



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND  
COMMISSIONS  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER- TOWN HALL  
ON 9 FEBRUARY 2015**

**Present:** Councillors J Stokes (Chairman), R Brown, R Ferris, L Forbes, D Fower, J R Fox, J A Fox, D Harrington, A Iqbal, M Jamil, N Khan, Y Maqbool, E Murphy, G Nawaz, J Okonkowski, J Peach, B Rush, B Saltmarsh, N Shabbir, A Shaheed, J Shearman, N Thulbourn

**Also Present:** Councillor Sandford, Group Leader, Liberal Democrats  
Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement  
Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Street Scene, Waste Management and Communications  
Councillor Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care  
Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Childrens Services  
Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources  
Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services and Rural Communities  
Councillor Serluca, Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture & Tourism  
Councillor Casey, Cabinet Advisor for City Centre Management, Culture & Tourism  
Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Advisor for Health

**Officers Present:** Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive  
John Harrison, Executive Director of Resources  
Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Director of Communities  
Kim Sawyer, Director of Governance  
Simon Machen, Director of Growth and Regeneration  
Jonathan Lewis, Assistant Director for Education, Resources and Corporate Property  
Steven Pilsworth, Head of Strategic Finance  
Vicki Palazon, Financial Services Manager – Planning and Reporting  
Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Scrutiny  
Dania Castagliuolo, Democratic Services Officer

**1. Election of Chairman**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer welcomed all attendees to the meeting and advised Members that a chairman needed to be appointed as Councillor Arculus had given his apologies. In accordance with the constitution Part 4, Section 8, Paragraph 17,

where the Joint Scrutiny Committees and Commissions have a meeting, the Chairman needed to be appointed from the other Scrutiny Chairs present at the meeting. Members were advised that Councillor Day had given her apologies, Councillor Rush had informed the Senior Democratic Services Officer that he was unable to stay for the duration of the meeting and Councillor Khan had previously advised that he did not wish to Chair the meeting. Councillor Stokes was therefore nominated as Chairman for the meeting by default. The Senior Democratic Services Officer invited Councillor Stokes to chair the meeting.

The Chair welcomed everyone present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for all Members of each Scrutiny Committee and Commission to scrutinise Phase 2 of the 2015/16 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2024/25. The meeting was an opportunity for Members of each Scrutiny Committee or Commission to come together to scrutinise the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan, as part of the formal consultation process before being presented to Cabinet on 23 February 2015 for approval and recommendation to full Council on 4 March 2015.

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Arculus, Day, Sanders, Allen, Fletcher and two Co-opted Members Stuart Francis and Alistair Kingsley. Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Holdich, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Jana Burton, Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Sue Westcott, Executive Director of Childrens Services.

## **3. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations**

No declarations of interest or whipping declarations were received.

## **4. Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2024/25**

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the report and gave a brief overview of the Phase 2 Budget proposals and an update on Phase 1 issues remaining. The following key points were highlighted:

- The scale of the financial challenge.
- The commitments for the city had been added to in order 'to achieve the best health and wellbeing for the city'. This was a recommendation from Audit Committee to the Cabinet, which had not yet been agreed.
- There would be a balanced budget for 2015/16 but in 2016/17 there would be the challenge of at least £10m of savings to find.
- Council Tax proposed freeze for 2015/16.
- A summary of the budget position.
- Update on remaining Phase 1 issues which included:
  - A revised set of proposals for grass cutting and shrubs
  - Bowls greens to continue to be maintained while exploring options for greater community involvement in bowls greens and tennis courts

- £36k saving from bowls and tennis courts to be covered by risk contingency to 2015/16
- Working with the Disability Forum to see if we can provide more disabled parking spaces
- Investigating options for providing free companion bus passes with a task and finish group
- Potential investment in public transport to be explored by Director of Growth and Regeneration with members, but would have to be funded by reducing other budgets
- Meals and Wheels price to be unchanged from 1 April following the change to a new provider (Icare)

Each section of the budget was then taken in order according to how it was presented in the Budget Book. Each section was introduced by the relevant Cabinet Member before taking questions from the Committee. Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
4 & 5	Introduction of the Budget and Overall Budget Strategy & Phase 1 Issues Remaining.	Members commented that the Budget did not seem to be balanced as funds were being used from risk contingency.	The updated shrub proposal delivered savings. It was the bowls clubs proposal that used the risk contingency, and this was within acceptable levels within the overall budget proposals
		Members were concerned that the fees charged to Football Clubs in Peterborough were too high and that maintenance services had also been stopped. This could lead to matches being cancelled and fewer sporting events taking place.	Football Clubs were no longer receiving the service of a caretaker on match day, although, they were receiving support from the Council.
		Members requested that the Cabinet Member for Street Scene, Waste Management and Communications checked that the Football Clubs were receiving the right level of support.	There was no need to check as this information was already known. The Council had been working with the Football Association and clubs for over 12 months and they were fully aware of the support they had been receiving and of the future programme.
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
6.	Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing <b>Appendix 2</b> and related Capital Programme <b>(Pages 14 – 18)</b>	There were no questions or comments raised on this section.	
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
7.	Chief Executive's <b>Appendix 3</b> and related Capital Programme <b>(Page 19)</b>	There were no questions or comments raised on this section.	
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
8.	Communities <b>Appendix 4</b> and Capital Related Programme <b>(Pages 20 - 23)</b>	There were no questions or comments raised on this section.	
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
9.	Governance <b>Appendix 5</b> and related Capital Programme <b>(Pages 24 – 26)</b>	There were no questions or comments raised on this section.	
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
10.	Growth and Regeneration <b>Appendix 6</b> and related Capital Programme <b>(Pages 27 – 28)</b>	There were no questions or comments raised on this section.	
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
11.	Resources including Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships <b>Appendix 7</b> and related Capital Programme <b>(Pages 29 – 38)</b>	There were no questions or comments raised on this section.	
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
12.	Funding Implications <b>Appendix 8 (Page 39)</b>	There were no questions or comments raised on this section.	
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
13.	Staff Implications <b>Appendix 9 (Pages 40 – 41)</b>	The Cabinet Member for Resources Commented that the Council would make a commitment to move to the Living Wage Scheme and referred to Appendix 9, page 41 of the Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy which reflected this.	
		Members queried whether staff in schools were included in the Living Wage Scheme.	The schools Forum had reached the agreement that maintained schools would implement the plan to raise wage levels up to the level of the Living Wage. Discussion was ongoing regarding voluntary aided and Academy schools joining in the scheme. The Council were fully supportive of these arrangements across schools.
		Members asked what date the implementation of the Living Wage Scheme would take place.	The implementation date would be 1 April 2015.
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			
14.	Treasury Management Strategy 2015/2016 – 2024/2025 ( <b>Pages 74 – 98</b> ) Capital Strategy 2015 – 2025 ( <b>Pages 99 – 128</b> )  Asset Management Plan 2014 – 2019 ( <b>Pages 129 – 169</b> )	The Cabinet Member for Resources advised the Committee that this was a standard item presented yearly, which had been updated for current circumstances.	
The Committee noted this section of the budget.			

Item	Section of the Budget	Questions / Comment	Response
15.	<b>General Comments, any overall recommendations and conclusion.</b>		
	There were no further comments or questions.		

The Chair thanked all members of the Scrutiny Committee and Commissions for attending the meeting and the Cabinet Members and Directors for attending and responding to the questions.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting began at 6.00pm and ended at 6.40pm

This page is intentionally left blank