

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2009

The Mayor – Councillor Pat Nash

Present: Councillors Ash, Benton, C Burton, Cereste, Collins, Croft, Dalton, C Day, S Day, Dobbs, Eley, Fazal, Fitzgerald, Fletcher, Fower, Goldspink, Goodwin, Harrington, Hiller, Holdich, Hussain, Khan, Kreling, Lamb, Lane, Lee, Miners, Murphy, Nawaz, Newton, North, Over, Peach, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sanders, Sandford, Scott, Seaton, Sharp, Smith, Swift, Thacker, Todd, Trueman, Walsh, Wilkinson and Winslade.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, M Burton, J Fox, J A Fox, Gilbert and Lowndes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

All Members were provided with a copy of their respective Declarations of Interest forms for the purposes of agenda item 8.1 (Budget Report). Members were reminded that they need not announce any interests which were included on the form. The following interests were declared in addition:

Item 8.1 - Councillor Cereste informed those present that he was Chairman of NHS Peterborough. Whilst emphasising that this role was not affected by the proposals within the Budget, he would nevertheless vacate the Chamber during the Budget debate in light of its implications for the Primary Care Trust.

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 10 DECEMBER 2008 AND 13 JANUARY 2009

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held 10 December 2008 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting held 13 January 2009 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as an accurate record.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 The Mayor's engagements for the period 30 November 2008 to 15 February 2009 were noted.

5. QUESTIONS ASKED WITH WRITTEN NOTICE

5.1 Questions were asked of Cabinet Members and the Leader of the Council in respect of the following:

- Publication of Members' attendance at all formal council meetings and the possibility of introducing video coverage for all Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee/Panel meetings;
- The number of complementary tickets received each year from Peterborough United Football Club, the arrangements for allocation of such tickets and the cost to the Council of its sponsorship of the Club;
- The possibility of moving towards the introduction of an elected Mayor;
- The approach of Cabinet Members should ID cards become compulsory;
- The deletion of posts within the Council and the use of interim managers/consultants.

5.2 Members asked questions of Cabinet Members and Committee Chairmen about issues relating to their wards as follows:

- Anti-social behaviour caused by the use of 'mini-motos' in recreational areas in the South Werrington and North Gunthorpe areas.

A summary of all questions and answers is attached at **Appendix A**.

6. PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

7. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Council received and noted a report summarising:

- Decisions made at the Cabinet Meeting held 15 December 2008;
- Decisions made at the Cabinet Meeting held 2 February 2009;
- The Council's 'call-in' procedure, which had not been invoked since the last meeting;
- Special Urgency and Waive of 'call-in' provisions in relation to the refurbishment and enhancement of Clare Lodge Secure Unit, Glinton (Phase 3);
- Cabinet Member decisions taken during the period 1 December 2008 and 16 February 2009.

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Budget 2009/10 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2011/12

Council considered the Budget for 2009/10 in the context of a three year medium term financial plan and corporate plan running to 2011/12. Council was also required to set the Council Tax for 2009/10 taking into account both its own requirements and those of relevant precepting bodies such as the Police, Fire, and Parish Councils where applicable.

The Leader of the Council presented the budget and moved the recommendations detailed in the Budget Book, together with amendments detailed in Appendix A (i) of the Order Paper (attached as **Appendix B** to these minutes). During his speech, the Leader highlighted the following points:

- The impact of the economic downturn, and the decline in the property market which has led to a reduction in expected levels of capital receipts and reduced levels of income from planning fees and rents;
- The impact of the Council's business transformation programme which had produced cumulative savings of £10 million in 2007/8 and 2008/9 and identified a further £6 million savings and efficiencies for 2009/10;
- The proposed 2.5% increase in Council Tax was well below the average national increase and would be kept under review;
- Proposals to enable the Council to invest over £200 million in major projects over the next three years, including £91 million on schools;
- Provision of free entry to the Lido swimming pool on its opening weekend in May;
- A one-off investment of £100,000 for the maintenance of footpaths and pavements;
- Provision of £10,000 Community Leadership Fund for each ward for expenditure on capital projects recommended by ward councillors;
- Efficiency savings achieved by unifying some 'back-office' functions, transferring operational information and communications technology to a third party supplier and a review of charges and operation hours at a range of Council-run facilities.

The Leader commended the budget to the Council. In seconding the proposals, Councillor Goldspink expressed the view that the Budget was balanced, responsible and one which would protect services.

Council signified consent to the proposed amendments.

The Mayor announced that an amendment had been proposed by Councillor Swift, details of which were outlined at Appendix B of the Order Paper (attached as **Appendix C** to these minutes). Councillor Swift presented the amendment which proposed the following:

- A reduction in Member allowances, including the deletion of at least three Cabinet positions;
- A reduction in allocation of funding to Opportunity Peterborough
- The introduction of charges for staff seconded to Opportunity Peterborough;
- Reinstatement of community planning funding
- Reinstatement of the pest control service
- Removal of proposals to introduce charges for use of internet at libraries;
- Reduction in savings targets in order to reduce headcount reduction requirements.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Ash.

A debate followed and a vote was taken on the amendment. This was DEFEATED by 9 votes in favour, 37 against and 4 abstentions.

A debate was held on the substantive budget as proposed by the Leader of the Council and a vote taken.

It was **RESOLVED** (37 votes in favour, 12 against and 1 abstention) to approve:

- the draft revenue budget for 2009/10 and the draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2009/10 to 2011/12, set in the context of the community strategy;
- the draft capital programme for 2009/10 to 2011/12 and related strategies and indicators;
- the proposed council tax increase of 2.5% for 2009/10 (and indicative increases of 2.5% in each of 2010/11 and 2011/12),
- the amendments set out at **Appendix B** to these minutes;
- the Council Tax setting resolution set out a below.

COUNCIL TAX 2009/10

Following consideration of the report to this Council on 25th February 2009 and the setting of the Revenue Budget for 2009/10, the Council is requested to pass the resolution below.

RESOLVED

1. THAT the Revenue Budget in the sum of £133,636,330 (being £247,903,330 less the Dedicated Schools Grant of £114,267,000) now presented be approved.

2. THAT it be noted that at its meeting on 15th December 2008 the Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2009/10 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992: -

(a) 54,835 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year.

(b) Part of the Council's Area

Ailsworth	220.17
Bainton	143.70
Barnack	361.22
Borough Fen	36.58
Bretton	3,540.45
Castor	334.81
City (non-parished)	36,825.59
Etton	51.99
Eye	1,311.43
Glington	604.68
Helpston	369.71
Marholm	74.18
Maxey	292.61
Newborough	544.14
Northborough	523.12
Orton Longueville	3,450.01
Orton Waterville	3,457.62
Peakirk	166.19
Southorpe	71.85
Sutton	69.66
Thorney	808.52
Thornhaugh	92.64
Ufford	119.98
Wansford	242.66
Wittering	737.58
SUB TOTAL	<u>54,451.09</u>
The Council tax base total for areas to which no special items relate	384.56
TOTAL	<u><u>54,835.65</u></u>

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

3. THAT the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2009/10 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992: -
- (a) £405,206,330 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act. (Gross expenditure including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses)
 - (b) (£271,570,000) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) a) to c) of the Act. (Revenue Income)
 - (c) £133,636,330 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 32(4) of the act as its budget requirement for the year. (Peterborough City Council Net Budget Requirement including Parish Precepts)
 - (d) £74,708,224 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988
 - (e) £1,074.63 being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
 - (f) £310,330 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. (Parish Precepts)
 - (g) £1,068.99 being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

(h) Parts of Council's Area

Parish Of:	Band D
Ailsworth	£1,097.79
Bainton	£1,087.80
Barnack	£1,085.01
Borough Fen	£1,077.99
Bretton	£1,093.83
Castor	£1,094.28
Deeping Gate	£1,068.99
Etton	£1,099.86
Eye	£1,103.10
Glington	£1,077.27
Helpston	£1,091.58
Marholm	£1,069.53
Maxey	£1,071.87
Newborough	£1,077.36
Northborough	£1,076.28
Orton Longueville	£1,077.36
Orton Waterville	£1,072.41
Peakirk	£1,097.88
Southorpe	£1,074.48
St Martins Without	£1,068.99
Sutton	£1,093.83
Thorney	£1,106.88
Thornhaugh	£1,119.30
Ufford	£1,102.74
Upton	£1,068.99
Wansford	£1,099.05
Wittering	£1,116.06
Wothorpe	£1,068.99

Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(g) above the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

3. (i) Part of the Council's Area

	Valuation Bands							
	A £ . p	B £ . p	C £ . p	D £ . p	E £ . p	F £ . p	G £ . p	H £ . p
Ailsworth	731.86	853.84	975.81	1,097.79	1,341.74	1,585.70	1,829.65	2,195.58
Bainton	725.20	846.07	966.93	1,087.80	1,329.53	1,571.27	1,813.00	2,175.60
Barnack	723.34	843.90	964.45	1,085.01	1,326.12	1,567.24	1,808.35	2,170.02
Borough Fen	718.66	838.44	958.21	1,077.99	1,317.54	1,557.10	1,796.65	2,155.98
Bretton	729.22	850.76	972.29	1,093.83	1,336.90	1,579.98	1,823.05	2,187.66
Castor	729.52	851.11	972.69	1,094.28	1,337.45	1,580.63	1,823.80	2,188.56
Deeping Gate	712.66	831.44	950.21	1,068.99	1,306.54	1,544.10	1,781.65	2,137.98
Etton	733.24	855.45	977.65	1,099.86	1,344.27	1,588.69	1,833.10	2,199.72
Eye	735.40	857.97	980.53	1,103.10	1,348.23	1,593.37	1,838.50	2,206.20
Glington	718.18	837.88	957.57	1,077.27	1,316.66	1,556.06	1,795.45	2,154.54
Helpston	727.72	849.01	970.29	1,091.58	1,334.15	1,576.73	1,819.30	2,183.16
Marholm	713.02	831.86	950.69	1,069.53	1,307.20	1,544.88	1,782.55	2,139.06
Maxey	714.58	833.68	952.77	1,071.87	1,310.06	1,548.26	1,786.45	2,143.74
Newborough	718.24	837.95	957.65	1,077.36	1,316.77	1,556.19	1,795.60	2,154.72
Northborough	717.52	837.11	956.69	1,076.28	1,315.45	1,554.63	1,793.80	2,152.56
Orton Longueville	718.24	837.95	957.65	1,077.36	1,316.77	1,556.19	1,795.60	2,154.72
Orton Waterville	714.94	834.10	953.25	1,072.41	1,310.72	1,549.04	1,787.35	2,144.82
Peakirk	731.92	853.91	975.89	1,097.88	1,341.85	1,585.83	1,829.80	2,195.76
Southorpe	716.32	835.71	955.09	1,074.48	1,313.25	1,552.03	1,790.80	2,148.96
St Martins Without	712.66	831.44	950.21	1,068.99	1,306.54	1,544.10	1,781.65	2,137.98
Sutton	729.22	850.76	972.29	1,093.83	1,336.90	1,579.98	1,823.05	2,187.66
Thorney	737.92	860.91	983.89	1,106.88	1,352.85	1,598.83	1,844.80	2,213.76
Thornhaugh	746.20	870.57	994.93	1,119.30	1,368.03	1,616.77	1,865.50	2,238.60
Ufford	735.16	857.69	980.21	1,102.74	1,347.79	1,592.85	1,837.90	2,205.48
Upton	712.66	831.44	950.21	1,068.99	1,306.54	1,544.10	1,781.65	2,137.98
Wansford	732.70	854.82	976.93	1,099.05	1,343.28	1,587.52	1,831.75	2,198.10
Wittering	744.04	868.05	992.05	1,116.06	1,364.07	1,612.09	1,860.10	2,232.12
Wothorpe	712.66	831.44	950.21	1,068.99	1,306.54	1,544.10	1,781.65	2,137.98
Total Non-Parished Areas	712.66	831.44	950.21	1,068.99	1,306.54	1,544.10	1,781.65	2,137.98

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2009/10 the Cambridgeshire Police Authority and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in the precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below :-

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Cambridgeshire Police Authority	109.80	128.10	146.40	164.70	201.30	237.90	274.50	329.40
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority	37.56	43.82	50.08	56.34	68.86	81.38	93.90	112.68
TOTAL	147.36	171.92	196.48	221.04	270.16	319.28	368.40	442.08

5. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below :-

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Ailsworth	879.22	1,025.76	1,172.29	1,318.83	1,611.90	1,904.98	2,198.05	2,637.66
Bainton	872.56	1,017.99	1,163.41	1,308.84	1,599.69	1,890.55	2,181.40	2,617.68
Barnack	870.70	1,015.82	1,160.93	1,306.05	1,596.28	1,886.52	2,176.75	2,612.10
Borough Fen	866.02	1,010.36	1,154.69	1,299.03	1,587.70	1,876.38	2,165.05	2,598.06
Bretton	876.58	1,022.68	1,168.77	1,314.87	1,607.06	1,899.26	2,191.45	2,629.74
Castor	876.88	1,023.03	1,169.17	1,315.32	1,607.61	1,899.91	2,192.20	2,630.64
Deeping Gate	860.02	1,003.36	1,146.69	1,290.03	1,576.70	1,863.38	2,150.05	2,580.06
Etton	880.60	1,027.37	1,174.13	1,320.90	1,614.43	1,907.97	2,201.50	2,641.80
Eye	882.76	1,029.89	1,177.01	1,324.14	1,618.39	1,912.65	2,206.90	2,648.28
Glington	865.54	1,009.80	1,154.05	1,298.31	1,586.82	1,875.34	2,163.85	2,596.62
Helpston	875.08	1,020.93	1,166.77	1,312.62	1,604.31	1,896.01	2,187.70	2,625.24
Marholm	860.38	1,003.78	1,147.17	1,290.57	1,577.36	1,864.16	2,150.95	2,581.14
Maxey	861.94	1,005.60	1,149.25	1,292.91	1,580.22	1,867.54	2,154.85	2,585.82
Newborough	865.60	1,009.87	1,154.13	1,298.40	1,586.93	1,875.47	2,164.00	2,596.80
Northborough	864.88	1,009.03	1,153.17	1,297.32	1,585.61	1,873.91	2,162.20	2,594.64
Orton Longueville	865.60	1,009.87	1,154.13	1,298.40	1,586.93	1,875.47	2,164.00	2,596.80
Orton Waterville	862.30	1,006.02	1,149.73	1,293.45	1,580.88	1,868.32	2,155.75	2,586.90
Peakirk	879.28	1,025.83	1,172.37	1,318.92	1,612.01	1,905.11	2,198.20	2,637.84
Southorpe	863.68	1,007.63	1,151.57	1,295.52	1,583.41	1,871.31	2,159.20	2,591.04
St Martins Without	860.02	1,003.36	1,146.69	1,290.03	1,576.70	1,863.38	2,150.05	2,580.06
Sutton	876.58	1,022.68	1,168.77	1,314.87	1,607.06	1,899.26	2,191.45	2,629.74
Thorney	885.28	1,032.83	1,180.37	1,327.92	1,623.01	1,918.11	2,213.20	2,655.84
Thornhaugh	893.56	1,042.49	1,191.41	1,340.34	1,638.19	1,936.05	2,233.90	2,680.68
Ufford	882.52	1,029.61	1,176.69	1,323.78	1,617.95	1,912.13	2,206.30	2,647.56
Upton	860.02	1,003.36	1,146.69	1,290.03	1,576.70	1,863.38	2,150.05	2,580.06
Wansford	880.06	1,026.74	1,173.41	1,320.09	1,613.44	1,906.80	2,200.15	2,640.18
Wittering	891.40	1,039.97	1,188.53	1,337.10	1,634.23	1,931.37	2,228.50	2,674.20
Wothorpe	860.02	1,003.36	1,146.69	1,290.03	1,576.70	1,863.38	2,150.05	2,580.06
Total Non-Parished Areas	860.02	1,003.36	1,146.69	1,290.03	1,576.70	1,863.38	2,150.05	2,580.06

PARISH PRECEPTS 2009/10

The following precepts have been levied on Peterborough City Council (comparable figures are shown for 2008/09) :-

	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10 Council Tax @ Band D Equivalent
	£	£	£
Ailsworth	6,586	6,355	28.80
Bainton	2,718	2,707	18.81
Barnack	5,770	5,792	16.02
Borough Fen	341	331	9.00
Bretton	89,334	88,142	24.84
Castor	7,912	8,477	25.29
Deeping Gate	-	-	-
Etton	711	1,608	30.87
Eye	40,764	44,764	34.11
Glington	4,367	5,041	8.28
Helpston	10,405	8,358	22.59
Marholm	30	40	0.54
Maxey	800	850	2.88
Newborough	4,696	4,571	8.37
Northborough	5,827	3,835	7.29
Orton Longueville	19,566	29,101	8.37
Orton Waterville	9,000	12,000	3.42
Peakirk	4,319	4,803	28.89
Southorpe	413	398	5.49
St Martins Without	-	-	-
Sutton	1,689	1,735	24.84
Thorney	32,386	30,644	37.89
Thornhaugh	4,684	4,667	50.31
Ufford	4,077	4,059	33.75
Upton	-	-	-
Wansford	5,300	7,300	30.06
Wittering	25,172	34,752	47.07
Wothorpe	-	-	-
Total	286,867	310,330	

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 Councillor Khan moved the following motion:

That this Council:

1. condemns the violence, injury and killing of thousands of men, women and children in Gaza and recognises the concerns raised by many of Peterborough's citizens regarding the use of force by the Israeli military;
2. resolves to support those who are working towards the peaceful resolution of conflict in the region; and
3. requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Government asking for the sale of arms to the Israeli Military to be halted.

This was seconded by Councillor Hussain.

Councillor Murphy moved an amendment to the motion which proposed altering the wording of paragraphs 1 and 3 (above) and the addition of a further paragraph, as follows:

That this Council:

1. Welcomes the current ceasefire in Gaza representing a cessation of military operations in the area;
2. Recognises that the region's civilian population has paid a heavy humanitarian price as a consequence of the violence;
3. Resolves to support those who are working towards the peaceful resolution of conflict in the region, and therefore
4. Requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the Prime Minister urging him to lend British diplomatic weight to efforts to secure a durable ceasefire and a swift return to negotiations.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Dalton.

A vote was taken on the amendment which was CARRIED by 37 votes in favour, 12 against and 2 abstentions. As a result, this became the substantive motion.

Councillor Khan, as mover of the original motion, expressed the view that the amendment did not provide a sufficiently robust approach.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion which was CARRIED by 38 votes in favour, 3 against and 10 abstentions.

- 9.2 In view of Councillor John Fox's absence at the meeting, Councillor Lane requested that the following motion, which had been submitted by Councillor John Fox, be withdrawn and dealt with by means of a meeting between Councillor Fox and the Leader. Members indicated approval to this approach and the Leader advised that he would ask the Cabinet Member of Environment to progress this matter with Councillor Fox on his behalf.

That the Council:

1. recognises the grave concerns of the National Pest Technicians Association, following the National Rodent Survey 2007/08, that the rat population in this country is increasing dramatically;
2. notes the views expressed by the Association that unless local authorities, utilities and other businesses can find new ways of working together with householders to combat rats and mice through well planned and co-ordinated professional treatment, we will only see our national rodent problem becoming progressively worse in the years ahead;
3. further notes the views of the Association that the problem is made worse where alternate weekly bin collections are not fully embraced or well enough managed by all concerned;
4. asks the Executive to investigate positive steps that might be taken towards fulfilling this Council's responsibilities to the public health and welfare of the residents of Peterborough and ensuring that extra staff resources are provided in the Pest Control Team to help combat the concerns that have been raised; and
5. requests the Executive to consider reverting back to the weekly black bin collection of household waste before we live to regret our inactions.

Meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Signed (Mayor)
Date

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM COUNCIL MEETING OF 25 FEBRUARY 2009

The following questions have been received:

1. Questions by Members to the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members and Chairmen of Scrutiny Committee / Panels

(i) The Mayor asked the following question on behalf of Councillor John Fox:

'In the interests of transparency and in order to afford the public greater opportunity to see how elected members represent their respective constituents' views, would the Leader consider introducing the following measures:

- (i) the publication of details showing individual elected members' attendance at all meetings;
- (ii) the introduction of video coverage of all Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee/Panel meetings'.

The Leader responded:

'On the first point, I would suggest that to relate Members' performance solely to their attendance at formal meetings of the Council is a rather simplistic measure to apply. Attendance at meetings is only the 'tip of the iceberg' in terms of the wide range of roles and responsibilities that are fulfilled by Members of the Council. Publishing attendance at meetings would for example, fail to reflect the many hours of work performed each week by Councillors helping their constituents and supporting community groups in their wards. Performance is about quality as well as quantity of representation and I would not wish to see this Council introduce a single arbitrary measure that simply would not reflect the value of Councillors to their communities. Ultimately, the performance of elected Members is determined by the local electorate through the ballot box and I think that the public are astute enough to vote for the candidates who will provide them with the most effective political and community representation'.

'On the second point, the introduction of web-casting for all meetings of the Council has been investigated by the Cabinet Member for Customer Focus and Communications in conjunction with the Council's Communications Team. A webcasting facility is feasible and various options are currently being evaluated. Introducing such a facility would enable members of the public to view meetings (either live or post broadcast) by means of an embedded link which would be available on the PCC website and initial estimates indicate that the cost would be in the region of £20K per annum, which would provide 60 hours of webcasting'.

(ii) The Mayor asked the following question on behalf of Councillor John Fox:

'Could the Leader please confirm how many complimentary tickets to football matches are received by the Council each year from POSH, how often they are received, how they are allocated and the cost to the Council per year of its sponsorship of POSH?'

On behalf of the Leader, the Cabinet Member for Customer Focus and Communications responded:

The Council continues to be extremely supportive of Peterborough United and has linked with Peterborough United on a number of joint ventures. A successful community programme is vital for the future development of the football club and I am delighted that foundations have been laid for further successes in the future. The unique partnership between the Council and the football club has already demonstrated the benefits of working together to achieve a common goal – football provides a powerful focus for young people's

energies, giving them a healthy objective for life. The City Council has an ongoing positive relationship with the football club and is in discussions with the Board about its future strategic plans’.

‘The City Council is involved in two match day sponsorship packages per season and our guests/stakeholders are invited to attend a keynote presentation before the game begins. The cost of match-day sponsorship is £3K and includes 45 guests attending on behalf of the Council. Invitations are sent to stakeholders and partners relevant to the keynote presentation’.

‘When we receive complimentary tickets (usually for a pre-season friendly game) we do offer them to staff via INSITE in the form of a competition. The Chief Executive received nominations from directors for staff who showed they’d ‘gone the extra mile’ last year. Six members of staff attended a game last year. In the past the football club have chosen various secondary schools to attend assemblies and distribute complimentary tickets for juniors to attend forthcoming matches accompanied by an adult’.

(iii) The Mayor asked the following question on behalf of Councillor Judy Fox:

‘Now that David Cameron has announced his intention to introduce elected Mayors in certain cities, is the Leader going to follow this example and ask for a referendum for an elected Mayor in Peterborough, without the need to gather the necessary signatures?’

The Leader responded:

‘At present there are no plans for a referendum for an elected mayor in Peterborough. Indeed David Cameron’s most recent announcement only deals with the possibility of having elected mayors in up to 12 of our largest cities, which certainly won’t include Peterborough. It is worth remembering that in most of the 11 councils across the country that have voted for an elected mayor they now want to get rid of them as they have been divisive, were given large salaries, dictatorial and hard to remove. Unlike the present system that we have, which is perhaps the best of both worlds, to have a non political mayor who serves 1 year and a “strong leader” model. This was in fact voted on by council some years ago’.

‘In addition David Cameron announced a number of policies that would be beneficial not only to this Local Authority but the population of Peterborough these include

- Abolishing all regional planning and housing powers exercised by regional government, returning powers and discretion back to local communities
- Creating bottom-up incentives for house building, by allowing councils to benefit more from the increase in council tax revenues from new homes,
- Allowing councils to establish their own local enterprise partnerships to take over the economic development functions and funding of the Regional Development Agencies
- Giving local authorities a new discretionary power to levy business rate discounts, allowing them to help local shops and services, such as rural pubs or post offices
- Greater use of direct democracy, including allowing residents to veto high council tax rises and instigating local referendums on local issues.’

(iv) Councillor Fower asked the Leader:

‘The government is introducing ID cards by adopting a ‘step at a time’ approach: using terms such as ‘beacon areas’ and ‘protection’ and with 50,000 ID cards estimated to be issued to foreign nationals by April 2009 this scheme is growing fast. Given this Council’s previous stance to oppose ID cards, can the Leader give assurance that he and his fellow Cabinet Members will formally record their intent to refuse an ID card if and when they are introduced?’

Councillor Dalton responded on behalf of the Leader:

'Full Council, as its meeting of 12 December 2007, approved a motion recommending that this Council should not participate in establishing information with the National Identity Register. This decision was subsequently conveyed to the Home Office in our response to the government's consultation exercise, when we stated that the Council opposed the introduction of National ID cards and that we would take no part in the scheme unless legally obliged to do so. Ultimately however, the Council will comply with the law, whatever the law requires. Refusing an ID card would be a matter of personal choice for each Member at the time, whilst having regard to the law'.

(v) Councillor Sandford asked the Leader:

'At a time when the Council is deleting over 400 full time posts, why is it spending over £8m each year on interim managers and consultants?'

The Leader responded:

'I will start by saying that it is nothing short of a scandal that my fellow councillor implies that we will be deleting over 400 full time posts: we are doing nothing of the sort and he knows that. I will come back to that in a moment'.

'On the subject of consultants and interims – of course these are always an easy target. We inevitably have some external support in an organisation of our size – currently this is around 1% of our workforce. So what are some of the things this 1% has done this year:

- Lead the transformation of our safeguarding programme, moving the city from one to two starts and in the process made the lives of our most needy children, safer;
- Tackle a school which has historically under-performed our young people and bring it back from the threat of Government intervention;
- Lead an efficiency programme which by the end of this coming financial year will have delivered in excess of £22m in savings – savings which otherwise would have directly impacted on Council Tax and on jobs'.

'Of course it is an area we keep constantly under review, but the small number of interims and consultants we do employ have delivered significant financial and operational value to the Council – fact!'

'We have more than addressed the return on investment point in our budget, so I do not propose dwelling on that again, but to return to the allegation of 400 full time posts being deleted, I wonder sometimes which other fictional stories you have been reading. It is inaccurate and alarmist to suggest 400 full time posts are being deleted. Councillor Sandford may not care about the impact his words have on our staff, but we in the administration do care – that's why our officers have taken care to communicate clearly, honestly and accurately to the trade unions throughout the process'.

'I wish Councillor Sandford felt the same obligation to communicate honestly and carefully. I have said many times, we are reducing temporary staff, interims and consultants, we are reducing our level of vacancies, and we have run a very effective voluntary redundancy exercise over the last six weeks'.

'This week we have written to over ninety employees accepting their applications for voluntary redundancy and we have already deleted more than fifty vacant posts. We will be working over the coming weeks further to reduce the requirement for compulsory redundancies'.

4. **Questions from Members to Cabinet Members or Committee Chairmen about issues relevant to their ward**

(i) **Councillor Fower asked the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Economic Development:**

Recreational areas in the South Werrington and North Gunthorpe area are experiencing problems with people using the land for driving 'mini-motos', particularly during the brighter months of the year. Can the relevant Cabinet Member advise me what steps this Council is taking to eradicate the problem of this unwanted and anti-social behaviour?

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Economic Development responded:

'From checks I have made, I can confirm that the Council has received no complaints about this matter. I would therefore refer Councillor Fower to the Council's representative on the Police Authority'.

Councillor Fower raised the following supplementary question:

'It is my belief that this matter is a problem and it will continue to be a problem unless the matter is addressed'.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Economic Development responded:

'I appreciate Councillor Fower's concern but the Council cannot act until a complaint is made'.

APPENDIX B

Council Meeting - 25 February 2009

Amendment to the Budget on behalf of the Conservative Group

Revenue Budget Amendments

Description	2009/10 £k	2010/11 £k	2011/12 £k
Pavement & footpath maintenance	+100	-	-
Free entry to the Lido for those in full time education, for the first weekend of opening	-	-	-
Total	+100	-	-
Funded By:			
Monies available in the 2008/09 budget	-100	-	-
Net impact on 2009/10 budget	Nil	Nil	Nil

APPENDIX C

COUNCIL MEETING 25 FEBRUARY 2009

Alternative Budget Proposal

Amendment to be moved by Councillor C Swift

That the proposed budget as set out in the budget papers and the amendment moved by the Leader, be amended as follows:

Revenue Budget Amendments:

Description	2009/10 £k	2010/11 £k	2011/12 £k
Reduction in Member allowances, including the deletion of at least three Cabinet positions	-100	-100	-100
Reduction in allocation of funding to Opportunity Peterborough	-250	-250	-250
Introduce charges for staff seconded to Opportunity Peterborough	-150	-150	-150
	-500	-500	-500
Reinstate Community Planning funding	+240	+240	+240
Reinstate Pest Control service	+65	+75	+75
Do not introduce charges for internet use at the libraries	+26	+26	+26
Reduce savings targets in order to reduce the requirement to reduce headcount	+169	+159	+159
	Nil	Nil	Nil