

**FULL COUNCIL 29 JULY 2020
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1	<p>Question from Chaz Fenner</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p> <p>Thank you, Mr Mayor. As many families will not be able to have a holiday away this year the Bretton Water Park is a much-needed facility for children and young families especially for general fitness, mental health and play.</p> <p>Now that the government has allowed outdoor sporting and leisure facilities to reopen, many residents are asking in Bretton when the Bretton Water Park will be open.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Mr Fenner for the question. Luckily, I did have it written down because I am afraid your microphone was breaking up during your presentation. Let me say, I agree that we need to do all we can to provide leisure opportunities for our residents this Summer, perhaps even more than ever. Clearly, in the current situation it is vitally important that we keep our residents and staff safe from the effects of Covid-19, and any re-opening of our facilities must be done in ways that achieve that. As you will know, the Covid-19 infection rates in Peterborough had been a recent cause for concern, albeit that they now appear to be reducing. I asked our Director of Public Health to review the advice previously provided to see if there is any possibility of re-opening the Bretton Splash Park, the Central Park paddling pool and the Lido this season.</p> <p>Now Covid-19 hangs heavily over all of my questions I have to answer this evening and therefore the risk assessment that was performed on Monday by council officers and health and safety team allows me to be perhaps somewhat despondent but at least straightforward with the Chamber this evening. We have the risk assessment for the regional pool and I can tell you, sorry, not the regional pool, the Lido, and I can tell you the advice we have now received is that it is highly unlikely we could get that facility open safely. And if we do, it would mean not the Lido we are used to. It would mean a controlled queue, it would mean controlled swimming times of no more than 45 minutes, it would mean there would be simple lane swimming, so not the fun experience that families enjoy at the Lido we know and love. It is doable, it is going to cost an awful lot more money to do so, we are talking about a variance of around £58,000 to get the Lido open and it would take at least four weeks, perhaps five. This is still to be looked at but I'm afraid I'm fairly despondent in respect of getting it open relevant to the risk assessment. I've had also a report that The Bretton Splash Park cannot open this year due to safety with distancing and the fact that there is only a very small fence that kids could climb over without any way of stopping them unless you had security guards ringing the whole facility. I'm waiting for a further update on Central Park but there are logistical issues with getting that open. I'm sorry not to be encouraging with what I am saying but that is the facts as they stand at this moment in time. Thank you.</p> <p>There was no follow up question.</p> <p>Chas Fenner: No,, Councillor Allen has answered my follow up question as well in that answer. Thank you.</p>

2.	<p>Question from Natasha Morgan</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor. Following a petition that collected over 100 names in support of a speed camera being installed as well as other measures, can the council give me assurances that action will be taken to improve the safety on Mayors Walk, Peterborough. Can I get a commitment that we will see these measures put in place at the earliest opportunity, and that the council is fully supportive of making our roads safe for our residents, particularly our school children.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes of course Mr Mayor and I thank Natasha for her question. The Council is of course fully supportive of ensuring safe roads for all road users and appropriate engineering interventions are considered for locations with evidenced or safety record. The received data however is reviewed annually across the authority and this informs our programme of highways work for the year. A speed survey was undertaken in February 2020 which showed the average speeds near Edwalton Avenue to be 26mph westbound & 28mph eastbound which based on those average speeds recorded, shows good compliance with the appertaining speed limit. At the present time, I'm afraid given the calibrated data collected, there are no measures planned for Mayors Walk. Thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p>Natasha Morgan asked a follow up question:</p> <p>In the light of Covid-19, and the fact that people are being encouraged to walk and to cycle, for their own safety, and as the residents obviously don't feel safe, would it not be an idea to possibly fast forward looking at this again?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes, thank you Mr Mayor and again I thank you for that follow up question Natasha which actually makes perfect sense. But I respectfully have to tell you that we can't act on forward projections in that..... I have to tell you that the highways team acts by the action I described. It has to be proved that there is a problem I'm afraid and I'm told the council officers have determined that the problem of persistent speeding here is not evidenced reality. You and the people that signed the petition think there is a dangerous speeding problem that exists on this road, but the council's calibrated testing equipment reports otherwise I'm afraid. Thank you Mr Mayor.</p>
3.	<p>Question from Stuart Haw</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p> <p>Yes and thank you Mr Mayor. So this is for Councillor Allen. During the 2 July 2020 Scrutiny Committee Meeting, Adrian Chapman stated that the council "was looking to work with local sports clubs and community groups to deliver sport and leisure services". Can Mr Allen clarify what was meant, the particular clubs, and the specific services which would be included? And can any Members of the Council say which sport clubs and community groups they have been liaising regarding the provision of sport and leisure services? Thank you.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p>

	<p>Certainly. Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Stuart. I am able to give you an overview, having been in touch with the officer and I haven't got specifics in front of me but I can a definite overview that it's important that this Council for future delivery arrangements for services that are transferring back the council from Vivacity are carefully considered and fit for purpose and affordable. It is also important that whoever is responsible for running these services has a clear vision, is ambitious to offer the best services possible, and is committed to improving the quality of life for all of our residents and visitors. When the contract with Vivacity ends in September, all services will transfer to the council, and we will then take time to consider all options, including entering into discussions with interested parties, including local sports and leisure clubs, cultural leaders, friends groups and others. We have already been contacted by many of these organisations and interested parties, although detailed discussions cannot yet commence, but they will be progressed in the forthcoming weeks and months. Any group that is keen to share their views is encouraged to contact me so that I can alert the responsible officers. I am aware that the athletics and running clubs have shown interest in participating at the Embankment track and that's commendable and we look forward to members of that particular organisation. Thank you Stuart, I hope that's sufficient.</p> <p>Mr Haw asked a follow up question:</p> <p>If possible could Councillor Allen clarify any of the communications around the athletics club and any propositions which he has looked at.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I was made aware today, think three separate contacts between the athletics club, and I know there's two clubs come together to make one now so I can't give you individual name at the athletics club, but there were three telephone conversations or email exchanges with council officers with regard to the future of the club. I haven't got the dates in front of me without digging into my emails, but it is happening and we are keen to work with the athletics club if that's the particular organisation with which you are connected. I can assure you of that direction of travel</p>
4.	<p>Question from John Peach</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p> <p>Thank you very much Mr Mayor. It is a question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor John Holdich. To say, residents are delighted to hear of your intention to retain and keep as many Vivacity facilities and services as possible open when it was announced they had handed the contract back.</p> <p>Now that the government have announced that outdoor swimming pools can reopen I and many residents feel it is of the utmost importance to get the Lido and the Central Park paddling pool open as soon as possible.</p> <p>This is particularly so in light of many families not being able to afford to get away on holiday this summer and children needing to use facilities that have been closed during lockdown. Opening the Lido and the paddling pool would in also enhance people's fitness, mental health and general well-being as well as making a statement that Peterborough is open again.</p> <p>From talking widely to members of the Vivacity board, city councillors, council officers and Paul Bristow MP, there is a willingness to get the Lido open as soon as possible, but the cost is a problem.</p> <p>I have personally made a cheque here made payable to Peterborough City Council for £10,000 to go towards getting the Lido open this season.</p> <p>Can I ask if you and other members are able to contribute either financially or by volunteering time and even head up a fundraising appeal to get the rest of the money</p>

and issue instructions to get the Lido open as soon as practically possible? I understand Vivacity have said the council can take full receipts from any admission charges which should some extent offset some costs.

Get the Lido open and Central Parks paddling pool open as soon as possible, keep fit, stay healthy and save children from drowning in the river at the Embankment, Orton Mere and Ferry Meadows this summer.

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Mr Peach. I know you directed your question to the Leader of the Council and I am sure Councillor Holdich will back up my response. I would say that I am on record of sharing your views Mr Peach. I think we should have got the Lido open, the paddling pool open and indeed Bretton Splash Park. But other things have come into play. Covid hangs heavily over any decision we make and I mentioned to Mr Fenner in my first response, we have recently had a risk assessment that makes all of these now highly unlikely. But let me say, I acknowledge your generous, selfless offer of £10,000 to make a financial difference but it's not just about finance, it's about health and safety and as I say the risk assessment now makes this highly unlikely.

I would say, if you are still looking to put forward your generous donation, if anybody else is listening to this meeting or indeed Mr Peach, you have others who will contribute that may well help the financial aspect of getting the pool open. Primarily it is going to take at least five weeks to get it open. If it opens, and I'm referring now to specifically to the Lido, if it is open it will not be the Lido we know and love. That wonderful family experience in the Summer months where children and parents are there all having a good time together. It would be purely an exercise pool with lane swimming, limited admission, limited use of changing facilities, and only timed swimming periods of up to 45 minutes maximum and then a cleaning period to follow, So although your desire to get the pool open is shared by me, I am now telling the chamber that it's highly unlikely in view of the health and safety advice we have received.

Mr Peach asked a follow up question:

Thank you I would just like to say thank you for your reply. I note everything, but I understand, and obviously I'm not medically qualified but a lot of people who would use the paddling pool and Bretton Park and indeed the Lido, are young people and I believe that if your under 18 you're twice as likely to be struck by lightning as catch Covid and there's not many 18 year olds in Peterborough who have been struck twice by lightning. But I have talked extensively to Liz Robin, the Cambridgeshire Director for Public Health and talking to her I find it very strange that she was only asked to give a report on the opening of the Lido and not any other pools in Peterborough or indeed the Cambridge Lido. So I wondered if in some way the decision could be reviewed or do I have to have it judicially reviewed which would obviously cost money and time.

The Cabinet Member responded.

I most certainly do. And that's quite a pointed question Mr Peach. I refer again to the risk assessment. The risk assessment looking at the Lido now cos we have three topics under debate. The Lido, if it does open, means that the café would not open, the one-way swimming system in place, there would be no use of the paddling pool or the smaller, less deep pool. It would be a travesty to call it the Lido as we know and love, it would be purely an exercise pool. Now looking at others in the country I am told that there are very few open air Lidos open in the country, a small percentage of what's actually out there and I keep coming back to the fact that I'm on record indeed way back at the start of the Covid lockdown that we should try our best to get these facilities open. Some families will not be able to go abroad this year or indeed afford a UK holiday, they deserve something in Peterborough and we should try to get them open. But I come back to the risk assessment, which keeps telling us that it's not practical either for health and safety reasons, or on the back of the health and safety reasons,

	<p>the implications of financial cost to the council. But I again come back to you, your generous offer is well received, and we are grateful for it. If you can find some people to back up your generous offer to the tune of about £58,000 then it's doable providing your patient and realise it will take until the end of August to get it open and the limited season will only take us into September, well passed when the schools are opening. So I'm sorry not to be more optimistic and more positive but that's how it is, that's, we are where we are as they say.</p>
5.	<p>Question from Rohan Wilson</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>Yes thank you Mr Mayor. This new popup lane has made it possible, for the first time, for people to cycle over Crescent Bridge in both directions, and in safety, separated from motor traffic. The new lane connects neatly with the existing safe route which passes beneath the Crescent roundabout, to and from Cowgate, Priestgate and Cathedral Square. So far, this is excellent.</p> <p>However, at present the pop-up lane's continuation on Thorpe Road is ill-defined. By that I mean if you cycled from town, up the hump of Crescent Bridge, you're rolling down now towards Thorpe Road and suddenly you find that the lane has ended. You are on the carriageway and there is oncoming traffic facing you. There is no instruction to tell you to either go on to the narrow pavement to your right or to cautiously cross Thorpe Road at that point where it is often can be very busy. So it's not going to work without that continuation. Back to my script.</p> <p>Cycling legally along Thorpe Road at present is allowed only on the carriageway. Most local people will therefore choose not use the new lane, now the majority of people, the majority of the public say they would love to cycle but they are scared of cycling in traffic, so people will choose not to use the cycle lane and thus not cycle into town. The existing footway on Thorpe Road is actually very wide in parts, but it's not at present allowed for cycling. The new popup lane therefore is simply not yet linked up to make a continuous route from and to its local catchments which are Longthorpe, Netherton, West Town and South Bretton.</p> <p>The question. Will the City Council permanently retain this new popup lane, making it part of a safe, effective and much-needed route to and from people's homes by linking it along Thorpe Road, and by giving it priority at side roads?</p> <p>The alternative is that it may be little used. It would then risk being removed as a "failed experiment", and a major opportunity would be lost.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes, thank you Mr Mayor and I thank you Mr Wilson for your question.</p> <p>The Council welcomes the funding recently received from the DfT (<i>Department for Transport</i>) to enable us to reallocate road space while the traffic levels are measurably less in order to encourage more people to walk and cycle into the city, the purpose obviously behind the grant.</p> <p>You'll be aware Mr Wilson we have already installed a number of measures, with others set to be rolled out over the coming weeks. Where such infrastructure is being installed officers are also undertaking vigilant and timely monitoring which will allow the Council to understand the impact, positive and negative, of any intervention and determine the next steps that should be taken to balance the needs of all road users. It would be misleading of me Mr Wilson, to guarantee the permanence of the measures. Following the initial tranche of funding awarded to the council, officers are now developing proposals for the second round of funding, you may be aware.</p>

	<p>These proposals will aim to make more sustainable changes to support both walking and cycling across the city. And I can confirm to you Mr Wilson, that I have asked officers to consider the area, the whole of the area of Thorpe Road, it's length, and officers will consider this, and your own comments of course which are very valuable, alongside other proposals to form the best possible bid. I thank you Mr Mayor and I thank you Mr Wilson.</p> <p>Mr Wilson asked a follow on question:</p> <p>Yes, I'll try to make it very brief. People who actually cycle in Peterborough, tend to be restricted to those who are quite bold and many, many times have I cycled other Thorpe Road legally, over the Crescent Bridge legally on the carriageway. The vast majority of people would not consider that and therefore some sort of facility is needed.</p> <p>Remember that Peterborough City Council's adherence to the road user hierarchy. Pedestrians come first, cyclists come second and motor vehicle users come towards the bottom. It seems to me that our highways people are barely considering cycling at all. Witness the answer to the Mayors Walk question where apparently, it's all right for motorists to go over the bridge at 28mph when that too is an important cycling route towards the centre of town. Will the city council please make sure that it's engineers take full account of the need of walking and cycling as well as motor vehicles.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I have to reply in the affirmative Mr Wilson, thank you for your question.</p>
6.	<p>Question from Mohammed Haseeb</p> <p>For Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities:</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to ask my question Mr Mayor. Over the Summer weeks, we have seen a number of incidents on Lincoln Road, Millfield, with some businesses not respecting lockdown rules and serving alcohol on their premises. This has led to anti-social behaviour, littering, loitering, and intimidation of employees and customers of other businesses. Will the council, along with other agencies, commit to taking tougher action with zero tolerance, supporting local businesses and increasing enforcement, investigating businesses that break the rules, and having a greater visible presence, particularly during evenings and week-ends along that stretch of Lincoln Road?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yes. Thank you Mr Mayor, and I'd like to thank Mr Haseeb for his question. I'd first of all like to reassure Council of the extensive amount of work in place across the organisation and our partners to keep residents, visitors, businesses and employees safe. Our Environmental Health and Licensing officers have investigated compliance throughout the pandemic, both proactively and reactively. Non-compliance has been dealt with through engagement with the businesses, visits to determine what Covid-19 secure measures have been implemented, advice where measures are inadequate, and follow up visits where necessary.</p> <p>All licensed premises were contacted prior to reopening to offer assistance on how to do so safely and what is expected of them in relation to collecting customer details to assist with the NHS Test and Trace programme.</p> <p>The Council's Covid-19 Rapid Response Team continues to work hard to engage business owners, including on matters relating to social distancing, good hygiene practice and queue management.</p>

I hope that answers the question, thank you.

There was no follow up question.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

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 Haynes**

For Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment:

Following the termination of the contract with Amey, the council setup a LATCo - Aragon. One of the reasons being given was so that the LATCo was able to pursue commercial contracts. Can the Cabinet Member please update us on the extent of commercial activity currently being carried out and plans for expanding commercial waste collection across Peterborough?

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you Mr Mayor. Aragon Direct Services have been going through a period of transition since the start of the contract to ensure all services are operating correctly and in the most efficient way and one of the other groups of people we should be grateful for and happy that they have done such a wonderful job is Aragon's team in keeping our city going during the virus pandemic, let's face it, so they've been a bit busy as you can imagine with some people being furloughed, not furloughed but isolated and working extremely, extremely hard.

They currently have some commercial contracts for Grounds Maintenance, Vehicle Maintenance etc and they are working on a trade waste proposal. Initially, this would be to take Local Authorities trade waste and then look to expand from there. Thank you Councillor, thank you Mr Mayor.

2. **Question from Councillor Hemraj**

For Councillor Fitzgerald, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health & Public Health:

Peterborough is in the top 10 highest for Covid-19. Are there any plans to start testing employees from large employers in the workplace to try and keep the R rate down to prevent against any local lockdown.

The Cabinet Member responded:

If I can get myself unmuted Mr Mayor, and get the answer just before me. So I can respond and thank Councillor Hemraj for her question.

The Public Health Team for Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council work closely with Peterborough's Environmental Health Team and with Public Health England, to monitor any outbreaks of Covid-19 in local workplaces.

If several cases occur amongst the workforce of any one employer, it may be appropriate to test staff who do not have symptoms as well as those who do. This is called asymptomatic testing. The process needs to be agreed between the employer, the local public health team and Public Health England, to ensure that the right resources are put in place to deliver and analyse the tests.

	<p>So far this type of testing has been delivered for two factories in Huntingdonshire, and whilst these were not a Peterborough workplace, several of the staff included in those testing, were Peterborough residents.</p> <p>So we will continue to review the latest data on positive cases amongst Peterborough residents and on workplace outbreaks and will work with regional colleagues to provide asymptomatic testing when it is appropriate to do so. Thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p>Councillor Hemraj asked a follow up question:</p> <p>I do. Do you have a firm numbers on when people are showing symptoms and maybe asymptomatic, do we know how many people will be tested? So, say for instance, we know there's gonna be, there's five people been found from a workplace that have got symptoms, will you then start to look at testing the whole workforce or will it be a certain amount before you consider testing the whole workforce?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I refer to my answer already given which addressed that question so if several cases occur amongst the workforce of one employer, it may be appropriate to test other staff who do not have symptoms as well as those who do. And that is called asymptomatic testing. So in answer to your question, I think it's yes. Now if we want any details of anything that we've undertaken so far, providing it doesn't breach patient confidentiality or any data breaches, Liz Robin will be able to fill in any blanks I'm sure outside of this meeting. Thank you Mr Mayor.</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Ellis (1)</p> <p>Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p> <p>As well as the more obvious sports, culture, arts and heritage services that Vivacity have run and have given notice of ceasing to run there are also other residual services that are very important to different groups of people and local communities, such as the hydrotherapy pool, Bretton Water Park, swim schools and sports pitches.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member responsible for Leisure & Recreation services please make a commitment now that all these services will be re-opened to run as soon as they are deemed Covid-19 safe to operate?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor and indeed thank you Councillor Ellis for your question. As I've mentioned in a couple of my answers earlier this evening Covid-19 hangs over tonight's questions to me like a heavy cloud. We have an issue with Covid-19 lockdown and with that also compacted for the fact that our leisure provider handed in the keys halfway through the lockdown period, so it has made things very difficult.</p> <p>I'm delighted however that we were in a position to announce last week the reopening of a number of Vivacity's services, including our vital libraries, leisure centres, the regional swimming pool and the athletics track. They will all be opened over the next three or four weeks. As acknowledged in the question, it is clearly vital that these and any other services can reopen safely with the protection vital to both service users and the staff, and every location needs to be subject to a full Covid-19 risk assessment before reopening. We will continue to work with Vivacity, who remain responsible for all of their services until the 16th September, to safely reopen as many facilities as we possibly can, based on national guidance and local public health guidance, and I will most certainly keep Council fully informed as we progress.</p> <p>Councillor Ellis asked a follow up question:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor, I do have a follow up, supplementary question. Thank you to Councillor Allen for his answer. Will Councillor Allen please elaborate on the current</p>

	<p>plans for the services which I mentioned, the hydro-therapy pool, the Bretton Water Park, swim schools etc. i.e. current plans for some of them for some of them for next year, how they think they are going to be run?. Will the city council be running them or are there other plans? Can you give us an update please?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>To be that exact is difficult but I can state that the Bretton Splash Park which you mentioned is highly unlikely to open this year because of health and safety issues as a result of our risk assessment. What was your next particular, specific location please Councillor Ellis?</p> <p>Response from Councillor Ellis:</p> <p>Hydrotherapy pool. My question about the water park was about next year when it hopefully will be open.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Yeah, let's get Bretton Splash Park open next year, very important to the local community, certainly support that. It needs some work doing but let's get it done. With regards to the hydrotherapy pool, again that's an important facility but that is under review and I haven't got an answer for you on that. But I am supportive of the need for that facility in Peterborough. But it's not in the immediate venues that we will be opening.</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor Qayyum</p> <p>For Councillor Fitzgerald, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health & Public Health:</p> <p>What has come of the Labour Group recommendation for mass testing of people in the city that was passed at the Joint Scrutiny meeting in April/May?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor. And I note the question although in reflection I recall that it was Dr Qayyum herself, not the Labour Group, that made the recommendation and in fact the scrutiny group as a whole made the recommendation to look into the possibility of mass testing. And indeed as a very responsible officer, Dr Liz Robin did go away and talk to the relevant people and she discussed this with Cllr Qayyum in order to explore the issue and propose a further study.</p> <p>So the Director of Public for Norfolk provided background information on the proposed study, for which the final form and funding was not confirmed and provided contact details for the lead academic at the University of East Anglia. Dr Robin has emailed the lead at the University of East Anglia to explain that Peterborough City Council would be interested, doesn't mean to say we'd do it, we'd be interested, because we would need to know the details, the implications, the costs, resources required and whether or not we could participate and outline the potential benefits of also carrying out the research with a more diverse population than Norwich.</p> <p>Sometime ago a response has not yet been received, however since the question, Dr Robin and I pursued a follow up so she's kept me informed and in actual fact the latest news in is that it's still an active idea, research is progressing and hope to get funding from government and backing from government. This will come back to us if things move forward and if there's an opportunity to work with Peterborough City Council. So it's positive in one way in the sense that the door is open, but we will very much have to wait from East Anglia University in order to see if there is anything for the future. But nothing definite, but we have made the contact and we did follow through on the scrutiny recommendation, thank you Mr Mayor.</p>

	<p>Councillor Qayyum asked a follow up question:</p> <p>I do indeed, thank you very much Mr Mayor. Thank you very much Councillor Fitzgerald and I did find the email extremely helpful from Dr Robin. Point of clarification, when I made the recommendation, I absolutely made the recommendation on behalf of the Labour Group and with the consensus of the Labour Group as well. Now my follow up question to you because time is of the essence. We are in very strange times This is a global pandemic, we are part of that global pandemic as well and we have the highest death rate, within, one of the highest death rates in Europe, so given the increase in cases in the last two weeks, evidence that mass testing decreases the rates of infection as demonstrated by studies that you refer to, thus backed by the Labour Group recommendation, aiming for an outcome to prevent increasing infection rates. The fact that it's actually impossible to prevent cross postcode travelling by residents within the city, leading to increasing infection risks and rates, how confident are you of the processes reflecting testing through mobile units, it's specificity, and testing centres outreach covering and anticipating to protect the whole population with track and trace and the validity of the collated data. Are we really preventing the increase in cases, with the specific measures declared. Thank you.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I think Dr Qayyum also pushed the limits of timing their Mr Mayor so I'll do my very best to answer. Although I don't think most of the question is relevant to the original question, in terms that it was about a scrutiny recommendation. However, those members that are keeping a close eye on public health matters, know that we will have ramped up our public health engagement in particular communities across the city in order to tackle this very, very Important issue. I myself today have done news pieces with Dunya News, GO TV, as has Dr Robin, to reach communities, particularly those in the black and ethnic minority group who are more at risk of both serious illness and in fact death which the stats have already told us. The increased testing regime we have put in across the city, in particular locations, we are, we are continuing with that. We're trying to test as many people as we can, but at the moment, there are no mass mechanisms for mass testing that I am aware of. But I am not a physician, or an expert in medical matters or public health, and that's why I rely on Dr Robin to advise and I advise Cabinet and other members of her professional opinion.</p> <p>So I think in terms of Dr Qayyum, and I know you have a good relationship with Dr Robin, is that you know that those questions in detail can be taken up with her. And I would say the same to any other member, either come to me for briefing or indeed Dr Robin is very approachable if you have any specific concerns or specific technical questions. I wouldn't have, as you would expect, every single bit of information to hand this evening, but, you know, if there is anything that you want a specific answer to, please put that in writing and I will get the Director of Public Health to answer anything specific.</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy (1)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment:</p> <p>Following previous correspondence from myself concerning the Local Electricity Bill, now supported by 187 MPs which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply (which would promote local renewable electricity supply companies and co-operatives by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply operation), will you write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill in becoming an Act of Parliament?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor.</p>

	<p>I can confirm that I have instructed officers to undertake research into this upcoming Bill and subject to their findings being favorable, which I fully expect them to be, I will indeed write to both of Peterborough's MP's asking them to support the Bill through Parliament. And in view of the fact that we have got this national renowned project in Peterborough which we call the PIRI Project, (<i>Peterborough Integrated Renewables Infrastructure</i>) which will be taking both heat and power from our plant and switching it around the city, you know, this comes at an excellent time and it's most opportune for our city. So hopefully there'll be no hurdles and hopefully we'll be supporting it and even more hopefully we should be able to do something really useful for our residents and possibly the council make a little bit of money out of it too.</p> <p>Councillor Murphy asked a follow up question:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor for answering the question. So it sounds like this is not only beneficial for the country it will be very, very beneficial for Peterborough. Can I ask why there was a delay in putting our support forward but thank you for that support which I anticipate to be coming shortly.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I'm sorry Councillor Murphy, I don't know anything about a delay with our support going forward. What makes you think there was a delay?</p> <p>Councillor Murphy responded:</p> <p>Rather than make a point of personal explanation now, it's just that it's been a few weeks since we first started correspondence, let's move on and thank you for your pledge of support tonight.</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Robinson</p> <p>Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p> <p>As many councils across the country have re-opened their libraries after the government gave the green-light to do so in late June, it is highly disappointing that our library services, in the year of the Peterborough Reads campaign, are still closed with no date yet shared for them to reopen. Can the Cabinet Member describe the reasons for the delay and when Peterborough residents will be able to access libraries again?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor and indeed I am happy to respond. I was delighted that, during our Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting last week, our Service Director for Communities and Partnerships was able to confirm the arrangements for the gradual, safe re-opening of our libraries service. As reported, Central Library will open within days, followed by Bretton, Dogsthorpe, Hampton, Orton and Werrington by the end of August, and other libraries by the end of September, subject to them being safe to do so.</p> <p>I've set out clear plans now in place and would like to thank our residents for their patients during the most challenging of times.</p> <p>Councillor Robinson asked a follow up question:</p> <p>Yes I do have a follow up question but my first questions did ask for the reasons for the delay of why we were one of the latest in the country, I don't feel Councillor Allen had addressed that. I know the date hadn't been available when I submitted the question, and he has confirmed the date. But my questioning asked for reasons.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p>

	<p>Well I'm quite happy if I may to respond and I think it is self-evident because as I have mentioned previously in this meeting, we had not only the Covid lockdown to deal with in Peterborough which impacted on the closure of libraries by the necessity and then getting them open had to be a priority. The priority was then diminished, or the ability to prioritise that was diminished because our leisure service provider, vivacity, had handed in the keys. So they had to get their selves back into gear. Don't forget all their staff are furloughed, their senior officers are, probably one or two of them are in work, so we had to pull people back or they had to pull people back to get the job moving along so it wasn't ideal. And I think we perhaps were all somewhat frustrated by that situation but its where we are.</p> <p>Councillor Robinson:</p> <p>Could I now ask my supplementary Mr Mayor.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member:</p> <p>I thought that was your supplementary.</p> <p>Councillor Robinson:</p> <p>No that was asking for clarification on the first one.</p> <p>The Mayor</p> <p>Yes, go on.</p> <p>Councillor Robinson asked a follow on question:</p> <p>I just wondered if the Cabinet Member would be willing to liaise with Vivacity and offer PCCs Comms platform support in terms of the Annual Library Summer Reading Challenge. It's quite a vital element of children's reading and in the year of our Peterborough Reads Campaign, it is available online across the country, being run by libraries, but I only found out through much searching that its available here. So could we offer them assistance that we would promotes it better, this Summer in Peterborough because I fear that many families may assume that it's been cancelled altogether for the year.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>You know, I think that's not a bad idea but I would say that at the moment we still regard Vivacity as being autonomous and I think they would like to get on and get their own house in order to hand back to us, because certainly all services will go back to city council post, mid September when we take over the Vivacity estate. So, you know, it's on record now you've suggested that, perhaps Vivacity would like to pick it up and I will ask them if they want to.</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandra Bond</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p> <p>Following the decision by Vivacity to terminate its contract to run various council services, including the popular Vivacity gyms, can the relevant Cabinet Member please assure the many residents that have paid their gym membership in advance as a yearly subscription will have their subscription honoured by whoever is responsible for running the gyms and that they will have their subscription extended by the amount of time they were unable to access the Vivacity services due to Covid-19 closures?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Another Vivacity question. Let me reassure Council that Vivacity have confirmed that it is their intention that nobody is financially disadvantaged as a result of the pandemic,</p>

	<p>a position we very much support. Clearly membership terms and conditions will be fully honoured, and nobody will lose money or unused time on their membership. Second, and for further reassurance, the transition of Vivacity services is being carefully managed, and membership will transfer under the same terms and conditions as currently enjoyed by Vivacity members.</p> <p>There was no follow up question.</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Ali (1)</p> <p>For Councillor Holdich, Leader of the Council and Deputy Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority:</p> <p>When will we have an Independent University of Peterborough with degree awarding powers that is not be affiliated to another University?</p> <p>The Leader of the Council and Deputy Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority responded:</p> <p>Got it, it doesn't like being unmuted. Right, OK, start again. Thank you Councillor Ali for your question. We have spent a long time developing a first-class university for the city which is a £100million project. The advice we received was that developing a traditional university did not meet the needs of the city or business in the future. So it became obvious that we needed a partner and therefore the project was put out to tender.</p> <p>Ten applications were received, and ARU (<i>Anglian Ruskin University</i>) came out as the best fit for us now and in the future. Providing everything goes according to plan it should become the University of Peterborough with awarding powers in 2028.</p> <p>I am sure, like me, you would like to acknowledge the huge input the Combined Authority and Mayor Palmer has played in this success of this project. Thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p>Councillor Ali asked a follow on question:</p> <p>Thank you very much. I am grateful to Councillor Holdich for that answer, but I think that thrust of my question was that I want graduates, when they are awarded their degrees, that they should have a degree awarded by the University of Peterborough. It's very important that we put our city on the map. I have no criticism of Anglia Ruskin University, I'm not criticising them but I think as a city of 200,000 population we need to be standing on our own feet and that we have been promising our residents for a long time. But I appreciate the challenges that we have, thank you.</p>
9.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (1)</p> <p>For Councillor Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation:</p> <p>How many BAME personnel do we have at director level in the council?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Nawaz for the question. When filling out the application form, providing information on your ethnicity is voluntary and we therefore do not have any specific figures. However, I believe this council has demonstrated through it's actions over many, many years, its support of equality, diversity, integration and cohesion. We reveal the council's policies, procedures and practices on a regular basis with a view to ensuring they are inclusive and non-discriminatory to all people. Clearly, the recruitment of directors very much depends on who applies, such applications for senior roles are small in number and it would be</p>

	<p>difficult to force people of BAME origin to apply for jobs here at any level. However I would be happy to sit down with Councillor Nawaz and Head of HR and Chief Executive to discuss this issue. I am sure that we could explore the issue with the Society of Legal Authority, Chief Executive and trade unions for local authorities, Chief Executives and Senior Managers to see if we can find useful suggestions to them.</p> <p>Councillor Shaz Nawaz asked a follow up question:</p> <p>I do and thank you very much for that answer Councillor Farooq. You see the issue that I have is with that statement you've just shared clearly demonstrates that enough isn't being done. Just by saying people from the BAME community aren't applying, we need to look at the reasons why they aren't applying and what we can do differently to have senior officers at the council because I know the conversations that you and I have had in the past, we both agree that organisations should reflect the communities that they serve. At the moment that isn't the case. And I know that people sometimes say it's got to be the best person for the job but we've got plenty of talented people in the BANE community just like our Mayor here tonight , the Mayor of London, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary and many others. So what are you going to do to create a culture and environment Mr Farooq, that when I ask you this question next year you can give me some tangible results? Thank you Mr Mayor.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Nawaz and I suppose this matter is not personally just wholly responsibility for me but for you as well equally and as I suggested, if we sit together and we can go forward together and encourage more BAME people to come forward and to apply for the director jobs we would be happy to promote that. However, looking at the statistics of the city council, of the 1016 people employed, 130 of them are BAME and the remaining are normal origin. So it is all for us to work together and promote more people. But this city council is a clear example of who look at the Cabinet and how many members of BAME are in the Cabinet? And we want to reflect this throughout. Thank you.</p> <p>Councillor Shaheed raised a Point of Order:</p> <p>Point of Order Mr Mayor. Councillor Farooq just referred to the remaining people of normal origin. Can he just confirm what that actually means, normal origin please?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Apologies, apologies I meant to say white origin.</p> <p>Councillor Nawaz:</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Farooq.</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg (1)</p> <p>For Councillor Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation:</p> <p>It has recently come to light that reports made via Fix My Street and the council's branded online version that are reported in the category of "Public Footpath or cycle path" have not got through to Aragon and haven't been actioned. Can the cabinet member please inform us of how many reports have been affected by this problem and over what period has this been happening?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Hogg for the question. This has been investigated further with Aragon and we can confirm that the defect did come through to their helpdesk, but due to the description of the request there was some confusion and delay in identifying the responsible service area. It was raised</p>

	<p>and investigated as a tree request, a shrub cutting request affecting the highway, property damage and an allotment request, before a site visit was fully determined the responsible service area to action. The allotment is also self-managed so Aragon had to establish ownership responsibilities of the fence.</p> <p>When Cllr Hogg, you asked Aragon if it had received all the 'Fix My Street' requests they advised that only one was received. It has subsequently transpired that only one Councillor request was logged. They did indeed receive all of the 'Fix My Street' requests for this job.</p> <p>We apologise for the length of time this has taken to resolve but can now confirm Aragon are receiving the 'Fix My Street' requests and have a process in place to ensure these jobs are processed moving forwards. Thank you.</p> <p>Councillor Hogg asked a follow up question:</p> <p>Yes, I just wanted to clarify. Essentially, what it is, I believe the issue is that items that are reported under the public footpath or cycle path section go to Highways and they are then looked at and decided whether or not it's an Aragon, something that Aragon need to look at rather than Highways and I just wanted to make sure that Aragon are now receiving, there is a procedure in place to make sure that those emails from Highways to Aragon are being read and actioned.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Hogg. Yes, yes indeed they are. there are. As you probably appreciate, the whole purpose of Fix My street was to create efficiency by sending the issues directly to the relevant department, whether it was Aragon, Highways etc. The issue here was that there are certain areas which cross paths between Highways and Aragon but now we have a process in place where the response is picked up by both and then gets dealt with, so the resident gets the service straight away.</p>
11.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford (1)</p> <p>For Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment:</p> <p>When the charge for collecting garden waste was introduced, there was a large drop in the number of people using the brown bin service. Since this change was made, Peterborough's rate of recycling and composting has been falling and it is likely that a lot of garden waste is now going into the black bins.</p> <p>In recent weeks, the brown bins have been emptied only once a month but free of charge. Would the cabinet member consider adopting a free once a month collection of garden waste on a long-term basis, with perhaps a charge being imposed only if people want a more frequent e.g. fortnightly collection?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor. Thank you Councillor Sandford. The monthly service has only been offered to those residents who previously subscribed to the service, so it's not citywide. If we were to adopt a city-wide free monthly service this would have significant increased costs and we would need additional vehicles and staffing.</p> <p>When we carried out a composition analysis in Summer 2019, it showed that the black bin had 12.1% of garden waste in it. There will be a further composition analysis in Spring 2021 so that we can see what the situation is.</p> <p>The fortnightly collection, resulting in getting considerable tonnage and of course as you know, the HRC (<i>Household Recycling Centre</i>) is also being well used with garden</p>

	<p>waste being delivered to the HRC up by 40%. Thank you Mr Mayor, thank you Councillor.</p> <p>Councillor Sandford asked a follow up question:</p> <p>Yes I do, thank you Mr Mayor. I think we are all aware, of the financial constraints but I think we are also aware that when the charge for brown bin waste was introduced there was a massive drop in the amount of waste coming in through the brown bins and there was also a massive drop in the number of people participating. In the area I'm in, I think I'm now about the only one in about 65 houses that actually has a brown bin. So could at least, given the fact that I'm told that since we have had the monthly free service there has been a bit of an upsurge in the amount coming through, could he at least consider the implications of bringing back the free service because I tin it would be immensely popular.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I'm happy to consider that Councillor Sandford and if we could reintroduce a free service and could afford it and spend that money ahead of many of the other calls on our budget at the moment, some of them very serious to try and stop people dying, I'm happy to do so. Thank you for your question Councillor Sandford.</p>
	<p>The following questions were answered in writing outside of the meeting, either because they were ward related or the time for questions had been used.</p>
	<p>Councillor Skibsted asked why some councillor's had two questions read out whilst others had none, and the Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager explained some questions were received after the questions had been ordered and therefore they were added to the end because they were received late.</p>
12.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy (2)</p> <p>Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities:</p> <p>Does the Leader/Cabinet Member agree with me that the organisation of the first black lives matter rally recently in Peterborough was exceptionally well managed whilst social distancing was maintained. Those present and viewing on social media heard a particularly poignant message from a number of speakers who were predominantly local black women. Do you agree now that there is a need for the council to address white privilege, review any anti-discriminatory practices and do what it can to tackle discrimination?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may have responded:</p> <p>This Council has consistently demonstrated, through action, its support of equality, diversity, integration and cohesion over many, many years.</p> <p>We enjoy highly positive, respectful and meaningful relationships with faith and community leaders, and have stood side-by-side with them on many occasions to show our support and respect.</p> <p>The Black Lives Matter movement, and the recent events in Peterborough, shine a light on the themes of equality and diversity, and this Council will continue to demonstrate in meaningful ways our continued support for all of our residents and visitors, no matter what their background. All lives matter!</p> <p>I have asked the relevant director to recommend to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee the creation of a task and finish group to review the Council's own policies, procedures and practices with a view to ensuring they are inclusive and non-discriminatory to all people.</p>
13.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg (2)</p>

	<p>For Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment:</p> <p>One of the recommendations from the recent Cross-party Fly tipping Task and Finish Group was for the introduction of one free bulky waste collection per household per financial year. This was positively received by both the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet. Can the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment please confirm that this will still be introduced and on what timescale?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may have responded:</p> <p>Outline business cases for each of the 4 key recommendations of the Task and Finish group, including the provision of a free bulk waste collection service, were developed. However as contained in the report to Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 11th March 2020 due to the unprecedented financial situation the Council is in no funds are available to undertake any of the proposals in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 period.</p> <p>I am sure the member is aware that due to the Covid-19 situation the Council's finances have not improved from that previously indicated and at this point in time there are no plans to introduce a free bulk collection service.</p>
14.	<p>Question from Councillor Ellis (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment:</p> <p>Last year, this month, Peterborough City Council declared a climate emergency and resolved to cut emissions to zero by 2030. Will the Cabinet Member for the environment please update council on what actions have been undertaken in this first year?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may have responded:</p> <p>Over the past 12 months a number of activities have taken place to support the Council to reduce emissions to net-zero by 2030. Most notably this includes the development, and subsequent adoption of a Carbon Management Action Plan. As part of this plan the Council committed to undertake 20 actions in 2020, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing a Carbon Management Plan for the whole of Peterborough. This is on track to be delivered with input from the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group and other stakeholders, initially focusing on emissions relating to on-road transport which account for the single largest proportion of emissions across the city. • Officers are working with a local parish council to develop a plan that can be delivered on a parish level. This will form a template which can be adapted and replicated across other parishes in the city. • dimming streetlights further to save more energy and reduce carbon emissions. This has happened and all lights are dimmed by 40%. • Inclusion of Carbon Impact Assessments across the organisation. <p>There are many more actions underway but rather than detail those all here I am happy to ask officers to publish a brief progress report against each of these 20 commitments on the relevant section of the Council's website.</p>
15.	<p>Question from Councillor Ali (2)</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p>

	<p>What assurance can the Cabinet member give to the good residents of Peterborough that the option of bringing our Library, Arts, Cultural and Leisure Services totally in house will be fully considered, reviewed and shared with Members before a final decision is made?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may have responded:</p> <p>It is vitally important that the management and delivery arrangements for the services that are returning to the council from Vivacity are carefully considered. I recognise the importance of these services, especially under current circumstances, and very much see these services as playing a vital role in the city's social and economic recovery. An internal taskforce has been stood up to lead the work to transition services to the council in the first instance, and to then consider future organisational and delivery options, and I have asked them to ensure that the option to deliver services in-house be fully considered. Any recommendations for future delivery arrangements will be brought through the normal scrutiny process for proper debate and discussion.</p>
16.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (2)</p> <p>For Councillor Fitzgerald, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health & Public Health:</p> <p>Not too long ago Peterborough was named as the worst place to live two years in a row. Recently, we were named as the unhealthiest high street. These are two accolades we can do without. Would you please explain how we got to this place where we top the charts for being the worst in two different categories?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may have responded:</p> <p>The issue of how our city is perceived is an important one. The first two surveys you refer to were by the admission of the newspaper non-scientific and based upon a very small set of residents' opinions. They certainly don't square with much wider much wider survey evidence about what people value about the city.</p> <p>Of course rapid growth does bring pressures on the city's infrastructure and public services and it is clear that the city needs a better settlement from government to address this and I certainly hope that the fairer funding formula will help. However, it is also bringing new life and opportunities to the City, for example the new developments at Fletton Quays where our first Hilton Hotel site is now underway and the Embankment - where phase one of our new University will commence next year. We need to focus on these positive changes to our great City and not allow others to talk us down.</p> <p>On the question of the unhealthiest High Street, whilst there are a lot of fast food takeaways in city, this is a result of consumer demand. There are potential licensing restrictions which could be used but, right now, as we strive to build a strong recovery from Covid-19, I certainly do not think it is the right time to introduce licensing restrictions on fast food outlets. We will however, use public health messaging to encourage healthy eating.</p> <p>Response from Public Health</p> <p>I'm assuming you want my answer on the 'unhealthiest high street' part of the question from public health.</p> <p>The Health Rate Index for High Streets was developed by Bank Rate a mortgage broker rather than by health experts. The rating is determined by the number of amenities of various types in the area surrounding the high street. Peterborough ranks low because it has few gyms and green spaces in the area around its high street and more fast food takeaways and pawnbrokers. We do have health issues and inequalities in Peterborough which we are committed to addressing. This</p>

	<p>includes making sure that healthy food and opportunities for physical activity are easily available.</p> <p>However, the Healthy High Street Index is unlikely to be the best way to measure this, as it is not well correlated with overall health outcomes. For example, Glasgow scores second best overall in the UK for Healthy High Streets, but life expectancy for females in Glasgow is 79 years compared with 82 years in Peterborough, while life expectancy for males in Glasgow is 73 years compared with 78 years in Peterborough. We want to work to improve both our healthy environment and our overall life expectancy for residents in Peterborough but need to carefully select the data and information we use to analyse and monitor this.</p>
17.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford (2)</p> <p>For Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment:</p> <p>At a recent meeting of the climate change working group we were shown a graph that clearly shows transport to be the biggest source of Peterborough's carbon emissions and it is also well known that transport is a big source of air pollution. During the lockdown period, there was much less traffic on the roads, people reported cleaner air, less noise and measurements showed dramatically reduced transport derived carbon emissions.</p> <p>So, can I ask what is the cabinet doing to ensure that we have a genuine "green recovery" from the Covid crisis and in particular what are they doing to prevent a big resurgence in car usage and to get more people to make a long-term shift onto more sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may have responded:</p> <p>Data shows a significant decrease in the use of motorised transport, dropping at one point to as low as approximately 30% of pre-Covid levels, during the lockdown period. We also learnt, as you refer to, at a recent meeting of the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group that the latest data shows that on road transport is responsible for 24% of Peterborough's citywide emissions.</p> <p>The Climate Change Cross party Working Group have therefore agreed that the next stage of the groups work should focus on understanding these emissions in more depth and identifying interventions that can be made to ensure the Council can support the city to reduce these emissions to net-zero by 2030.</p> <p>Crucially, the Council are also delivering interventions in the city at the moment including diming of street lighting by 40% and installing a series of pop-up cycling and walking facilities to support people to opt for more sustainable forms of transport. As part of the second round of grant funding we are looking to make more permanent changes to support this transition. We are also working with bus operators to promote usage and ensure that passengers feel safe on the buses and are therefore willing to use them.</p>
18.	<p>Question from Councillor Howell</p> <p>For Councillor Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation:</p> <p>As Peterborough becomes one of the country's first Gigabit cities, and is about to enter a new and exciting era as a university city, with a new strategy launched this year to promote Peterborough as a cultural city, will the Cabinet Member please confirm how we will take advantage of the city's potential of becoming the nation's digital city.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may have responded:</p>

	<p>The completion of the roll out of gigabit fibre to homes in Peterborough, following the roll out to commercial and public sector offices puts the city in a very strong position to attract investment from companies in the fields of digital communications, big data and internet of things applications.</p> <p>In our recently published development brochure about the city, the strength of our gigabit fibre infrastructure features prominently, and the Council is currently working with Opportunity Peterborough and the Combined Authority to arrange an Investor Conference in October at which the many positive attributes of locating in Peterborough will be promoted including our UK leading digital infrastructure.</p> <p>Of course, our superfast digital infrastructure will need companies and public sector organisations to develop applications that make use of the ultra-fast speeds that can now be achieved, otherwise it will be rather like having a motorway with no cars.</p> <p>Companies that have a need for high volumes of data transfer such as video production, or medical imaging companies, could gain a real competitive advantage, from locating in the city and we'll continue to work with Opportunity Peterborough and the Combined Authority to attract such companies to the city. The new University will also bring opportunities for commercial spin out companies once it has been established. And, of course, as a Council we can take advantage of our gigabit network to boost productivity and deliver better public services. The experience of lockdown has shown that a lot of the work we do can be done more flexibly, using digital networks to connect staff in different physical locations.</p> <p>We know that many leading companies in the digital field are based in London and with Peterborough now only 40 minutes from Kings Cross and with office rents around one fifth of those in Central London we have a genuine cost advantage. However, we also need to be able to attract people with the skills and talent to take full advantage of what our great digital infrastructure can offer. The new university will play a key role in building a digitally capable workforce, and our schools and FE sector will also have an important role to play.</p>
19.	<p>Question from Councillor Jamil</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p> <p>Please can the relevant Cabinet Member advise how many houses the Council has built in their various partnerships since the Combined Authority came in to being?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may have responded:</p> <p>Medesham Homes is the only partnership the council has actively been part of for the delivery of new affordable homes. Medesham Homes is a partnership between the Council and Cross Keys Homes.</p> <p>The Combined Authority (CA) was established in March 2017 and since then Medesham has delivered 3 schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midland Road 29 units which completed Feb 2019 • Belle Vue 30 units which completed Feb 2020. This scheme received CA funding of £735,000 • Castle Acre, Eye Green which completed June 2020. This scheme received CA funding of £875,000
20.	<p>WARD SPECIFIC: Question from Councill Fower (1)</p>

	<p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments:</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member please let me know how many roads in and around the Manor Drive housing development have been adopted by the Council to date, how many remain un-adopted and the reasons for not adopting them to date.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded in writing.</p> <p>There is a S278 legal agreement, works within the existing public highway, in place for the main section of Manor Drive up to just beyond Cooper Road. At the current time, the road is still maintained at private expense, although we are close to adoption of the highway works, and when this occurs, it will become public highway, maintained at public expense.</p> <p>There are currently 11 named private streets within the first area to the north that were developed, none of which are intended for adoption, as the developers choose to keep private and not submit an application at the time to request adoption.</p> <p>There are currently 9 named private streets within the Keepmoat development to the south, including the extension of Manor Drive itself. An application has been made for the adoption of all these, however the developer is yet to enter the S38 legal agreement, which is expected to complete this Summer. Once the roads are substantially completed and the legal agreements for all phases within this area are in place, the highways will enter a 12-month maintenance period, before proceeding to full adoption. As this development is ongoing, there are still future roads yet to be named and built, so at present we cannot give a definitive number of the streets.</p>
21.	<p>WARD SPECIFIC: Question from Councillor John Fox (1)</p> <p>For Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation:</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member please reassure the residents of Werrington that the proposed Sports Centre and Swimming Pool facility is still on course and if progress is being made, along with a possible start date?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded in writing.</p> <p>I am very pleased to be able to reassure councillors and residents that the work to explore the potential for a new leisure facility located in Werrington and serving the north of the city remains live. As with many important pieces of work, the pandemic has impacted on progress, although we hope to be able to restart the scoping work in the coming weeks. I will ask the relevant director to ensure officers keep the local councillors fully informed and updated.</p>
22.	<p>WARD SPECIFIC: Question from Councillor Fower (2)</p> <p>For Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment:</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member please let me know how the City Council are assessing the success of the biodiversity scheme, situated in the John Clare Rec, which essentially allows for a large section park area, to grow uncut each year and how much longer the scheme is expected to go on for?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded in writing.</p> <p>Aragon Direct Services do not have a formal inspection process in place to monitor the increase in biodiversity value by limiting grass mowing interventions. Informal visits</p>

have however shown an increase in flora and fauna on most of these sites, typical of that exhibited within meadow grassland.

The John Clare mowing regime is scheduled to continue indefinitely with the intention next year to introduce additional wildflowers into the grassland, to further increase the floral diversity, with the hope to expand the biodiversity value. We would equally welcome suggestions of additional sites where we could trial this similar approach.

Questions on notice to:

d) The Combined Authority Representatives

1.

Question from Councillor Hogg

For Councillor Holdich, Deputy Mayor for the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Combined Authority:

Recently in the press it has been reported that Simon Clarke, Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, recently sent a letter to Mayor Palmer with copies going to all members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CAPCA).

Mayor Palmer has rejected the concerns, can the Deputy Mayor for the Combined Authority comment who is right - the Minister or the Mayor?

The Deputy Mayor for the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Combined Authority responded:

I know, I'll get there in the end, don't worry about it. It is my view the Minister is out of order in sending an open letter, as most of the issues had been resolved and/or under discussion with his civil servants. When setting up an organisation of this complexity from scratch, through custom and practice, inevitably there would be issues, and a differences of opinion.

It is a great pity the Minister did not highlight the tremendous success the Combined Authority has had in transport, road and rail, housing, Peterborough University, local town planning to name but a few - to which our city has benefited - in the region of a £100million. Thank you.

Councillor Hogg asked a follow up question:

Sorry, that's kind of thrown me off my kilter a little bit. So essentially it seems from this letter it seems there is a gap between in terms of the relationship between the Minister of State and the Mayor. And I want to know what is being done to repair that relationship and also will the letter be published to councillors?

The Deputy Mayor for the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Combined Authority responded:

Yes, thank you Mr Mayor, Councillor. We were informed this afternoon, I think on three occasions their questions have been answered in writing and The Mayor has sought a meeting with the Minister which he has been granted. Thank you.

Councillor Murphy spoke as a Representative of the Combined Authority, and advised Members that the letter had been published that afternoon (29 July 2020) at the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting and discussed for two hours, the recording for which was available online.