

<b>CABINET</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
<b>24 FEBRUARY 2014</b>	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr David Seaton – Cabinet Member for Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	John Harrison, Executive Director Resources Steven Pilsworth, Head of Strategic Finance	Tel. 452520 Tel. 384564

## **BUDGET 2014/15 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) TO 2023/24**

<b>RECOMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM :</b> Cllr David Seaton	<b>Deadline date:</b> Council Meeting 5 March 2014
<p>Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have regard to the consultation feedback received to date and statutory advice detailed in the report when determining the budget recommendations, noting that consultation remains open and further update will be provided at the Cabinet meeting and to the council meeting.</li> <li>2. Agree that the budget proposals contained in the report to Cabinet on 3 February updated for items in this report be approved and recommended to Council on 5 March 2014, namely: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The revenue budget for 2014/15 and the medium term financial strategy to 2023/24, set in the context of the sustainable community strategy;</li> <li>b) The capital programme for 2014/15 to 2023/24, and associated capital strategy, treasury management strategy and asset management plan;</li> <li>c) The council tax freeze in 2014/15 and 2015/16 with indicative increases for planning purposes of 2% for 2016/17 to 2023/24;</li> <li>d) The proposals for setting fees and charges for 2014/15</li> <li>e) The reserves position including the current budget monitoring forecast;</li> </ol> <p>and that a complete MTFS document will be presented to Council.</p> </li> <li>3. Note the approved and submitted declaration of the surplus on the Collection Fund with regards to business rates for 2013/14 and the business rates forecast for 2014/15.</li> <li>4. Approve the discretionary retail relief scheme to businesses and the discretionary reoccupation relief scheme for 2014/15.</li> <li>5. That Cabinet have regard for the continuing uncertainty of national public finances, the impact that dwelling and business growth locally will have on future funding arrangements.</li> <li>6. That Cabinet recognise the challenge to close a significant forecast gap of £18m in 2015/16 and also the further gaps in later years.</li> </ol>	

## 1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is submitted to the Cabinet as part of the council's agreed process for integrated finance and business planning.

## 2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend to Council budget proposals for 2014/15 through to 2023/24, in line with the final local government finance settlement for 2014/15 and in advance of some Department for Education specific grants being finalised. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was presented during the Cabinet meeting of 3 February and remains the basis for Cabinet to recommend the budget for approval by Council. The report was supplemented with the MTFS and budget consultation and will be refreshed to include the updates contained within this report for Council on 5 March 2014.
- 2.2 This report also provides an update for budget consultation responses received so far, recognising that that the consultation remains open until 4 March and that some meetings with key stakeholder groups are still to take place.
- 2.3 The report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference no.3.2.7 *"to be responsible for the Council's overall budget and determine action required to ensure that the overall budget remains within the total cash limit."*
- 2.4 In addition, the report also has regard to the revised budget timetable approved by Council at the meeting of 4 December under the council constitution Part 4, Section 6 – Budget and Policy Framework Rules.

### TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	24 February 2014
Date for relevant Council Meeting	5 March 2014	Date for submission to Government department	Communities and Local Government (CLG) 11 March 2014

## 3. FUTURE BUDGET PROSPECTS AND BUDGET PROPOSALS 2014/15 TO 2023/24

- 3.1 Cabinet firmly believe that budgets over the medium term that support the council's key priorities should be put forward and that these should meet the changing characteristics of the city, its residents, businesses and those that visit the city.

### Priorities and approach

- 3.2 The proposals put forward in this paper maintain our commitment to:
- Growth, regeneration and economic development to bring new investment and jobs. Supporting people into work and off benefits.
  - Improving educational attainment and skills for all children and young people, allowing them to seize the opportunities offered by new jobs and our university provision, thereby keeping their talent and skills in the city.
  - Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.
  - The Environment Capital agenda including pursuing new income streams from solar energy and wind farm developments.
  - Supporting the city's culture trust Vivacity to continue to deliver arts and culture.
  - Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy.

The sixth priority reflects the recommendation by Scrutiny members outlined later in this report.

### Updates to the budget and MTFs since 3 February Cabinet

- 3.3 The table below summarises the changes that have been made following consultation feedback received to date and the final settlement announced on 5 February. These updates will be incorporated in the MTFs document for approval by Council on 5 March 2014.

	2014/15 £k	2015/16 £k	2016/17 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k
<b>Deficit</b>	0	-17,848	-22,486	-23,843	-26,507
Consultation feedback	0	0	0	0	0
Finance Settlement Updates	20	-5	0	0	0
Held in contingency	-20	0	0	0	0
<b>Revised Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-17,853</b>	<b>-22,486</b>	<b>-23,843</b>	<b>-26,507</b>
Year on year deficit targets		-17,853	-4,633	-1,357	-2,664

- 3.4 It is recommended to set aside the £20k in a contingency at present whilst the council awaits the final notification of Department for Education grants from government. These grants remain provisional in the budget assumptions.

- 3.5 The following presentational changes will be made to the key figures statement presented to Council but have no impact on the budget position as follows:

- i. Presentational change for apportioning business rate income, business rate collection fund surplus and business rate Section 31 grants included within specific grants following submission of the business rates return to government;
- ii. Parish precepts have now been received from Parish Councils and subsequently an updated position has been reflected in the budget tables;
- iii. The council's budget for 2014/15 includes £2.9m of NHS funding assuming a continued agreement with the NHS for spending on social care. An additional allocation announced £661k for Better Care funding in 2014/15 which is available to be pooled between the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the council. The proposed usage of this funding, is currently being considered between the council and CCG and will be confirmed in April 2014. The NHS funding included within specific grants on the key figures statement will increase;
- iv. The key figures statement included school funding of £164.7m which included recoupment funding not due to the council. The revised school funding figure is £137.8m and a corresponding adjustment has been made within expenditure budgets to match funding. Schools Forum has responsibility for school funding and therefore there is no financial impact for the council.

- 3.6 Since the 3 February Cabinet meeting and after considering all responses received to date on the consultation, the Cabinet Member for Resources (after consulting Cabinet colleagues) has recommended there is no change to budget consultation proposals. However, several organisations consulted to date have suggested that they would like a greater involvement in future delivery of services with the voluntary and community sector and partner organisations believing that they can help deliver efficiencies and better outcomes with the council.

### Items to follow

Due to the timing of consultation events and the release of the Cabinet papers, it will be necessary to issue an addendum to this report to provide further consultation feedback as outlined in section 6 of this report. This will be tabled at the meeting. In line with previous practice, this allows the consultation to remain open for as long as possible.

#### 4. MTFS 2014/15 to 2023/24

##### Financial Settlement 2014/15

- 4.1 The report discussed by Cabinet on 3 February highlighted a grant reduction of £8.9m in 2014/15 and a further £12.3m in 2015/16 based on the provisional local government settlement announcement on 18 December 2013. This represents approximately 28% and 39% reduction in council funding since 2010/11 spending levels. By 2015/16, the council would have seen grant reductions of £44m since 2010/11.
- 4.2 The final settlement was announced on 5 February 2014. The outline of the final settlement is in line with the provisional settlement with a few minor amendments. The table below summarises the changes including an adjustment on business rate income following the submission of the council's Business rate forecast (NNDR 1) 2014/15 submission to government on 31 January.

	2014/15 £k	2015/16 £k	
Revenue Support Grant	11	0	Return of held back funding from £28m to £31.1m nationally in 2014/15
Section 31 grant – New Homes Bonus	-3	-5	Reduction in New Homes Bonus surplus monies returned to the council due to updates nationally on New Homes Bonus allocations to councils.
Business Rate income	12	0	Combined impact of NNDR 1 2014/15 and estimates for Section 31 business rate grants
<b>Improvement (+)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-5</b>	

- 4.3 The above changes will be incorporated into the MTFS documents to be approved by Council on 5 March 2014.

##### Business Rates

- 4.4 Cabinet considered a report on 20 January titled Council Tax Base, Collection Fund Surplus and Business Rates 2014/15 that considered the financial implications of the budget setting process with regards to the localised business rates scheme. The formal declaration of business rates surplus or deficit was required to be made no later than 31 January and an estimate was included in the report due to the delay by government in issuing the necessary form for completion and before government legislation was issued on the treatment of the spreading of the cost of backdated appeals over five financial years. Cabinet delegated responsibility of approving the declaration to the Executive Director Resources.
- 4.5 There is no financial implication on budget setting in 2014/15, but there is a presentational change following government legislation to the declared collection fund surplus for 2013/14 to be used in budget setting for 2014/15 and the business rate income forecast for 2014/15. The accounting treatment to be applied to backdated appeals before legislation was issued was open to interpretation. The submitted electronic form can be seen in appendix 1.
- 4.6 The Chancellor's Autumn Statement 2013 announced measures to protect small businesses by introducing a temporary discretionary retail relief scheme for qualifying businesses for a £1,000 discount on their business rate demand in 2014/15. As the scheme is discretionary, it is up to each council to implement, with the council being reimbursed by government for any relief provided. The council's scheme of operation and qualification criteria can be seen in appendix 2.
- 4.7 The Chancellor's statement also announced measures to introduce a temporary reoccupation relief, granting a 50% discount from business rates for new occupants of previously empty retail premises for 18 months. The relief will be granted to businesses moving into long-term retail properties on or after 1 April 2014 and on or before 31 March 2016. As the scheme is

discretionary, it is up to each council to implement, with the council being reimbursed by government for any relief provided. The council's scheme of operation and qualification criteria can be seen in appendix 2.

## **5. COUNCIL TAX**

5.1 The budget proposals discussed by Cabinet on 3 February committed to keeping council tax low, the Cabinet are proposing the following:

- **to freeze council tax in 2014/15**
- **to freeze council tax in 2015/16**

5.2 If these proposals are agreed at Council on 5 March 2014 the amount of council tax paid to Peterborough City Council for council services will remain the same.

Council tax bills are not only made up of council charges but also charges from other public bodies to fund their services. The remainder of the council tax bill is made up from charges from:

- Police – The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel meeting on 5 February 2014 approved a council tax increase of 1.92% from £177.93 to £181.35 for band D properties. The council will receive formal notification shortly.
- Fire – The Cambridgeshire Fire Authority meeting on 13 February 2014 approved a council tax freeze, resulting in the current charge for band D properties of £64.26 remaining the same for 2014/15. The council will receive formal notification shortly.
- Parish Councils – the precepts will be included in the Council report.

5.3 Given that the Cabinet are proposing a council tax freeze, there is no requirement for the council to calculate its relevant basic amount of council tax to determine whether it has set an excessive council tax increase requiring a local referendum. The local referendum limit announced by government alongside the final settlement was 2.0% and if Council do not accept a council tax freeze in 2014/15, then this calculation would be required.

5.4 For comparative purposes, a 2.0% increase in council tax would generate an additional £1.2m in income, however, the council would lose the council tax freeze grant of £0.7m, resulting in additional benefit to the council of £0.5m. In summary, if the Cabinet had wished to see an increase in its spending power of £0.5m it would require local council tax payers to contribute £1.2m.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 The budget consultation has been in the public domain since 24 January 2014, confirmed by Cabinet at its meeting on 3 February and will run until 4 March 2014 to provide opportunity for debate with residents, staff, businesses and partners. All consultation events and activity have been re-arranged to fit with the new timetable. The consultation will be open for nearly six weeks. Cabinet wanted to ensure that residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties have the chance to comment on all of the savings, efficiencies, service reductions and investments they plan to make to enable the city to continue to grow and give residents the best quality of life.

- A web-based consultation;
- Copies of proposal documents placed in all libraries and receptions at Council buildings;
- Copies of proposal documents are available on request;
- A range of meetings with partners and stakeholders, including:
  - Greater Peterborough Partnership
  - Connect Group
  - Voluntary Sector through Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service
  - Disability Forum
- A scrutiny style event with the Youth Council

- Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions
- Health sector via the Joint Commissioning Forum
- Schools Forum
- Trades Unions
- Staff briefings and feedback
- Discussions with the business community
- Discussion with Parish Councils
- Twitter feed via the Peterborough Telegraph

6.2 Consultation responses received so far from the public, members and the meetings held to date have been included in the budget consultation response section in the MTFS along with a Cabinet response. A full schedule of meetings can be seen in appendix 3. A full analysis of the consultation responses will be included in the report to Council.

6.3 Given the timing of the agenda despatch for this meeting and further meetings planned during the consultation period, it is not possible to include feedback from some of the consultation events in this report. The feedback, if any from these discussions will be included as an addendum to this report or to the report to Council on 5 March.

- a. Business Community – 30 January. A presentation was given to the business community enabling businesses to raise questions or provide feedback via the web based consultation. No comments have been made.
- b. Connect Group – the meeting is scheduled to be held on 24 February.
- c. Schools Forum have been communicated with and the council has not yet received any comments.

6.4 Alongside the budget consultation, there have been the following consultations that are affected by the savings proposals put forward by Cabinet as follows:

- a. Vision for early years services including Children Centres consultation of the reconfiguration of Children Centres across Peterborough. The outcome of this consultation was discussed by Cabinet on 3 February and there is no change proposed to the saving proposal included in the budget.
- b. Transforming day opportunities for adults under 65 consultation remains open until 3 March 2014 and will feedback into the budget process.

6.5 By the 13 February the council had received a total of 70 emails and on line feedback from organisations and individuals, resulting in 140 comments. In addition, the Cabinet has received feedback from budget consultation meetings with 94 comments being made. In total so far, 234 comments have been received. Many of those who sent in feedback made comments or suggestions on several budget proposals. The main comments received so far include:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>No.</b>
General – includes suggestions and areas not directly related to budget proposals	74
Garden Waste Collection	49
Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	14
St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool	18
Capital Programme	10
Renewables	6
Children's Centres	11
Garden Waste Collection and General	4
Council tax	6
Adult Social Care proposals	7
Community Leadership Fund	8
4 or less comments	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>234</b>

- 6.6 The feedback received to date have been included at the end of this report and includes a Cabinet response. Most of the feedback received to date expresses concern on the saving proposals but some recognises the financial constraint that the council is under and others are supportive of some savings proposals. Most comments do not offer alternative saving proposals. Where they do, the sums that can be saved are either lower than suggested, or have other consequences that need to be considered. Again it must be stressed that the consultation remains open, and responses from Cabinet remain interim responses at this stage.
- 6.7 Cabinet have considered all of the feedback received so far. Initial responses to all those received so far are included in appendix 3. Given the scale of the financial challenge faced by the council next year, and beyond, Cabinet do not believe that removing any saving proposals at this stage would be viable unless alternative saving proposals can be put forward to ensure that the 2014/15 budget is balanced. Whilst comments received object to some savings proposals, realistic alternatives for finding savings in other areas have not been offered. Cabinet believe that alternative savings would be even more unpalatable, and would impact front line service delivery areas. As such the Cabinet Member for Resources (after consulting with Cabinet colleagues) does not believe that there should be changes to the proposals.
- 6.8 The Joint meeting of the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions discussed the budget proposals at a meeting held on 10 February making comments and five recommendations. The unapproved draft minutes of this meeting is included in appendix 3 of this report including Cabinet's full response to the recommendations. In summary, the recommendations and Cabinet responses were as follows:
- i. Inclusion in the council's priorities reference to the commitment to a healthy city. The sixth priority will incorporate reference to a healthy city:
    - Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy
  - ii. Investigate business rate forecasts impact on revenue budgets. A detailed forecast has been included within the 2014/15 budget alongside reasons why predicting accurately with certainty future forecasts are difficult.
  - iii. The remaining three recommendations referred to the saving proposals put forward of Children Centres, St Georges Hydrotherapy pool and the Community Leadership fund. Having considered these recommendations, in the absence of alternative saving proposals, Cabinet do not believe there should be changes to the saving proposals.
- 6.9 Cabinet will continue to review the consultation feedback and consider any final changes that may result following feedback. The consultation remains open through to 4 March.

## **7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

- 7.1 The priorities and vision outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy can only be achieved by ensuring that resources are aligned with these priorities. The MTFS delivers this and also ensures that a balanced budget will be set. For 2014/15 and also future budget challenges reflect delivering these priorities.

## **8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Council must set a lawful and balanced budget.
- 8.2 The Council is required to set a Council Tax for 2014/15 within statutory prescribed timescales and in accordance with the local referendum requirements contained within the Localism Act 2011.
- 8.3 Before setting the level of Council Tax, the Council must have agreed a balanced budget.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 Alternative levels of Council Tax increase and areas for growth/savings can be considered but this must be seen in the context of the Sustainable Community Strategy and other constraints, along with the loss of council tax freeze grant that any increase would lead to.

## **10. IMPLICATIONS**

### **10.1 Elected Members**

- 10.1.1 Members must have regard to the advice of the Section 151 Officer. The Council may take decisions which are at variance with this advice, providing there are reasonable grounds to do so.
- 10.1.2 It is an offence for any Members with arrears of Council Tax which have been outstanding for two months or more to attend any meeting of the Council or its committees at which a decision affecting the budget is made, unless the Members concerned declare at the outset of the meeting they are in arrears and will not be voting on the decision for that reason.

### **10.2 Legal Implications**

- 10.2.1 These are considered within the main body of the report. All budget proposals approved by Council on 5 March will be implemented with immediate effect as Council decisions are not subject to call in by the Scrutiny Committee.
- 10.2.2 The Council's budget and policy framework states that the Cabinet must consider the proposals of the relevant Scrutiny Committee and, if it considers it appropriate, it may amend its budget proposals before submitting them to Council.
- 10.2.3 Cabinet is reminded of the legal obligation to propose a balanced budget to Council. Therefore Cabinet is unlikely to be able to endorse any recommendations unless there are alternative proposals to balance the budget.
- 10.2.4 The Constitution requires that a substantial amendment or amendments which amount to an alternative budget (i.e. proposes a different level of Council Tax) must be submitted by notice in writing to the Chief Executive by 10.00am on Friday, 28 February 2014. Such notice must then be circulated to all Members of the Council. If more than one such amendment is received they will be considered at the Council meeting in the order of receipt.
- 10.2.5 If the proposed amendment is not substantial or does not propose an alternative budget then it should be submitted by notice in writing to the Chief Executive by midday on Wednesday, 5 March 2014. This is to ensure that formal budget documents, including the council tax resolution, can be prepared as necessary.
- 10.2.6 The budget decision taken by Council must include the decision of each councillor recording in the minutes whether the councillor voted for, against or abstained from the budget decision as prescribed in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

### **10.3 Human Resources**

- 10.3.1 During the course of the next financial year, we envisage undertaking a number of re-organisations which may result in a number of posts being made redundant. Whilst it is difficult to predict the exact number of posts affected, we believe this is likely to be in the region of 53.5 Full time equivalent posts. Our approach to minimising any compulsory redundancies will be the one adopted in previous years, including deleting vacant posts, redeployment of affected staff, and seeking voluntary redundancies where we are able to do so.



#### **10.4 Equality Impact Assessments**

- 10.4.1 Each saving proposal being consulted upon has been considered with regards to equality issues and where appropriate separate equality impact assessments has been completed. These can be located on the council's website.

#### **10.5 Future Service Delivery**

- 10.5.1 As part of setting a ten year financial plan, further work is continuing on the future service delivery of services provided by the council. The council moved towards becoming a commissioning focused organisation so that our services and support arrangements better reflect needs, the views of citizens and the improved outcomes for Peterborough people, in the most efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable way.

### **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 11.1 Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

## Appendix 1 – NNDR Return (Part 1)

### NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES RETURN - NNDR1

2014-15

Please e-mail to: [nndr.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nndr.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk) by no later than 31 January 2014.  
In addition, a certified copy of the form should be returned by no later than 31 January 2014 to  
Dennis Herbert, Department for Communities and Local Government, Zone 5/J6 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU

All figures should be shown in whole £

Please check the Validation tab to see if there are any validation queries that need to be answered

Select your local authority's name from this list:

Orford
Pendle
Peterborough
Plymouth

Authority Name  
E-code  
Local authority contact name  
Local authority contact number  
Local authority fax number  
Local authority e-mail address

Peterborough
E0501

Ver 1.2

#### PART 1A: NON-DOMESTIC RATING INCOME

##### COLLECTIBLE RATES

1. Net amount receivable from rate payers after taking account of transitional adjustments, empty property rate, mandatory and discretionary reliefs and accounting adjustments £ **91,044,025**

##### TRANSITIONAL PROTECTION PAYMENTS

2. Sums due to the authority **1,546,269**

3. Sums due from the authority **0**

##### COST OF COLLECTION (See Note A)

4. Cost of collection formula **276,677**

5. Legal costs **0**

6. Allowance for cost of collection **276,677**

##### SPECIAL AUTHORITY DEDUCTIONS

7. City of London Offset **0**

##### DISREGARDED AMOUNTS

8. Amounts retained in respect of Enterprise Zones **0**

9. Amounts retained in respect of NDD areas **0**

10. Amounts retained in respect of Renewable Energy Schemes (See Note B) **0**

of which:

11. sums retained by billing authority **0**

12. sums retained by major precepting authority **0**

##### NON-DOMESTIC RATING INCOME

13. Line 1 plus line 2, minus lines 3 and 6 - 10 **92,313,617**

Local Authority : Peterborough

PART 1B: PAYMENTS

The payments to be made, during the course of 2014-15 to:

- i) the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013;
- ii) major precepting authorities in accordance with Regulations 5, 6 and 7; and to be
- iii) transferred by the billing authority from its Collection Fund to its General Fund,

are set out below

	Column 1 Central Government £	Column 2 Peterborough £	Column 3 £	Column 4 Cambridgeshir e Fire Authority £	Column 5 Total £
<b>Non-Domestic Rating Income for 2014-15</b>					
14. Non-domestic rating income from rates retention scheme	46,156,809	45,233,672	0	923,136	92,313,617
15. (less) qualifying relief in Enterprise Zones	0				0
16. <b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>46,156,809</b>				<b>92,313,617</b>
<b>Other Income for 2014-15</b>					
17. add: cost of collection allowance		276,677			276,677
18. add: amounts retained in respect of Enterprise Zones		0			0
19. add: amounts retained in respect of NDD Area		0			0
20. add: amounts retained in respect of renewable energy schemes		0	0		0
21. add: qualifying relief in Enterprise Zones		0	0	0	0
22. add: City of London Offset		0			0
<b>Estimated Surplus/Deficit on Collection Fund</b>	£	£	£	£	£
23. Estimated Surplus/Deficit at end of 2013-14	662,506	649,255	0	13,250	1,325,011
<b>TOTAL FOR THE YEAR</b>	£	£	£	£	£
24. Total amount due to authorities	46,819,315	46,159,604	0	936,386	93,915,305

Please investigate the error messages shown below and make the appropriate changes to the form. Any comments should be added at the bottom of Part 4

Line 23 column 5 doesn't equal the sum of columns 1 to 4. Please check why.

**Local Authority : Peterborough**

**PART 1C: SECTION 31 GRANT (See Note C)**

Estimated sums due from Government via Section 31 grant, to compensate authorities for the cost of changes to the business rates system announced in the 2013 Autumn Statement.

	Column 2 Peterborough £	Column 3 £	Column 4 Cambridgeshire Fire Authority £	Column 5 Total £
<b>2014-15 Multiplier Cap</b>				
25. Cost of 2% cap on 2014-15 small business rates multiplier	483,125	0	9,800	492,925
<b>Small Business Rate Relief</b>				
26. Cost to authorities of temporary doubling in 2014-15	706,194	0	14,412	720,606
27. Cost to authorities of maintaining relief on "first" property	0	0	0	0
<b>"New Empty" Property Relief</b>				
28. Cost to authorities of giving relief to newly-built empty property	0	0	0	0
<b>"Long Term Empty" Property Relief</b>				
29. Relief on occupation of "long-term empty" property	0	0	0	0
<b>Retail Relief</b>				
30. Relief provided to retail properties	334,469	0	6,826	341,295
<b>TOTAL FOR THE YEAR</b>	£	£	£	£
31. Total amount of Section 31 grant due to authorities	1,523,788	0	31,038	1,554,826

**Certificate of Chief Financial Officer / Section 151 Officer**

I confirm that the entries in this form are the best I can make on the information available to me and amounts are calculated in accordance with regulations made under Schedule 7B to the Local Government Act 1988. I also confirm that the authority has acted diligently in relation to the collection of non-domestic rates.

**Name of Chief Financial Officer  
or Section 151 Officer :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date :** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix 2 – Discretionary rate relief schemes in 2014/15**

### **BUSINESS RATE RELIEF**

Included in the Chancellors 2013 Autumn Statement was a series of proposals for a range of measures to be introduced for Business Rates to support high street retailers. The options detailed in the statement are to be delivered under the Authority's discretionary powers, introduced by the Localism Act under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended.

Central Government will fully reimburse billing authorities and those major precepting authorities within the rates retention system for the actual cost to them via a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

### **Retail Rate Relief**

Properties that will benefit from Retail Rate Relief will be occupied assessments with a rateable value of £50,000 or less, that are wholly or mainly being used as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments.

The total amount of government funded relief for each qualifying property is up to £1,000 for the 2014/2015 & 2015/2016 financial years.

There is no government funded relief for properties with a Rateable Value of more than £50,000 and no proposal is being made to adopt a local scheme to include any properties outside of the Government's proposed scheme.

The Retail Rate Relief will be applied against the net bill after all other applicable reliefs have been granted. Where this results in a net liability less than the £1,000 Retail Rate Relief available the maximum Retail Rate Relief that can be awarded is the value of the net rate liability.

Ratepayers that occupy more than one property will be entitled to receive Retail Rate Relief for each of their eligible properties, subject to State Aid de minimis limits.

Eligibility for relief will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis and therefore any new occupiers to qualifying properties will also be entitled to claim Retail Rate Relief. The calculation formula defined as:

$$\text{Amount of relief to be granted} = \text{£1,000} \times \frac{A}{B}$$

Where:

A is the number of days in the financial year that the hereditament is eligible for relief; and

B is the number of days in the financial year

Guidance issued by the Government considers that a qualifying property is:-

### **Hereditaments being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public:**

- Shops (such as: florist, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off licence, chemists, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, etc)
- Charity Shops
- Opticians
- Post Offices
- Furnishing shops/display rooms
- Car/caravan show rooms
- Second hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol Stations
- Garden Centres

- Art Galleries (where art is for sale/hire)

**Hereditaments used for the provision of services to visiting members of the public:-**

- Hair and beauty services (hair dressers, nail bars, beauty salons, tanning shops etc)
- Shoe repairs/key cutting
- Travel Agents
- Ticket offices (eg theatres)
- Dry Cleaners
- Launderettes
- PC/TV/domestic appliance repair
- Funeral Directors
- Photo processing
- DVD/Video Rentals
- Tool Hire
- Car Hire

**Hereditaments being used for the sale of food and/or drink:-**

- Restaurants
- Takeaways
- Sandwich Shops
- Coffee Shops
- Pubs
- Bars

The lists above are not exhaustive and it is the Government's intention that the relief is granted based upon the use of the property rather than merely occupation of a property of that type or description in the rating list. Consideration should therefore be given to any case where the use is broadly similar in nature to those listed **above**.

The list **below** sets out the types of uses that the government does not consider to be retail use for the purpose of the scheme and therefore such uses will be excluded from the Council's discretionary scheme:

**Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services:**

- Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points, bureau de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawn brokers)
- Other services (e.g. estate agents, letting agents, employment agencies)
- Medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents/financial advisers, tutors)
- Post office sorting office
- Hereditaments that are not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Council should exercise its discretionary powers under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended and adopt the schemes detailed above as Local Discretionary relief policies.

Approval is given for all qualifying businesses to be granted the relief as part of the End of Year processes.

Recommendation that the Council delegate authority for any subsequent applications to be authorised by the Council's Chief Financial Officer.

There are no financial implications for the Council to consider as the cost of the relief will be fully refunded to the Council through a Section 31 grant.

## **REOCCUPATION RELIEF**

Introduction of a 50 per cent business rates relief for 18 months – between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2016 for businesses that move into retail premises that have been empty for a year or more.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council should exercise its discretionary powers under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended and adopt the Reoccupation Relief in line with guidance issued by Central Government for operation of the scheme.

Approval for applications under this local schemes should be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer of the Council.

There are no financial implications for the Council to consider as the cost of the relief will be fully refunded to the Council through a Section 31 grant.

### Appendix 3 – Public Consultation responses

Consultation Event	Date	Comments included in report?
Public consultation	Closes 4 March	All comments received between 24 January – 13 February)
Staff briefings and feedback	24 January	n/a
Discussions with the business community	30 January	No comments made
Trades Unions	30 January	Yes
Disability Forum	30 January	Yes
A scrutiny style event with the Youth Council	4 February	Yes
Communities & Cohesion Board	6 February	Yes
Joint Commissioning Forum	7 February	Yes – Draft minutes
Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions	10 February	
Greater Peterborough Partnership	11 February	Yes
Discussion with Parish Councils	11 February	Yes
Voluntary Sector through Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service	12 February	Yes
Connect Group	24 February	
RSL's/Cross Keys	<b>Cancelled</b>	
Schools forum	No formal meeting so in writing	
Twitter feed via Peterborough Telegraph	n/a	Yes



**Public Consultation**

	<b>Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Please stop spending my money on translation costs and Trades Union representation for council employees. Use the money saved to pay for brown bin collection. Then use the contents of brown bins to make compost for resale. Its green and it's recycling and it's self-financing, then use the profit for adult social care. Simple really.</p> <p>Finally, realize that Councillor Seaton is not fit for purpose.</p>	<p>This proposal is not financially viable. The Council only spends money on translation costs where absolutely unavoidable e.g. a statement for a Court case when a child may be taken in to care.</p> <p>The Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992 gives trade unions and their members the legal right to take time off with full pay to undertake trade union activities. All organisations that recognise trade unions will bear similar costs.</p> <p>The council has decided to discharge its responsibilities under this act in the most efficient and effective way by seconding two full-time employees into full-time trade union roles rather than having a larger number of trade union representatives. These two officers deal with issues on an individual level attending disciplinary hearings and grievances as well as getting involved in collective consultations.</p> <p>We believe this is far less disruptive to services because it means union representatives are not taking ad-hoc time off from their full-time roles to carry out trade union duties, reducing the need to bring in temporary staff or pay overtime. It also means that our trade union representatives are becoming more experienced in their roles enabling employment matters to be resolved at an early stage.</p> <p>We have to pay to dispose of residents' garden waste – whilst it is used for compost it does not generate any significant income. However, the cost is substantially lower than the cost of sending waste to landfill.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>goes to landfill after charges were introduced. The organisation that takes the garden waste away already turns it into compost for re-sale. As stated previously this is a cost to the council it does not generate income.</p> <p>Cllr Seaton notes the last comment and welcomes any input that will sensibly and usefully support the budget challenges facing the Council.</p>
2	Garden Waste Collection	<p>If PCC have suggested statistics about low usage then 1) renegotiate the contract; 2) move to fortnightly collections; 3) increase the council tax by an amount to cover the renegotiated cost (answer isn't £39); 4) save on the wages of the civil servants that can't work this out for themselves. DON'T just BIN the service. Couldn't resist the pun sorry.</p> <p>How were you planning to administrate and identify households that have paid on collection day exactly? Surely there's an added cost here.</p> <p>Let me know if you need any more help. The consultation fee is waived on this occasion.</p>	<p>The contract has already been renegotiated with substantial savings achieved. Brown bins used to collect garden waste including grass, twigs and leaves are already collected on a fortnightly basis on alternate weeks to black bin collections.</p> <p>If the proposal is approved, the charge will be £36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014, or £39 for those who sign up after this date.</p> <p>Increasing Council Tax by 2% would deliver £0.5m income compared to this proposal which delivers £0.8m. It would also impact all residents rather than just those who use this discretionary service.</p> <p>The refuse collectors will have up-to-date information on their vehicles to let them know which residents have paid for the service and they will only collect their bins.</p>
3	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Hi</p> <p>What we put in our brown bins could probably be put in our rarely full black bin but would this have a negative effect from what you currently do with brown bin waste?</p>	<p>We would discourage people from using their black bins to dispose of garden waste as this will then go to landfill. If the proposal is agreed and you do not wish to sign up for the new garden waste service we would encourage you to compost garden waste or take it to the Household Recycling Centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe.</p>
4	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I just want to make the point (which you have probably considered) if you</p>	<p>A planning application has been submitted to build a new Household Recycling Centre in Fengate, Peterborough that will replace the current facilities</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>start charging for collection of garden waste you will need to do something about the tip facilities. Access during the summer is already a nightmare. With everyone taking their garden waste as well, it will be impossible. You will get more fly tipping and people 'hiding' their grass cuttings in bags in the ordinary (land fill) waste.</p> <p>I'm sure you have thought about this and I know there are other councils that don't provide brown bin collection but they don't have the population of city dwellers either!</p>	<p>in Dogsthorpe and enable residents to recycle a wider variety of materials.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of home composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.</p>
5	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>First of all I hope this is not what you call a consultation process. It's not consultation until everyone has the opportunity to respond to a clear set of publicised proposals.</p> <p>Pay extra for brown bin collection while claiming a victory in not raising council tax ? Don't really go together do they.</p> <p>So many questions raised by the proposal anyway, including: - what about those who don't pay or can't pay, what if you get brown bin waste put in bags and then into black bins, what about the prospect of extra waste being tipped illegally.</p> <p>Local income tax - its the only honest and fair way, an old tory once said to me "you get nothing for nothing" - He was an old fascist but right on this score - we pay for everything in the end so why not be up front about it. Everyone paying their share according to their means and ability to do so.</p>	<p>The budget proposals are clearly set out including what each department does, its budget and the savings proposals. Cllr Seaton introduced this improved approach but is always grateful for feedback on how it may be further developed.</p> <p>Council tax increases impact all residents whilst we estimate a third will pay for this discretionary service. In addition Council tax has been frozen for 4 out of 5 years saving all residents £68 a year on average.</p> <p>The budget proposals were first published on 24 January 2014 in the meeting papers for the Cabinet meeting on 4 February 2014. Councils have a duty to publish meeting agendas five working days before that meeting is due to take place. However, the budget consultation could not be officially launched until after that meeting took place.</p> <p>A dedicated budget area of the website was launched on Monday 4 February and can be</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>accessed via the council's website <a href="http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/budget">www.peterborough.gov.uk/budget</a> From this page people can read the proposals, and then respond through the on-line survey, via email, or they can pick up a printed copy of the consultation document from the Town Hall reception or the Customer Service Centre at Bayard Place, Broadway, Peterborough and respond in writing to the Financial Services Manager, Peterborough City Council, Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG</p> <p>The formal consultation will end at 5pm on Tuesday 4 March 2014.</p> <p>The comments about flytipping and black bins have already been addressed.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service. We would encourage people to home compost if they have the space available or they will still be able to take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough.</p>
6	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>We do not need our brown bin please collect it if it means another £40!</p> <p>We cannot afford £40 on my pension credits!</p> <p>Angered resident in Paston!</p> <p>Better solution is,</p> <p>get rid of half the useless councillors! save a fortune in minutes!</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service or they can share a bin with a neighbour.</p> <p>We would encourage people to home compost if they have the space available or they will still be able to take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough.</p> <p>We are not proposing to take brown bins away from households that don't sign up for the service.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>Wheelie bins are provided for the use of the property rather than individual residents.</p> <p>Whilst the last comment is noted, it is also the case that Peterborough has one of the lowest council tax rates in the country so providing value for money for all residents.</p>
7	General	<p>You have the same problem that all councils have and that is a lack of creativity within your ranks to innovate to solve your financial issues. Too many bureaucrats and not enough entrepreneurial thinkers. Don't worry though, the vast majority are exactly the same which is why you will always struggle. It's not personal, it's just a simple truth.</p>	<p>Cllr Seaton notes this comment and would be happy to meet with you to correct your understanding as the Council has a real track record of innovation.</p>
8	General	<p>How about you councillors taking a wage drop, you will save a lot of money.</p> <p>You are asking for more people to become foster parents you had a lot of very good foster parents but the children services saw fit to sack them for being too fat, too old, and even used the fact that they are disabled that they couldn't do the job they had been doing for years and doing such a fantastic job of it for many many years. And you want people to join you to help these kids? Because as soon as their face does not fit in they will be sacked.</p>	<p>Councillors do not receive a wage. They receive a basic allowance and those councillors that hold special responsibilities such as Cabinet members or chairmen or chairwomen of committees receive additional allowances. A full list of these allowances are available at <a href="http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s16837/Members%20Allowances%202012-13.pdf">http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s16837/Members%20Allowances%202012-13.pdf</a></p> <p>At a meeting of Council in December, councillors rejected a recommendation by an independent panel to increase their allowances. It means councillors' allowances have been frozen for 2014/15.</p> <p>We cannot comment on individual cases about foster carers from the past. However, if people are interested in becoming foster carers we would love to hear from them. For more information call 01733 317427; email <a href="mailto:wanttofoster@peterborough.gov.uk">wanttofoster@peterborough.gov.uk</a> or visit the website <a href="http://www.peterboroughfostering.co.uk">www.peterboroughfostering.co.uk</a></p>
9	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>Sir</p> <p>I saw a report that a charge was being considered for brown bin collection. This seems like a cost rather than a saving for two reasons.</p> <p>1 people will elect to have brown bin taken away and not use it but the lorries still need to collect in a street whether picking up 1 or 50 bins</p> <p>2 responsible people will compost their waste but others will fly tip costing</p>	<p>The majority of points have been previously answered. The Council is only seeking to cover the cost of this discretionary service.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>the council money to clean up.</p> <p>Rather than putting a charge on a particular resident wide service why not just put up the council tax by the same amount? It hasn't gone up for 4 of the last 5 years so has become cheaper in real terms. If there is a penalty from central government for doing this then this would need to be factored in.</p> <p>Will people be able to opt out of brown bin collection ? What is to stop people putting any waste in black bins?</p>	
10	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>If you want to charge for the emptying of brown bins then you can have my bin returned and I will take the rubbish elsewhere.</p>	We believe a charge of 75p a week is good value and probably less than the cost of taking the rubbish elsewhere to dispose of.
11	General	<p>You could consider getting rid of the town clerks car oh sorry CEO... and also renting out some officers in the town all as some meetings and council business is conducted in Costa Coffee</p>	<p>The council does not provide the chief executive with a car.</p> <p>Rooms within the Town Hall are already available for hire including the Reception Room, the Bourges/Viersen rooms and the Council Chamber.</p> <p>To find out more (01733) 747474.</p>
12	Garden Waste Collection	<p>If I don't use the brown bin why should I pay this charge?</p> <p>My house has no grass or garden. It is all block paved.</p> <p>Why expect people to pay for something they do not require.</p>	The service will be discretionary so you do not have to pay.
13a	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Hello,</p> <p>We think it is ridiculous to have a <b>separate</b> charge for the brown bin, thereby creating extra complexity and extra admin overhead.</p> <p>As we have no children at home our other bins are usually less than half full, so why should we pay to be using another bin? ... and why should we pay to provide bags for the small waste food bin when they should be creating enough money to cover the cost of the bags?</p> <p>This is a crazy knee jerk idea that has not been thought through properly.</p>	<p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service.</p> <p>The proposal to charge for brown bin collections would mean that people would only be required to pay for the service if they want to use it from 27 May 2014.</p> <p>If you do not wish to use the service you will still be able to take garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Rd, Dogsthorpe.</p>
13b	St George's Hydrotherapy Pool	<p>Closure of St George's hydrotherapy pool</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I agree with closing this facility to save money.</p>	This is an unusual service for the Council to fund and we agree other ways need to be found including ownership by the health sector.

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>Some people need to get real - this is a luxury, not a necessity and should not be subsidised. These sort of things should be paid for by the people that use them or are directly involved not the rest of us.</p> <p>Years ago we coped fine without all this stuff. Fund the essentials e.g. like the bin collections and let the luxuries pay for themselves or go under.</p>	
14	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>To Whom it may concern. I have just a report that there is a proposal to charge for Brown Bin collection, I would like to say this, I hope the council will make a concessionaire for senior citizens who a fixed income and who finding there real income going down by extra charges being. If the council are going to charge £39.00 per year for the collection of garden rubbish why not just increase the council tax by that amount because as far as I can it's the same thing.</p>	<p>There will be a flat charge of £36 a year for anyone paying before 27 May 2014 for the new garden waste collection service.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>The budget proposal is to freeze council tax for 2014/15 and 2015/16. However increasing council tax within the referendum limit would not raise as much money whilst impacting all residents.</p>
15	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I have a small, low maintenance garden.</p> <p>No grass, just a few bushes that are trimmed twice a year.</p> <p>And that is how often my Brown bin is used, just twice a year.</p> <p>Prior to the Brown bins, the garden rubbish was placed in the Black bin.</p> <p>And that's what I, and others people will do rather than pay a £40 surcharge.</p> <p>Result: The existing land fill will become even more critical.</p> <p>Is there no person on the council that has the ability to see that this will happen?</p>	<p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of home composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p>
16	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>Regarding the decisions being made to save money with the reduced budget.</p> <p>Firstly the decision to charge for brown bins is wrong. It will simply lead to a huge increase in "fly tipping" as people just drive into surrounding areas to empty their garden waste.</p> <p>The clear and very obvious way to ensure the council tax budget is viable is to ensure EVERYONE actually pays it. To turn a "blind eye" every year to £400,000 or more in lost payments is simple stupid. If the Council is "happy" for some many householder not to pay the tax then frankly why should any pay it. Get out there and collect the unpaid tax or deport or jail the offenders if they still refuse to pay.</p>	<p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping after charges are introduced. Flytipping is illegal. The council treats flytipping as a serious offence and will prosecute any person or company caught fly tipping. Flytipping carries a fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if taken through the Crown Court) and offenders could be jailed or have their vehicle seized.</p> <p>We do not "turn a blind eye" to unpaid Council Tax.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		Yes, the solution is as simple as that.	The council vigorously pursues those who do not pay and will take court action and employ bailiffs to recover goods to the value of outstanding charges and costs.
17	Garden Waste Collection	Hello my name is NAME WITHHELD I am a Pensioner who is PERSONAL INFORMATION, I have just lost my Direct Payment's. To add another Bill of £40 to empty a Brown Bin is something I do not have a rise in my Pension to pay it, it is not on, I love to do the Garden to potter around but it take's day's to do it. We pay Council Tax and all the other rises the this Government is putting on us, I have been a Conservative all my life but the atitude of Saving Benefits and Money from us is Disgusting. Since they have been chopping the Benefits we in the Community are being Abused, Verbally PERSONAL INFORMATION, If David Cameron want's more Money you change the rules how Companies pay Tax, also Stop People that earn over £150,000 only pay !% in Tax..If you look on the internet (this is only that come up first if I put down everybody I could fill about 4 to 5 A4 sheets) at who does not pay 20p in the pound.. Look at Doctors. Locum Doctors take the first person who the ran the new City Hospital in 2010 he Boasted that he does not get Payed he is a Company,... Bankers, Entertainers and every body else that earns Hundreds of Thousands of pounds and Companies that take in this Country 100's of Millions Pound's..Look at Amazon and the Apple Company it makes Billions and does not pay Tax in this Country because they have a Registered Company in Ireland.. if you Tax these People just like the Ordinary People....We pay VAT as well do they... that would sort out the Problems in this Country.. I do hope that you look at charging an Extra £40 Because People like me really have no spare cash at all....NAME WITHELD	<p>There will be a flat charge of £36 a year for anyone paying before 27 May 2014 for the new garden waste collection service. Alternatively the Council can provide a composter.</p> <p>We cannot comment on individual Direct Payments cases. However each is carefully reviewed to consider the personal circumstances of that individual. If you feel this process was unfair you may wish to speak to your local Councillor.</p>
18	School Transport	Hi I think you should cut school transport ,because I work as a taxi driver and all the kids I pick up they have a lots money the parent have a least 2 cars in the drive way and big house ,I think you should provide a transport only for poor kids.	Under the council's home to school transport policy, and in line with legislation, we will provide free transport for pupils living in our area if the nearest suitable school (at which the pupil is registered) is not within walking distance of home and there are no available places at any schools within walking distance of their home. The definition of 'walking distance' is two miles for primary school pupils and three miles for secondary school pupils, measured by the shortest available walking route. This is not means tested.



	Category	Comment	Response
19	Council Tax	<p><u>One way to increase the Council Tax intake more fairly would be to reband all the properties in Peterborough that have been extended and since resold since the original banding.</u></p> <p><u>Ours is the only property in this street banded D,all others are band C despite many having been extended and resold.</u></p> <p><u>I have had a dispute with the banding authority for many years but like all Government and Local Authority people they stick their heads in the sand and do nothing.</u></p> <p><u>Many of these houses are in multiple occupancy yet pay less tax</u></p> <p><u>Also stop some of Marco Cerestes ridiculous schemes..</u></p>	<p>Peterborough City Council is not responsible for setting the council tax banding of properties. It is the Valuation Office Agency (VOA).</p> <p>Cllr Seaton notes the comment about “schemes”. Presumably this relates to such initiatives as those which have ensured we have one of the lowest shop vacancy rates in the country, have seen 3800 jobs created in the last year, one of the highest rates of home building and significant inward investment from companies moving to this area.</p>
20	Street Cleansing	<p>I cannot believe how bad the litter problem is these days and I know the council do an excellent job clearing up rubbish daily, however, I think the attitude of some people is they can drop their rubbish because it will be cleared up and also because they don't think they will get caught.</p> <p>Could traffic wardens be allowed to fine people for dropping litter, maybe they can already. People need to be worried about being fined because as it is they are not bothered. I cleared up four cans outside my house today and regularly pick up rubbish.</p>	<p>The council has five environmental enforcement officers who are responsible for helping to keep the city looking clean and tidy by trying to prevent fly-tipping and littering and issuing fines to offenders.</p> <p>We agree that litter is a blight on our city and we will continue to fine people who think it is acceptable to throw their litter on the floor.</p>
21	Garden Waste Collection	<p>What a stupid idea having to pay to get the brown bin empty I can't afford that on a pension nor am I able to go to the tip so garden rubbish will have to go in the black bin. Get rid of that stupid grey bin don't see many of them out!</p>	<p>There will be a flat charge of £36 a year for anyone paying before 27 May 2014 for the new garden waste collection service.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill. If people cannot get to the household recycling centre we would encourage the use of garden composters if you have the space to do so.</p>
22	General	<p>What a jole keep spending money on the usless fountains plus how much is the work costing to do the walk though at bridge street mmmm 300.000 I think just money grabbing peers again stop spending so much on wasteless things</p>	<p>The public realm work has ensured Peterborough has one of the lowest shop vacancy rates in the country.</p>
23	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I've just read a report in the local paper about the council proposing to charge for the opening of garden waste bins in the Peterborough area.</p> <p>I do hope the report was wrong!</p>	<p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service for Councils. If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>if it's true, then I very much object to the plan. I already pay for the bin to be collected and don't understand why I should pay again. If charges reflect usage, then I'd like a refund for the amount I pay for libraries, schools, adult social care, buses, museums and community centres - none of which I use. Surely that's only fair... The idea of public services is that the whole community pays for services, regardless of usage - but that won't be the case if you charge additional amounts to empty bins.</p> <p>If the charge does happen - and I hope it won't - when will you be pick my brown bin up from Deeping Gate - I will require you to remove it from my property.</p>	<p>We would encourage people to compost if they have the space available or they will still be able to take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough.</p> <p>We are not proposing to take brown bins away from households that don't sign up for the service. Wheelie bins are provided for the use of the property rather than individual residents.</p>
24	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Hi</p> <p>To whom it may concern. If you do implement a charge for my brown bin, I for one will not be paying the charge.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I only have a half size bin, which you can have back, if you wish.</li> <li>2. The size of my garden and waste doesn't warrant it.</li> <li>3. And for any grass cuttings, which I hasten to add, half of which is grass on land you own, will go into the black bin, like they used to.</li> </ol> <p>SO THINK ON!!!! BROWN BIN CHARGE PROPOSAL</p> <p>How can you have the 'front' to ask everybody to pay an extra charge for the above, when all through the year when the travellers set up camp, illegally, leave all there rubbish, which you clear up for them, at no cost to them!!!</p> <p>We pay council tax, they don't. About time you dealt with these 'freeloaders', and leave lawabiding, 'soft touch' citizens alone.</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Rd, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p> <p>A cross-party group of Councillors is working on transit site options to improve the issue with Travellers.</p>
25	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>Sirs</p> <p>I have heard about this proposal via BBC Radio Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>I would rather everyone pay extra council tax than individuals pay a proposed £35/£36 pa for the use of a brown garden waste bin.</p> <p>The main reason for this is that I know my brown bin will be used by other</p>	<p>The budget proposals can be viewed at <a href="http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/budget">www.peterborough.gov.uk/budget</a>.</p> <p>Printed copies are also available in the Town Hall reception, libraries and the council's Customer Service Centre at Bayard Place, Broadway, Peterborough. The budget proposals are widely covered by radio and the press at the same time</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>residents who do not want to pay for it.</p> <p>If the proposal is on your website it is not clear and easy to find, so I expect this will another decision made by the council without any real input by the local community as most residents (especially those out at work during the day who don't listen to the radio) probably won't know what's going on until too late!</p>	<p>each year.</p> <p>You can send in your comments on any of the proposals or send in your own suggestions on how savings could be made until the consultation closes on Tuesday 4 March 2014 at 5pm.</p> <p>A general council tax increase would affect all householders and not raise the same amount of income.</p>
26	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>I certainly won't be paying for my brown bin to be emptied. You as a council dictated it's use however many residents put garden waste in the grey bin. I will revert to using the grey bin for garden waste which will save you money but potentially cost you in EU fines.</p> <p>I feel you need to get a grip and decide what your priorities are. You can't say we will freeze council tax and then make extra charges.</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p>
27	Garden Waste Collection	<p>If the heating in all council properties was turned down to a comfortable level there would probably be a saving far greater than the brown bin cost that householders already pay for anyway</p>	<p>The council has an Energy Performance Contract to improve its energy efficiency, reduce its CO2 emissions and reduce its energy costs by making all of its buildings more energy efficient and is leading the way at enabling other councils to introduce similar measures to achieve the same</p>
28	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>I would like to register my objection to the proposed fees for brown bins.</p> <p>We do not use the brown bin and would therefore be unhappy to be charged for them.</p> <p>That's said I would understand an increase in council tax to cover improvements in services.</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p>

	<b>Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
29	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I must object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed charge of £39 per annum for the collection of my brown bin. If it is implemented I will frankly refuse to pay it and find other means of disposal of my garden waste.</p> <p>This is a ridiculously short-sighted policy which will simply encourage fly-tipping and contradict the City Council's 'Environment City' credentials and recycling aspirations. I will therefore be lobbying my ward councillors on this issue.</p> <p>I do wonder what I already receive in return for my £127 per month Council Tax and this proposal will do nothing to allay those sentiments.</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p> <p>Council services are set out in detail in the budget consultation document.</p>
30	Garden Waste Collection	<p>great so you plan to charge us £40 to collect our green bins?!! how is this going to save pcc money? the majority will refuse to pay and consequently dump garden waste in black bins which in turn will see pcc paying more money for landfill taxes or they will fly tip their garden waste costing the pcc more in clean ups than they'll collect in brown bin payments!! well thought out - NOT!!</p> <p>you'll be hitting thoses that cant afford to be hit, like myself, im disabled and unable to work dependent on carers etc, yet ive already been hit by bedroom tax now going to be hit by brown bin charges, I have no choice to live where I live as there are no wheelchair accessable homes available and when one does come up it rarely goes to someone that actually needs the facilities, a very big percentage of wheelchair accessable accommodation is rented by abled bodied people or disabled people that don't even own a wheelchair. hence I have no choice but to live where I do and have to already pay a gardener now I have to pay for my brown bin, we'll I hope your going to spread the cost across the 12 mths as the brown bin payment is more than I have left in A MONTH FOR FOOD, and im not the only one in this situation, try looking at expenses claimed by councillors etc that's where you could cut back, their claims for one days meal is what I have to feed myself on for a week!!</p>	<p>There will be a flat charge of £36 a year for anyone paying before 27 May 2014 for the new garden waste collection service.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p> <p>About 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen an increase in</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>fly-tipping after charges are introduced. Fly tipping is illegal. The council treats fly tipping as a serious offence and will prosecute any person or company caught fly tipping. Fly tipping carries a fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if taken through the Crown Court) and offenders could be jailed or have their vehicle seized.</p> <p>At a meeting on Council in December, councillors rejected a recommendation by an independent panel to increase their allowances. It means councillors' allowances have been frozen for 2014/15.</p>
31	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Thank you for giving residents the opportunity to comment on the budget proposals for 2014/5.</p> <p>I wish to register my dismay and opposition to the proposal to charge for the brown bin collection. I have several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a city which is striving to be Environment Capital, the decision to take any action which would reduce the amount of recycling in the city is contrary to all its environmental aspirations.</li> <li>• How will the scheme be administered? Will those who choose not to continue the brown bin collection have to return their bins, if so how will this work? I assume the unwanted bins would have to be collected and I can't believe that this would be feasible. If the non-payers keep their bins, what will prevent them from using them and putting them out for collection? Surely it would be impractical for the refuse collectors to refer to records for every house on each collection day.</li> <li>• Most bins are easily accessible. How will those who have paid for the collection prevent those who haven't from putting waste in their bins? One can imagine the disputes between neighbours that could ensue.</li> <li>• What will be the cost of clearing up fly-tipping that would no doubt</li> </ul>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p> <p>Bins are allocated to individual properties and therefore we will not be collecting them from those residents who do not wish to pay for the new service.</p> <p>About 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen an increase in fly-tipping after charges are introduced. Fly tipping is illegal. The council treats fly tipping as a serious</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>result? For example, I discussed this matter with a group of people today and one person (who has always seemed an upright citizen!) said that they would not pay for a collection as they had very little grass and only filled their bin two to three times a year. They said that they will 'go and tip the grass cuttings in the lane' near their property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lots of elderly folk get real pleasure from their gardens and from growing their own vegetables and they are the least able to take their garden waste to the tip or maybe afford the charge. Not all garden waste can be composted. We have two bins but still have to use our brown bin for woody items from shrubs and trees and when our bins are full.</li> </ul> <p>So many things to consider .....</p> <p>I do realise that cuts have to be made somewhere but it would appear that there will be as much expense involved in this as it will save. I also realise that it is helpful if suggestions are made where cuts could be made. I guess someone with more knowledge of the budget could suggest more but how about cutting out the use of bottled water (also not environmentally friendly) at all functions, meetings, etc except for the Great Eastern Run?</p>	<p>offence and will prosecute any person or company caught fly tipping. Fly tipping carries a fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if taken through the Crown Court) and offenders could be jailed or have their vehicle seized.</p> <p>There will be a flat charge of £36 a year for anyone paying before 27 May 2014 for the new garden waste collection service. However, if you choose to pay by direct debit then you will be given the option of splitting the payments over the year.</p> <p>The council discourages the use of bottled water at meetings and jugs of tap water are provided instead.</p>
32	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>no council tax rises as you say but your putting £39 on a brown bin do we have to pay this or can we have our brown bin removed . £39 is the same as putting up council tax so we r no better off some pensioners like me if this does go up im sending mine back i dont want to pay £39 as most of my garden is 90% gravel</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p> <p>Bins are allocated to individual properties and therefore we will not be collecting them from those residents who do not wish to pay for the new</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>service.</p> <p>There will be a flat charge of £36 a year for anyone paying before 27 May 2014 for the new garden waste collection service.</p>
33	School Transport and Council Tax	As a resident of the City of Peterborough I am greatly concerned that charges for Post 16 Special Needs School transport should NOT be implemented and respectfully ask that these proposals be reconsidered. I would also ask why a modest increase in Council Tax 2 per cent would equate to 50p per week for a Band D property should not be levied so all Council Tax payers share equally in these difficult economic circumstances. The Government is continuously saying we are all in this together.	There are no proposed changes to the provision of transport for post-16 students with special needs in this year's budget proposals.
34	Garden Waste Collection	I think it is fairly obvious that we will see a huge increase in people fly tipping their garden refuse, if the proposed charges come into effect. It will then cost the council large amounts to clear it up. Not particularly cost effective.	More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in fly-tipping after charges are introduced. Fly tipping is illegal. The council treats fly tipping as a serious offence and will prosecute any person or company caught fly tipping. Fly tipping carries a fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if taken through the Crown Court) and offenders could be jailed or have their vehicle seized.
35	Garden Waste Collection	The proposal to charge £40 for a brown bin is a ludicrous idea. It would encourage a massive increase in fly tipping. When walking or driving around Peterborough it is obvious that fly tipping is making the City look very scruffy. One only has to read the ET to see how much fly tipping is happening. I thought Peterborough was a City that was promoting recycling. The cost of clearing the fly tipping green waste will far outweigh the collection of the content of the brown bin.	More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in fly-tipping after charges are introduced. Fly tipping is illegal. The council treats fly tipping as a serious offence and will prosecute any person or company caught fly tipping. Fly tipping carries a fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if taken through the Crown Court) offenders could be jailed or have their vehicle seized.
36	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	As part of the consultation on next year's PCC budget and, specifically, the proposal to charge householders to have their brown bin emptied, please advise me:  a) how much the brown bin service currently costs,	<p>The brown bin garden waste collection services currently costs the council about £800,000 a year to run.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>b) how much it would cost to collect brown bins once a month, c) have the council attempted to renegotiate the contract? If so, what were the key issues that arose that meant the most palatable option was to charge households extra for brown bin collection?</p> <p>It is difficult to offer any alternative proposal without these questions being answered.</p> <p>My gut feeling is that charging extra will not work. My neighbour already uses my brown bin without my permission. I would rather hand the bin in than pay for my neighbour's waste to be emptied.</p> <p>I am also concerned that this is a council tax increase by another name.</p> <p>I am concerned that many people will put their brown waste into their black bins, increasing landfill costs. Worse, some will fly tip.</p> <p>I would prefer that brown bin collections be made at a frequency that enables the service to be self-funding, as it was intended to be.</p>	<p>charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in fly-tipping after charges are introduced.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p>
37	Garden Waste Collection and General	<p>To make savings by again hitting adult social care, and children's centers is a disgrace. Also charging for the brown bins will not work. All that will happen is more and more people will end up dumping garden waste around the city costing the council more in clean up costs. We've spent thousands on Mr Cereste dream of fountains that never seem to work and doing up cowgate, and also other tin pot ideas he has. Millions on a dilapidated football ground overspent when there is no benefit to council tax payers. We have the owner of the football club willing to purchase at a sensible cost sell it to him. Shops still standing empty and many people in Peterborough now go shopping in places like Milton Keynes where there is greater choice, we have not been able to attract some big name retailers and have stood still in that respect for the last 20 years Let's get the basics right first.</p>	<p>Cllr Cereste was not Leader of the Council when the fountains proposal was agreed. However the work on public realm including Cowgate has ensured we have one of the lowest shop vacancy rates in the country. We have also attracted major retailers such as Primark to the city.</p> <p>The owner of the football club has not expressed a desire to purchase the ground at this time. However Council ownership has ensured a community stadium with a new skills centre being built.</p> <p>We will continue to provide children's centre services in the areas that need them most as well as a range of services for under-fives in all areas of the city; such as childcare and health visiting services, alongside specific parental support groups for things such as post natal depression</p>



	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>and child development.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in fly-tipping after charges are introduced. Fly tipping is illegal. The council treats fly tipping as a serious offence and will prosecute any person or company caught fly tipping. Fly tipping carries a fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if taken through the Crown Court) and offenders could be jailed or have their vehicle seized.</p>
38	Garden Waste Collection and General	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p>I for one will not pay for a £40 charge for Brown Bin collection my garden waste will go into the grey bin bagged up in black bin liners, the proposition to charge for brown bin collection will backfire on the council it will result in more fly tipping &amp; residents refusing to pay.</p> <p>I would suggest the council looks at the costs of outside consultants &amp; cutting wages for council staff paid over £50,000 a years.</p>	<p>We have continued to reduce our spend on consultants year-on-year since 2009/10 and the use of consultants is reported to Audit Committee on a regular basis for review by this cross-party group of members.</p> <p>The majority of council staff are on national terms and conditions and we are required to adhere to those including allocation of any pay awards.</p> <p>A new senior officer pay scale has recently been set following an independent review. Our pay scales for senior officers were benchmarked against other local authorities and not-for-profit organisations to ensure what we are paying is fair and equitable. This new pay scale has been agreed by Employment Committee.</p>
39	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sir</p> <p>I am sure that we are not alone in feeling that this plan is unacceptable. Surely this is one of the services funded by our Council Tax.</p> <p>The service should remain as originally introduced - ie; a part of the Greater Peterborough Recycling initiative. It should not be some sort of specialist clearance programme for which we, as residents, have to pay.</p>	<p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service for councils.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in fly-tipping after charges were introduced.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>We can envisage yet more rubbish being dumped in lay-byes and country lanes if the payment plan is passed. Perhaps prevention of this activity should be a priority by providing improved funding to pay for more regular Bin collection services. This funding should not be raised by charging households for the service. It should be a basic requirement of the City Council to provide it.</p> <p>Given that when recycling was introduced, threats to introduce fines to those households who did not use their green &amp; brown bins were made, this plan feels morally wrong, and an insult to the regions` law abiding citizens.</p>	<p>Flytipping is illegal. The council treats flytipping as a serious offence and will prosecute any person or company caught fly tipping. Flytipping carries a fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if taken through the Crown Court) and offenders could be jailed or have their vehicle seized.</p>
40	Garden Waste Collection	<p>To whom it may concern,          Have just seen on the website that a proposal to pay for the collections. I am sure it will save the council money and that is good but feel people will not pay and tip garden waste anywhere if the bins are not collected for free. I am sure other councils charge about £10 a year.          I feel that the council should look at what will happen to garden waste, in the future if the charge goes ahead.          We already have bins left out all week on our estate and also rubbish is put out in the hope that a rag and bone man comes along to collect things. TV sets etc          There is a pile of rubbish near the roundabout at house in Atherstone Avenue that has been there for weeks also others.          I feel the council will loose out on the garden waste which will go into the black bins.          Not everyone has a car to go to the tip.          Hope you can pass this on to someone,</p>	<p>About 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen an increase in fly-tipping after charges are introduced.</p> <p>Our research has shown that other areas are charging between £25 and £90 a year for garden waste collections.</p> <p>Thank you for reporting the issue of fly-tipping at Atherstone Avenue. If you spot any issues then please report them to 01733 747474 or online at <a href="https://customer.enterprise.plc.uk/PeterboroughWebOrders/Terms.aspx">https://customer.enterprise.plc.uk/PeterboroughWebOrders/Terms.aspx</a></p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p>
41	Garden	I think you are wrong in assuming you will save money by charging for	There are already proposals within the budget to

	Category	Comment	Response
	Waste Collection and General	<p>the Brown Bin Collection.</p> <p>You will find that people will NOT use the bin but take whatever they need to the local tip, or even fly-tip if they think they wont be caught. As you will still be collecting the green bin and hungry herry bin on alternate weeks then it still makes sense to keep the brown bins going. Savings can be made elsewhere like cutting the money that is paid to the so-called senior council members. Cut down on the amount of people you have cutting the grass/hedgerows and picking up litter. I have seen examples of 10 people supposedly picking up litter, in fact only half of them do it and the others stand around watching. You need to look at sensible cut-backs and not stupid ones. Going back to the brown bin charges – you don't collect them January/February – so there is a saving straight away, some people only put theirs out once a month, I believe you will not make any substantial savings by trying to adopt a charge.</p>	<p>change the frequency of grass-cutting to a three-weekly cycle which would save £78,000.</p> <p>There is also a proposal to replace some flowerbeds and borders with shrubs to save the costs of regular replanting and allow grass to grow longer in some areas to encourage wildlife and wildflowers and this is anticipated to save £58,000.</p> <p>The current brown bin collection service costs the council £804,000 a year to run. By introducing a charge for this service it is anticipated to save the council about £800,000 a year.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping after charges were introduced.</p>
42	St George's Hydrotherapy Pool	<p>Hello</p> <p>I am writing to say, this pool definitely needs to be kept Open and funded. I recently went each week after a broken shoulder for sessions with PAT, physio, in the pool. WE paid £10 each week, well worth it. Pat is a brilliant physio with time for all, knows her job.</p> <p>All kinds of people go for various reasons, and also severely disabled people, they have broad smiles in there.</p> <p>The staff are brilliant, so enthusiastic and also very caring, and put on fund raising efforts themselves.</p> <p>WE now have no hydrotherapy pool at the main hospital , so St Georges is needed even more, for a town the size of Peterborough.</p>	<p>We appreciate that users of the pool will not want it to close. However it is unusual for a council to be running this type of facility and we are faced with making some very difficult decisions as we try to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost 40 per cent of our government grant.</p> <p>We have tried to make it self-funding for some time, but so far this has proved unsuccessful.</p> <p>This is currently just a proposal and a group of officers and councillors are currently looking for other options to try to secure the pool's future.</p> <p>Last year we spent £45,000 just keeping it running and extensive repairs are also needed to give the pool any long-term future that could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
43	St George's Hydrotherapy Pool	<i>Good evening, I have to register a protest regarding any closure of this very important health related pool, it caters for so many conditions, especially limb problems who need exercise but are unable to do it other than in a pool environment, as a former Peterborough City Councillor I find it impossible to understand just how a support of "£45,000 is such a large amount in the scheme of things, but I have to say that this sort of action against the most disabled of our society is the way that this council behaves in its dealings with people with a disability, I request that you look again and show some common sense in this matter.</i>	<p>Hydrotherapy is provided by the Phoenix School and PJ Care; we are exploring whether these facilities could be used by those using St. Georges.</p> <p>We appreciate that users of the pool will not want it to close. However it is unusual for a council to be running this type of facility and we are faced with making some very difficult decisions as we try to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost 40 per cent of our government grant.</p> <p>We have tried to make it self-funding for some time, but so far this has proved unsuccessful.</p> <p>This is currently just a proposal and a group of officers and councillors are currently looking for other options to try to secure the pool's future.</p> <p>The running cost of £45,000 is just one of the issues. Extensive repairs are also needed to give the pool any long-term future that could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.</p> <p>Hydrotherapy is provided by the Phoenix School and PJ Care; we are exploring whether these facilities could be used by those using St. Georges.</p>
44	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I think this is so wrong.</p> <p>We live in rural Peterborough, our children (&gt;18) pay 10k each a year for their education. They can't afford to leave home. We receive less policing, less lighting, less road maintenance, we have no maintained public spaces. The only thing we potentially receive more than inner city areas is our brown bin collection, surely this is also an environmental issue too. WHY should we pay extra for this service???</p>	<p>The brown bin garden waste collection service is a discretionary service that costs the council about £800,000 each year to run.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>If the proposal is approved, the charge will be £36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>2014, or £39 for those who sign up after this date.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p>
45	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>Dear Sirs</p> <p>It has come to my attention the recently announced plans for the Peterborough Council budget of next year from reading the Peterborough Evening Telegraph. I would like to register my discomfort in the idea of a £40 brown bin collection tax.</p> <p>The brown bins are presently collected for Garden Waste. This waste is collected, composted and sold. This is a process that takes around 20 weeks. I note from the Peterborough council website that information regarding this process is not shared. From looking at the websites of other councils however, it is confirmed that the compost is sold for the purpose of commercial farming and gardening. How then can it be justified for collection when money is made on sale? As we live in the centre of a large agricultural sector of the country money should be look to be made from the sale of compost rather than the individuals collecting.</p> <p>I further find it very unsettling that this levy be placed on top of the tax already paid. The council has a mandate to provide services from its tax already, if it cannot meet these requirements it should not look to penalise certain users to meet budgets. Should those who are the victims of crime be victim to a Police Levy? If the cost cannot be met then either services must decrease or council tax increase. Putting a levy on top only serves to divide tax payers between rural and city. I feel this is drastically opposed to the position the council should be fostering.</p> <p>I finally would like to object to the idea of a brown bin tax as opposed to other waste products. Brown bins are incredibly important for the support of our natural world, the prevention of land fill and the protection of agricultural output. By use of brown bins it helps to prevent this waste</p>	<p>We have to pay to dispose of residents' garden waste it does not generate any income. However, the cost is substantially lower than the cost of sending waste to landfill.</p> <p>The organisation that takes the garden waste away already turns it into compost for re-sale. As stated previously this is a cost to the council it does not generate income.</p> <p>We appreciate your comments on the introduction of a charge for the service, but we are faced with making some very difficult decisions as we try to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost 40 per cent of our government grant.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>going to landfill, where it produces methane. This make the land incredibly unstable for future use, as well as causing the risk of explosion. On top of this the Climate Change implications of this methane release are both drastic and overlooked. Methane is a gas more than 20 times more detrimental to the atmosphere than Carbon Dioxide. Because of this I ask, surely if this tax is a necessity a black bin tax would make more sense then a brown bin?</p> <p>I hope my objections are marked</p>	
46	Garden Waste Collection	<p>dear sir or madam today in the local newspaper I have seen that you are going to start charging to have the brown bin collected at a cost of £40.00 well I am sorry but I am not paying that and you can come and take my brown bin away . I have got moor important things to spend my pay on like food gas Electric .thank you .</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p> <p>Bins are allocated to individual properties and therefore we will not be collecting them from those residents who do not wish to pay for the new service.</p>
47	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>How can it be that Peterborough City Council have made the decision to avoid putting Council Tax up this year and then enterprise are saying that they are going to charge us for Brown Bin Collection this year, I think you will find that a lot of people will opt out of paying for that service and end up either dumping their garden waste elsewhere or just putting it in their black bin, and if that happens you know only too well that the bin men cannot check every bin they empty so how is that going to work, its outrageous that they are even thinking of charging for a service that we are already paying for through our council tax.</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p> <p>Bins are allocated to individual properties and therefore we will not be collecting them from those residents who do not wish to pay for the new service.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping after charges were introduced</p>
48	St George's Hydrotherapy Pool	<p>I have read that Peterborough Council will no longer fund the Hydrotherapy Pool and therefore are considering closing it down if you cannot source another form of funding.</p> <p>This is <b>extremely bad news</b> for the community of Peterborough and in particular all those individuals who utilise the pool for a variety of reasons.</p> <p>I truly believe that my recovery from recent hip replacement surgery would not have been as successful without the use of the hydrotherapy pool. In fact I would say it has been the most successful support that I have utilised. It is within easy driving distance, coupled with knowledgeable staff and managed extremely well by NAME.</p> <p>The staff are wonderful to all the customers – never judgmental and extremely helpful to all individual needs. It is the one service that I can honestly say 'makes a difference' within the Peterborough area. Without it, I may well need to utilise the NHS physio services which I am sure is an even more expensive service to provide to the community!</p> <p>I would ask that before you make a decision to 'close' this service/centre down – why don't you take the time to come and visit the pool, watch the clients using it, actually speak to the clients getting to really understand</p>	<p>We appreciate that users of the pool will not want it to close and value the service. It is unusual for a council to be running this type of facility and we are faced with making some very difficult decisions as we try to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost 40 per cent of our government grant.</p> <p>We have tried to make it self-funding for some time, but so far this has proved unsuccessful. However, a group of councillors and officers is currently looking for other options and are seeking temporary funding to keep it open until all those possible options have been explored.</p> <p>Last year we spent £45,000 just keeping it running and extensive repairs are also needed to give the pool any long-term future that could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds</p> <p>Hydrotherapy is provided by the Phoenix School and PJ Care; we are exploring whether these facilities could be used by those using St George's.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>the difference it makes to our lives. Perhaps the information gathered from this will motivate you and inspire you to do whatever it takes to find the funding for this fantastic centre.</p> <p>Please do not put 'Money' as a priority above the health and well-being of your local community.</p>	
49	Adult Social Care	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>As the wife of a severely disabled older gent, in receipt of NHS provided Continuing Care, I have the following points to make.</p> <p>I have read in the press that there will be a closer working relationship between social and health provided care. This sounds like a good idea in principle as long as that does not mean that those with higher medical based needs are palmed off with care workers that are really only qualified to service social need clients. The level of care provided must be risk assessed, suitable and flexible to meet the needs of the client as per the national drive for fully integrated personalised care.</p> <p>I read in the local newspaper a quote regarding helping vulnerable citizens to stay as long as possible in their own homes. If this is truly an aim of your council then it is incumbent on you as a council to totally overhaul your housing policies for the old and/ or disabled.</p> <p>Your housing OTs need to recognise the different space requirements needed for a wheelchair user living with drop in care as opposed to those that have a near full time care team looking after them. The latter is a place of work for a care worker as well as the clients home.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many times because of the double incontinence of the client a separate hygiene area is needed for those care workers to protect their Health and Safety in the work place.</li> <li>2. Bedroom sizes need to take into account how many beds are needed in that room and what equipment will be used. If sliding sheets are employed access for care workers all around the bed is needed, plus sufficient space for a mobile hoist and the clients wheelchair to manoeuvre free of danger of banging into door frames and walls.</li> </ol>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the budget consultation document.</p> <p>We apply a vigorous approach to ensuring that any housing applicant's medical needs are assessed and investigated fully so that any disabled resident and their family's needs are matched with suitable, available accommodation. We accomplish this by having fully qualified and experienced occupational therapists working alongside our experienced housing staff. This approach has been very successful through our choice based lettings scheme in providing accommodation to meet our residents' needs.</p> <p>Care Homes staff play an important part in identifying equipment needs when a person commences living in a care home and when their care needs change. People living in care homes have the same right to services, including the provision of equipment, as those living in their own homes. This includes assessment and provision of assistive technology like telecare. Care homes provide standard moving and handling equipment, e.g. handling belts and slide sheets as well as stand aids, hoists and slings. A community occupational therapy referral would also be made for additional moving and handling advice and information or when none of the equipment in the care home meets a resident's needs and alternative solutions need to be considered.</p> <p>An occupational therapist would first obtain a</p>



	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>3. Space allowance allocation needs to assume that not only are the tenant(s) occupying the space but also the care team when making such calculations , e.g. is the living room big enough to seat , client + family+ care team e.t.c .</p> <p>I also see around me totally wheelchair bound clients being housed on other than the ground floor, while I recognise there may be some personal choice in that. Cognisance needs to be more seriously taken in how will that person evacuate during an emergency , is the lift big enough to take an ambulance trolley. If the lift is not working will the returning client be able to get into their home. Care workers as is human nature, in an emergency will save themselves first before their clients, why put the risk there in the first place. Building construction also needs to be better examined , for example we cannot have either a wall mounted or ceiling track hoist fitted because there is nothing solid to fix it too.</p> <p>You will not have many people on your housing lists, in your extra care facilities that come under this particular remit I speak of. I think they deserve the extra time and effort that a specific case manager would bring to house them in surroundings that will be conducive to both their ongoing general health as well as their mental health. Not to mention the health and safety at work of their care workers / nursing staff.</p> <p>If you have not got such in your current housing stock then some of your budget needs to be set aside to remedy the situation as soon as possible, as more disabled people are living longer with more and more complicated medical conditions, many of whom it is not appropriate to be placed in a nursing home. Talk to the experts in the field, such as Habinteg, Aspire, Papworth Trust, get some more qualified help on board as what you are doing now is not cutting it.</p> <p>On a personal note I am utterly disgusted with the way myself and my husband have been treated under the majority of the local services here in Peterborough. From where I am sitting Peterborough does not look after its sick, disabled and vulnerable.</p>	<p>medical summary from the GP, carry out a visit and complete a core assessment and care plan and provide necessary assistive equipment through ICES (Integrated Community Equipment Services) to meet the needs of the client and/or carers, e.g. specialist slings.</p> <p>From February 2014, this service is provided via a seven year contract with Nottingham Rehab Supplies (NRS). Occupational therapists work in close partnership with housing needs in identifying adapted or adaptable properties for people on the rehousing register.</p>
50	Garden Waste	Hi,	If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in

	Category	Comment	Response
	Collection	<p>Could you tell me how I go about getting rid of my brown bin?? As I refuse to pay an additional amount on top of my Council Tax, to be quite honest I cannot afford the extra amount, as I am sure many other people cannot.</p> <p>Many Thanks,</p>	<p>service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.</p> <p>We would discourage people from putting garden waste in their black bins as this would then go to landfill.</p> <p>People who do not wish to use the new service could take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of composters if you have the space to do so in your garden.</p> <p>Bins are allocated to individual properties and therefore we will not be collecting them from those residents who do not wish to pay for the new service.</p>
51	Garden Waste Collection	When you start charging for Brown Bin collection, will the bins be emptied 12 months of the year and not left for 3 months as has happened this winter?	The proposed new brown bin collection service will be fortnightly apart from December and January, when they will be collected monthly.
52	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>Dear Councillors – are you sure you can meet all your statutory commitments by continuing to freeze council tax as well as taking huge hits from central government funding? Maybe put up our Council Tax by the permitted amount and extend the Council Tax relief system to help those who need it – using some, but not all, the increase in the Council Tax – at least there would be some extra.</p> <p>Does the company which collects our brown bins make any money from the recycling of the brown bin contents – if so why are we having to pay £40 extra to have the brown bin rubbish collected – will this not lead to more dumping and expense to clear the rubbish up?</p> <p>I do hope you can all pull together to create a great City.</p>	<p>The budget proposals are a package of measures being recommended by Cabinet to meet a £19 million gap in the budget for 2014/15. This is to enable the council to continue to meet its statutory duties, keep open some of the services that we do not have to provide but that you value such as libraries, the museum, sports centres and swimming pools and also invest in the city to keep it prosperous.</p> <p>These proposals include a two-year council tax freeze.</p> <p>We have to pay to dispose of residents' garden waste. The cost is substantially lower than the cost of sending waste to landfill.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>The organisation that takes the garden waste away already turns it into compost for re-sale. As stated previously this is a cost to the council it does not generate income.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in fly-tipping after charges are introduced</p>
53	Garden Waste Collection and General	<p>Hi All</p> <p>While you may well be looking at making cuts I think there are areas where finances can be cut first i.e.:-</p> <p>instead of having a staff agency employ people in permanent jobs like if you have to have someone work for 12 months in a department give a 12 month temporary contact not an indefinite contract.</p> <p>Brown bins - do you really think its a good idea to charge as the waste put in this bin helps make compost which you sell back to the public - if you charge people for brown bins usage then instead of charging for compost bring them some compost as part of the charge? say spring and autumn when people will be planting bulbs!</p>	<p>We have to pay to dispose of residents' garden waste it does not generate any income. However, the cost is substantially lower than the cost of sending waste to landfill.</p> <p>The organisation that takes the garden waste away already turns it into compost for re-sale. As stated previously this is a cost to the council it does not generate income.</p> <p>We are constantly reviewing the way we provide service to ensure that we delete any vacant posts we no longer need. We also use temporary staff on short-term contracts where appropriate to carry out time-limited projects.</p>
54	Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	<p>As a member of the public I have already asked who introduced garden waste bins in the first place, the Peterborough City Council of course. Why are not the Theatres run as a private concern, I would suspect that less than 10% of Peterborough people visit these venues so why do the other 90% pay to support them. My other point is how much would be raised if the Council Tax were to be raised by £40 per year per household. What is the point of freezing the Council tax for two years if you are going to reduce other services. Telling the Peterborough People that you are freezing the Council Tax for two years is nothing more than a vote catcher. Why don't you go back to the times when Counillors claimed expenses and worked for the good of the community, and not joined for a second income which comes from the Council tax payers pockets.</p>	<p>The government sets a limit on the level that councils could raise council tax by and if councils wanted to raise council tax by more than this they would be required to hold a local referendum that could costs hundreds of thousands of pounds. Currently the threshold is set at two per cent. If we were to raise council tax by two per cent this would cost the average household around £23 extra a year.</p>
55	Garden	Dear Sirs, I read in the Evening Telegraph that you are going to charge a	If the proposal is approved, the charge will be £36

	Category	Comment	Response
	Waste Collection	fee for having Brown Bin Collections. I do not own a brown bin as I compost all my rubbish and I want to know how you are going to implement the charge.Can you please telephone me on with regard to this question.	<p>for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014, or £39 for those who sign up after this date. People who do not wish to use the service do not have to pay.</p> <p>The refuse collectors will have up-to-date information on their vehicles to let them know which residents have paid for the service and they will only collect their bins.</p>
56	St George's Hydrotherapy Pool	<p><b><u>“St George’s Hydrotherapy Pool</u></b></p> <p><i>There is currently no specific budget to pay for the hydrotherapy pool which has been funded for a number of years through department under spends. There has been a drive to make the facility self-funding, however, this has proved unsuccessful to date. In 2013/14 the council subsidised the pool by £45,000. Unless a source of funding can be found, we are no longer in a position to support the facility and the pool will close. As a result of the age and condition of the facility it requires substantial investment for it to have any future.”</i></p> <p>Dear Stewart and Peterborough City Council</p> <p>I am greatly annoyed with the fact that the Peterborough City Council are cutting its funding for this essential medical necessity, when the government is spending £30 million on a bridge over the River Thames bearing just a garden – for whom?</p> <p>I am sure that with the increasing need for persons needing the pool, the Peterborough City Council can find other ways of cuttings costs or just say “NO” to the Government. Are we not more important in this world, than a Government who wants its financial figures to look good to other nations?</p> <p>I have suffered with hip problems for several years and I know the comfort and relief that this pool gives. Perhaps both the Government and the Peterborough City Council would rather have no pool and extra costs being made on benefits and other medical recourses.</p>	<p>We appreciate that users of the pool will not want it to close and value the service. It is unusual for a council to be running this type of facility and we are faced with making some very difficult decisions as we try to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost 40 per cent of our government grant.</p> <p>We have tried to make it self-funding for some time, but so far this has proved unsuccessful. However, a group of councillors and officers is currently looking for other options and are seeking temporary funding to keep it open until all those possible options have been explored.</p> <p>The running cost of £45,000 is just one of the issues. Extensive repairs are also needed to give the pool any long-term future that could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.</p> <p>Hydrotherapy is provided by the Phoenix School and PJ Care; we are exploring whether these facilities could be used by those using St. George’s.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
57	General	<p>I await your response with interest.</p> <p>As invited by various people and 'the media', I am happy to submit a few thoughts regarding ways in which Council expenditure could be reduced. I do not attempt claim that any of the following is original, it is mainly a summary of popular opinion that one may hear whenever this topic is being discussed.</p> <p>1/ Stop paying ridiculously high levels of remuneration to 'senior' Council employees and consultants and, indirectly, to the employees of the organisations to which services have been out-sourced. (Apart from being poor 'value for money', many of these people do not hold the qualifications, or have the 'track record', to ever justify what they are receiving.)</p> <p>2/ Overhaul the administrative structure and dispose of all those that are occupying sinecure and valueless posts.</p> <p>3/ Have a serious look at what is being paid out by the Council as reimbursable expenses, with a view to reducing what is allowed to be claimed.</p> <p>4/ 'Final salary' based pension schemes have been abandoned by commerce and industry as being too expensive and too easily to fiddle. Follow this example, and reduce the cost of the present overly-generous pension scheme that Council employees are in ! (See the last set of accounts for details of the 'black hole')</p> <p>5/ Put a stop to Council spending on vanity and speculative projects; concentrate instead on providing efficiently run civic services.</p> <p>6/ Put an end to the practice of contracting out basic operations, in the pretense that savings are thus being achieved. (It is blatantly apparent that paying out public funds to companies whose raison d'être is to maximise the production of profits for the stock-exchange investors that own them, is not of benefit to the community that is the source of these funds.)</p>	<p>The senior management restructure at the end of last year and subsequent voluntary redundancies led to six senior management posts being deleted.</p> <p>At Employment Committee on 4 February, the cross-party group of councillors agreed to set a new pay scale for directors and senior managers following an independent review of senior officer salaries across other local authorities and the not-for-profit sector. The new pay-scale that has been set is mid-range which we feel will enable us to attract the right people to lead the organisation.</p> <p>The Council Leader and Cabinet Members do not receive salaries although the roles are often more than full time. All councillors receive a basic allowance for being a councillor and those that hold other special responsibilities such as Cabinet Members and the chairmen and chairwomen of committees receive an additional allowance to reflect their added responsibilities.</p> <p>A full list of these allowances are available at <a href="http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/16837/Members%20Allowances%202012-13.pdf">http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/16837/Members%20Allowances%202012-13.pdf</a></p> <p>At a meeting of Council in December, councillors rejected a recommendation by an independent panel to increase their allowances. It means councillors' allowances have been frozen for the past five years.</p>
58	School Places	<p>I understand from my local Conservative Party newsletter that the City Council is committed to spending £26000000 on new school provision.</p>	<p>We are expecting to receive around £13.5 million in government grant in 2014/15 to support the growing need for school places we have in the city.</p>

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		As a hard-pressed council tax payer I would be grateful to be informed of the source of this money.	The £26 million is going on meeting the demographic increases in population across the city.
59	Garden Waste Collection	I am concerned that charging for brown bins will increase the amount of rubbish being sent to land fill. This is surely against the principal of the council and government who wish to increase the amount of items that are recycled. I believe that the council is fined by the government for sending increased items to land fill. Surely this will out weigh any increase in revenue received by charging for the service. The charge of £39 for a fortnightly collection does seem high especially when a rural authority (Cotswold District Council) charges £30 for a weekly collection of garden waste. I also assume that the collection will continue throughout the year and not have a break during the winter months as happened this year.	The proposed new brown bin collection service fortnightly apart from December and January, when they will be collected monthly. More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in fly-tipping after charges are introduced or any substantial increase in waste sent to landfill.
60	Garden Waste Collection	I understand that from 2014 there will be an annual charge for the collection of brown bin waste. As I have seven compost bins to recycle my kitchen and garden waste, I have no need for my brown bin. Therefore please can you outline how I and when I can make my brown bin available for collection?	If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service.  Bins are allocated to individual properties and therefore we will not be collecting them from those residents who do not wish to pay for the new service.
61	General	So you need to save £800,000 as you say that's the cost of brown bin collection. Firstly I understand about £500,00 has been spent on the unnecessary "cathedral square Fountains" At this time they are still not working properly ( no height) and only run for a short few months.  A totally needless expenditure when the money should be focused on people and services. This means not closing the child care centre's and providing the services to the tax payers of Peterborough. These are the priorities in times such as this.  Also how about the £1.5 million spent so far on the solar project. An utter disgrace.	We appreciate your feedback on the proposed new paid for garden waste collection service, however, we are faced with having to make some very difficult decision to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.  However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide service for those who need our help and support the most such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need.  Unfortunately it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do, especially those service we are not legally required to provide such as

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>With this money better spent you could have done the important things and keep the child centre's open and the bin service going. It then would have been spent on people, not projects and water features.</p>	<p>garden waste collections. More than 100 councils have already introduced charges to run garden waste collection services.</p> <p>The funding for the fountains in Cathedral Square came from the government's Growth Area Fund, and the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). It was specifically allocated to be spent on Public Realm works and could not be used for anything else. If we hadn't used it for the Cathedral Square project we would have had to return it and another town or city could have benefited from the funding instead.</p> <p>The fountains have become increasingly popular feature of our regenerated city centre and the works in Cathedral Square, St John's Square, Bridge Street and Cowgate are already showing a return. Not only have we attracted big high street names to Peterborough who may otherwise not have come here but we also now have one of the lowest shop vacancy rates in the country (nine per cent compared to 14 per cent nationally) and are the UK's fastest growing city and have the second highest private sector employment growth.</p> <p>The budget consultation document highlights the potential income that would be generated from our renewable energy projects and the predicted profit from all schemes. It also outlines the impact on future budget deficits should they not go ahead.</p> <p>There are many benefits to these schemes. The energy generated could be sold to provide an important source of income to fund future services at a time when government funding is scarce and councils are facing year-on-year cuts. Generating our own energy would also help us safeguard our</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>budgets against future rising and uncertain energy costs.</p> <p>The projected income from these projects has already been factored in to our budget position for future years. If they did not go ahead this would have a dramatic impact on our funding gap. Full details of progress and latest financial forecasts were reported to the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities on 16 December 2013. More details can be found at the link below:</p> <p><a href="http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=405&amp;MId=3273&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=405&amp;MId=3273&amp;Ver=4</a></p>
62	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Re this proposal.</p> <p>Please be aware that many householders (me included) in the Netherton and Longthorpe areas cut the grass on open spaces adjacent to their properties. They do this because either the grass is not cut by anyone else or because the Council only cuts it spasmodically and to a rough standard. Householders cutting the grass growing on such open space areas will place it in their brown bins.</p> <p>There is therefore the real possibility that should a charge be levied for brown bin content then householders will stop cutting the grass on such open space areas. In consequence the appearance of these areas will suffer.</p> <p>I expect that there are also other areas of the City where householders also cut the grass on open space areas given the extent of green open space area in the City.</p> <p>Please can you pass this submission on to the Councillors representing the Netherton and Longthorpe areas and confirm to me that this has been done.</p>	<p>Your comments have been passed onto your local councillors.</p>
63	St George's Hydrotherapy	<p>&gt;&gt; &gt;&gt; I care for my 5 year old disabled son NAME WITHELD who suffers</p>	<p>We appreciate that users of the pool will not want it to close and value the service. It is unusual for a</p>



	Category	Comment	Response
	Pool	<p>from Cerebral Palsy, I have been taking NAME WITHELD to this fantastic facility for over two years now, and though the use of this pool he has learnt to swim independently, with NAME WITHELD disability there are not many things he can do independently i.e. move from position to position, sit to stand, or laying down to sitting up or even walk, the positive benefits NAME WITHELD gets from swimming is building muscle strength, independence and confidence in the water. NAME WITHELD is unable to use a normal swimming pool as the muscles in his legs tighten when in cooler water causing him discomfort.</p> <p>&gt;&gt;</p> <p>&gt;&gt; I believe Matley primary school no longer have a pool in use, Peterborough Hospital didn't go ahead with building a new pool when the the Hospital was relocated and the Phoenix school is not open to the public. If St George's Hydro pool closes this will have a massive negative impact on NAME WITHELD well being</p> <p>&gt;&gt;</p> <p>&gt;&gt;</p> <p>&gt; I understand that St George's needs a lot of money spending on it, is the Phoenix school owned by the council, if so could this facility not be used after school and weekends, I am sure users would be happy to pay and funds could go back into the Phoenix school</p> <p>&gt; I think if users of the pool had some sort of alternative given they would be happy</p>	<p>council to be running this type of facility and we are faced with making some very difficult decisions as we try to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost 40 per cent of our government grant.</p> <p>We have tried to make it self-funding for some time, but so far this has proved unsuccessful. However, a group of councillors and officers is currently looking for other options and are seeking temporary funding to keep it open until all those possible options have been explored.</p> <p>The running cost of £45,000 is just one of the issues. Extensive repairs are also needed to give the pool any long-term future that could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.</p> <p>Hydrotherapy is provided by the Phoenix School and PJ Care; we are exploring whether these facilities could be used by those using St. George's.</p>
64	St George's Hydrotherapy Pool	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p><b><u>Against the proposal to withdraw support from St George's Community Hydrotherapy Pool</u></b></p> <p>I am writing to request that the Council do not withdraw support from St George's Community Hydrotherapy Pool at the end of March. Instead it apply pressure for the Leads of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG along with the Council, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, service users, and other pertinent groups, to work collaboratively to find a suitable short, and ultimately a long-term solution, as quickly as possible please.</p>	<p>We appreciate that users of the pool will not want it to close and value the service. It is unusual for a council to be running this type of facility and we are faced with making some very difficult decisions as we try to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost 40 per cent of our government grant.</p> <p>We have tried to make it self-funding for some time, but so far this has proved unsuccessful. However, a group of councillors and officers is currently looking for other options and are seeking temporary</p>

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		<p>The reasons:</p> <p><u>Hydrotherapy is important</u></p> <p>Hydrotherapy is the only form of safe exercise available for those whose medical condition or disability means that they are unable to benefit from land exercise or pools with lower temperatures. This is potentially a large number of people: I understand that there are 35,000 people living in Peterborough with long-term condition or disability; anyone may require hydrotherapy at any time.</p> <p><u>Hydrotherapy is saving the LA and CCG money</u></p> <p>I normally prefer to keep my own circumstances private but if sharing these today could make a difference and serve to illustrate how beneficial hydrotherapy can be - especially when it comes to saving money – it will be worth it.</p> <p>I have complex conditions PERSONAL INFORMATION My professors in London describe hydrotherapy as “an essential treatment” for me. I have paid for regular twice-weekly hydrotherapy in Peterborough for past 14 years. Owing to hydrotherapy, I maintained enough independence to ensure I have not required any support from the local authority. My husband works part-time. Also amongst other savings, for 14 years I have been able to postpone major and expensive surgery in London.</p> <p><u>Impact and cost of removing hydrotherapy</u></p> <p>If I lose access to hydrotherapy, none of the above will continue. I am likely to become significant financial burden to both the LA and CCG.</p> <p>Removing support for this essential service WILL prove to be a false economy for the authority, while at the same time hurting the most vulnerable.</p> <p>I realize it is very hard to measure prevention, but anyone visiting the hydrotherapy pool will find a multitude of users with similar stories and I</p>	<p>funding to keep it open until all those possible options have been explored.</p> <p>The running cost of £45,000 is just one of the issues. Extensive repairs are also needed to give the pool any long-term future that could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.</p> <p>Hydrotherapy is provided by the Phoenix School and PJ Care; we are exploring whether these facilities could be used by those using St. George's.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>have not even mentioned the positivity and palpable sense of improved health and wellbeing you find there.</p> <p><u>To date, there has been a lack of consultation or an assessment of the impact that closing the pool, at short notice and with no alternative provision, will cause</u></p> <p><u>St George's Community Hydrotherapy Pool fulfils many of the Council's stated aspirations:</u> improving health, lifestyle, independence, community cohesion and reducing inequalities.</p> <p><u>St George's 45K subsidy may be lower</u></p> <p>I understand the 45K (13/14) could be potentially be less because it does not include the income from commissioning nor the later CLF contributions. However, it does include a staffing cost that has been removed, so would not be repeated again. At worst, 45K considering the potential costs of removing hydrotherapy with no alternative provision does not seem a great deal if shared between all the main stakeholders - including the service users – until a long-term solution is found.</p> <p><u>Possible sources of funding:</u></p> <p>I read that Cambridge and Peterborough CCG and Council are now required to join up health and care services with aim of shifting resources from acute to into community and preventative settings. I understand £7.4m will be available 2015-16 (in addition to Public Health funding). Could funding a hydrotherapy facility for the whole community of Peterborough be a consideration?</p> <p>I would also support PCC raising the council tax up to the 2% threshold in order to preserve vital services like this.</p> <p>For your information, I included a summary of information about St George's below. I will be happy to supply additional details and evidence, if required.</p>	

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p data-bbox="479 193 1375 256"><u>Summary of Information about St George's Community Hydrotherapy Pool</u></p> <p data-bbox="450 300 607 331"><u>The clients:</u></p> <p data-bbox="450 368 1339 400">1,800 people have used St George's Community Hydrotherapy Pool.</p> <p data-bbox="450 440 976 472">Clients come from every ward in the city.</p> <p data-bbox="450 512 1249 544">Users' ages range from under 8 months to well over 80 years.</p> <p data-bbox="450 584 1375 616">Users have a wide range of acute and chronic illnesses and disabilities.</p> <p data-bbox="450 655 1352 719">Approximately 250 people access the pool every week and a fifth (50) are children under 16.</p> <p data-bbox="450 759 1330 791">Seven schools, one nursery, and one college currently use the pool.</p> <p data-bbox="450 831 1308 863">Four local day centres (including one for children) access the pool.</p> <p data-bbox="450 903 824 935">Six care homes use the pool.</p> <p data-bbox="450 975 1379 1038">In addition, a number of users with care plans and packages access the pool independently.</p> <p data-bbox="450 1078 1391 1142">The pool has just started new physiotherapy and aquafit classes. These are already fully booked.</p> <p data-bbox="450 1182 1003 1214"><u>Positive health outcomes and cost savings</u></p> <p data-bbox="450 1254 1379 1350">Hydrotherapy at St George's Community Pool fulfils each one of the five priorities expressed in Peterborough's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-15.</p> <p data-bbox="450 1390 1352 1453">Three studies conducted at the pool showed positive health outcomes after just two sessions with an NHS aquatic physiotherapist. 74% of</p>	

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>those who completed both sessions paid to continue their treatment at the pool.</p> <p>In addition, we have a number of case studies that show clients are using hydrotherapy at St George's to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve their rehabilitation times, meaning faster returns to work and normal life</li> <li>• Prevent surgery and hospitalizations</li> <li>• Improve their independence</li> <li>• Prevent additional care needs</li> <li>• Decrease their pain medication</li> <li>• Decrease their visits the GP</li> <li>• Improve their quality of life and their mobility</li> </ul> <p>Despite all the thousands of people living in Peterborough with disability or long-term condition, two hydrotherapy pools at (PDH and Matley) have recently been closed leaving only the Phoenix School (which is at full capacity) and St George's open. If the pool at St George's closes many of the city's most vulnerable patients will be left without any access to this vital service, the new pool at PJ Care may only be suitable for 3% of St George's clients.</p>	
65	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I was concerned when I heard on Cambridge Radio that Peterborough City Council are going to charge the house holders to have their Brown Bins emptied the brown bin was introduced by the council, so that garden waste was pu into the Borwn bins and recycled intead of being put in the black bin for landfill.</p> <p>The council introduced the brown bin to stop garden waste filling precious land-fill space and areas.</p> <p>I was lead to believe that the garden waste would be recycled into compost if so where does any income from either selling it or the savings from the parks and amenities using it go to surly this should off put any extra costs that the council incur And also the council taxes have been assessed with the costing of emptying of these bins.</p> <p>One of my objection to being charged for having to pay for having the bin emptie is that where I live in Cerris Rd there are several oak trees that shed their leafs that then end up in my front garden and then in to the brown bin for collection.</p>	<p>We have to pay to dispose of residents' garden waste it does not generate any income. However, the cost is substantially lower than the cost of sending waste to landfill.</p> <p>The organisation that takes the garden waste away already turns it into compost for re-sale. As stated previously this is a cost to the council it does not generate income.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.</p> <p>Flytipping is illegal. The council treats fly tipping as a serious offence and will prosecute any person or company caught fly tipping. Fly tipping carries a</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>Will the council be prepared to reimburse the cost incurred in clearing the leafs from my property, or have somebody paid by them to clear them of my frontage when require daily in the Autumn period , I think not because the cost would far out strip the cost of emptying them on a fortnightly period that the rate payer already pays for in their council taxes.</p> <p>If the council insist on charging rate payer to have their bins emptied there will be more needless fly tipping done which will then create more eyesores around Peterborough.</p> <p>Also on Dogsthorpe more householder will sweep the leafs on to the public footpaths and roads instead of putting them into the brown bins, which will then when the leafs are wet create health and safety issues because of old and young people slipping on them, this will then incur more expense to the council and rate payers paying compensation to the victims.</p>	<p>fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if taken through the Crown Court) and offenders could be jailed or have their vehicle seized.</p>
66	Children's Centres	<p>I wish to register my disagreement with the proposals to reduce the funding given to Surestart Children's Centres.</p> <p>Central Government has stated that they have not reduced local authority funding for Surestart - they have merely removed the requirement for councils to ring fence it -so for Councillor Scott to try to blame the Government is misleading. Peterborough City Council has decided to cut the funding for Children's Centres - but it has got its priorities wrong and needs to reconsider that decision.</p>	<p>We appreciate your comments on the proposed changes to how children's centre services will be provided in the future</p> <p>Under the proposals, there will be services for families in each of the areas where the children's centres buildings are going to be used differently.</p> <p>Vulnerable families in the greatest need, wherever they live in our city, will be supported through the four main centres and the outreach centres and if necessary we can take this support into their local area and their own homes.</p> <p>We have had to make some very difficult decisions. We will have lost 40 per cent of our funding from government over five years including reductions in funding for children's services.</p> <p>We did listen to parents concerns through the consultation and we continue to listen.</p> <p>This is why we are putting in an additional</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>£100,000 to support those services that parents said they care about the most. This means all parents will still be able to go to their midwife and health visitor clinics in their local area and attend child development play sessions and receive support for post natal depression.</p> <p>The proposed changes to children's services are no different to those being made by councils across the country.</p>
67	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Just contacting you about the proposal to charge for the emptying of the brown bins.</p> <p>I for one am certainly not happy about this as I make full use of my bin and not in a position to go to the Household waste with garden refuse.</p> <p>This probably goes for many retired people on a limited income.</p> <p>The situation with all refuse is a problem and I'm sure this will just compound it.</p> <p>The decision to not collect for the three months this winter has not helped coping with the piles of leaves that accumulate.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed new paid-for garden waste collection service.</p> <p>If the new service is introduced, residents would be able to split the annual £36 a charge over three direct debit payments of £12 in May, August and November.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced. If the new service is introduced it would be fortnightly throughout the year apart from December and January when it would be monthly.</p>
68	General	<p><b><u>Have your say on the Peterborough Budget Proposals THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!</u></b>  <b>We did this over a pint at the Brewery Tap (FREE WI-FI too!), consultants would have charged £1,200 a day.. so reducing the Council Debt already ( PS: JHB on at £2:60 this month!)</b></p> <p><b>Perhaps Cllr Seaton over a fine Claret can come up with a few more:</b></p> <p>Quadruple rent of street vending hot dogs stands and when not in use must be removed (eg Hot dog stand opposite Magistrates Court )and apply parking fine to vendors van which is habitually parked on pavement). Should reduce council debt annually by £50,000</p>	<p>We do not use consultants to develop our budget proposals and whilst Cllr Seaton enjoys the occasional glass of wine at weekends, this is never "fine claret" but rather £4.99 from Tesco.</p> <p>On a more serious note, we are in unprecedented times and councils across the country are faced with making very difficult decisions as they face year-on-year cuts to their government funding.</p> <p>Over five years we will have seen a 40 per cent cut in our government grant which equates to £44</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
	General	<p><b>Have your say on the Peterborough Budget Proposals</b>  <b>EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:budget@peterborough.gov.uk">budget@peterborough.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>By post:  Financial Services Manager,  (MARK ENVELOPE 'BUDGET PROPOSALS' )  Peterborough City Council,  Town Hall,  Bridge Street,  Peterborough  PE1 1HG.</p> <p>Details are on the city council website: <a href="http://www.peterborough.gov.uk">Budget proposals 2014/15 - www.peterborough.gov.uk</a></p> <p>The consultation will end at 5pm on Tuesday, 4th March.</p> <p><b>PBROTRIB</b> admittedly back of cigarette packet suggestions, but might stop Cllr Seaton from endlessly carping on, that no one is coming up with debt reduction ideas :</p> <p>Permanently cap off Cereste Memorial Fountains, serve Writ on installers to get all the wasted money back rather than give them £90,000 more to attempt to fix the clearly not fit for purpose dismal initial installation. Installers to make good any damage. Should reduce council debt by £2 million.</p>	<p>million.</p> <p>For 2014/15 pressures on the budget and a £9 million reduction in government funding has left us with a £19 million shortfall.</p> <p>We have sent your suggestions to the relevant departments, they will be reviewed and we will respond to you individually again.</p> <p>However, the level of savings you have suggested in some areas would not be achievable as it does not represent the true cost of providing that existing service, for example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the maintenance costs for the cathedral square fountains in 2014/15 is £41k and would not save the council £2m next year.</li> <li>• Quadrupling rent for hot dog stands would raise nowhere near £50k a year.</li> <li>• We are already working towards not printing Council documents with Cabinet using an on-line app. Public attending do need copies though. However the paper saving suggested of £750k is inaccurate – the total budget is £26k.</li> <li>• Advertising on Council streaming would not raise £750k as evidence elsewhere suggests only a handful of people would view.</li> <li>• Asking all Councillors to devote significant time without recompense would likely result in even fewer people wishing to serve their community. No cash payments are made.</li> <li>• The suggestion about Councillors not being paid for sick leave is noted. The suggested saving appears to be humorous as all Cllr allowances do not exceed this sum.</li> </ul>
	General	<p>Stop printing reams of council documents for each meeting, install computer screens in Council Chamber. Councillor who refuse to use them asked to resign. Should reduce council debt by £750,000.</p>	
	General	<p>Start live streaming over the internet main council meetings installation cost no more than £5,000. Sell advertising on stream, outside of Meetings and during any mid meeting recess, and on rebroadcast of stream. Should reduce council debt by £750,00 per annum after commissions etc.</p>	
	General	<p>Carry advertising on all council/ franchise vehicles. Should reduce council</p>	



	Category	Comment	Response
		debt by £30,000 annually.	
	General	All taxis/ private hire cars to be smartly liveried and of identical saloons/ vintage. Liveries wrapping charged for by council. Take advice from Brighton Council. Should reduce council debt by £750,000 annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unite reps cost £77k, not the £750k suggested.</li> <li>• Halting the Long Causeway project would not save the council £11 million next year as this is funded from capital and the project was approved in 2013/14. The cost is £2m</li> </ul>
	General	Strictly apply existing advertising planning rules to BT street boxes in residential areas advertising their expensive broadband services. Should reduce council debt by £20,000 annually.	
	General	Withdraw all special responsibility allowances and only retrospectively pay an allowance if the councillor physically attends a meeting. Should reduce council debt annually by £ 750,000 plus. No cash payments all to be on a council VISA type debit card and against vouchers submitted.	
	General	If councillors are on long term sick leave, then councillor allowances should be reduced or cancelled. And the councillor asked to stand down, as clearly unable to do the work Should reduce council debt annually by £1 million	
	General	Require all High Street retail stores to physically use any upper level space or offer as units for private dwellings. Failure to use the space will be incur a recurring community empty surcharge. Should annually raise £1 million plus.	
	General	The £300,000 being spent on St Peters Arcade, scrap the sliding doors for the arcade. Units and through access to remain open in the evening. Should reduce council debt by £150,000. Investigate Mrs Cerestes shop lease to ensure a level playing field, that it was widely advertised, and let at a commercial rent.	
	General	Cull levels of duplication of Senior Management on eyewatering metropolitan salaries as previously suggested. Most services outsourced so less supervision now needed, reduce council debt by £1 million plus annually.	
	General	Instruct Cllr Irene Walsh to charge at commercial rates for all facilities offered to Unite and other Union representatives (known as 'Pilgrims' )	

	Category	Comment	Response
	General	Should reduce council debt annually by £750,000 she could also carry council advertising on her white handbag (both sides) when on official duties!	
	General	The maintained but unused Fenced and gated Stanground Bowling Green, behind the Stanground Community Centre but bowlers not allowed to used the Community Centre to change ....( apparently a Cllr Brian Rush CON Stanground Central project) has cost over £150,000 to maintain the lawn for a decade or so. Suggest remove turf lay down pea gravel ( for petanque / boules) and install concrete table tennis tables and a bench.	
	Capital Programme	Halt Long Causeway tart up, just refurbish existing structure which still has a shelf life of 20 years or so. Should reduce council debt by £11 million	
	Capital Programme	Cancel Boulevard proposal to remove walkway simply maintain and repair existing structure. Should reduce council debt by £11 million.	
	General	Tax all 'A' Boards. Should reduce council debt by £30,000	
	General	All community centre buildings owned by the council 50% of rental revenues generated by hiring out community facilities to commercial enterprises such as Slimming World to be returned to local community for local re investment. Should raise £500,000	
	Community Leadership Fund	Community leaders funding to only be spent within the councillors own ward.	
		Where it is intended to canvas for postal votes councillors and supporters may not offer community leaders funding, treats, outings to those communities where postal votes have been canvassed.	
	St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool	Scrap existing Hydrotherapy pool as building needs substantial repair and rewire, or offer out to tender to private operator on full repairing lease. Should reduce council debt annually by £750,00	
	Capital	Abandon daft plan to sell off car parks, drastically cut car park charges to	

	Category	Comment	Response
	Programme	encourage use. Possiby offer upper levels for longer term cage locked parking.	
	General	Gillian Beasley to revert to her former role as Solicitor, hire a professional commercially aware, experienced turn-around Chief Executive. Should reduce annual council debt by millions.....	
	Market	Move a proper weekday market back into Cathedral Square - see how they do it in Milton Keynes. Should reduce council debt by £1 million annually	
	General	Scrap the Italian and all other festivals unless fully sponsored and returning a surplus..	
	Renewables	An eyewatering amount has been wasted on legal consultation and legal advice in relation to the solar farm adventure. Clearly the costs are out of control. All legal firms to re-tender for services and existing 'cosy' law firm relationships to be axed. Should reduce council debt by £1 million plus.	
	General	Drop paid membership of the Local Government Association. Other far more effective forums are now available. Should save countless millions of annual council debt.	
	General	The Director of Operations remit to be disbanded and taken into the new professional Chief Executives role. Should reduce council debt annually by several millions.	
	General	No further retired policemen or service personnel to be parachuted into PCC roles without the roles FIRST being properly and widely advertised, and professionals with prior expertise headhunted for future roles ideally from the private sector. Should reduce council debt by £50,000	
	General	Invite Cllr Fitzgerald to purchase the so called 'community radio' studio as it appears to be more about his old radio chums being offered airtime, very little talk content, all music based. Withdraw all funding and charge commercial rent . Should reduce council debt by £ 150,000	
	General	All PCC salaried roles to be offered to local residents/ professionals first.	

	Category	Comment	Response
	General	All leased PCC Car and parking Perks to be withdrawn. AA mileage rate offered for use of own private car.	
	General	Electric parking points ( which do not service all marques) to be scrapped and revert to disabled parking spaces.	
	General	Stop the translation and printing of council publications into several languages.	
	Tourist Information Centre	Close down the PPC information Booth in St Peters Arcade and move to Key Theatre foyer. Let shop unit.	
	General	Offer Summer boating/ punting concession on River.	
	General	Offer City Bridge Street, Long Causeway, Broadway, Cowgate etc road train franchise . Should reduce council debt by £ 50,000 annually	
	Vivacity	NO MORE VIVACITY MONEY PIT. Split up Vivacity estate into three organisations Sports, Museums, Arts/Libraries. re tender each. Vivacity can be got rid of for non performance, immediately end the foray into beauty salons and questionable body sculpture lipo treatments by non medically qualified staff. Very dangerous.	
		Bracket Key Theatre and embankment entertainment space as one management package. Invite Tenders to run this. Outsource theatre management and for running embankment events they share rentals. For advice see how the Milton Keynes Outdoor Concert Bowl operates.	
	General	Cut Gillian Beasleys Corporate Department Budget by 50% Too top heavy, as most council function outsourced to SERCO etc.,	
	Renewables	Wind up all off balance sheet sham companies such as BUE SKY PETERBOROUGH LTD	

	Category	Comment	Response
	General	CUT ALL PARKING CHARGES BY HALF and get the CITY to be CAR friendly.	
	General	Ensure GOLD COMMAND is experienced and up to the job in the event of an emergency such as being experienced in flooded Wraysbury	
	Capital Programme	Immediately sell the council owned football stadium and halt all further work. The pitch is physically below the natural water table level and therefore will never be perfect. Club and FA to be invited to build new Stadium opposite Cardea alongside railway. Should reduce Council debt by £8 million.	
	General	Scrap all outdated Environment Capital projects and remove the now 'silly tag' from signposts. Should reduce Council debt by £10 million	
69	<p>Childrens Centres</p> <p>St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool</p> <p>Community Leadership Fund</p> <p>Council Tax</p> <p>Tourist Information Centre</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to you in connection with the city council's proposed budget for 2014/15. I have read the Financial Strategy Proposals Document 2014/15, and I am deeply concerned by some of the proposed cuts, in particular the cuts to the children's play centres, and the removal of funding for St George's Hydrotherapy Pool, and the excessive reduction in the community leadership fund. I am also concerned that the city's council tax is too low: each year the tax is NOT increased represents a loss of income far into the future, since the amount by which the tax can be increased is limited by central government each year. Council Peterborough should be increasing its council tax each year until it is about average for the UK, or at least until there is no need to cut vital provision. This year a 2% increase is certainly justified.</p> <p>I think the council should look again at the following:</p> <p>Look for alternative funding for Tourist Information and Travel Choice centres, e.g. Travel Choice should be funded by Stage Coach and other local bus operators. Look for sponsorship for Tourist Information Centre and charge businesses which use it to promote themselves.</p> <p>A £100K investment in railings for the market seems unnecessary when it</p>	<p>Thank you for your extensive responses to the budget consultation.</p> <p>We are in unprecedented times and councils across the country are faced with making very difficult decisions as they face year-on-year cuts to their government funding. Over five years we will have seen a 40 per cent cut in our government grant which equates to £44 million.</p> <p>For 2014/15 pressures on the budget and a £9 million reduction in government funding has left us with a £19 million shortfall.</p> <p>We have sent your suggestions to the relevant departments, they will be reviewed and we will respond to you individually again.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
	Market	may well be moving soon if the latest proposed North Westgate development takes place.	
	Legal Services	The legal team should not be expanded (appendix 5), particularly as this seems to be related to risky business ventures by the council.	
	Natural and historic environment grant	In appendix 6, I am concerned about the proposals to remove natural and historic environment grant. The council must ensure that its proposed alternative source of funding materialises.	
	Opportunity Peterborough	I oppose granting additional one off funding to Opportunity Peterborough. This organisation should be self-funding.	
	Garden Waste collection	I am concerned about the proposals to charge for brown bin collections. I am concerned that any saving here will be offset by increased landfill charges. The council should also look at establishing neighbourhood level community composting schemes where appropriate.	
	Vivacity	The council should look at the amount of funding it gives Vivacity for festivals. Last year there were far too many festivals, and some events were very poorly attended. It is more important that we have a decent library than a festival every weekend during the summer.	
	ICT	I'm also concerned by the amounts of money required to move from an on site server room to using an external provider. It is hard to see how this can possibly be a money saver given the amount of money required this year, and the ongoing £250K pa spend.	
	Capital Programme	<p>While not strictly relevant to this year's budget I also think the proposed extension of the City WiFi scheme next year is an unnecessary expense.</p> <p>I understand that the council is operating in a very difficult financial climate, and that it has a legal obligation to balance its budget. However, I think too many of the proposed cuts affect most severely the most disadvantaged members of society. The cabinet need to rethink their proposals and look for other means.</p>	

## Trade Unions - Joint Consultative Forum

### Comments raised during the JCF meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

The Head of Strategic Finance attended and provided a presentation on the Council's budget proposals. Comments and queries raised included:

Comment/Question ?	Response provided at the meeting
The recent child sexual exploitation case, including the cost to the council was discussed	Head of Strategic Finance responded always needed to be able to respond to such issues when they arose, and it was an example of the sort of issue the council needed to consider when balancing risk and reserves
Was the council meeting the statutory obligation regarding the Director of Public Health role ?	The Chief Executive confirmed that the Council was
The proposed savings for Looked after Children were queried, and whether they were achievable	<p>Head of Strategic Finance responded that the proposals had undergone a high level of challenge from CMT and finance.</p> <p>Whilst they were reasonable, there was always a risk that it may not be possible to achieve the savings, or that other children may come into the system requiring care. However it was a saving worth pursuing as often the approach to changing care provision led to better outcomes as well as making savings. The Council would be monitoring this saving proposal very closely</p>
The Office accommodation saving was queried, especially with regard to the impact on staff	Head of Strategic Finance responded that some staff would move more than once (into a decant office and then to town hall). It was recognised this could be disruptive, but by making staff aware this was the case it would hope to be minimised.
Questions were asked on whether the council could seek additional income in the face of grant reductions	<p>Head of Strategic Finance responded that the localised business rate scheme was a major opportunity to increase council income, and was part of the Councils approach to growth.</p> <p>There were however financial risks with this in that the Council would also be liable for the cost of appeals, including the backdated sum.</p>
The potential level of benefit from Council tax was questioned	<p>Head of Strategic Finance responded that if the council increased council tax by 2%, taxpayers would be paying £1.2m per year, but as the Council would lose the freeze grant, the extra benefit to the council would be £0.5m.</p> <p>The costs of running a referendum and rebilling also outweighed the potential benefit, so it was very unlikely any council would proceed on this basis.</p>

## Disability Forum

A discussion on the budget was held as part of the disability forum on 30<sup>th</sup> January. PCC attendees were Cllr David Seaton, Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Head of Strategic Finance, Head of Adult Social Care Finance and Head of Commissioning (Learning Disabilities).

Cllr Seaton introduced the budget. Comments and queries raised included:

Comment/Question ?	Response provided at the meeting
Why was the council's level of borrowing so high ?	Cllr Seaton responded that the council borrowed to finance the capital programme. A major element of this was the provision of new school places
Why was the Council proceeding with the renewables projects	Cllr Seaton responded that the council expected to make net income, over all costs, of around £5m a year that would help support services
It was suggested that the Community Leadership Fund should be abolished entirely and the money put towards supporting St Georges hydrotherapy pool	Comments noted
<p>A number of comments were made objecting to the plans to close St Georges hydrotherapy pool, including location, cost and suitability of alternatives.</p> <p>It was recognised that hydrotherapy was a service that should be funded by Health, and attendees asked for details of who they could lobby in this regard.</p>	The Cabinet Members agreed to consider how this could be discussed further with Health.
A number of comments were raised with regard to the parallel consultation on learning disability day services	Comments noted, and confirmed that the more detailed consultation remained open
A query was raised regarding the savings on special school transport.	The Head of Strategic Finance responded that where children needed support and transport it would be provided (the Council was including £160k in the budget for transporting an extra 21 children to Phoenix special school), but it was looking at the other end of the spectrum to see if, with the appropriate support, some children could access mainstream transport

Cllr Seaton offered to return to a future meeting to discuss budget issues.



## A scrutiny style event with the Youth Council

### Comments regarding Youth Scrutiny of the Budget held on 4 February 2014

Comment
Last year, the Peterborough Youth Council organised a 'Youth Scrutiny of the Budget', which proved to be highly valuable and also productive as a direct insight into how the budget was planned. It was therefore incredibly useful to have the opportunity again to discuss this year's budget with Cabinet Members and Executives.
Due to the nature of this year's budget, there were clearly some emotive and controversial topics (such as changes to Adult Social Care and Children's Centres) that raised a lot of questions; there was also positive discussion around future plans for Peterborough. In particular, investment into new schemes in Central Peterborough (that will aid growth and business development) were supported, and there was extensive debate around decisions for improving education and Children's Services around the City.
After much discussion, the general feeling across attending Youth Council members was that the tough decisions were justified and necessary.

## **Communities and Cohesion Board**

### **Communities and Cohesion Board Meeting 6 February 2014 2.30 pm N1, Northminster House**

#### **Present:**

Adrian Chapman – Head of Neighbourhood Services, PCC (Chair)  
Brian Gascoyne – Millfield and New England Regeneration Partnership  
Canon Ian Black – Peterborough Cathedral  
Sister Mary Clare Mason – Faith Communities Network  
Rod Allerton – Side by Side Project  
Nick Knight – Cambridgeshire Constabulary  
Cllr Marion Todd - PCC  
Amanda Rose – PCC  
Allison Sunley – PCC  
Steven Pilsworth - PCC  
Sharon Keogh – Kingsgate Community Church  
Keith Jones – Citizens Advice Bureau  
Julie Coleman – Department for Work and Pensions  
Andrew Cawthorpe – Prince's Trust  
David Copeland – Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services  
Emily Gray – Peterborough and Fenland MIND  
Alan Sadler – Borderline (CCG)  
Louise Williamson – Community Cohesion Officer, PCC  
Jawaid Khan – Community Cohesion Manager, PCC

#### **Budget and Community Cohesion**

Steven Pilsworth delivered a presentation to the Board surrounding the City Council's budget proposals for the next financial year (2013-2014.)

Key points included:

- 2013-2014 will be Peterborough's fourth year of austerity measures and the Council's grant from Central Government is £9m less than the previous year.
- Peterborough City Council will have seen an overall reduction of £44m over the five year period

Feedback/response from members:

Issues was raised with regards to the cessation of funding in 2015-2016 for local welfare provision. It is important for this work to be taken into consideration for the budget as the negative impact of the cessation of funding for the most vulnerable in the community could be significant including public order.

The Board asserted the need to reverse the trend of reactive spend and more focus is needed on preventative work.

The Board agreed the need to mitigate the risks for 2015-2016 by beginning to assess what the cuts mean.

During these difficult times there needs to be a greater reliance on partnership working.

## Joint Commissioning Forum

### Borderline and Peterborough LCG Joint Commissioning Forum Comments raised during the budget consultation event held on 7 February 2014

Draft minutes to be approved at the next meeting on 7 March 2014

The Head of Strategic Finance attended and provided a presentation on the Council's budget proposals

Comment	Response provided at the meeting
Health Visitor had highlighted the impact of the formation of Cardea had on young families with the threat of closing children centre in Stanground to a GP. This GP acknowledged as had seen issues in his surgery where more families were coming in.	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn advised that a Health Visitor had attended a feedback session and had raised those points.
Were PCC making representation regarding population changing and increase funding?	<p>The Head of Strategic Finance responded that the Council has lobbied strongly for the funding it received to properly reflect its growing population. The Leader of the Council had met several local government ministers to make the point.</p> <p>The Council had had some success on getting the latest Census numbers used, but not all the funding had fed through. Also the local government funding system has changed this year, with stronger links to business growth than population growth.</p>
Concern raised on the reduction of services for older people would have an impact on the health care system.	<p>The Head of Strategic Finance responded that the Council spent around £47m per year on adult social care. It was also putting extra money in to reflect the increasing number of elderly people needing support.</p> <p>The savings identified were a very small proportion of the overall spend on adult social care</p>
Children Centres have service links with general practices.	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn advised that childrens centres would still offer services. It was suggested that at a future JCF session this should be discussed further

**Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions – Scrutiny of the Budget**  
**Meeting held on 10 February 2014**

**EXTRACT FROM DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL ON 10 FEBRUARY 2014**

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
4	Introduction of the Budget and Overall Budget Strategy  <b>(Pages 1 -71)</b>	Members referred to the slide 'Meeting the Financial Challenge' and suggested the following should be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Tax to be put up by 2% to provide additional income of £500,000.</li> <li>• Increasing efficiency savings e.g. make the management more efficient.</li> <li>• Look at the claims for VAT and reducing some of the costs in buildings.</li> <li>• Additional income could be gained from marketing the buildings that are being used for children's centres. They could be used at weekends and evenings. The income would then help towards the reduction in cuts to Children's Centres.</li> </ul>	A Council Tax increase of 2% brings in £500,000 extra to the Council , but would mean that that residents pay an extra £1.2M . If the Government does not put into the Councils baseline the Grant Freeze Monies going forward then the benefit would be higher in future years.
		Members sought assurance that the Grant Freeze monies would continue.	It had been confirmed that the freeze grant for 2014/15 would continue into 2015/16, but Government could not guarantee that the Grant Freeze Monies would continue into the next Parliament.
		Please explain the funding reductions. Page 7, paragraph 5.4 the table shows funding for 2013/14 of £119M	The table includes Public Health which is an increase that cannot be used for any other purpose than Public Health matters.

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
		and the funding for 2014/15 is £112.2M. On page 10 para 5.14 there is a table showing inescapable and essential costs of £10,343k for 2014/15. If this is the budget shortfall why are we making savings of £16.2M	
<p><b>Action</b></p> <p>The Committee noted this section of the budget.</p>			
5	<p>Treasury Management Strategy 2014/2015 – 2023/2024 <b>(Pages 72 -95)</b></p> <p>Capital Strategy 2014 – 2024 <b>(Pages 96 – 123)</b></p> <p>Asset Management Plan 2014 – 2019 <b>(Pages 124 – 151)</b></p>	Appendix 2, page 94 – Summary of capital and treasury prudential indicators. In the section ‘Ratio of financing costs to net revenue budget’ there is an ever increasing percentage of revenue budget going towards financing costs. Is this being kept in hand?	This was due to the Energy from Waste Plant investment and investment in schools.
		Asset Management Strategy. Two of the car parks are being sold which will provide a good capital receipt. We are investing in the city centre and want people to come into the city with their cars and will therefore need car parking facilities. Are there any further plans to sell any of the other car parks?	The car parks are not at saturation point and there is plenty of capacity within the city centre. It is therefore appropriate that the council considers other opportunities for those sites.
		Cost for translation is £50k but it is probably more like £100K.	A policy regarding translation was introduced some years ago which states that the council should only spend money on translation where there is a statutory or legal requirement. An example would be translation of documents for court proceedings.
		In Cambridge the authority has a project called ‘Making Assets Count’ which maps out and analyses usage	The budget book includes the Asset Management Plan which details the council’s approach to managing assets with partners in a similar way to the Cambridgeshire project.

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
		of all their assets. Is this something that is done by PCC and if so where can the information be found?	
		Could the commitment of a Healthy City be added to the council's priorities?	This was a worthwhile suggestion and Cabinet would consider this.
		How flexible are the budget pressures. Can the risk be moved up or down to relieve pressures elsewhere?	One of the responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer was to advise the council on the robustness of the budget estimate which included management of risk. Pages 32 to 36 of the budget book details the risks and how these are managed.
		As the budget processes are getting better and efficiencies are being produced and the budget is reducing. Could we reduce our reserves from £6M to a more appropriate level of £4 or £5M?	The Chief Financial Officers role is to recommend to Members whether the £6M is an adequate amount for the reserves. At the start of the year there are always pressures which may eat into the £6M. When looking at a £17M budget deficit for 2015/16 if the balances are not right then the money would have to be replaced the following year. The Chief Financial Officer cautioned against moving away from the £6M.
		Councillor Murphy remarked that Looked after Children needed to be looked at as there appeared to be tens of thousands of pounds spent on visits by social workers to Bulgaria.	The Cabinet Member for Children's Services requested that Cllr Murphy provide evidence that Social Workers were being sent to Bulgaria or withdraw his remarks. No Social Workers had been sent to Bulgaria. The Executive Director for Children's services confirmed that no Social Workers had been sent to Bulgaria. It may have been that placements had been identified to place children in their country of origin which would cut down on the money being spent on Looked After Children.
		Page 20, paragraph 1.2.5 the budget projections are not taking into account the retained business rates. However at paragraph 1.2.3 it indicates increased funding as a result of that. If this were reanalysed would this produce different figures.	There is a degree of offsetting there between increases in business rate income and future reductions in grants from Central Government.
<b>Recommendations:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillor Lamb seconded by Councillor Lee recommended that Cabinet include as part of the Councils Priorities on page 4 of the Budget Book the Commitment to a Healthy City.</li> </ol>			

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
<p>The recommendation was put to the vote and approved. ( 18 in favour, none against, none abstained)</p> <p>2. The Committee recommend that Cllr Seaton investigates whether Business Rates retention would impact on the revenue budget and whether more accurate forecasts would assist in revenue allocation and budget setting.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>The Executive Director of Children’s Services to provide the Committee with a full briefing note regarding the comment about Social Workers that may have been sent to Bulgaria and placements for children in their country of origin.</p>			
6.	Adult Social Care <b>Appendix 1</b> and related Capital Programme <b>(Pages 16 – 25)</b>	Supplementary report, Appendix 1, page 5. ASC – Quality Information and Performance show savings of £50K regarding joint initiatives with Children’s Services. What is this and why is it listed under Adult Social Care.	There has been a reorganisation of the Councils Senior Management Team and commissioning of children’s services and adults now come under one area. This efficiency saving is about bringing responsibilities of the workforce development functions together across adults and children’s services.
		Supplementary report, Appendix 1, page 5. What does the proposed cut of £80K in services for Mental Health cover? Is it the funding to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT)?	There is a Section 75 arrangement with the CPFT the Mental Health Trust for the provision of Adult Social Care Services. Work had been done on the personalisation agenda with them and this is where the £80K saving has come from.
		There is mention of aiming for a more modern service. Can you give an example of what service is being offered now that is not modern?	Adult Social Care transformation is about the transition from providing very traditional day services, residential services and home care services in a very traditional way to a better service with the aim to enable everyone to live as independently as possible. Part of this is giving people skills to obtain employment. In doing this the dependency on statutory services is often reduced.
		Will the Gloucester Centre be closed?	The Gloucester Centre is not run by the Council. It is operated by the CPFT and the Council provide funding to 35 of the 40 users who also use the Gloucester Centre. The Council are also providing the same funding directly to the Gloucester Centre which cannot continue. The CPFT gave notice to the Council to discontinue the service.
<p><b>Action</b></p>			

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
7.	Chief Executive's <b>Appendix 2</b> and related Capital Programme  <b>(Pages 26 – 27)</b>	No questions were submitted.	
<b>Action</b>  The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
8.	Children's Services <b>Appendix 3</b> and related Capital Programme <b>(Pages 28 – 32)</b>	No questions were submitted.	
<b>Action</b>  The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
9.	Communities <b>Appendix 4</b> and related Capital Programme  <b>(Pages 33 – 37)</b>	Angela Brennan a Member for the Public who was in attendance asked the following questions:  With regards to children's centres, what is this figure made up of? Could I have a break down? Has the budget now encompassed the extra 100K coming from the EIG grant to setup new children's groups or the Bus Fares that the council are now promising everybody who is getting to the new proposed hubs?	The £931K in the supplementary report on page 8 is there because the savings will not be made by 1 April. The full year effect would be £1,181K and does include the £100K to support parent groups etc.



Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
		What is the figure for the transport costs and is this included in the £100K.	If people need to go to a hub or an outreach centre and are not in a position to fund their transport but they needed to go to a centre for some particular therapy then we would look to help them with their costs. We did not say that we would fund all the transport.
		Members were concerned that the councils priority of 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults was being compromised by closing the children's centres.	<p>Members were referred to Appendix 3 of the budget book – Children's Services. There was a commitment to the social workers in the city to maintain the safeguarding work that they do and the service to help the most vulnerable children in need.</p> <p>Every Council in the country has had to look at the expenses associated with Children's Centres. The Government are putting £10M of ring fenced money into Peterborough this year to fund 15 hours of free child care to all three and four year olds in the city and to children aged two years who meet the criteria.</p>
		The Werrington Children's Centre was opened less than four years ago and now it is being closed. Where was the forward plan for this?	<p>Members were referred to the Settlement for 2014/15 and 2015/16 to remind Members of the reduction in funding.</p> <p>2014/15 - £9M less than previous year.</p> <p>2015/16 - £12.5M less than previous year.</p>
		Supplementary report, Appendix 1, page 8 – 'Communities'. Could an explanation be given for the £1,019K pressures against the CHS – Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention section?	Most of the £1,019K relates the upward trend in numbers of Looked After Children which is a national trend. There are also some elements of related transport cost.
		<p>A member of the public Bobby Day who works at a Children's Centre was in attendance and asked the following questions.</p> <p>In the Cabinet report on Children's Centres presented at the Cabinet meeting on 3 February there was a document, Appendix 5, Calculation of savings required for each Children's Centre. The Westwood and</p>	It did include Ravensthorpe at the time it went out to tender but not now. The Director for Communities did not have the detailed information at the meeting and offered to meet with the member of public to provide a comprehensive response outside of the meeting.

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
		<p>Ravensthorpe Children's Centre was £233,370. Please can you provide a breakdown of costs and does it include the running costs of being at Ravensthorpe School. Westwood and Ravensthorpe Children's Centre was initially over two sites. The Children's Centre had not been in Ravensthorpe school for some time.</p>	
		<p>A member of the public Chris York was in attendance and asked the following questions.</p> <p>David Cameron has said that he was increasing funding to Children's Centres. Why therefore are the council cutting Children's Centres budgets?</p>	<p>The report presented to Cabinet on 3 February included a letter from Elizabeth Truss MP from the Department of Education which clearly states that Children's Centres funding was included in the Early Intervention grant. This is possibly what David Cameron was referring to.</p>
		<p>More work needs to be done to look at the specific budgets to see if savings can be achieved through identifying efficiencies and additional income to reduce the level of cuts.</p>	<p>Councillor Murphy had been invited to meet with the Director of Communities and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to discuss ideas for the identification of further efficiencies.</p>
		<p>Children's Centres. Have the lease closures and terminated contracts already been included in the budget?</p>	<p>Yes these had been included.</p>
		<p>Officers should provide assistance in supporting Members in discussing alternatives ways of saving money and identifying efficiencies. A working party could be established to look further at this.</p>	<p>The Chair advised Members that there was not enough time to establish a working party and allow suitable deliberation before the budget had to be approved. It was therefore suggested that other Members of the Scrutiny Committee may also wish to meet with the Director of Communities to discuss alternatives to saving money.</p> <p>The Director of Communities extended the invitation to all Members of the Scrutiny Committee to attend the meeting to be held with Councillor Murphy at 4.30pm on Tuesday 11 February at Bayard Place.</p>

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
		<p>David Whiles from Healthwatch asked the following question.</p> <p>The reduction in budget of £45K to pay for the running of St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool will mean that it will close on 31 March 2014. The 1700 service users will have no alternative provision. The Health and Wellbeing Board in September endorsed the role of hydrotherapy for the physical and mental wellbeing of the people of Peterborough. What alternative provision will be put in place for the 1700 users?</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods advised that he had been working with local groups at the hydrotherapy pool. The groups were looking at raising sufficient funds to keep it open three months beyond the due closure dates. If the funds can be raised then it will provide some time to look at ways of keeping it open over the next two years. The question arises as to whether the NHS should provide the funding.</p> <p>The St Georges centre requires some maintenance work and funding would not be available. The school in which the centre is housed is due to close in two years' time. Discussions are being held with PJ Care to see if they have hydrotherapy provision.</p>
		<p>David Whiles from Healthwatch asked the following question.</p> <p>The NHS and the Council both have some degree of responsibility for hydrotherapy. Please can the council use their best officers to persuade the NHS to fund the commissioning of this service in the city?</p>	<p>It is the intention to pursue NHS funding.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council commented that by working unilaterally a new sports centre had been provided in Hampton. There was a possibility of two more sports centres being provided in the city with swimming pool facilities. This might provide an opportunity to explore the possibility of having a hydrotherapy pool at one of the new facilities. If the Council, the NHS and users of the hydrotherapy pool worked together to provide funding it might be possible to keep the hydrotherapy pool open until other possibilities were explored.</p>
		<p>Could a breakdown be provided of the maintenance and running costs of the hydrotherapy pool?</p> <p>Could a full assessment of the condition of the building also be completed?</p>	<p>The Head of Corporate Property and Children's Resources informed Members that a report has been prepared to answer these questions. He also advised that the building was safe and a full conditions report has been completed.</p>
		<p>Councillor Fox recommended that funding be found to keep the</p>	<p>The Leader of the Council requested that the NHS should be included within the recommendation.</p>

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
		hydrotherapy pool running until an alternative could be found.	The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care informed the Committee that it was the responsibility of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group to provide the hydrotherapy service and he was having discussions with them concerning this.
		Angela Brennan a member of the public asked if any charities had been contacted about the closure of the hydrotherapy pool to see if they could assist with costs. This would then put less strain on the budget.	The Chair requested that charities be included in any recommendation made.
		Members requested that the Community Leadership Fund (CLF) contributions be unblocked so that they could be used to help towards funding to help the hydrotherapy pool stay open longer.	Members were advised that the CLF had not been blocked but had been held until the decision had been made on whether the hydrotherapy pool would close or not. Subject to the agreement that the hydrotherapy pool stays open the CLF money will go towards the funding.
		Supplementary report, Appendix 1, page 8 – ‘Communities’. Section OPS – Neighbourhoods. The homelessness Bed and Breakfast Costs - £150K. This appears to be increasing and yet the housing budget is being reduced by £50K. The housing budget should be increased to reduce the demand for homelessness bed and breakfast accommodation. Can Cabinet review the use of bed and breakfast accommodation?	The £150K that has been put forward is in response to the impact of welfare reform and the changes that are taking place. The assessment of need indicates that there are likely to be more people who are temporarily homeless. The £50K is for the increase in the charge to Registered Social Landlords for the choice based lettings. The assessment report can be provided to the Committee.
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>1. Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Forbes recommended to Cabinet that on going and additional work is done to identify efficiencies and income generation to mitigate the current level of service reductions in Children’s Centres.</p> <p>The recommendation was put to the vote and approved. (11 in favour, 5 against, 2 abstained)</p>			

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
2.	Councillor JR Fox seconded by Councillor Lee recommended to Cabinet that they seek to maintain St George's Hydrotherapy Centre running until alternative sources of funding are identified. This to be done by working with services users, the NHS, and the voluntary sector to keep the pool open for two years until a solution or an alternative is found.  The recommendation was put to the vote and was unanimously approved.  <b>Action</b>  The Director of Communities to provide the Committee with the Assessment of Needs report produced to inform the reason for increasing the funding of Homelessness Bed and Breakfast costs.  The Head of Corporate Property and Children's Resources to provide the Committee with a copy of the report detailing the running costs of the hydrotherapy pool and a breakdown of repairs with costings for both the pool and building.		
10.	Governance <b>Appendix 5</b> And related Capital Programme  <b>(Page 38 - 40)</b>	Page 39, Reducing the Community Leadership Fund - saving of £183K. Please can you explain how this figure has been arrived at?	The Chair provided an explanation. Last year the default rate of £10K per ward was kept even though the budget was reduced for one year to £7K. This year it is proposed that it is reduced permanently to £1K. This is how the figure is arrived at.
		In reducing the CLF to £1K per councillor what assessment has been done to ascertain the impact on deprived areas or is this an arbitrary approach to save money.	It was an arbitrary approach to save money.
		How can an arbitrary approach like this be taken when it could potentially discriminate against councillors with large wards for example rural wards which cover fourteen or more villages.  A request was made that the Director of Governance provide an explanation in writing.	CLF funding does not have an ongoing revenue implication. By definition the spend year on year should not be supporting services and therefore no implications. There is no equality impact assessment on CLF.  The Director of Governance confirmed that it was an annual discretionary spend with no ongoing impact.

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
		<p>Councillor Lee seconded by Councillor Fower recommended that the CLF funding be raised to £10K per ward.</p> <p>The recommendation was put to the vote and NOT approved. (5 in favour, 6 against, 7 abstained)</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Resources reminded the Committee that when making recommendations to increase the budget that consideration needed to be given to where money could be saved elsewhere.</p>
		<p>Supplementary report, Appendix 1, page 9 – ‘Governance’. CEX – Legal. What are the £50K changes to the Electoral System for?</p>	<p>Page 40 of the budget book details why £50K is having to be spent on changes to the Electoral System. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act requires every resident in the city to fill in their own individual electoral registration form. As a consequence there will be increased postal and canvassing costs to ensure forms are sent to every resident rather than every household. It will also pay for additional canvassers to chase non-returned forms.</p>
		<p>Could Cabinet have a look at the Communications Department and to see if further savings can be made?</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Public Health invited Councillor Murphy to meet with the Communications team to help him to understand the rationale behind the budget figure.</p>
		<p>Councillor Harper seconded by Councillor Peach recommend that Cabinet reduce the CLF fund to zero and put it back into the budget to use on vital services.</p> <p>The recommendation was put to the vote and NOT approved. (6 in favour, 7 against, 5 abstained)</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Councillor Saltmarsh seconded by Councillor Harrington recommend that Cabinet (only) reduce the Community Leadership Fund to £5000 per ward.</p> <p>The recommendation was put to the vote and approved. (9 in favour, 5 against, 4 not voting)</p> <p><b>Action</b></p>			

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
The Director of Governance to provide in writing an explanation as to why the CLF funding does not have an ongoing revenue implication.			
11.	Growth and Regeneration <b>Appendix 6</b> and Related Capital Programme (Pages 41 – 44)	No questions were submitted.	
<b>Action</b>  The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
12.	Resources including Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships <b>Appendix 7</b> and related Capital Programme (Pages 45 – 61)	Will the Arts Festival be continued going forward.	There will be an Arts Festival. The council took the decision that under the current circumstances it would not be best use of council funds to put on an Arts Festival however following discussions with Vivacity they have found some additional funding from elsewhere and there will be an Arts Festival in some form.
		Could you provide details of the book fund? What are we loosing from the book fund?	The book fund is reducing by £70K and Vivacity believe they can still offer a comprehensive service as close to the current service as possible.
		Angela Brennan a member of the public referred to the page 53 of the budget book – ‘Resources’ - Football ground income loss of £303K. Why after buying the Football ground at an extortionate over inflated price is the Council now recording massive income losses?	The income loss is due to rent abatement as some parts of the ground cannot be used at the moment.
		If people do not opt to pay for the collection of brown bin waste are people more likely to use the black bins for garden waste therefore increasing the amount going to landfill. This would mean increased charges for the council.	There were 103 authorities that had already implemented a charge for collection of garden waste. These authorities had noted that an additional 3% of garden waste was going into black bins and there was no reason to believe Peterborough would be any higher than that. The amount that would add to gate fees for landfill tax was included within the savings stated. It would need 35% take up to achieve the savings. Other authorities had shown that this was achievable.

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
		Would it be better to cut the collection frequency of the brown bin by fifty percent rather than charge?	
		How will you implement the brown bins? Will there be a chip facility on the bins.	There will be an in cab computer system on the vehicles which will advise the crew which properties are participating or not in the scheme.
		What happens to areas where people have to put their bins at a designated collection point? How will the crew know which bin belongs to which household and if they have or have not paid.	As part of payment people will receive a tamper proof sticker on the bin. If someone tries to remove the sticker it will disintegrate therefore no one can remove a sticker from someone else's bin and apply it to their own. The in cab information will also advise the crew of which people have paid for the service.
		Has there been an impact equality assessment completed on this policy as it would seem that regardless of income everyone will pay the same.	It is an optional service and if someone cannot afford the service then they do not have to take up the service. The charge of £39 per years in the lower quartile of charges compared to other authorities.
		What happens if the sticker is tampered with and disintegrates and it is not the owners fault.	The sticker will remain on the bin and it cannot be removed in any kind of useable piece. A replacement sticker will be provided.
		For those people who decide that they do not want their brown bins emptied what will happen to the bin.	The bin is part of the property and will therefore need to remain at the property for the use of any future owners or tenants of the property who may wish to take up the service.
		<p>Angela Brennan a member of public asked the following questions.</p> <p>What would happen if the brown bin charges went ahead and people decided to sweep the leaves from their property onto the street? How much more money will then be spent cleaning up the streets. How much money will go into policing the new charges?</p>	<p>If leaves are in the street they will be collected by the street cleansing regime which is already in place. Any additional work like this has been taken into consideration within the cost savings.</p>
		Bobby Day a member of public asked the following questions.	



Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
		Has the new charge included the cost of having to collect dumped rubbish like fly tipping?	Yes this has been included.
		Chris York a member of public asked the following question.  As our food waste goes to Northampton has the council had an increase in gate fees and if so is this the reason that our brown bins are now going to be charged for.	No.
<b>Action</b>			
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
13.	Staff Implications <b>Appendix 8</b>  (Page 62)	No questions were submitted.	
<b>Action</b>			
The Committee noted this section of the report.			
14	<b>General Comments, any overall recommendations and Conclusion</b>		
	Councillor Murphy questioned the freeze on council tax and felt that this might jeopardise services even further in the long term.  Councillor Murphy requested that Cabinet should consider the implications of not increasing the Council Tax by 2% over future years.		Members were advised that if Council Tax is raised above 2% then a referendum will need to be held.  Members were referred to page 14 of the budget book, paragraphs 7.8, 7.9 and 7.10 for further clarification on Council Tax.
	Page 122 of the budget book. Capital Receipts Summary from 2014 to 2018. When is the land at Riseholme, Orton Goldhay scheduled for disposal and also		Both of these assets are currently being reviewed and there are no timescales currently in place for disposal.

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
	Thorney Tank Yard?	Councillor Arculus commented that unused assets should be disposed of as quickly as possible.	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

1. Cabinet include as part of the Councils Priorities on page 4 of the Budget Book the Commitment to a Healthy City.
2. Cllr Seaton investigates whether Business Rates retention would impact on the revenue budget and whether more accurate forecasts would assist in revenue allocation and budget setting.
3. To Cabinet that on going and additional work is done to identify efficiencies and income generation to mitigate the current level of service reductions in Children's Centres.
4. To Cabinet that they seek to maintain St George's Hydrotherapy Centre running until alternative sources of funding are identified. This to be done by working with services users, the NHS, and the voluntary sector to keep the pool open for two years until a solution or an alternative is found.
5. Cabinet (only) reduce the Community Leadership Fund to £5000 per ward.

## ACTIONS AGREED

The Committee requested that:

1. The Executive Director of Children's Services to provide the Committee with a full briefing note regarding the comment about Social Workers that may have been sent to Bulgaria and placements for children in their country of origin.
2. The Director of Communities to provide the Committee with the Assessment of Needs report produced to inform the reason for increasing the funding of Homelessness Bed and Breakfast costs.

## Greater Peterborough Partnership

### Comments raised during the budget consultation event held on 11 February 2014

<b>Comment</b>
GPP saw the council's budget challenges as a challenge for the city as a whole and not just for the council and so were supportive of the strategic direction outlined in the MTFs and wanted to know how the partners could assist in helping the council meet their financial challenges.
The GPP asked for the background on why there is a proposal to freeze the council tax. Whilst this was explained GPP asked the council to reflect on this bearing in mind the future financial challenges the council faces.
GPP asked about the renewable projects and the contribution they make to the budget and they asked for a further briefing on this from Blue Sky.
GPP raised a question about the financial situation of other councils and the potential for further joint working.
One member of GPP supported the proposals for savings on grass cutting as a way to promote biodiversity.



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON 11 FEBRUARY 2014**

**Members Present:** Councillor Nigel North, Chairman  
Councillor Joe Dobson, Helpston Parish Council  
Councillor Paul Froggitt, Orton Waterville Parish Council  
Councillor Dennis Batty, Glinton Parish Council  
Sandra Hudspeth, Deeping Gate Parish Council  
Councillor Jane Hill, Deeping Gate Parish Council  
Councillor Philip Thompson  
Councillor Jason Merrill, Bretton Parish Council  
Tony Hovell, Thorney, Newborough and Borough Fen  
Councillor Andy Godsell, Eye Parish Council  
Councillor John Bartlett, Thorney Parish Council  
Councillor Ian Allin, Orton Longueville Parish Council  
Councillor Olive Leonard, Hampton Parish Council  
Kate Day, Hampton Parish Council  
Councillor David Roxburgh, Barnack Parish Council  
Geoffrey R Smith, Werrington Neighbourhood Council  
Sarah Rodger, Castor Parish Council  
Councillor David Seaton, PCC  
Councillor John Holdich, PCC

**Officers Present:** Kim Sawyer, Director of Governance, PCC  
Steven Pilsworth, Head of Strategic Finance, PCC  
Cate Harding, Communities, PCC  
Dania Castagliuolo, Governance Officer, PCC

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Dewar, Patricia Stuart-Mogg, Councillor Henry Clark, David Hedges and Martin Greaves.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 18 December 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2013 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**3. Medium-Term Financial Strategy Proposals from Cabinet**

Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources and Steven Pilsworth, Head of Strategic Finance delivered a presentation on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The following key points were highlighted:

Peterborough City Council remained committed to:

- Growth, regeneration and economic development of the city to bring new investment and jobs.
- Improved educational attainment and skills for children and young people including investing in the multi-university approach.
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

- Environment Capital agenda including pursuing new income streams from solar energy and wind farm developments.
- Supporting the Culture and Leisure Trust to continue to deliver Peterborough's culture, arts and sport in the city.
- Keeping communities safe and cohesive.

#### Settlement 2014/15 and 2015/16:

- 2014/15 – The grant from Central Government would be £9m less than the previous year, this was roughly £1m worse than expected when budget planning started.
- 2015/16 – The grant from Central Government would be £12.5m less than the previous year, this was roughly £11.5m worse than expected when budget planning started.
- This was an overall reduction of 40% (£44m) across five years.

#### Pressures:

- Looked after children (£1m).
- Government changes to provision for adults with learning disabilities in residential care (£945k).
- Homelessness B&B costs (£150k).
- Special School Transport (£164k)
- Government changes to funding of long term Social Care (£319k from 2015/16)
- Welfare reform – responding to loss of Disability Living Allowance in adult social care (£108k)

#### Capital Investment on Key Projects:

- Extra care provision.
- Disabled Facilities Grant.
- Repairs Assistance.
- Roads, including junction 17 of A1m to junction 2 of Fletton Parkway and Bourges Boulevard.
- Continuation of public realm, including Long Causeway.
- Affordable Housing - £12.8m over two years.
- Schools - £45m over two years for new places.
- Renewables – income built into future years budgets.

#### Scale of financial Challenge:

- Summary position for 2014/15 –
  - Grant reduction of £9m
  - Financial Pressures of £10m
  - Overall budget gap of nearly £19m
- Gap increases in 2015/16:
  - Grant reduction of £12.5m
  - Financial pressures of £4m
  - Budget gap increases by £16.5m

#### Efficiencies:

- Adult Social Care transformation and personalisation (£637k).
- Reduced costs of looked after children (£245k increasing to £1.2m).
- Public Health – Savings on drug treatment and benefits from joining services to use the grant more efficiently (£1.1m).
- Office accommodation and property (£673k).
- Serco partnership and business support (£775k).
- ICT projects and support (£620k).
- Vivacity (£330k).

#### Service reductions:

- Communities
  - Children's Centres (1.18m in a full year)
  - St Georges Hydrotherapy pool (£45k)
- Adult Social Care
  - Further savings from previously agreed policy changes 9£200k)
  - Review 'support cost estimate' (personal budgets) – (£125k)
  - Review respite policy (£150k)
  - Review older people day services 9£150k)
  - Service user transport (£175k)
  - Day opportunities for adults under 65 with learning disabilities 9£400k)
- Education
  - Special school transport (600k)
- Governance
  - Community Leadership Fund – reduce to £1k per Councillor (£183k)
- Resources
  - Sports club caretaker, grass cutting, shrub and flower bedding, play area inspection, Waste and Electronic Equipment Re-use (WEEE) facility (262k)
  - Introduce charge for garden waste collection (£804k)
  - Remove remaining discretionary funding from Parish Councils from 2015/16 (£100k)

#### Proposals for Parish Councils for 2015/16

- Remove remaining discretionary grant, including council tax support grant.
- Continue funding for Burial Grounds and recreation grounds.

#### Council Tax

- Peterborough had one of the lowest council tax levels in the country.
- The previously approved budget assumed 2% per annum increase (i.e. at the current referendum limit threshold).
- Proposals put forward were that council tax was frozen for 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- If council tax was increase then the freeze grant would be lost and the potential impact would be:
  - 2% increase costs taxpayers roughly £1.2m
  - Grant loss of around £0.7m
  - Net benefit of around £0.5m

#### Reserves, balances and risk:

- £6m working balance would be maintained.
- Capacity building reserve would be low
- A tight financial control would be even more important
- Key risks:
  - Business rate retention – impact if Government growth targets were not hit
  - Savings plans
  - Council tax benefit

#### The following questions and comments were raised and discussed:

- Vivacity had been able to make a number of savings. Since they had been separate from the Council they had been better able to obtain external funding.
- The new gym in Hampton was costly and too expensive for families to use it as a pay as you go gym.
- The expectation of the gym in Hampton for next year was to generate £37k income based on more people signing up to use the facility.
- The membership of the gym had increased to 2250 members. The leader of the Council was looking to take this model and use it on other facilities within the city.

- Would Parish Councils be offered the opportunity of filling gaps by maintaining their areas and paying the difference? Amey were keen to have discussions with Parish Councils regarding this.
- Concerns were raised regarding St Georges Hydrotherapy pool. PJ Care was not suitable for all disability needs whereas the Hydrotherapy pool was.
- Work was being carried out to try and raise £11k to keep the Hydrotherapy pool open for a further three months. A considerable amount had already been raised.
- The Hydrotherapy pool was not one of the Council's core functions therefore discussions would need to take place with the NHS.
- The garden waste collection would cost households £36.00 per year if registered before the end of May 2014 and £39.00 per year after.
- The Council would generate an income of £800k from the garden waste collection.
- Brown bins belonged to properties therefore they would not be removed if households opted out of the scheme. There would be a sticker on the bins of those who had paid for the collection. The collection would change to a 12 month service.
- The compost site at Dogsthorpe would remain in service.
- Two households could share a brown bin collection if desired.
- The garden waste service was a discretionary service that the Council offered therefore was not part of a core service.
- Concerns were raised regarding day services as there was only one day centre in Peterborough which was a mixed disability centre.
- Parish Councils would only have received the additional grant for Council Tax last year as this was discretionary. There were a number of Councils who were moving in the direction of removing the grant from Parish Councils.
- The latest forecast for the energy parks was presented to the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities on 16 December 2013. Recommendations were made at this meeting which Cabinet were now considering. It was expected that in five years the energy parks would make an income of £5m per year. An update would be presented to Cabinet on 24 February.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Seaton and Steven Pilsworth for attending the meeting.

Councillor Paul Froggitt, Orton Waterville Parish Council addressed the group and invited other Parish Councils to talk to him regarding encouraging people to become Parish Councillors.

## **ACTIONS**

- Councillor Seaton to liaise with Councillor Fitzgerald regarding the day centre for disabled people.
- Steven Pilsworth to circulate a summary to the Parish Council Liaison regarding reductions to Parish Councils.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

26 March 2014

CHAIRMAN  
6:30 – 7.40pm

## Voluntary Sector through Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service

### Comments raised during the budget consultation event held for the voluntary sector on 12 February 2014

Comment	Response
The looked after children saving proposal starts at £245k and increases to £1.2m – could this be explained	Referred to relevant page in consultation document outlining that this is a stepped saving that will be fully realised from 2017/18 in line with the saving proposal narrative
You mentioned Children Centres saving proposal within the presentation. Has there been any work undertaken to understand any correlation between those persons / families that use the service and the numbers of looked after children?	The officer involved and Cllr Scott will certainly have considered issues associated with social care including any feedback from the recent Children Centre consultation. This comment will be referred to the relevant officer for any further comment.
<p>'Delivering things differently' was referred to on several occasions. However there is no budget specified for doing that within the consultation document. How will the voluntary sector be involved in those discussions and identifying how the investment in 'doing things differently' could best be made?</p> <p>For example, where there are cuts in older people day services and respite care, Tackling Poverty, support for vulnerable groups etc.</p>	<p>There is a role for the voluntary sector and would be co-ordinated via Adrian Chapman. The proposals put forward for 2014/15 would be consulted upon where necessary but also the savings put forward would have also been considered for any investment requirement.</p> <p>For older people day services a review would be undertaken and dependent on the outcome of the review, next steps would be considered including consultation and involvement with interested parties. This is the process the council has followed for other areas.</p> <p>The council is continuing on delivering transformation and made reference to the budget consultation document transformation section that outlines that the voluntary sector would be involved.</p> <p>Transformation wherever possible would be done on an invest to save budget and any investment required for future savings in 2015/16 would need to be factored into the budget and saving proposals put forward.</p>
Children Centres – Closure of Werrington and expectation that users would go to Paston. There is no appropriate public transport link making accessibility difficult. There is potential interest from the voluntary sector at maybe running one in Werrington from a suitable premises or existing community centre. How could the voluntary sector be involved in discussing this proposal?	This is a specific issue that will be forward onto the relevant officers with regards to Children Centres and Community centre assets.



Comment	Response
Homeless Bed and Breakfast – confirmation of pressure and whether there is a preventative piece of work being undertaken to bring down costs. The voluntary sector can help	The £150k referred to in the budget is the additional cost that the council currently has on its existing budget for homelessness. This comment will be passed to relevant officer to confirm preventative work and how the voluntary sector could be involved
RSL's i.e (Crosskeys) and Council Officers provide housing support to vulnerable people / families, however, it maybe these people / families may not want to discuss difficult issues regarding debt etc with council officers but may be prepared to share information and have assistance from the voluntary sector -which may also be at less cost. The new Community Wellbeing Partnership made up of 17 voluntary organisations from across the VCS could work with PCC to identify ways of achieving this and other outcomes required. The Partnership would work with the wider sector including the smaller groups across the City who can deliver at a very local level targeting areas and themes. Could the new VCS partnership put forward an invest to save bid (as identified in the consultation paper) around citywide VCS supporting vulnerable groups and families and reducing longer term costs?	This comment will be referred to relevant officer to ensure the council is aware of this suggestion and how it could be taken forward appropriately
Equalities is referenced on page 134, paragraph 2.3.11 – What / Who is the One Community Project?	This reference is included in the Asset Management Plan. This will be referred to an appropriate answer for investigation.
Funding for the voluntary sector in 2014/15 – When will we be informed and will there be any engagement with the sector? Would it be possible to include the VCS in discussions around what is required to be delivered and obtain proposals from the VCS on how this might be achieved? Could this be done through the Community Wellbeing Partnership?	The grant used to fund the voluntary sector has reduced slightly from 2013/14 to 2014/15 and work is in progress by the council to determine how this grant will be allocated. The focus for VCS funding in 2014/15 will continue to be on tackling poverty and the impacts of welfare reform, but with an additional focus on skills and employability.  The council is committed to ensuring that the service undertaken in 2014/15 continues into 2015/16 following the loss of the Local Welfare Provision Grant and is currently preparing options for inclusion in a business case for future service delivery.

Comment	Response
What about 2015/16?	
<p>Could the Council ensure that PCVS are able to circulate information relating to the voluntary sector as they are not always included in council consultations as stakeholders but may provide a service that impacts all ages / residents so is interested in a process that would ensure that the voluntary sector are aware of all budget consultations.</p>	<p>Noted. There is a page on the council website that shows all current and past consultations.</p> <p>The PCVS or similar delivery vehicle could facilitate informing voluntary organisations if a process can be agreed by the council. This comment will be fed back to the council's corporate management team for consideration.</p>

## Twitter Feed via the Peterborough Telegraph

### 1. Why not stop the Energy Park?

If we do, we will eventually have to make many millions of pounds of further cuts to important services. I do not want that and I believe a majority of residents would agree.

We will have seen a 40 per cent reduction in our funding from government over five years amounting to £44 million. We have made significant changes to the organisation over recent years but with such a huge budget challenge it means we can no longer just make efficiencies. We need to do things differently if we are to continue to be able to fund services for our residents in the future and ensure the city's future prosperity.

The budget consultation document highlights the potential income that would be generated from our renewable energy projects and the predicted profit from all schemes. It also outlines the impact on future budget deficits should they not go ahead.

There are many benefits to these schemes. The energy generated could be sold to provide an important source of income to fund future services at a time when government funding is scarce and councils are facing year-on-year cuts. Generating our own energy would also help us safeguard our budgets against future rising and uncertain energy costs.

The projected income from these projects has already been factored in to our budget position for future years. If they did not go ahead this would have a dramatic impact on our funding gap. Full details of progress and latest financial forecasts were reported to the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities on 16 December 2013. More details can be found at the link below:

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=405&MId=3273&Ver=4>

### 2. Who will collect the brown bin?

If the proposed charge is introduced, brown bins would still be emptied by Amey (formerly Enterprise Peterborough). We are not proposing to take brown bins away from households that don't sign up for the service. Wheelie bins are provided for the use of the property, rather than to individual residents.

If a resident moves house, it is important that the wheelie bins, including the brown bin for garden waste, remain at the property.

We would therefore ask residents to retain their brown bins, even if they decide that they do not wish to use the paid-for service after 27 May 2014.

In addition, this gives residents the option to change their minds, should they wish to sign up for the service later in the year without having to pay for a new bin.

If the new paid-for service is introduced we will write to all residents to explain more about the new service.

### 3. Why would anyone pay for the brown bin when they can put it in the black bin?

Black bins are provided essentially for waste that cannot be recycled or reused – waste that has to go to landfill, which is expensive to dispose of. We would discourage residents from putting garden waste in their black bin. Instead, residents should take their garden waste to the household recycling centre or make arrangements to compost at home, which the council is supporting by providing the opportunity to purchase a subsidised home composter.

**4. How can you boast that council tax hasn't gone up when we are basically being charged twice for bin collection?**

Freezing council tax is a real, cash benefit for everyone – and council tax doesn't just pay for emptying bins. Council tax has been frozen in Peterborough for four out of five years and we have one of the lowest rates of council tax in the country.

Residents would not be charged twice for their bin collections. The collection of garden waste is, and always has been, a discretionary service. The council is proposing that in the future only those households that use the service will pay for it.

We would rather not charge for this service but unfortunately a 40 per cent cut in our government funding means we cannot continue providing everything we currently do. In 2014/15 alone we face a £19 million gap in our budget that we have to close and covering the cost of this discretionary service would save £800,000 per year that can help protect more important front-line services such as caring for the elderly and vulnerable and looking after children in need.

**5. Where do you think the garden rubbish will go when the brown bins are withdrawn? Won't it either be flytipped or put in black bins which will cost the council more in clearing up flytipping or in landfill tax?**

More than 100 councils already charge to collect their residents' garden waste and our research with those councils shows that those areas have not seen a significant increase in either flytipping or the amount of waste going to landfill. Indeed flytipping is a criminal offence carrying fines of up to £50,000 or even a prison sentence.

If the charge is introduced and residents do not wish to use the new service then they will still be able to take their garden waste to the Household Recycling Centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe. We would also encourage the use of home composters if they have the space to do so.

We remain committed to encouraging recycling which is why the council has submitted plans to build an improved Household Recycling Centre in Fengate next to the site of the soon-to-be-built Energy from Waste plant which will enable people to recycle a wider variety of materials.

Of course, we accept this would be a new arrangement in Peterborough and, as such, if the charge is introduced, we will monitor the situation closely.

**6. Why are you proposing to close the hydrotherapy pool?**

We appreciate that users of the pool will not want it to close and value the service. It is unusual for a council to be running this type of facility and we are faced with making some very difficult decisions as we try to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost 40 per cent of our government grant.

We have tried to make it self-funding for some time, but so far this has proved unsuccessful. However, a group of councillors and officers is currently looking for other options and are seeking temporary funding to keep it open until all those possible options have been explored.

The other problem is the age of certain items like the boilers and the general state of the building. Extensive repairs, that could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds, would be needed to give the pool any long-term future.

**7. Why are budgets not published on-line giving a full breakdown of what items each budget holder is planning to spend on?**

The Council is a large and complex organisation with a budget of £630m each year so to publish the level of detail suggested would be a huge and costly task that would list many thousands of individual items. I cannot think of any organisation in the world that does this.

However I do believe in transparency so our budget consultation document and full Medium Term Financial Strategy contains a significant amount of financial information, including an overview of the budget, as well as departmental budgets. We have supplemented this by publishing a breakdown of our

budget by service, and the impact that our proposed changes have on each budget. This can be found at the link below:

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=485&MId=3276>

We also each month publish details of everything we spend over a value of £500. In addition we publish all salaries over £50k and all consultant costs. We do appreciate that the budget can appear complex and always welcome comments as to how we could improve the way we present the financial information.

**8. What is the total budget cost of employing full time union representatives on the council payroll, and their associated costs (assuming this is still happening)**

The Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992 gives trade unions and their members the legal right to take time off with full pay to undertake trade union activities. All organisations that recognise trade unions will bear similar costs.

The council has decided to discharge its responsibilities under this act in the most efficient and effective way by seconding two full-time employees into full-time trade union roles rather than having a larger number of trade union representatives. These two officers deal with issues on an individual level attending disciplinary hearings and grievances as well as getting involved in collective consultations. We believe this is far less disruptive to services because it means union representatives are not taking ad-hoc time off from their full-time roles to carry out trade union duties, reducing the need to bring in temporary staff or pay overtime. It also means that our trade union representatives are becoming more experienced in their roles enabling employment matters to be resolved at an early stage. The cost of employing two full time employees to act as permanent trade union representatives costs the council no more than if a number of trade union representatives performed the role on an ad-hoc basis.

The total cost of this is £77,000 a year.

**9. Could the council be more energy efficient to save costs? I have heard councillors complain about heaters being on and windows open in the summer, and I often see lights on when I walk past the town hall at night, when there are no meetings on?**

We are committed to reducing our energy usage and as such are working with the global energy company Honeywell to review all of our buildings and to find investment that will reduce the amount of energy we use in the long term.

Some of our buildings are already fitted with automatic lights that are only on when people are in the room and any computers that may have been left on are automatically shut down each evening to save energy costs.

**10. I would like to know how the council plan to police the Brown Bin charge to ensure that we do not get fly tipping and ensure residents who have not paid the charge are not using other people's bin**

More than 100 other councils have already introduced charges for garden waste collections and their experiences have shown that they have not seen a noticeable increase in fly-tipping or waste going to landfill.

Amey, which collects waste on behalf of the council, has technology in its collection vehicles that will enable them to identify those properties that have paid for the service and those that have not. In addition, we are looking at whether bin stickers would help ensure the fair operation of the scheme.

If you decide not to pay for the new service, then your brown bin will not be emptied.

Should a charge be introduced, we will be recommending that residents that do choose to pay for collections remain vigilant for other people attempting to use their bins in this way. We would, however, be open to residents sharing brown bins, as long as they have been paid for and are left outside the correct property to be emptied.

**11. Why are detailed costings for projects that seem massively overpriced not released? Eg bridge st, long causeway etc**

I am not sure why the person asking the question believes any of our projects are massively overpriced. Indeed, I think for what has been achieved we have received good value and the results speak for themselves. Since starting our regeneration of the city centre, we now have one of the lowest shop vacancy rates in the country (nine per cent compared to a national average of 14 per cent). We always seek to ensure we get the best possible price for any work we do through our tendering process and we compare costs with similar schemes where appropriate to ensure we are achieving value for money. Details of tendering and overall costs are released as part of the decision making process but often more detailed costings are commercially sensitive. Costs on all projects are closely monitored and contingencies on projects are kept to a minimum.

You may be interested to know that since we took responsibility for new schools (following the end of the Building Schools for the Future programme run by central government) we have brought costs down significantly.

**12. The budget is tight again, so why is there never any personal sacrifice by the top earning staff?**

Other than no pay increases over the past five years, the senior management restructure at the end of last year and subsequent voluntary redundancies led to six senior managers' posts being deleted. This restructure has saved the council £687,553 in the past year.

At Employment Committee on 4 February, the cross-party group of councillors agreed to set a new pay scale for directors and senior managers following an independent review of senior officer salaries across other local authorities and the not-for-profit sector. The new pay-scale that has been set is mid-range which we feel will enable us to attract the right people to lead the organisation.

**13. Children's centres' closures should be a last resort. Can we sell the Posh ground as it's a non-essential?**

We receive rental income from the football club for the ground. If we sold the ground we would lose the rental income, so there would be no financial benefit to the council of doing so.

The council's ownership of the ground has also brought a number of benefits to the city. It has helped secure the future of football in the city, with the significant economic benefit this brings. It has helped support the development of the Vista site, with over 200 low carbon homes on a site that otherwise would struggle to have progressed. Finally we are proceeding with the vision of delivering a community stadium for the city, with the development of the Moy's End stand currently underway. This development will include a new skills centre which will deliver courses, training and support to businesses. We have used a government grant to help contribute towards the costs of this redevelopment.

I appreciate there has been concern about the childrens centres but we think the new approach will still deliver good services and more efficiently.

**14. Why can't we get a larger GREEN bin as we get more recycle than Land fill!**

Large families, with more than five people permanently living at the property, can request a second green bin. The wheelie bins provided need to be compatible with the trucks that collect them. That said, we believe that the current size is well-suited for the needs of the vast majority of households.

**15. How much are Directors and Council Leaders on - can they take a payout?**

Directors' and senior managers' salaries are published on our website and are updated on a regular basis. [http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/salaries\\_and\\_expenses.aspx](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/salaries_and_expenses.aspx)

The senior management restructure at the end of last year and subsequent voluntary redundancies led to six senior management posts being deleted. This restructure has saved the council £687,553 in the past year.

The Council Leader and Cabinet Members do not receive salaries although the roles are often more than full time. All councillors receive a basic allowance for being a councillor and those that hold other special responsibilities such as Cabinet Members and the chairmen and chairwomen of committees receive an additional allowance to reflect their added responsibilities.

A full list of these allowances are available at

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s16837/Members%20Allowances%202012-13.pdf>

At a meeting of Council in December, councillors rejected a recommendation by an independent panel to increase their allowances. It means councillors' allowances have been frozen for the past five years.

**16. The chief executive is paid a huge amount of money - could we not offer that job to someone else who would be willing to do it for a lot less?**

I do not see a large queue of people wanting to take on such major roles, that are under constant public and media scrutiny, for "a lot less". And anyone taking on such a role must have the knowledge and skills required.

However as part of the senior management restructure, completed at the end of last year, an independent review was carried out of directors' salaries – including the Chief Executive.

Our directors' and Chief Executive's current salaries were benchmarked against other local authorities and not-for-profit organisations and the Chief Executive's current salary is mid-range for the market.

As Chief Executive, Gillian Beasley is the principal policy adviser to all 57 councillors and is the statutory head of paid service, responsible for the overall performance of the council ensuring proper financial management of the council's entire £630 million budget (revenue budget of £380 million and additional capital budget of £250million in 2013/14), that there is proper risk management of all of the council's activities and that there is proper governance and decision making for all the council's decisions.

She is also responsible for around 7,500 people the council employs throughout the organisation and in Peterborough schools and colleges.

She is required to devote her whole time to the council, and this routinely involves her working evenings and weekends as well as the standard Monday to Friday business week. She is also on-call at all other times, particularly as she leads the city's emergency planning 'Gold Command' in the event of a major emergency. No additional payments are made for these extended hours and she has not had a pay rise since April 2008.

Since she became Chief Executive in 2002 the council has won numerous awards as a leading local authority for driving efficiency and innovation and Gillian has advised the government on migration issues.

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