

Annual Council
Wednesday, 27 July 2022
Additional Information Pack

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COUNCIL MEETING 27 JULY 2022

CABINET MEMBER PETITION PROPOSAL FROM COUNCILLOR STEVE ALLEN

Cabinet Member proposal to be moved as follows:

"To note the petition to 'Save St George's Community Hydrotherapy Pool' and to take no further action."

COUNCIL MEETING 27 JULY 2022

ALTERNATIVE PETITION PROPOSAL FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FOX

Alternative proposal to be moved as follows:

Regarding the recent Cabinet decision to close St. George's hydrotherapy pool, we have to say from the outset that although we personally do not agree with the rationale, sadly we have to accept the outcome.

As per the comments made at the Cabinet meeting that I attended (together with Councillor Shaz Nawaz), we ask:

"That Cabinet now sticks to its word and explores:

Working with the original proposed buyer of St. George's to find a suitable piece of land to build a brand-new hydrotherapy pool which could be in the interests of the whole community. We believe the proposed buyer is happy to pay the market rate for the identified land to build the pool and would only expect PCC to deduct the costs he lost in the process of purchasing St George's from the purchase value. In return the proposed buyer would provide affordable community user slots. To accommodate community use he will need approximately 0.5 acres of land to have the pool with sufficient parking. Building a new pool means it would need to be to the current standards which would be a win for the city and also for the 4,500 registered users of this much needed facility. We respectfully ask that this search for the land is done with consultation with the original proposed buyer along with the St. George's user group, with the identification of suitable land to be made within the next three months and then proceed accordingly."

**FULL COUNCIL 27 JULY 2022
QUESTIONS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	<p>Question from Ed Walker MBE</p> <p>Councillor Cereste Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>The Council has approved Hope Into Action’s plans for three houses (to house up to six homeless people) to an excellent standard at no cost to the Council on a plot of land independently assessed at nil value. To make this scheme work we are adding some of our own privately owned land to the development.</p> <p>Councillors approved the Planning application, January 25th 2022, on the understanding that its use would be for housing the homeless. The Council previously agreed to transfer the land at no cost.</p> <p>Not only does this project support homeless people but it will make a positive contribution to reducing social care demands on the Council, with significant cost savings over the immediate and longer term. Hope into Action is an award-winning Charity, producing excellent outcomes every year, with rent cheaper than comparable providers and demands no grants from the Council – this project will be taking referrals from Peterborough City Council.</p> <p>We have twice commissioned an independent valuation of the site both times it has come back with a nil value.</p> <p>The Council is now proposing a charge of £155,000, for that land, something Hope Into Action, bound by Charity Commission regulation, is unable to pay even if this funding was available to it – which it is not.</p> <p>With the influx of Ukrainian refugees and the cost of living crisis impacting in particular the more vulnerable, will the Council honour its original commitment to transfer this land for this housing need at nil cost, as per its value and as per prior agreements?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Amy Price</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p> <p>Please can the Council, tell me why, following my urgent email to Matthew Gladstone, Wayne Fitzgerald and others, sent on 29th June 2022 at 09:28am, explicitly informing them of the bats which were using the Bretton Oak Tree on Blind Lane to roost, continued to go ahead with the felling of said tree in contravention to the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (Chapter 69) [F763] or recklessly [F764] Subsection 4 (a) and</p>

(b); including the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act, 1975 [F44] (4) subsections (a) (b) and (c)?;

The response I received back from Jim Newton (Director of Planning and Building Control (Interim) Place and Economy, on 29th June 2022 at 14:43, 'after' the Oak was being felled, did not reassure me;

I informed David Watts of David Watts Ecology - who undertook the preliminary Ecology Assessments of the tree, of the bats which were observed the previous night, emerging from - and returning to the Oak, and no Emergence studies had been conducted as part of the decision making process;

Once informed of the Bats presence, David Watts (Ecologist) agreed that it would be unlawful to fell the said tree, knowing bats to be present and this was reflected in my urgent email to the Council of that day;

The tree was considered to have low potential for roosting bats but it was highlighted that it was 'feasible that individual cavity roosting bats, utilise the PRF's (Potential Roost Features)' described in the report, (as well as others not detailed) and these bats were actively observed and the Council notified, even before the Ecology report was known to me.

A presence/absence survey conducted through an Emergence and Return Study would have enabled the Council to identify the bats which had roosted in undetected and concealed cracks and crevices and voids along four specific points in the tree, prior to felling these locations; where the bats were observed;

I wish to make point that 'ALL' Bat species (sp. vespertilionidae) are protected under Schedule 5, Section 9.4 b of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and it was unlawful for anyone to disturb any such animal whilst it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection' and there are numerous recorded prosecutions.

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 Wiggin (1)**

Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications, Culture and Communities

We were all shocked to see that our twin city of Vinnytsia in Ukraine was targeted by cruise missiles on 14th July, with the death of 23 people and dozens more injured. Please could the cabinet member share our condolences and thoughts for those affected, and provide an update on support given by the Council and the City to support our friends in Ukraine?

2. **Question from Councillor Barkham**

Councillor Howard, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health

A number of residents in my ward and across the city have expressed concern about not being able to get a face to face appointment with their GP. Others tell me of being made to call at 8am in the morning to get any sort of appointment with their GP and getting stuck for long periods in a queue, waiting for their call to be answered.

We all know that GPs and others in the NHS were under great strain during the Covid pandemic but could the cabinet member for health tell me what can be done to ensure that patients at many GP practices can get easier access to their GP?

3. **Question from Councillor Day**

Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment

Why did the council decide to fell Bretton Oak Tree when there was no real evidence (DNA root evidence) to back up claims the tree was the cause of subsidence?

4.	<p>Question from Councillor John Fox (1)</p> <p>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications, Culture and Communities</p> <p>When the idea to build wooden sheds as a substitute for market stalls was promoted by the Deputy Leader, why did the contract not cover the supply of the materials needed to build the market stalls?</p> <p>By including this in the contract this would have meant that if there was any potential for delay in the supply of materials the Council would not be liable to spend taxpayers' money, as we are having to do now.</p> <p>As most of us are aware, there has been a problem with the availability of wood nationally for some time. Did the Deputy Leader make any enquiries about this prior to the decision?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Stevenson (1)</p> <p>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications, Culture and Communities</p> <p>Recently, around the city, there has been Anti-social behaviour (ASB) in communities that do not usually experience very much ASB. In some cases, this has been due to an increase in Airbnb-type short lettings on otherwise solely residential streets. ASB has included crime (leading to arrests in the middle of the night) and prostitution, as well as loud and continuous noise, cannabis smoke, parties, etc. To what extent can residents get support from the council's pollution and environmental enforcement teams given many of the problems happen outside office hours and at weekends?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (1)</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please confirm how much money we spent last year on non-statutory services and how much we have allocated for the current fiscal year?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Hemraj (1)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>With the council not renewing the housing contact with Stepf and Phillips. at St Michaels Gate, do we as a council know what Stepf and Phillips plan to do with the 72 units/homes?</p>

8.	<p>Question from Councillor Imtiaz Ali</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>Following on from a motion brought to full council on investigating additional powers to curtail the explosion of HMOs in Peterborough, can I ask what the progress on this has been so far, will it be rolled out for specific wards or is it to be city-wide, and are we likely to get an Article 4 Direction implemented in Peterborough before the end of 2022?</p>
9.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford (1)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Giving members of the public easy access to council meetings online is an important part of openness and accountability. Please could the leader of the Council tell me why meetings of Full Council, the Cabinet and Planning Committee are currently being live streamed but most scrutiny committees are not. In the past we have live streamed all public meetings so why has this practice been discontinued?</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>Please could the cabinet member provide an update on the introduction of an Article 4 direction on HMOs in Peterborough, including a timescale as to when we should expect this to be implemented?</p>
11.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford (2)</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment</p> <p>Could the relevant cabinet member please tell me what positive outcomes for Peterborough have been achieved as a result of the funding received by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council under the Future Parks Accelerator programme?</p>
12.	<p>Question from Councillor Hemraj (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>What provision has the Council put in place to increase the amount of temporary housing now that the contract is ending at St Michaels Gate?</p>

13.	<p>Question from Councillor Stevenson (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>The nation's long-distance lorry drivers provide a vital service, carrying goods, and in particular food, around the country and to food outlets in our city and elsewhere. Naturally, the contents of the lorries often require refrigeration which must be kept switched on at all times, especially in the recent hot weather. When drivers park up close to residential streets overnight, the noise from the refrigeration units can keep local residents awake, particularly during the summer when people sleep with their bedroom windows open. What can the council do to support lorry drivers in their work and also ensure that the residents of our city are not kept awake all night by refrigerated lorries parked near to their homes?</p>
14.	<p>Question from Councillor John Fox (2)</p> <p>Councillor Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications, Culture and Communities</p> <p>A retired ex-Police Officer contacted me recently, stating that he does not feel safe in our city centre anymore. A former bobby on the beat protecting others, he now has serious concerns for his own safety from cyclists and e-scooters travelling at great speed, narrowly avoiding pedestrians.</p> <p>He told me he'd contacted the Police who informed him that the City Centre is protected by a Public Space Protection Order and that the City Council are responsible for policing it.</p> <p>As I am sure many of us would agree the Guildhall is a beautiful building and is important to the heritage and city centre of Peterborough, this too needs protecting from vandals more effectively, especially as there appears to be more than one set of CCTV cameras covering this location. On Armed Forces Day I was disgusted by the amount of graffiti on almost every pillar of the Guildhall which had apparently been there for some time without any action taken to clean it off.</p> <p>I now ask the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the well-being of our city centre, and the safety of the people using it, to clarify this and exactly what he proposes to remedy these problems? Visitors to Peterborough shouldn't be afraid for their safety in pedestrian areas and shouldn't have to witness vandals' daubings on our heritage buildings. These issues are escalating - what are you doing now to mitigate them?</p>

15. **Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (2)**

Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance

Please can the Cabinet Member confirm the net proceeds due to Peterborough City Council from the sale of Northminster?

	<p><u>Questions on notice to:</u></p> <p>d. The Combined Authority Representatives</p>
1.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Representative on the Transport and Infrastructure Committee</p> <p>What assessment has been made of the success of the introduction of the number 29 bus service (linking Hampton, Orton and Bretton) introduced by the combined authority, and what are the plans for the future of this service?</p>

109 Seat Committees

	Number of committee seats =						
May-22							109
Group	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Peterborough First	Green	Total	
Elected	28	16	8	4	3	59	
Proportionality %	47.46	27.12	13.56	6.78	5.08	100.00	
Entitlement to seats	51.73	29.56	14.78	7.39	5.54	109.0	
(Rounded)	52	30	15	7	5	109	

no. of Cllrs for each group
group no. / 59 x 100
total seats / 100 x proportion

There is no majority party, therefore proportionality for 109 seats will be allocated to Conservative/Labour/Liberal Democrat/Peterborough First/Green

CALCULATION FOR PROPORTIONALITY

Calculation	Result %
Conservative = 28/59*100	47.4576
Labour = 16/59*100	27.1186
Liberal Democrats = 8/59*100	13.5593
Peterborough First = 4/59*100	6.7797
Green = 3/59*100	5.0847
	99.9999

CALCULATION FOR REMAINING SEATS

Group	total seats remaining (109) / 100 x proportion%	Rounded
Conservative	51.73	52
Labour	29.56	30
Liberal Democrat	14.78	15
Peterborough First	7.39	7
Green	5.54	5
	Total	109

Committee	Seats	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Peterborough First	Green	Total
Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	11	6	2	1	1	1	11
Growth, Resources, and Communities Scrutiny Committee	11	5	3	1	1	1	11
Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	11	6	3	1	1	0	11
Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	11	5	3	1	1	1	11
Corporate Parenting Committee	11	4	3	2	1	1	11
Employment Committee	7	4	2	1	0	0	7
Audit Committee	7	3	3	1	0	0	7
Regulatory Committee (Non Licensing Act 2003 Committee)	11	6	3	2	0	0	11
Planning and Environmental Protection Committee	11	5	3	2	1	0	11
Appeals and Planning Review Committee	11	5	3	2	1	0	11
Constitution and Ethics Committee	7	4	2	1	0	0	7
Entitlement to Seats		52	30	15	7	5	109
Seats Pre-allocated		53	30	15	7	4	109
Adjustment to make		-1	0	0	0	1	0

Committee	Group	Group	Group	Group	Group	
Size	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Peterborough First	Green	
16	47.46	27.12	13.56	6.78	5.08	16
15	7.5936	4.3392	2.1696	1.0848	0.8128	15
14	7.119	4.068	2.034	1.017	0.762	14
13	6.6444	3.7968	1.8984	0.9492	0.7112	13
12	6.1698	3.5256	1.7628	0.8814	0.6604	12
11	5.6952	3.2544	1.6272	0.8136	0.6096	11
10	5.2206	2.9832	1.4916	0.7458	0.5588	10
9	4.746	2.712	1.356	0.678	0.508	9
8	4.2714	2.4408	1.2204	0.6102	0.4572	8
7	3.7968	2.1696	1.0848	0.5424	0.4064	7
6	3.3222	1.8984	0.9492	0.4746	0.3556	6
5	2.8476	1.6272	0.8136	0.4068	0.3048	5
4	2.373	1.356	0.678	0.339	0.254	4
3	1.8984	1.0848	0.5424	0.2712	0.2032	3
	1.4238	0.8136	0.4068	0.2034	0.1524	