PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING HELD AT 6.30PM, ON WEDNESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2018 BOURGES / VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH

Members Present:

Councillor I Walsh (Chair)	Peterborough City Council
Councillor A Ellis	Peterborough City Council
Parish Councillor Neil Boyce	Castor Parish Council
Parish Councillor Richard Clarke	Wansford Parish Council
Parish Councillor Keith Lievesley	Ufford Parish Council
Parish Councillor Susie Lucas	Bainton and Ashton Local Council
Parish Councillor Ian Allin	Orton Longueville Parish Council
Vince Moon	Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Parish Councillor John Bartlett	Thorney Parish Council

Officers Present:

Sylvia Radouani	Community Capacity Officer and Parish Coordinator
David Beauchamp	Democratic Services Officer
Nicola Francis	Integrated Programme Manager
Jawaid Khan	Head of Community Resilience and Integration

- The Democratic Services Officer reminded members to ensure that all Parish Councils had submitted Members Interest Forms to Peterborough City Council.
- The Chairman thanked the Community Capacity Officer for organising the Parish Conference and encouraged members to provide suggestions as to what the theme of next year's conference should be.
- Members noted that Parish Councillor Ian Allin was retiring from his role. Councillor Alllin stated that he had always been interested in attending Parish Council Liaison meetings and appreciated the fact that matters discussed affected the whole of Peterborough and not just one village.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Sandra Hudspeth, Phillip Thompson, Jane Hill and Parish Clerk Lynn George from Deeping Gate Parish Council. Apologies also received from Parish Councillors James Hayes (Bretton Parish Council) and Geoffrey Smith (Werrington Neighbourhood Council),

2. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON AND EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETINGS HELD ON:

2.1 19 SEPTEMBER 2018 – PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Liaison meeting held on 19 September 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record

2.2 20 NOVEMBER 2018 – EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING

The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Liaison Meeting held on 20 November 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. INTEGRATION STRATEGY UPDATE

The Integrated Programme Manager accompanied by the Head of Community Resilience and Integration provided an overview of Peterborough City Council's Integration Strategy.

Members of the Parish Council Liaison meeting debated the report and, in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members felt that 'population churn' of people staying in the city for a short period of time needed to be taken into account. The Integrated Programme Manager responded that these statistics were not currently available but this could be incorporated into the research in the future. It was agreed that this suggestion would be passed on to the research team.
- It was noted that schools had data on population 'churn'.
- The Chairman suggested that the population growth of the city also needed to be taken into account.
- The E.U. settlement scheme would provide greater clarity about the number of E.U. citizens in the country and their 'churn' regardless of whether Brexit took place.
- Improving the accommodation outcomes for residents would help to improve educational results.
- Some member felt policies needed to be pushed harder in Millfield and New England, especially licensing as there were too many licensed premises. Alcohol was not the only issue however. The Chairman responded that the ongoing Cumulative Impact Area would limit the spread of licensed premises.
- Public transport was important.
- There were a large number of challenges but also many things that could be done. Housing was one issue being looked at.
- £1m had to be allocated between now and the end of March 2019 on Integrated Communities work due to procurement rules. There was some flexibility beyond this and the programme was to be delivered over an 18 month period.
- Ward Councillors and Parish Councillors would be consulted during the process. There would be a Cabinet and a Parish Representative on the Peterborough Together Partnership Board.
- The Integration Strategy had four themes. Projects were listed under key themes with each theme having a theme lead.
- Working groups were made up of theme leads and projects leads which would meet monthly to report on progress, risks and issues.
- Research pieces would be conducted around young people.
- Work was being done to increase economic opportunities via JobCentre Plus. Research pieces were to be undertaken into understanding the potential of the workforce and supporting people into work.

- Officers would work with employers to increase the number signing up to the Disability Confident scheme which helped disabled people to be recruited and retained within organisations.
- A Peterborough Citizens Alliance would be established. Larger community groups and employers would come together to agree shared aims and deliver activates to meet agreed outcomes. The Chairman added that a presentation on this should be given at a future meeting of Parish Council Liaison.
- A system of 'time credits' was being developed to encourage people into volunteering. A credit would be earned for every hour worked which could be spent in various facilities for activities such as swimming and skating.
- Social media would be used to form community spirit among young people.
- Young peoples' perception of integration was important.
- It was important that young people had a voice and were able to make decisions. There was already a Youth Panel and a Youth Curriculum was due to be developed by young people themselves. This would examine what young people felt they needed to know to prepare for life after they left school.
- A young people's interfaith network was to be developed, challenging the perception that young people were not interested in faith.
- Members asked what the definition of 'young people' was. Officers responded that the focus was primarily on those in secondary school, rather than primary school.
- There was a perception that a pupil not being able to speak English by the time they reached primary school would put them at a strong disadvantage.
- Research would be funded to understand current ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision and what learners need, e.g. morning and evening courses, condensed course etc. Once learners' needs were understood, the Council could work with providers to better meet those needs.
- Members asked what planning mechanisms were in place. Officers responded that they were identifying whether or not it was appropriate to implement an Article 4 direction to disperse Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) throughout the city. HMOs can cause problems with parking capacity and neighbourhood issues often result from this. The Chairman added that there were certain hotspots in the city with a large number of HMOs.
- Under current arrangements, there is little the Council could do to limit the number of HMOS. Article Four can limit the growth of HMOs in certain areas.
- Members asked what could be done to stop HMOS that cause problems. The Chairman responded that parking is limited in certain estates and arguments could develop between neighbours because of this, including tradesmen with vans. This could cause tension to build within a community. The Chairman was keen to stop more HMOs appearing in areas where they already exist.
- Members asked if there could be clashes between people of different ethnic groups and nationalities over HMOs. The Chairman responded that this could be a problem. An example was raised of a young polish man who organised a litter pick and this was the first opportunity he had to speak to his neighbours. The litter pick helped to integrate him into the community and he had previously been seen in a negative light due to living in an HMO.
- Young people who owned vans sometimes moved into an area, causing parking issues for those who already lived there and the Article Four planning regulation could prevent the growth of this issue.
- Members asked what planning regulations were currently available to deal with this issue. The Head of Community Resilience and Integration responded that Article 4 would provide a useful tool for planning colleagues in order to tackle the problem.
- Members mentioned that HMOs can generate more litter and old HMOs are not as well kept, and more non-HMO homes needed to built. HMO owners who were absent needed to held to account.

- The Chairman acknowledged that this was something that needed addressing and added that many people living in HMOs did not feel like they were part of the community and it was important to encourage people to look at them in a more positive light as many of these people were lonely or isolated despite being in the area for admirable reasons, such as to work.
- There were over 100 languages spoken in Peterborough.
- The Communities Fund was a pot of money that community groups could bid for and receive grants. These could be used for a wide range of projects, including those related the arts and nature. It was important to ask communities what they required. Officers were keen to support projects that were ready to expand to bring people together at a community level. Any community group could apply. Guidance, FAQs and workshops would be provided and this information would be online from January 2019.
- The Chairman stated that the Integration Strategy work was taking place in addition to the Council's existing work strands. The Communities Fund was worth £200,000 over which Peterborough City Council had control.
- There would be at least 5 panel members including Councillor Walsh, a Council officer and a representative of the Community Foundation. Members of the Peterborough Together Partnership would be invited to volunteer and made aware of time commitments required. The programme was rolling and the panel would meet every 6 to 8 weeks depending on the number of applications and until the funding ran out.
- It had been agreed that panel members would step down if they had an interest in any group that was bidding. Councillor Walsh would step down completely if a large number of organisations came forward with whom she had a relationship.
- Parish Councils would be able to apply for funding as they were constituted bodies.
- There were 30 to 40 partners in the Peterborough Together partnership. It was intended that Parish Councils would be included.
- The funding for the Integrated Communities Programme is allocated for 15 months and delivery would extend slightly beyond this.
- This work represented a considerable change in Peterborough City Council's approach. The Council were keen to learn more and change how things were done.
- The funding released to groups must be spent within 12 months of being provided.
- The first panel meeting would be held in late February or early March.
- The money did not need to be spent by March, just allocated.
- Concerns were raised about the ability of parish councils to make submissions within the restricted timeframes due to their limited numbers of meetings.
- The Head of Community Resilience and Integration raised concerns about incomplete applications being made
- Applications would be considered as a block to ensure that parish councils had the ability to make proper bids. The timing for blocks 1 and 2 needed to be considered carefully to ensure all community groups had the chance to apply.
- Members made the point that integration issues mostly occurred within unparished urban areas and suggested that parishes be set up within urban areas. The Chairman responded that villages were self-contained easy-to define geographical areas with a strong sense of identity which was not the case in cities. There were however some very strong community groups in inner city cities
- Members asked if ward and parish councillors would be proactively consulted. Officers responded that this would be an on-going function and also be continued after the scheme was launched.
- The Head of Community Resilience and Integration stated that the formal launch of the Integration Strategy was intended for March 2019.

- Officers were working closely with community groups and forums in unparished areas. A general meeting was scheduled to take place in January 2019 in relation to integrated community funding involving the Peterborough Community Groups Forums. Similar sessions will also be held with other community networks.
- The Service Director for Community and Safety would be the key note speaker at the Town Hall event with the Peterborough Community Groups forum in January.
- The Chairman stated that community organisations had been invited to the Parish Conference but they did not attend. Work was underway to expand people's perception of the work done at the conference.
- Details of the Communities Fund would be published in January.
- Members asked who parish councils needed to apply to.
- The Chair responded that is was important to spend the central government money that had been made available. Detail could not be provided. The Council were looking at ways of making money available in the future.
- The scheme was worth £200,000. This was a rolling programme without a deadline for applications. Applications would be considered for as long as the funding was available.

ACTIONS AGREED;

- The Integrated Programme Manager to pass on members' suggestion that the Integration Strategy should include statistics on 'population churn' to the research team.

4. CO-OPTED MEMBERS FEEDBACK

The Chairman introduced this standing item on the agenda which gave the co-opted Parish councillors on Peterborough City Council's Scrutiny Committees the opportunity to provide feedback from these meetings.

Children and Education Scrutiny Committee

The co-opted member of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee provided feedback on the last meeting of this scrutiny committee which had been held on 1 November 2018. Points raised included:

- The standard of education in Peterborough was poor and the situation had not improved. An update on progress was provided.
- There was a new Director of Education for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire as part of shared services, Jonathan Lewis who had put forward a far-reaching and detailed strategy. He would be attending a future meeting of Parish Council Liaison.
- From the validated data circulated nationally, Peterborough was the worst performing local authority for education nationally.
- 90% of Primary and 100% of secondary schools were judged by OFSTED to be ranked 'Good' or better.
- From the validated data circulated nationally, Peterborough was the worst performing local authority for education nationally.
- A conference had recently been organised in Peterborough for schools ranked 'Good' by OFSTED who were underperforming.
- The strategy involved raising expectations to make rapid progress. Close work would be undertaken between Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, focussing particularly on the role of the council in proving leadership. Visibility in

supporting schools, school improvement, communication and the relationship between local authorities and academies were other areas of focus.

- Academy schools had a large degree of autonomy. Work needed be done with the Regional Schools Commissioner to ensure that standards were supported and academies were not working in isolation.
- Key areas were gaining improvements in schools or settings but the local authority did not have the power to intervene.
- The new Director of Education was keen to intervene and challenge. Special educational needs planning was important.
- Non-attendance rates were exceeding the national average and this must be reduced.
- The schools grant would soon be terminated which would make a difference to Areas Based Partnerships, which underpin the work of schools.
- The role of school governors was important. It was important they had the training and support needed to challenge schools and the quality of teaching. Recruitment was an issue and it was important to ensure that Peterborough was somewhere that people wanted to come to work
- Although there were some issues with 'churn' and newly arriving pupils throughout the year, the Children of migrants often performed well. More difficulties were faced by white working class boys.
- There in others areas facing similar challenges to Peterborough where children performed better.
- The encouragement of aspiration was an important issue. Schools needed to be encouraged to do better.
- Considerable detail was provided on how the Council could help with improvements.
- It was felt that January was too late for the Scrutiny Committee to receive the data. The committee's recommendation that unvalidated data be provided in September was accepted.
- Rural schools were not performing adequately and this would be specifically discussed at the January Meeting of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.
- A comprehensive response to issues in Peterborough was taking place.
- Work to integrate with communities was important as issues such as housing and 'churn 'were significant.

Members discussed the co-opted members' meeting summary of the scrutiny committee meeting and in, summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The co-opted member estimated that 60% of primary, and 100% of secondary schools were academies. It was agreed that the co-opted member would provide accurate figures after the meeting.
- The co-opted member stated that it was important that everyone worked together, including academies and that data sharing was important

Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee

The co-opted member on the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Richard Clarke, gave a summary of the meeting of the committee which took place on 20 November 2018.

- There was a call-in relating to the change of ownership of the company delivering the Fletton Quays Hotel. Specific concerns were raised the members of the board.
- There were also agenda items relating to contracted bodies such as Serco with no rural implications.
- A report was presented regarding NPS including how city council assets were being disposed of.
- An update was provided on the housing strategy.
- The Interim Development Director, Dave Anderson, was coordinating a response to the committee's recommendation to Councillor Hiller that Cabinet consider setting up a Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Joint Scrutiny of the Budget

Members discussed the Joint Scrutiny of the Budget meeting held on 28 November 2018.

- It was felt that the meeting was not particularly productive and that there was little to add to what had already been discussed at the Extraordinary Parish Council Liaison Meeting held on 20 November. The meeting was too focussed on party politics and a concern was raised that that co-opted members were not able to contribute effectively.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council Liaison Meeting would suggest that the Joint Scrutiny of the Budget Meeting be made a less political environment
- A Member commented that the proposed reduction in bus subsidy was particularly important was discussed at both meetings.
- Some members felt that it would be better for each scrutiny committee to discuss the budget individually. The Chairman commented that this was unlikely to happen. It was felt that the joint meeting was set up to improve the focus on the budget.
- There was some confusion at the Joint Scrutiny of the Budget meeting about the levels of funding listed for Community Leadership Fund (CLF). A clarification was later sent out by a Senior Democratic Services Officer. The CLF spend was only £16,500 with much left unspent.
- CLF must be capital spend, i.e. buying a 'thing' not an event. More collective work was needed in this area, e.g. by purchasing I.T. equipment.

Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee

The co-opted member on the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee, Neil Boyce, gave a summary of the meeting of the committee which took place on 13 November 2019.

- There were three substantive items on the agenda; the Safer Peterborough Partnership Priorities – Mid – Year Performance Report, the Community Asset Transfer Update Report and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health and Social Care Peer Review Update.
- There was a list of priorities under the Safer Peterborough Partnership report including offender management.
- There was a reduction in victim based crime.
- The number of first time entrants in to the criminal justice system had gone down significantly.
- Reference was made to the Integrated Offender Management Programme.

- Alcohol related issues were going up while drug related issues were going down.
- There were originally 32 properties in the programme. This had not been increased to 45. Praise was given to the Chairman and Officers for their promising work in this area.
- The Health and Social Care peer review update was discussed. It was clarified that scrutiny were not approving this item. The background to this item was provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- The report described a common vision and purpose.

The Chairman thanked the co-opted parish council members for their contributions to the scrutiny committees and stated that their perspective was important.

ACTIONS AGREED

- It was agreed that the co-opted member on the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee, Susie Lucas, would provide attendees with information on the proportion of Peterborough's primary and secondary schools that were academies.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council Liaison Meeting would suggest that the Joint Scrutiny of the Budget Meeting be made a less political environment
- It was agreed that the Community Capacity Officer & Parish Coordinator and the Democratic Services Officer would create a rolling work programme for the Parish Council Liaison meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that Parish Council Liaison should have a rolling work programme of items under consideration for discussion at future meetings. There was general agreement that issues related to Travellers and the Integrated Communities Strategy should be discussed soon.

A member requested that a planning enforcement officer should attend a future meeting to discuss Article 4 Directives. The member was advised to put this request in writing.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13 February 2019

Chairman

6.34pm – 7.57pm
19 December 2018