all councils to choose the system of local governance that they want. Therefore, when will this Local Authority scrap its Cabinet system (where a small group of very powerful councillors make all the decisions) and return to a Committee style of governance?</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Business Engagement sent the following response:</p> <p>At present there are no proposals to return to a Committee style of governance. May I remind members that the Committee style of governance was the way in which local authorities were ruled for many years, until a White Paper in 1998, "Modern Local Government : In Touch with the People" confirmed the government's determination to transform political management structures of local authorities. An earlier consultation paper, titled: "Local Government and Community Leadership" in February 1998 referred to</p>

	<p>the “inefficient and opaque nature” of traditional committees, and identified a “strong argument” for separating the representational and decision making functions of councillors, by forming a cabinet.</p> <p>I am not saying that the committee system of leadership was inefficient in every council, but I’m sure we can all remember, if we cast our minds back, just as many frustrations with a committee system as some of you probably have with the cabinet system.</p> <p>I believe the Leader and Cabinet system of governance has enabled Peterborough to operate efficiently and effectively, and I can see no reason to return to the Committee style of governance just because the Localism Act enables us to do so.</p>
9.	<p>Councillor Miners submitted the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Business Engagement:</p> <p>Could the Leader please give the Peterborough people an update on the Local Authority request to appoint a Lord Mayor for the city?</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Business Engagement sent the following response:</p> <p>Peterborough applied for Lord Mayoralty status as part of a competition to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Only one city will be awarded Lord Mayoralty status, and we are told by the Cabinet Office that the final result of the competition will not be announced until March, or possibly April 2012.</p> <p>(The other 11 cities that have applied for Lord Mayoralty status are Armagh, Cambridge, Derby, Gloucester, Lancaster, Newport (Gwent), Salford, Southampton, St Albans, Sunderland and Wakefield).</p>
10.	<p>Councillor Shearman submitted the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services:</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member accept that the constant changes of Directors for Children’s Services over the past decade has contributed to our recent OFSTED failure as well as Peterborough languishing at the foot of the national attainment tables?</p> <p>Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services sent the following response:</p> <p>We need to be clear here on the issues. The reason children’s social care was judged as inadequate by Ofsted is because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The senior leadership and management of children’s social care was not well-focused to lead improvements; • Social work practice was not consistent and there was evidence of poor practice and poor management oversight; and • The contact referral and assessment centre that was set up by officers as the front-door to children’s social care services was not operating as it should. <p>Ofsted was critical of the leadership and management of the service and the director of children’s services resigned as a result.</p> <p>If Councillor Shearman or anyone else has any doubt about that I would urge them to read that Ofsted report which is on the Ofsted website for all to see.</p> <p>Over the past few months Adrian Loades has been working with other experts from the</p>

	<p>region to diagnose all the issues and pull together a robust action plan for improvement</p> <p>We really need to concentrate this improvement plan now and not be sidetracked by the mischief-making of some councillors who are trying to tie together issues that are simply not related.</p> <p>Following the inspection we took immediate action to not only respond to all the issues raised by Ofsted but also to dig deeper to get to the root of the problems in social care to make sure we fully understand the issues and address them.</p> <p>There is no quick fix, I have already made it very clear this process could take up to 18 months.</p> <p>My approach in recovering our safeguarding service is to properly understand all of the factors that contribute to the situation we currently find ourselves and to ensure that actions taken truly address those issues.</p> <p>And I am absolutely committed to ensuring we have the right expertise in place to lead the improvements and ensure children are safe and safeguarded in the city.</p> <p>In relation to the issues of attainment, the last three years we have seen the best ever GCSE results and from Ofsted reports on the inspection of our schools the council has received considerable praise for its improvement work.</p> <p>In the Annual Performance Assessment out last month Ofsted also highlighted other strengths in children's services in Peterborough including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the number of early years and childcare providers that are good or better. • Four of seven children's centres inspected for the first time are good or better. • The large majority of provision in nursery and primary schools, for children under five, continues to be at least good, with some that is outstanding. • The proportion of good or better primary schools is increasing. • Four of nine primary schools inspected during the year improved their performance from satisfactory to good. • For looked after children, two of the three local authority children's homes are outstanding and the other is good.
11.	<p>Councillor Sandford submitted the following question:</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning:</p> <p>The Council's Transport User Hierarchy in our Local Transport Plan states that in all aspects of transport planning, priority will be given to road users in the following order: pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and taxis, rail freight, road haulage, car borne shoppers and finally car borne commuters.</p> <p>Many people will no doubt welcome the cabinet's recent announcement of reduced rate weekend parking for shoppers and the implementation of a free Christmas park and ride scheme in order to boost shopping in Peterborough City Centre. But, in the light of council transport policy, why is no similar concession being given to public transport users to encourage more people to use this mode of travel into the city centre, with considerably less pollution, emission of CO2 and traffic congestion?</p>

Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning sent the following response:

As Cllr Sandford is aware, the council is not directly responsible for all local bus services. Based on passenger numbers, approximately 94% of all bus services in Peterborough are provided commercially.

The remaining 6% of subsidised bus services, except park and ride, were tendered on a 'minimum subsidy' basis, which means the operator of such services retains the fares income to offset against operating costs. This method of tendering results in lower contract costs and encourages providers to promote the service and encourage patronage growth. As such, the council cannot implement a 'free fares' policy on such services.

However, I will instruct officers to engage with Enterprise, the council's primary partner in relation to subsidised services, to enquire if such policy would encourage long term modal shift and could be introduced in future.

The council's park and ride service was tendered on a different basis and the council therefore does control the fares charged and as such has implemented a 'free' service for 2011, giving shoppers a hassle free way of doing their Christmas shopping in Peterborough.

12. **Councillor Sandford submitted the following question:**

To Councillor S Dalton, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital:

In Spring of this year, the Cabinet member for Environment Capital announced on local radio and in the press that she intended to have photovoltaic solar panels installed on the regional swimming pool, the Town Hall and the Freemans building.

Could she now make a statement on what progress has been made with these projects, which, as she said at the time, have potential not just to generate green energy but also to be a valuable extra income stream for the Council?

Can she also tell us what impact the Government's proposed halving of the solar feed in tariff from 12 December will have on these and other potential solar energy projects in Peterborough?

Councillor S Dalton, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital sent the following response:

The installation of Photovoltaic Solar Panels have now been completed at all 3 sites. The completion dates for eligibility for the Feed in Tariffs Scheme were as follows:

Regional Pool – 17 August 2011

Town Hall – 11 November 2011

Early meter readings from the Regional Pool demonstrate that the installation is currently outperforming original estimates by 15%. It is hoped that Town Hall will have a similar outcome but we hope to review this in the coming weeks.

The installation to the Tesam (Freemans) building is completed and is undergoing the final stages of assessment for eligibility.

The proposed new tariffs will be applied from 1 April 2012. Although the proposals are that the new tariff applies to all new PV installations with an eligibility date on or after 12 December 2011, those installations which are completed between 12 December 2011 and 31 March 2012 will receive the current higher tariff until then.

<p>Current installations are therefore not affected by the new tariff as these will still receive the current higher rates under these proposals.</p>

<p>Despite the reduction in tariffs, we remain committed to the ongoing rollout of solar panels across Peterborough. The reduced rate will make it difficult to fund some schemes but we are looking at various options and hope to be able to announce shortly the range of properties that the next phase will cover.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank