

Appendix H- Budget Consultation Feedback

#	Do you have any comments to make about the phase one budget proposals?	Having read the phase one proposals document, how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make total savings of almost £35.7million in 2021/22 and over £38.6million by 2023/24? Tick the answer you agree with.	If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money or generate additional income to protect services, please state these here:
1	The budget fulfilled by the taxpayer is now in excess of 50% taxation of total council tax allocated to adult social care. This council expenditure is excessive and far too high.	Not very much	Reduce the amount spent on adult social care, it is excessive and a waste of taxpayer money.
2	Bring IT in house £311k a year on savings. Progress with the joint IT strategy where synergies can be realised with Cambridgeshire County Council with £50k a year. The removal of systems will require investment and will probably benefit next financial year. How much will the project cost to remove and what is cost/benefit ratio? Removal of public health post at £15k is an easy saving that can be made. We must not penalise businesses. We do not recommend uplifting any rent for businesses, unpopular move for any business and politically. All businesses that have premises under no circumstances be penalised. Core property contract £96k worth of savings	A fair amount	Advertising - additional income on sponsoring playgrounds, roundabouts, landmarks in the city. Promote Peterborough as a film location to allow income generation from filmmaking and photography Parking Permits - Some additional areas of city could be zoned so that permits will need to be required. Asset sale - any asset that does not bring in commercial benefit for the financial year should be sold. Speed cameras - traffic fines can generate some revenue Council Bonds - Can an introduction of investment bonds from locals and businesses be an option? Empty commercial property - can a conversion be made to a co-working hub and business incubators?
3	The main one I have big concerns about is the idea of altering Street lighting. I am a shift worker and regularly cycle from Hampton to the railway station during the hours of the day you are proposing to make the changes. Already now I have a short stretch of London Road that is unlit and on numerous occasions have nearly hit or been hit by Pedestrians or by the increasing number of people using electronic scooters along this stretch, neither of which have a requirement to use anything to make themselves	A great deal.	

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	seen. If you then turn streetlights off completely this will increase dramatically the chances of this happening. This is without the potential for increased crime to take place once more areas are in full darkness. Therefore I would support a dimming of the lights to help make savings but would be opposed to any being turned off completely.		
4		A fair amount.	I would like to know the benefits NPS a property management department provide to the Council and what income they generate compared to expenditure cost incurred by the department as a whole.
5	I've read the proposals for income but have not seen any proposal to increase council tax. Council's all over the country have covid related financial issues, local people should pay for local services, I'm a Peterborough resident and I can see that council tax in Peterborough needs to be raised. 2. Adult social care is hugely expensive. The Council offers a gold star service, being one of the best in the country. However, the council can only afford a bronze star service. Some serious thought needs to be put into how such services are provided, and what is the best service that the council can afford. These are hard decisions to make, but the country has fallen on hard times, and like so may other sectors of the community the Council have been affected, and cannot go on as it did before the start of the pandemic. It's time to toughen up and make some hard decisions at home, rather than trying to put this on the Government.	Nothing at all	Raise the council tax (yes I'm a Peterborough resident) Provide services at a level you can afford, rather than a level you aspire to, in particular, rethink adult social care Stop spending millions of pounds on vanity schemes such as an independent university that won't be independent and will bring thousands of infected students to Peterborough

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6	The increase of brown bin charge will only cause more garden waste fly tipping or people using their black bins. I feel that with people either losing jobs or on low and limited income under current circumstances, it just feels unjustified. You already increased council tax right during the lockdown which was incredibly insensitive.	A fair amount.	
7		A fair amount.	
8	Absolutely against any increase in the brown bin charge. Especially the extra bin charge. We are a working family and pay an extortionate price for council tax and still have to pay for our garden waste to be removed. Do you not realise it's a false saving!!!! Are you oblivious to the amount of fly tipping that goes on? This will only increase if you extort more money from hard working people.	A fair amount	Lower business rates to encourage traders to move into all the empty shops in town. Also Stop all the homeless /junkie slums and beggars in the city centre so people actually want to visit Peterborough, rather than driving to Stamford which most people with cars do now. The indoor market is the worst I've seen of any city in the uk. Other than the fruit and veg stall it is all tat. We have a vibrant worldwide community here which should be reflected in a city market. Not look like a car boot sale. Come on guys it's not rocket science is it? All the developments building thousands of houses in and around Peterborough and what does Peterborough have to offer. Betting shops and takeaways!

Light Project Peterborough
Briefing Note
To Inform PCC Budget Consultation

Finances and resources

- Personal donations, fundraising activities have been down during the pandemic as with many other charities. We will see what the winter holds as key donations window but operational costs forecasting for April '21 is a challenge at present.
- No financial commitment at this stage to continue to host LA staff from April '21.
- Additional focus to help the LA with the Rest centre work has taken me and other staff away from core activities which has to be planned carefully with our long-term goals in mind.
- During the financial year 2019/20 Light Project Peterborough directly received £32,534 from Peterborough City Council. The remainder was made up of a combination of grant and donor income to the tune of £169,024.51. Total income was £201,558.51. For every £1 the local authority directly contributed to Light Project Peterborough £6.20 was the Return in Investment to the city.

Community Empowerment

- We not only mobilise our own workforce but many other community organisations, church communities, volunteers and community members. This connectivity is hard to financially quantify, but I guess one area that is fresh is that without our mobilisation of an army of volunteers, businesses and community organisations the LA would have had to find monies and logistical resource to feed rough sleepers in hotels from March 27th '20 and still continuing, 32 weeks now. 37 people today, 3 meals...at the height of lockdown over 100 folks across the hotel, 3 meals a day. At a low average of 50 people per night all the way through that is 33,600 meals mobilised.

Media and Communications

- Our extensive reach and networks with churches and community members is quietly continuing to build in the background. We have broad ranging support from across Christian denominations for social change. For example, we have the largest Peterborough charity social media presence with over 6 ½ thousand supporters and this has to be managed effectively and sensitively. I keep abreast of sensitivities of the media and the LA/cities strategic aims and invest significant time on work with the LA comms teams, joint press releases and ensuring my staff and the wider community are on song with the LA's strengths and challenges. Rough sleeping is a sensitive political subject and over the last 2 years I have only allowed one post on social media showing a person sleeping on the streets in the city. This reduces fundraising income significantly, but I am aware it is often not the best message to portray of our amazing city to thousands of voters and community members. We are able to bring in regional and local media channels to report on the city and I have always ensured that we are speaking positively about the LA and its response and support rather than becoming adversarial as some charities who work in the homeless sector are.

Partnerships

- We invest in partnership working and are at the front for working together across the homeless world.
- The Garden House is a base of operations activities from for LA, NHS, Police, Drugs and Alcohol workers (CGL Aspire), Reed recruitment, Veterans work and much more. We happily accommodate these partners and folks as it fulfils our desire to help those in need, but up until now the only financial contributors have been the LA. To sustain and grow our service this is an area of development.

- 5 LA officer roles from Housing Needs are accommodated by us. We effectively look after them as part of the family. Their health and well-being are at the forefront of our minds, with real time spent ensuring they are loved and supported.

Future Planning

- Strategic planning for the next 3 years is underway. With its extensive reach into the Christian and Church communities LPP can reach every area in Peterborough and has an army of volunteers with us. To ensure we grow in this area a new volunteer co-ordinator post is now being piloted with support from the LA and Cross Keys Homes.
- We are moving gently towards a purpose build centre that will not only serve the homeless population but all those who are in and around the 'street' communities. We will flex to city need as has been seen historically and through the pandemic. We have a vision to grow our street chaplains work right across the city. I currently chair the Peterborough Chaplains network and there is real need in this area. We may mobilise the Christian community in the sex work sector, we may look to youth outreach, we may consider being the front door for Housing Needs. We are led in partnership with those leaders in the city that inform the need. As many charities we can flex and shift faster than many of our public sectors partners and continue to pride ourselves on see a need and get it done.
- Financial investment for the future and growth of the charity is in the forefront of our minds. We are in this for the long term and will continue to invest in securing inward grants to our work in the city and wider fundraising work.
- We have an open door to the Royal Household, a strong articulate board and are driven to serve those in need by faith.

Feedback Received via the Joint C F budget meeting, dated 19th October
please find response below:

We acknowledge the fact that the council have been operating within a difficult financial position for many years. This in turn has impacted on our members with low pay offers and many years no offer at all plus the erosion of our terms and conditions and staffing numbers being reduced or outsourced despite the increase in population within the Peterborough area which has impacted on demand across all services.

We are aware that the demands of Covid on the local authority has seen a detrimental impact on financial position which was already strained due to the ongoing decline in funding, and we are yet to see the government providing the financial assistance to cover this. We understand that savings previously highlighted are now not viable due to the Covid situation - renting out more space in SMH, increased revenue from parking, savings on transport costs for SEN children etc

The options proposed to allow the authority to set a balanced budget for 2021/22 would reduce the pressure currently on the authority and assist with fighting the effects of Covid as we obviously have no idea how long we are going to be in this situation for. We also acknowledge that our members have stepped up to the plate in respect of being redeployed across those areas where there was need to help out the residents of Peterborough.

Feedback and questions received in respect of specific proposals:

Customer services and digital - changes within the ICT service - We welcome the fact that the ICT service is being brought back in house - I think we have been promised for several years savings while IT was outsourced with nothing coming through.

The main issue with out-sourcing in any area is that the service is then delivered to the contract, but it has been seen many times over that pieces of work have fallen between the cracks and then PCC get charged over and above for these items meaning in reality less savings. Perhaps an issue with the way the contracts are written and not enough information about the services being gained initially to enable a comprehensive contract to be drawn up?.

Housing Service - Will the Housing Assistant Director role be joint CCC/PCC? Will the proposed project to provide a repairs service within the Housing Service utilise the care and repair team or additional staffing?

You say that there are proposed improvements to temporary accommodation and traveller sites income collection and debt collection more generally, but in respect of debt collecting overall - we have been mentioning this for several years - now with Covid, I take it there will be even more debts to collect.

Brown Bin Fee - The increase seems quite reasonable - how widely is this service used? With the increase in housing development, does the council charge for providing a brown bin in the first instance as other local authorities do? South Kesteven for example charges for last year were £36 to provide a bin plus a further £36 for the service for the year.

Peterborough Highway Services - Turning off streetlights altogether between midnight and 5am - has the health and safety impact of this been investigated.

Patch repairing never works and therefore the suggestion to fund whole areas will be more cost effective in the long run.

Works associated with the capital programme (including S278 works) - do departments within the local authority get charged the same as the construction companies / housing developers?

Sustainable Growth Strategy savings - Does the local authority have the staff within that service area to carry on providing this support to other local authorities. The planning service were employing temporary staff not so long ago as they did not have enough planning officers - or are we having to pay additional fees for temporary staff at a higher cost to cover this?

Public Health - removal of head of public health intelligence post - With the ongoing Covid pressure, are the staffing levels sufficient?

Core Property Contract - NPS - I seem to recall this being a joint venture profits were being split in some way? Has there been any financial returns from this venture since 2016?

Care Home Support Team - I note that you are proposing to resource a new team, recruiting a manager and five social workers. PCC have in the past experienced difficulties recruiting social workers therefore is this approach going to be achievable or are we going to end up employing temporary staff at higher costs.

Pay Award - Bearing in mind the additional work that staff have carried out during the Covid period, the 2.75% increase (down from the original 10% requested) was good value considering all hard work and dedication that the council has received from their staff.

Increase in sundry bad debt provision - I thought you mentioned an improvement in debt recovery (or is that just housing)

Serco Partnership - are any more services coming back to the council? Originally this outsource was sold on savings to be made for the council, but we slowly seem to be moving areas back into the council. As pointed out many times by the unions, outsourcing isn't as beneficial to the local authority as we were led to believe.

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