

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD
4 MARCH 2015**

The Mayor – Councillor David Over

Present:

Councillors Allen, Ash, Brown, Casey, Cereste, Davidson, Elsey, Ferris, Fitzgerald, Fletcher, Forbes, Fower, F Fox, JR Fox, JA Fox, Harrington, Harper, Herdman, Hiller, Holdich, Iqbal, Jamil, Johnson, Khan, Knowles, Lamb, Lane, Lee, Maqbool, Miners, Murphy, Nadeem, Nawaz, North, Okonkowski, Over, Peach, Rush, Sanders, Saltmarsh, Sandford, Scott, Serluca, Shaheed, Sharp, Shearman, Swift, Thacker, Thulbourn and Walsh.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Arculus, Day, Stokes, Seaton, Shabbir, Martin and Sylvester.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor advised that in November 2012, the Audit Committee had granted a general dispensation for all Members, should they have any disclosable interest that enabled them to debate and vote on the budget item.

In relation to the motion that he had put forward in item 12, Motions on Notice, Councillor John Fox declared that he was the coordinator at Shopmobility.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2015:

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 January 2015 were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the following amendment:

Page 2, first line, to change 'mark' to 'mask'.

COMMUNICATIONS

4. Mayor's Announcements

Members noted the report outlining the Mayor's engagements for the period commencing 26 January 2015 to 1 March 2015.

5. Leader's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Leader.

6. Chief Executive's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

7. Questions with Notice by Members of the Public

There was one question submitted by a member of the public, this was in relation to:

1. A scheme of selective licensing.

The question and response are attached at **APPENDIX A** to these minutes.

8. Petitions

(a) Presented by members of the public

There were no petitions from members of the public.

(b) Presented by Members

There were no petitions from Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

9. Executive and Committee Recommendations to Council

(a) Cabinet Recommendation – Culture Strategy

Cabinet at its meeting of 23 February 2015, received a report from the Cabinet Member for City Centre Management and Tourism which advised that Culture and Leisure Services were long established priorities of the Council and that the Council had published a Culture Strategy five years ago in order to deliver its priorities up to 2014.

Recognising the need to take a fresh look at its approach and priorities to develop a new culture strategy, the Council had developed a refreshed strategy as set out in the document 'Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015-2020'.

The purpose of the report was for Cabinet to approve the strategy and to recommend its adoption to Council.

Councillor Casey introduced the report and moved the recommendations contained within. He further highlighted the developmental journey of the Strategy and its vision for the city and the importance of culture as a whole.

Councillor Serluca seconded the recommendations and reserved her right to speak.

Members debated the recommendations and in summary raised points including:

- The city centre did not have much to offer apart from shops and many units were currently empty. More needed to be done to attract people into the city centre;
- Activities for those living in the rural areas also needed to be considered, not just for those with access to the city centre;
- There were many other open spaces, not just in the city centre, which could be utilised for events. Not all people enjoyed coming into the centre;
- Culture played a major part in the communities, however the Council could be criticised for focussing on culture when there were significant cuts being faced across other services;
- The Strategy was somewhat disappointing in regards to its lack of long term ambition and it failed to recognise the need to invest in order to attract further investment;
- There were no references as to how the problems with transport were going to be overcome;

- There were a number of omissions on the consultee list;
- In the city, 0.1p per head of population had been secured from lottery funding;
- The Strategy did not acknowledge the role of Vivacity in securing funding;
- The Strategy was low on aspiration, particularly in the field of the arts;
- Congratulations were given to Councillor Casey and his involvement at many events. Councillors should attend as many cultural events as they could;
- Excellence should be strived for and the city should be renowned for the quality of its cultural services, in so doing, that would increase participation;
- It was disingenuous to say that the document was not aspirational, the Council was doing its best to protect culture leisure and tourism, however this was difficult to prioritise against other budget pressures; and
- Officers had done a good job. It was up to partners like Vivacity to attract external funding.

Councillor Serluca did not wish to exercise her right to speak as seconder of the recommendations.

Councillor Casey summed up as mover of the recommendations and stated that the city needed to have big ambitions and it had a unique footprint that it could take advantage of going forward. Culture was a way of breaking down barriers.

A vote was taken (40 for, 9 against, 0 abstentions) and it was **RESOLVED**:

That Council adopts the Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015-2020.

(b) Cabinet Recommendation – Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25

Council agreed to waive the Standing Orders in relation to the length of speeches to allow unlimited time for speaking.

Cabinet, at its meeting of 23 February 2015, received a report as part of the Council's formal budget process set out within the Constitution and legislative requirements to set a balanced budget for 2015/16 and medium term financial strategy to 2024/25.

The purpose of the report was to recommend to Council budget proposals for 2015/16 through to 2024/25, in line with the final local government finance settlement for 2015/16 and in advance of some Department for Education specific grants being finalised. The draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was presented during the Cabinet meeting of 19 January and, subject to updated information contained within the report to 23 February 2015, was the basis for Cabinet to recommend the budget for approval by Council. Attached to the report were the relevant documents Cabinet referred to within the report.

The report also provided an update on budget consultation responses received so far, recognising that that the consultation remained open until 2 March and that some meetings with key stakeholder groups were still to take place.

The Mayor advised that there had been two alterations submitted in relation to the proposals, one in relation to virement limits and one in relation to transport. Members unanimously agreed for the recommendations to be moved with the alterations.

Councillor Hiller introduced the report, on behalf of Councillor Seaton, and moved the recommendations contained within. He thanked officers and everyone involved in the budget process and stated that there had been extensive consultation undertaken on one of the most difficult budget setting processes in the city's history. He further highlighted the four key changes to the original consultation these being; to keep all

of the libraries open and to extend opening hours, £70k being ringfenced from the risk management contingency in order to cover additional staff which may be required in some of the larger libraries and to assist with implementation; a further capital sum of 200k towards street cleansing and equipment in order to make services more efficient and to help keep the city clean; the reconvening of the cross party bus working group to examine possible improvements; and an increase in the budget transfer limits, or virements, so any transfers over £1m would require Full Council approval.

It was further highlighted that the aim of the Budget was to deliver a better Peterborough. The positive work undertaken in the city over recent years was outlined and included new investment, continued growth, development and improvements across a number of areas. Future work and investment was also detailed and it was advised that a council tax freeze was once again proposed, making Peterborough sixth lowest out of 56 unitary authorities with regards Council Tax. The budget proposals were recommended for approval.

Councillor Cereste seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

Members debated the recommendations and in summary raised points including:

- The health outcomes in Peterborough were a disgrace and the discrepancies between wards were vast;
- It was not feasible for Council officers to take on responsibility for healthy living along with their other duties;
- There had been greater public and cross party involvement in the form of the cross party budget working group;
- There had been difficult decisions to make and there had been more extensive consultation undertaken in the two phased budget;
- Could the budget be undertaken as a phased process throughout the year?
- There were concerns at the cuts proposed in Adult Social Care, however only time would tell what effect the cuts would have in the long term;
- The cuts in bus services had left some areas sparse, or without a service at all;
- The proposed cross party bus working group would meet to discuss issues and talks of improvements were welcomed;
- Major capital projects needed to be looked at in more detail from the outset;
- The ongoing roadworks, particularly those along Bourges Boulevard, would incur ongoing costs. Had all of the works been completely necessary?
- There were concerns around the lack of lighting across the city and the use of LED lighting, which was leaving large portions of the city in the dark;
- There were concerns around the proposed self-service arrangements at the libraries;
- The freeze in council tax was not beneficial to the Council in the long term, with funds having to be found from alternative places;
- The continued reductions in Adult Social Care would not be sustainable going forward;
- The bus service, as it currently stood, was unreliable as the cuts which had been made had gone too far. Cycle routes in the city needed upgrading also;
- The cuts were not of the Council's making in the main, it was the removal of budgets from central government;
- The budget would hit the vulnerable, the poorest and particularly the elderly in the city;
- There needed to be more cross working across the public sector, with the integration of services in order to save money;
- There had been no alternatives proposed as to how the issues raised, particularly those relating to adult social care, would be funded;

- Large amounts of money had been written off due to failed projects. Consequences of funding such projects should be looked at in more detail from the outset;
- The Council needed to use its resources more effectively in relation to safeguarding vulnerable children and adults. There were large sums being wasted by employing agency staff, resources needed to be better utilised;
- School standards needed to improve in relation to other local authorities;
- Many services had been lost in the city, with numbers of cuts. What were the city's MPs doing to stand up for the city at a national level?
- It was not possible for the Council to have forethought as to the cuts that would come from Government;
- All Members would need to work together going forward in order to address the increasing budget issues faced by the Council;
- Innovative ways were being explored in order to reduce the number of agency social workers. There had also been successes around fostering and adoption;
- The transparency of the budget working group was welcomed and Council officers were to be congratulated on their innovative working;
- One in four households in the city were living on benefits and those people in work were also having a tough time, with low wages;
- There was no inspiration for people or businesses to come to the city; and
- The improvements in school provision and education across the city were to be commended.

Councillor Cereste exercised his right to speak and advised of the work being undertaken in the city to address such issues as safeguarding and health inequalities. He further advised of the substantial cuts in funding that the city had seen and the good work that was still being undertaken, along with the work that was to be undertaken going forward, in light of these cuts.

Councillor Hiller summed up as mover of the recommendations and congratulated Councillor Seaton, in his absence, for the work he had undertaken on the budget.

A recorded vote was taken:

Councillors For: Allen, Brown, Casey, Cereste, Elsey, Fitzgerald, JR Fox, JA Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Iqbal, Lamb, Lane, Lee, Maqbool, Nadeem, Nawaz, North, Okonkowski, Over, Peach, Rush, Sanders, Scott, Serluca, Sharp, Swift, Thacker and Walsh.

Councillors Against: Ferris, Forbes, Jamil, Johnson, Khan, Knowles, Miners, Murphy, Sherman and Thulbourn.

Councillors Abstaining: Ash, Davidson, Fletcher, Fower, F Fox, Harrington, Herdman, Saltmarsh, Sandford and Shaheed.

Following the vote (30 for, 10 against, 10 abstentions) it was **RESOLVED:**

That Council:

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 Council meeting.

2. Approve:

- a) The budget is set in the context of council priorities and has been undertaken following a two phase approach to consider budget proposals to set a balanced budget for 2015/16;
- b) The budget for 2015/16 takes note of the budget monitoring position for 2014/15;
- c) The revenue budget for 2015/16 and proposed cash limits for 2016/17 to 2024/25 (including investment and savings proposals);
- d) The capital programme for 2015/16 and proposed cash limits to 2024/25 and associated capital strategy, treasury management strategy and asset management plan;
- e) A council tax freeze in 2015/16 with indicative increases for planning purposes of 2% for 2016/17 to 2024/25;
- f) That education funding is spent at the level of funding resources available to both schools and the council in 2015/16 and future estimates to 2024/25;
- g) The budget is supported adequately with reserves, provisions and robust budget estimates set in the context of the risks outlined in the report;
- h) The proposals for setting fees and charges for 2015/16.
- i) The updated Virement limits for 2015/16.

3. Approve the Council Tax setting resolution as set out in the report.

4. Approve the reconvening of a cross party bus working group to examine possible options for limited improvement of bus services.

10. Questions on the Executive Decisions made since the last meeting

Councillor Cereste introduced the report which detailed executive decisions taken since the last meeting, including:

1. Decisions from the Cabinet meeting held on 2 February 2015;
2. Decisions from the Cabinet meeting held on 23 February 2015;
3. Use of the Council's Call-In mechanism, which had been invoked twice since the previous meeting, this being in respect of the decision taken by Cabinet on 19 January 2015 relating to 'Strategic Partnership between Peterborough City Council and AVIC International Corporation (UK) Ltd – JAN15/CAB/07' and the decision taken by Cabinet on 2 February 2015 relating to 'A1139 Fletton Parkway Junction 17 A1(M) to Junction 2 road widening scheme, contamination and drainage issues – JAN15/CAB/11';
4. Special Urgency and Waive of Call-In Provisions, which had not been invoked since the previous meeting; and
5. Cabinet Member Decisions taken during the period 26 January 2015 to 23 February 2015.

Questions were asked about the following:

A1139 Fletton Parkway Junction 17 A1(M) to Junction 2 Road Widening Scheme and Contamination Issues

Councillor Murphy queried whether the Cabinet Member felt it regrettable that the over spend on the project was £4.5m, and that this had not been brought to the attention of Council at an earlier stage. *Councillor Hiller responded that he did not feel it was regrettable, the issue had been subject to a lengthy examination through Cabinet and the decision subsequently called-in. The call-in had not been upheld and all explanations had been supported by legal advice.*

Future of Wind and Solar Projects

Councillor Sandford requested clarification as to what information was being sought in relation to the project at America Farm and whether it was likely that the project would be taken forward. *Councillor Cereste advised that firstly new Government policy was awaited following the election and secondly the cost of connecting to the grid at America farm was considerably less than the other two sites, and therefore remained feasible.*

Councillor Murphy queried whether the Cabinet Member regretted not taking the decision earlier and not taking account of the recommendation of the working party and the decision of Full Council to cease the project. The waste of £3m could have paid for an additional bus for the next 30 years. *Councillor Fitzgerald advised that although the projects were not unanimously popular, the motives were to support the Council's budget. The decision to cease had been on the current projects and for further exploration to be undertaken on America Farm.*

Councillor Thulbourn requested clarification as to why the motion put forward in December to cease all further work on solar farms had appeared to have been ignored. *Councillor Fitzgerald advised that America Farm had been brought forward as a separate project and was an investigation into feasibility only.*

Councillor Sandford queried as to why the wind projects had not been taken forward, as these projects were not affected by the issue of the cut in feed in tariffs to large scale solar projects. *Councillor Fitzgerald advised that the issues were not solely in relation to the feed in tariffs, there were a number of factors involved.*

Outcome of Petitions – Petition Relating to Fulbridge Road Allotments

Councillor Davidson queried whether as there were no current S106 and POIS funds available and it wasn't acknowledged that the maintenance and repair of the site was the responsibility of Peterborough City Council (Amey), could it be confirmed that Peterborough City Council would authorise these costs from within its core budget? And if this is not possible due to the budget pressures, would Peterborough City Council's support a 50% contribution to support a community attempts to secure sponsorship and have the work commissioned externally by the Allotment Association to reduce the cost? *Councillor Cereste stated that he would respond to the question in writing.*

COUNCIL BUSINESS

11. Questions on Notice

(a) To the Mayor

(b) To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet

(c) To the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee

Questions (b) to the Leader or Member of the Cabinet were raised and taken as read in respect of the following:

1. Norwood playing field and its community use;
2. The future of a number of events held in the city;
3. The level of maintenance for sports pitches and charges;
4. A tree canopy survey;
5. Parking on pavements and whether this was a police enforceable matter;
6. Flytipping in Newborough; and
7. Air quality and the lack of safe cycle provision on Thorpe Road and Crescent Bridge?

Owing to the time limit being reached for this item, questions on the following were to

be responded to in writing:

8. Road resurfacing in Baron Court, Werrington;
9. Applications received at the passport office;
10. The Mayor's car;
11. Speeding issues along Fulbridge Road;
12. Street lighting in Werrington; and
13. Traffic congestion in Hampton.

A summary of all questions and answers raised within agenda item 11 are attached at **APPENDIX B** to these minutes.

12. Motions on Notice

1. Motion from Councillor John Fox

1. *That this Council notes with concern that the Department for Transport has revealed that over the last year 164 accidents involving mobility scooters were recorded, of which:*
 - *five drivers were killed and a further 17 suffered serious injuries;*
 - *another 102 people suffered slight injuries, official figures have revealed; and*
 - *nine more people who were not the driver were seriously injured.*
2. *That the Leader be requested to write to the City's MPs asking them to contact Richard Goodwill, the Transport Minister, to express concern at the danger posed by the growing number of mobility scooters and to support the call by Alison Seabeck, MP for Plymouth Moor View, for the introduction of compulsory training; and*
3. *That the Cabinet look into the feasibility of working with disability groups within the City to implement mobility scooter training in Peterborough on a voluntary basis until it becomes law.*

In moving his motion, Councillor John Fox advised that there had been a significant increase in the number of mobility scooter users in the city and with the number of injuries and even deaths reported, this was an opportune time to support the call for compulsory training. In the meantime, other voluntary training avenues could be explored alongside disability groups in the city.

Councillor Lane seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Members debated the motion and in summary raised points including:

- The motion could be seen to be demonising mobility scooter users and it was the wrong message to send out;
- Those riding the scooters were not always attributable for the accidents which occurred, the real issue were cars parking on footpaths;
- Who would pay for the training provision?
- The state of the pavements across the city should be addressed;
- The thought of having to undergo a training course may play on the mind of those individuals wishing to utilise a scooter;
- Many scooters were used on the public highway and training needed to be given to ensure that users were aware of where they could and couldn't use their scooters;

- Many scooter users were partially sighted and even deaf. The shops selling the scooters should be responsible for providing training;
- The proposal should not be for compulsory training, but rather for individuals to undergo voluntary training;
- Individuals were living longer and the use of such vehicles would only increase, therefore training was important and should be looked into until it became law;
- The investment of money into compulsory training schemes by the Department of Transport should not be a priority and an area for focus;
- If training made the use of scooters safer, it could only be a positive thing;
- There was a duty of care to the public and there should be a duty of care to scooter users also; and
- Individuals should be assessed on their own merits as to whether they were capable of operating a scooter.

Councillor Lane exercised his right to speak and advised that training would be about raising the awareness of scooter users and the use of their vehicle. It was hoped that compulsory training would be implemented going forward. Disability groups should be worked with to introduce voluntary training at the current time.

Councillor Fox summed up as mover of the motion and advised that there were a number of different scooters available, with some reaching speeds of 8mph. Individuals using the scooters should be familiarised with them in order to safeguard both users and pedestrians alike. Many other authorities were undertaking such training schemes and they had been a success.

A vote was taken (33 for, 12 against, 0 abstentions) and the motion was **CARRIED**.

2. Motion from Councillor Richard Ferris

That in the interests of transparent and open decision-making, and in order to restore public confidence, this Council agrees to set up a Task & Finish Group to develop an ethical investment and procurement policy, and report back before the end of October 2015.

In moving his motion Councillor Ferris advised that the local authority should set an example to its communities and potential investors. The way in which the Council made investment and procurement decisions should be clear and based on a set of principles. The authority should be in compliance of UK and underpinning EU legislation and should work proactively to ensure all goods and services procured, or in which the authority invested, were sourced ethically and met standards. The authority also had a right to expect the companies in which it invested to maintain high standards of integrity and to adhere to the laws of the country in which they operated.

Councillor Thulbourn seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

The Mayor advised that the 12.00pm guillotine had been reached and therefore all further votes would be moved to without debate.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Elsey.

A vote was taken (21 for, 19 against, 2 abstentions) and the amendment was **CARRIED**.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion (41 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions) and the substantive motion was **CARRIED** with the amendment as follows:

That in the interests of transparent and open decision-making, and in order to restore public confidence, this Council agrees to set up a Task & Finish Group to develop an ethical investment and procurement policy **through the Member Officer Working Group**, and report back before the end of October 2015.

3. Motion from Councillor Mohammed Nadeem

The following altered motion was moved by Councillor Nadeem.

1. *That this Council notes:*

(a) *That the National Database and Registration Authority of Pakistan (NADRA) is offering those of the Pakistani community living abroad ID Cards, which offer valuable benefits and incentives to the card holder. Eligibility includes not just Pakistani citizens living abroad but also the children of those who hold Pakistani nationality or dual nationality. It is a replacement for the overseas Pakistani/Dual Nationality Passport. The ID Cards were initially launched on 10th March 2000 in Islamabad Pakistan. The ID Card lasts over a 5 or 10 year period and grants the holder direct entry to Pakistan without the need to apply through the Visa system, which is a very long winded and expensive process, giving the cardholder peace of mind when travelling in emergency cases back to Pakistan. NADRA have overseas offices in UK, London and Birmingham Offices Cover the Peterborough Remit.*

(b) *That there are currently around 1500 citizens who are waiting to renew their card or apply for a new card but the Pakistan High Commission in London & Birmingham are short staffed and obtaining an appointment from them to renew/apply for a card is almost impossible. On many occasions residents have been to London and Birmingham and returned with only stress and heartache, as they have spent all day there, often from a 04:00 in the morning start, and have been turned away being told that no appointments are available. NADRA serve 100 appointments a day Mon - Fri and priority is given to Birmingham Citizens. However, Nadra did used to hold (Mobile Registration Team (MRT) surgeries in Peterborough, where their team would process about 250 applications on a full surgery, which was very helpful and benefited all residents especially the elderly and children. NADRA have suddenly stopped holding regular surgeries, which has caused many problems to the residents of Peterborough as not everyone can travel the distance to their main offices and the appointments being offered are too far ahead. Peterborough residents wishing to use this service include those who are elderly, disabled, have mental health issues or are single mothers that require priority and this is causing a huge problem and strain for those of our community that need this service.*

(c) That Peterborough and the surrounding area could benefit if the Pakistan High Commission open a sub office within Peterborough to provide a service not only to residents of the city but also others from surrounding cities:

Bedford

Cambridge

Huntingdon

St Ives

Leicester

2. That this Council recommends:

- (a) That the Chief Executive or the Leader write to the Pakistan High Commission asking that it addresses the short staffing issue at NADRA;**
- (b) That a sub office is opened in the Peterborough area; and**
- (c) That it supports the Pakistan High Commission to provide support in finding suitable accommodation for an office.**

A vote was taken on the alteration (20 for, 13 against, 4 abstentions) and the alteration was **CARRIED**.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Khan.

A vote was taken on the amendment (12 for, 21 against, 9 abstentions) and the amendment was **DEFEATED**.

A vote was taken on the original motion with the alteration (27 for, 0 against, 14 abstentions) and the motion was **CARRIED**.

13. Reports to Council

(a) Peterborough City Council Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16

Council received a report from the Director of Governance which requested it to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16, as required to be undertaken each financial year by the Localism Act 2011.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Holdich with an amendment from Councillor Sandford.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the alteration was **AGREED**.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED**:

That Council adopts the Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16, which is appended to this report, with the following amendment:

“Full Council is responsible for approving salary grades of £100,000 or more in respect of a new appointment. **The Employment Committee, under its delegated powers will determine the salary to be paid within the range approved by Council. If in exceptional circumstances, the salary awarded by Employment Committee exceeds the top of the salary range agreed by Full Council (for example by addition of a market supplement or backdating of salary), the package agreed shall be referred for approval by Full Council.** Full Council is responsible for approving severance packages beyond £100,000 for staff leaving the organisation.”

The Mayor
7.00pm – 12.00am

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
1.	<p>Question from Mr Steve Allen</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services</p> <p>With regard to the need to address the issue of Selective Licensing for landlords, could the City Council investigate the alternative route taken by other authorities including Derby City Council?</p> <p>It is clear Landlords in areas designated for Selective Licensing are resentful when this is only applicable to certain areas, yet all available advice confirms that a City wide licensing scheme is not an option.</p> <p>Could therefore the City Council consider an Accredited Property Scheme as a real alternative?</p> <p>The purpose of such a scheme would be to allow landlords who own and operate rented accommodation throughout the City to be acknowledged for the valuable service they provide. Landlords Agents are also encouraged to participate on behalf of their clients.</p> <p>The rented property Accreditation Scheme as introduced in Derby is free of charge, and on receipt of an accreditation application the Council inspects the property, and issues advice where the house, or flat, falls short of accreditation standards.</p> <p>When accreditation is granted for the property the landlord is issued with an accreditation certificate and the use the scheme's logos for any advertising, thus providing a marketing advantage to those landlords offering an accredited property to rent.</p> <p>The aim of this participatory scheme being to encourage good landlords to work towards improved standards and indeed raise the value of their properties, thus attracting better tenants and in turn contributing to the regeneration of areas of the City suffering from low housing demand.</p> <p>The Council by offering landlords this opportunity to be regarded as a major contribution to a solution, rather than the problem, would be contributing to a virtuous circle of raised standards; this being to the advantage of landlords, agents, their tenants, and importantly the neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Councillor Hiller responded:</p> <p>Thank you for your suggestions Mr Allen. Like you and many others, I recognise that honest and law abiding, conscientious landlords provide a worthwhile and necessary service for the residents of Peterborough. Indeed a number of us here are conscientious landlords on both sides of the Chamber.</p> <p>The thinking has never been to burden honest landlords unduly and I have given this much thought when talking to representatives of this sector of commercial activity</p>

within our Authority area. However, there is as we are all aware an element, and I have to say to Members not an insignificant element, of rogue landlords in our City who are motivated by greed. They don't care about the condition of their HMO properties, the wellbeing or health of their tenants or indeed their natural obligations to the communities blighted by their bad practices and as we know, there is a concentration of these elements within certain areas. Mr Mayor, I'm pleased to say that this Council already works with the national landlords association who in February 2013, launched their landlord's accreditation scheme in Peterborough in conjunction with Peterborough City Council. The scheme offers a number of incentives including recognition from a national scheme irrespective of where a landlord operates, improved knowledge of property management and legislation, use of the NLA, Peterborough City Council accreditation logos, certificate of accredited status from the NLA from one of their recognitions from the Peterborough City Council, free local seminars and workshops determined by their Members needs and requests. To both good landlords and their tenants, the benefits of the subscription of the accreditation system like the NLA scheme, already in operation within our City, are indeed palpable. The NLA have many years of experience in providing training and guidance to landlords who wish to operate to a professional and competent standard. I emphasise landlords who wish to comply Mr Mayor and I have recently asked officers to ensure the scheme is effectively marketed and promoted to increase the numbers who might then benefit from it. The downside is that however well subscribed to by proper landlords an accreditation scheme will not prevent the bad boys in the same way a properly administered licensing scheme largely would. These people do not want to be accredited, they are not interested in certificates on the wall or logos on letterheads. They ride rough shot over housing legislation and are often involved in other nefarious and illegal activities perpetrated upon some of the most vulnerable in our City. We are currently finalising our approach to selective licensing proposals. It's a complex issue and we want to get it right. Of course it needs to be fair, but more importantly and for the reasons Mr Allen sights, regarding regeneration, it has to be effective. I will update Council in the forthcoming months.

Mr Allen asked a supplementary question.

I did check on the websites before I put my question and I was conscious of the scheme that is currently in place. Can I ask if there is any record of the scale of the take up with regards to the scheme that is currently in place?

Councillor Hiller responded

I do not have any record of the take up of the scheme currently in place, but I can find that out and let Mr Allen know.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

11. Questions on notice to:

- a) The Mayor
- b) To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet
- c) To the chair of any Committee or Sub-committee

1. **Question from Councillor Fower**

To Councillor Holdich, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University.

Could the relevant Cabinet Member please inform me as to why, despite several requests from me, the gates to the play field at Norwood School remains locked outside school hours, despite a sign on the gates stating that the field is for community use?

Councillor Holdich responded:

As my colleague will remember, a working group was constituted to look at the installation of the fence and how access to the public would be maintained. It was agreed in this meeting (which included councillors and the local community) that the school would unlock the field after school use and the field would be locked by residents at dusk. This worked for a period of time until the residents either moved away or returned the keys. The school tried on many occasions to re-engage the community, with additional members taking on the role, but then they were either returning keys or just not opening the gates. This was causing a safeguarding and security issue during the school day.

The school currently ensure that the gates are unlocked during holiday time. I am sure the school would welcome help from Councillor Fower in getting more residents involved in ensuring the agreed process is undertaken.

Councillor Fower asked the following supplementary question:

Does the relevant Cabinet Member not think that this situation, when we are essentially talking about two gates in a relatively small area, is a preposterous and petty scenario and we've had to raise it with the Head of Education, the School have dragged their feet and the bottom line is there is a sign saying very clearly that the field should be accessible to the community and you've got people who perhaps aren't so mobile on their feet looking to access that field they can't because its locked so I understand why it can't be taken under the remit of the school to make sure that is it open, it is accessible to the public and I would welcome the Cabinet Member's views on that.

Councillor Holdich responded:

This gate has to be locked, you are talking about safeguarding children. If you keep those gates open you are going to get travellers, horses and all sorts of things as it was before and it's not the schools role to do that, but it is the schools role to safeguard those young people and if Ofsted were to come in tomorrow and safeguarding was an issue for that school it would fail, never mind whether it was a top education school or not, it would fail on safeguarding alone so I repeat, there was a debate on the television, Councillor Thacker was involved at the same time and I'm sure we came to a pretty good solution, it's not the schools responsibility to open it when they are not there or

	<p>close it when they are not so therefore if we could re-engage the community by using local members that would be very helpful.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Saltmarsh</p> <p>To Councillor Serluca, Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture & Tourism</p> <p>Noting the amount of visitors who are attending the annual Arts Festival, the Heritage Festival and the Great Eastern Run could the Cabinet Member please advise Council of any measures which will be taken to enable these prestigious events to take place in future years? And can the Cabinet Member also ensure that the City Council remains involved in these events which are very important to the City's economy?</p> <p>Councillor Serluca responded:</p> <p>Perkins has agreed to continue their sponsorship for the Great Eastern Run. The sponsorship combined with the income from entries, race entries, have increased each year and will ensure that the race remains sustainable going forward.</p> <p>The Council continues to support and has supported Vivacity over the last five years, providing over £18.5 million pounds in funding, to deliver culture and leisure services, from which both festivals have benefited.</p> <p>Vivacity now need to take a commercial approach to both festivals, securing their future and legacy. Vivacity have made a positive start by securing sponsorship from Perkins to sponsor the Heritage Festival for the next three years and efforts continue to provide a sponsor for the Arts Festival, to make sure it is as spectacular this year as it has been for previous years.</p> <p>The Council will continue to support both festivals by offering officer support, marketing activity and overall health and safety advice.</p> <p>I am personally confident that this Council understands the importance of holding events and will continue to do so in future.</p> <p>Councillor Saltmarsh asked the following supplementary question:</p> <p>I'm pleased to hear the sponsorship from Perkins is going forward, you didn't actually mention in your reply that we have another festival which is quite important to people, the Willow Festival. I think we need to ensure that continues as well.</p> <p>Councillor Serluca responded:</p> <p>The Willow Festival is a commercial festival and in that it's there to make money for the organisers, but I can say again the Council will support the Willow Festival with reference to marketing and anything else that we can help them with.</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>To Councillor Elsey, Cabinet Member for Street Scene, Waste Management and Communications</p> <p>Noting recent communications whereby grassroots football clubs do not feel that they are being supported by the Council to develop and deliver sports activities carried out by volunteers which contribute to improve public health and wellbeing, will the Cabinet Member undertake a review of the levels of maintenance for sports pitches, charges</p>

and assistance given to grassroots clubs in Peterborough to ensure that systems are in place to help clubs and promote sports development?

Councillor Elsey responded:

I'd like to point out that sport plays an incredibly important role in helping people to live active healthy lives with numerous health and social benefits for individuals and families and communities. The fact that significant sums of money, including more than £900,000 on improving the athletic tracks alone, has been spent by the Council in recent years testifies our recognition of the need to invest in sport. In terms of maintenance, the Council continues to ensure through Amey that there is an appropriate grounds maintenance regime in place for sports pitches. We've made no changes to that aspect of the Amey contract. In terms of changes, we have not increased the charges for the use of sports pitches either.

The change we have made is the withdrawal of attendants on match days which was costing the Council £45,000 and frankly given the cuts we've had to make, I don't think it unreasonable to save £45,000 by asking football clubs to put up their own nets and put out their own corner flags, which is all they have been asked to be done.

Work is in training in partnership with Sport England to develop a refreshed strategy for sport in Peterborough. The strategy will focus on enabling and promoting active lifestyles to improve people's sense of health and well-being. Important strands of work to develop the strategy will include understanding whether the facilities we have will meet the needs of the future, reviewing the support available to clubs including from their various umbrella organisations involved in a range of sports and recognising and celebrating the contribution volunteers make.

Councillor Murphy asked the following supplementary question:

Thank you Councillor Elsey for particularly addressing the issue about what support we're giving in the future to grassroots sports in Peterborough and I note that you are looking to work with Sport England to try and promote it and to improve the health and well-being promotion in Peterborough and also for your clarification that you think the real problem has been the £45,000 cut taken away for match day support. You may have seen some of the photographs and communications about how grassroots people feel about this. The question I want to ask is in two halves in the written question, I'm asking about the review to see what's gone. Do you think that the problem that has been brought about in this administration and football teams, people resigning etc. and the bad press and publicity, is due to the cuts, pure communications or lack of confidence in the administration or is it due to all of these? and bear in mind your particular role as a lead for comms?

Councillor Elsey responded:

The reality is that after I had the last conversation with Councillor Murphy, I went out and inspected the pitches that had been identified to him as being problem pitches. The reality that I found was that the playing surfaces were better than the playing surfaces of Peterborough United's at London Road and they have a fulltime grounds crew working on their pitches. I don't accept that the pitches aren't playable; I don't accept that people have had a £45,000 cut, because they haven't. They've had somebody not turn up to put up nets and to put up corner flags, that's it. And when you are talking about football given that £5b a year has just been agreed for television rights for football, I think it's high time that football actually passed some of that money down to the grassroots to ensure the future of their own sport.

4.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford</p> <p>To Councillor Elsey, Cabinet Member for Street Scene, Waste Management and Communications</p> <p>I was told some time ago that Peterborough City Council was carrying out a tree canopy survey of the City to determine where new tree and woodland planting could be best targeted to give maximum benefit to local residents. Whilst the survey was being carried out, I was told that no new woodland planting would be carried out on Peterborough City Council land.</p> <p>Given that the completion date for the tree canopy survey was supposed to be May 2014, could the Cabinet Member tell me what has happened to it and when the results of it will be published and acted upon?</p> <p>The recent planting in commemoration of the First World War on a small area of land in Ravensthorpe attracted hundreds of local people, including many families with children, to help with the planting and it would be great if such events could be repeated on other sites around the urban area of the City. There is grant aid available for such planting through bodies such as Forestry Commission and Trees for Cities, so it need not impose any significant additional burden on hard pressed Council budgets.</p> <p>Councillor Elsey responded:</p> <p>Following unforeseen delays in manipulation of Geographic Information System (GIS) data Peterborough City Council, working in partnership with Ipswich Borough Council and Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT), has produced a draft report that aims to analyse and interpret data captured by Bluesky's National Tree Map (NTM). It is hoped that this would be used to inform the nature and extent of urban trees and woodland cover within the City boundary.</p> <p>Councillor Sandford did not have a supplementary question.</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member please inform me what action is being taken, not just in the centre but throughout the City, to address cars parking on the pavement resulting in pedestrians having to use the roadway in order to pass?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller responded:</p> <p>The Council and the Police both utilise measures and powers available to them to tackle parking on the footway, depending on the magnitude and seriousness and nature of the problem. These include the issuing of penalty charge notices if vehicles are parked in contravention of parking restrictions or fixed penalty notices for obstruction of the highway, however I'm told neither body can fully prevent such parking from occurring. Having got this question, I enquired of a retired policeman in my village, and he tells me that the obstruction of legal walkways and pavements is indeed a police enforceable matter. I will get a definitive response Councillor Fower and if indeed it is a police matter I will enquire through our Police and Crime Commissioner what he proposes to do to alleviate the problem.</p> <p>Councillor Fower did not have a supplementary question.</p>

6.	<p>Question from Councillor Judy Fox</p> <p>To Councillor Elsey, Cabinet Member for Street Scene, Waste Management and Communications</p> <p>I have noticed daily on my way to work in and around the Newborough area a large increase of fly-tipping especially along Bridge Hill Road and Gunthorpe Road.</p> <p>I would respectfully ask for the annual income received from the bulky waste collections and the annual cost to recover fly tipping within the City?</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member also look into the feasibility of a household waste amnesty for residents on a say bi-monthly basis in all areas?</p> <p>Councillor Elsey responded:</p> <p>I agree, it is always disappointing and frustrating to hear reports of fly-tipping. I am aware that Amey attended to five reports of fly-tipping in Bridge Hill Road and 15 on Gunthorpe Road in February alone.</p> <p>The good news is that, overall, reports of fly-tipping continue to reduce. Amey's records indicate they have dealt with 595 incidents of fly-tipping in February of this year compared to 946 in February 2014.</p> <p>We will be offering – as part of our Clean and Green campaign – an opportunity for residents to dispose of 'bulky waste' in eight specific locations across the City. I will send all Members details of the dates, times and locations.</p> <p>We will use these days both to understand the sort of waste that people are struggling to dispose of and to promote the ways in which residents can dispose of waste, including Amey's services, services provided by charities and the Householders' Recycling Centre.</p> <p>The cost to the Authority of removing fly-tip is approximately £80,000 per annum. We have received income this year, from the bulky waste collection service, of just over £74,000.</p> <p>Past experience has not suggested a correlation between incidence of fly-tipping and the provision of free collection arrangements. As such, we are not inclined to introduce a recurring 'amnesty'.</p> <p>We are looking all the time, however, at what we can learn from other Local Authorities in terms of making it easier for residents to recycle unwanted goods and we will continue to do so.</p> <p>Councillor Fox did not have a supplementary question.</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Ferris</p> <p>To Councillor North, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital</p> <p>With the Bourges Boulevard works leading to increased back-up of traffic along Thorpe Road, and the development of the former hospital site underway, can the Cabinet Member reassure the Chamber that measures will be taken to address concerns about poor air quality and the lack of safe provision for cyclists and pedestrians using Thorpe Road and the Crescent Bridge to enter and exit the City Centre?</p>

Councillor North responded:

The traffic congestion currently being experienced on Thorpe Road is a short term problem associated with the Bourges Boulevard improvement scheme which will significantly enhance pedestrian connectivity between the City Centre, the train station and future redevelopment in North Westgate.

Safe provision for cyclists and pedestrians is extremely important to me personally and is an important priority for this Council. As part of any new development the Council seeks measures from developers to ensure that new and improved cycling and walking infrastructure is put in place and this will be the case with the redevelopment of the former hospital site. A new pedestrian crossing point on Thorpe Road will be provided close to Midland Road and Thorpe Lea Road. The Council has investigated a number of options for better provision for cyclists and pedestrians along this important transport corridor including a new bridge across the railway line which unfortunately had to be discounted because of the estimated cost of several million pounds. Again I have worked with the cycling forum to try and see any solutions that they come up with and happy to listen to any Member that has as well. Crescent Bridge is particularly challenging given the restricted width of the structure. Officers continue to investigate viable options as we progress with City Centre transport planning.

The Council monitors air quality at key sites across the City.

Councillor Ferris asked the following supplementary question:

Thank you Councillor North for your comprehensive reply. I would be very interested to know when we are talking about cycling and pedestrians and obviously with the Bourges Boulevard project whether the intention is for this infrastructure to be shared space, because I do have some concerns about shared space and people's understanding of what that means having only last week been cycled into on the new footpath outside of Waitrose. Clearly cyclists are not quite clear where they should be.

In relation to the air quality monitoring I'm aware that there are currently 16 locations across the city, do you not think that at the moment with some of the congestion problems we are experiencing that it might be a sensible time to increase the number of monitoring stations albeit as a temporary measure to ensure people that air quality is safe, as I am aware that there is one location at the moment giving cause for concern and my last comment is, looking at what is happening on Thorpe Road, is it not time that we had sustainable transport policy and look to gain the possibility of some form of park and ride situation, because I am concerned that whilst Bourges Boulevard improvements will visually be an improvement they may cause back up elsewhere.

Councillor North responded:

In answer to the first question, yes it will be a shared facility and for cyclists and pedestrians. Obviously we are going to work closely with all groups to make sure that works.

Regarding air quality, you are quite right and I know you have visited the team and I think it is important we keep monitoring and if required, and they are experts and I will take advice from them, if we need extra monitoring areas then obviously we will look into that seriously, because it is very very important to me personally and I think to the people of Peterborough, because one of the things that we need to look at is how Peterborians are affected and we have already talked about long-term health and I think this development will aid that and we put trees in to try and alleviate some of the problems.

I would love to have a park and ride scheme that worked. If I really believed that a

	<p>scheme worked I would be pushing up for it, but every indication I have, you know we have the Christmas ones, they are just not used. I was looking closely at having one and am still considering it in some new developments around the city, but until I am convinced that a park and ride would be used, there is no point in having it, it must be used. The problem we having a very good road network is that people use their own cars.</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please confirm if road resurfacing work will be carried out in Baron Court Werrington, the road leading to 70, 71 and 72 is in need of resurfacing?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller may have responded:</p> <p>The small cul-de-sac/shared drive serving numbers 70, 71 and 72 is in private ownership and does not form part of the Council's highway network. Responsibility for its maintenance is likely to fall on the property owners who are served by this short section of road.</p>
9.	<p>Question from Councillor Swift</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement</p> <p>Will the Leader please contact the Home Secretary as a matter of extreme urgency and ask the question 'why the Passport Office in Peterborough appears to be differentiating against the Pakistan Community when making applications for new and renewal of existing passports'?</p> <p>There are many other Councillors like myself who are finding their selves in the same situation, but I as a ward Councillor feel that I represent every interest in my Community, I have always treated all my electors as equals and like all other Councillors work for them irrespective of their political parties, I have been subjected in the past 14 days to what can only be described as a gross insult to my intelligence, others I know are also being subjected to the same but not to the extent as I have over the past few days.</p> <p>Recently I have filled in five passport applications for young children who reside in my ward three of them attend the Fulbridge Academy at which I have been a Governor for 50 years and I know them personally, not only that but all the applications I have signed are for families who live within a couple of hundred yards of my home, I have had all of these five applications returned with the following questions being asked of me:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can I confirm the name and address of the child was on the application when I signed it? 2. The name of the adult on the application and whether you remember countersigning the application? (what an insult) 3. Please can you confirm in writing whether the application declaration form was fully completed by the application before you signed? 4. Confirm your company / schools full name business address and phone numbers? 5. Please also confirm your profession and or professional qualifications?

	<p>All the above information was on the original application!!</p> <p>The letter also states that I must reply on business headed paper, it is important that you sign and reply personally, (this is what is done on each original application form), but what hurts most is that I have done the same number of passports for White British people within my constituency living in the same street and the same neighbourhood, but not once have I had any of those returned to ask me if I knew what I was doing when I signed their form.</p> <p>There is an old saying “The straw that broke the camel’s back”, and to receive all five of these back within the space of seven days is ridiculous, I again ask you to take this up with the Home Secretary and ask if when we are producing signing passports for the Pakistan Community can we include a covering letter to clarify all the information they need to know and that we are capable and competent and aware of what we are signing.</p> <p>Peterborough Passport Office Aragon Court Northminster, Peterborough PE1 1QG</p> <p>Councillor Cereste may have responded:</p> <p>Thank you for notifying us of this issue Councillor Swift.</p> <p>I am surprised to hear of this and I will gladly write to the Home Secretary in order to clarify the situation, as it would be useful for us to be provided with an explanation as to why the application checking process for some members of the community appears to be more in depth than it is for others.</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Fower</p> <p>To Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member inform me as to what the latest plans regarding the Mayor’s car? Is it to be scrapped or maintained?</p> <p>Councillor Seaton may have responded:</p> <p>The Mayor’s car was originally registered on 10 March 2006 and is nine years old, with approximately 94,000 miles on the clock.</p> <p>Whilst the car is coming to the end of its life, it has been well serviced and maintained and is expected to be mechanically sound for at least another 6 to 12 months. The car underwent its annual service and MOT only recently and received a clean bill of health.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to replacing the vehicle over the forthcoming year which will include exploration of all available options, including leasing, purchasing or for example using external services.</p>

11.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the outcome of a consultation carried out on Fulbridge road "Speeding Traffic" and when will the Speed Activation sign be in operation?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller may have responded:</p> <p>The speed survey arising from the consultation on parking has yet to be undertaken and is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. I will ensure that Cllr Davidson is provided with the results when they are available. The speed sign needs to be removed for servicing and battery replacement but will be returned to site within the next two weeks.</p>
12.	<p>Question from Councillor Davidson</p> <p>To Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services.</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member please confirm if there is a genuine reason as to why the Street Lighting from the Junction at Werrington Green and Goodwin walk heading towards Baron Court and further along have not been in operation for a few months?</p> <p>Councillor Hiller may have responded:</p> <p>There is a major cable fault along this stretch of Fulbridge Road that is preventing power supply to the street lights between The Green and Paston Parkway. Cable faults are not always straightforward due to the requirement for specialist staff to make the repair, and additionally the extent of damage cannot be ascertained until excavation has taken place. Some faults are relatively simple fixes and others require much more extensive works.</p> <p>Initial works on Fulbridge Road have identified that 51 lights are powered from the power source which equates to 1200m of cabling. Upon testing the cabling numerous faults have been identified along its full length. In order to address the volume of faults and to prevent future power loss to the whole stretch the circuit has been broken into three new sections.</p> <p>Section 1 Paston Parkway to column 104 Section 2 Column 104 to column 86 Section 3 Column 86 to column 70</p> <p>The first section is complete and work to the second and third sections will begin week commencing 16 March.</p>
13.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford</p> <p>To Councillor Cereste, Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement</p> <p>A number of residents in the Hampton area of the City have told me that they are experiencing problems with traffic congestion in and around the Township, particularly at peak commuter times.</p> <p>In the Section 106 agreement for the Hampton development, an area of land was</p>

safeguarded in the Hampton Leys area for possible future development of a new railway station.

Could the Cabinet Member tell me what action he is proposing to deal with the traffic problems in Hampton and does he see provision of a new station as one of the solutions to the problem, at least in the longer term?

Councillor Cereste may have responded:

There was a requirement in the original 1993 Section 106 Agreement to provide land for a train station in Hampton Leys.

This was carried forward into later modifications to the Section 106 Agreement and is included in the most recent version dated 2013.

The Agreement requires the developer, O&H, to keep land next to the train line undeveloped until the occupation of the 2000th dwelling in Hampton Leys. The land is to be kept undeveloped to enable Network Rail (or another relevant undertaker) to build a train station. Currently, no dwellings have been constructed in Hampton Leys, but development is expected to start within 12 months.

In terms of easing traffic congestion, the construction and opening up of the 2nd phase of the Western Peripheral Road in summer this year, and then the opening up of the 3rd phase shortly thereafter, should help by taking a significant amount of internal traffic circulation out of Hampton and directing it straight on to the parkway system.

In addition, O&H propose to construct a new road from the top of Silver Hill, running east-west and coming out at a newly created junction on the A15 just south of the new Vivacity fitness centre.

The Council works closely with Hampton Parish Council to address and resolve transport issues as and when they are raised.

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