

FULL COUNCIL 7 DECEMBER 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 Mrs Rosemary Steele</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</p> <p>During covid I understand there were 12 field hospitals built in the country to be manned by the armed forces personnel. None were used as isolation units seriously affecting our NHS capability for normal functioning.</p> <p>Which makes me ask - what facilities does our Civil Defence sector in Peterborough have in the event of war (disaster, natural, health or ecological) and what trained personal are there currently?</p> <p>(I was trained for nuclear defence measures with WRVS many years ago and whilst I believe the Red Cross were involved with COVID issues, general knowledge does not appear readily available.)</p>

<u>COUNCIL BUSINESS</u>	
<u>Questions on notice to:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Mayor b. To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet c. To the Chair of any Committee or Sub-committee 	
1.	<p>Question from Councillor Hemraj (1)</p> <p>Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>Now that Peterborough residents have been moved out of St Michaels Gate and new residents have moved in, does the council know where the new residents have come from? If those residents have been re-housed from other councils, who is bearing the cost of their claims on i.e. Council Tax, Housing benefit and any other services that they may require?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Ansar Ali (1)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities</p> <p>We have received a number of complaints from our hard-working local Taxi Drivers that the Designated Taxi Ranks in the City Centre are being occupied by other vehicles, preventing them from Parking on the ranks, this problem is particularly bad on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, they complain that there appears to be no enforcement action taken to penalised offenders. Can urgent action be taken on this issue so that our local people providing a vital much needed services can feel supported and valued.</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor John Fox (1)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities</p> <p>In an article on the Peterborough Telegraph website on 25 November, announcing an extension to the council's trial hydrotherapy sessions at Lime Academy, Cllr Steve Allen is quoted: "I'm pleased we are extending sessions at Lime Academy and would encourage users to participate so that we can continue the sessions for as long as possible."</p> <p>Friends of St George's Hydrotherapy Pool have repeatedly stated that the Lime Academy sessions, which are priced at £12 per hour, are too expensive for many users.</p> <p>How does boosting participation by those who can afford the Lime Academy Sessions help those who desperately need of the sessions but cannot afford them?</p>

4.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandra Bond (1)</p> <p>Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>Given the recent situation where a developer has forced Stagecoach to withdraw a bus service, two weeks after commencement, because of a dispute with the Council over road adoption, could the relevant Cabinet Member tell me what he is doing to avoid this debacle being repeated in any of the other major housing developments that are being planned in Peterborough over the next few years? What guarantees can be given to ensure that all residents of these developments have a bus service available at the outset, rather than having to wait more than ten years for it?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin (1)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities</p> <p>How much did the council spend on legal action related to asylum seekers staying at hotels in Peterborough?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Qayyum (1)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities</p> <p>In the interest of Safeguarding, why were the Local Councillors of Central Ward and East Ward not informed of the Asylum Seeker arrivals at two local Hotels in Peterborough, and instead the MP Paul Bristow informed?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (1)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities</p> <p>What has been the specific take up so far in the way of numbers per week for service users at the new Hydrotherapy facility at the Lime Academy?</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities</p> <p>In a recent press release, the City Council claimed that the presence of refugees in the Great Northern Hotel posed a “risk to strategic infrastructure” and this was one of the grounds for the abortive attempt by the Council to take enforcement and legal action. Could the relevant cabinet member explain in what sense vulnerable refugees pose a “risk to strategic infrastructure”?</p>

9.	<p>Question from Councillor John Fox (2)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council / Councillor Howard, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health</p> <p>Does the Leader of the Council take any responsibility himself as a result of his time as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, when he went against sound advice from opposition councillors and the public, who raised concerns that closing two large care homes would cause problems, in the end?</p> <p>What is he doing about the appalling lack of care home places within Peterborough and the major problem at our hospital with bed-blocking?</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Qayyum (2)</p> <p>Councillor Lynne Ayres - Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, Education, Skills and the University</p> <p>What are the views of the Cabinet Member regarding the Ofsted report of Clare Lodge?</p>
11.	<p>Question from Councillor Ansar Ali (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>There have been a number of incidents where vehicles have damaged Street Light columns, as a result the Streetlights stop working, and they get reported for remedial action. However there have been instances where the matter has not been sorted for over three months. This is utterly unacceptable. Can I be advised why this takes such a long time the Council to sort out?</p>
12.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>Could you please confirm how long, on average, it takes us to determine a planning application based on all cases received over the past 24 months and whether or not this meets the government's planning guarantee?</p>
13.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin (2)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities</p> <p>How many tickets have been issued by enforcement officers (from the council or organisations appointed by the council to do this work) outside the city centre area during this municipal year so far?</p>

	<p><u>Questions on notice to:</u></p> <p>d. The Combined Authority Representatives</p>
1.	<p>WARD SPECIFIC: Question from Councillor Hogg</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Combined Authority Board Representative</p> <p>What work has been done to re-establish the bus service to Manor Drive recently started and then stopped by the developer for the estate?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>The main discussions are between PCC as part of its Highway and planning functions and the developer with assistance from CPCA and operator in the ongoing discussions.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Combined Authority Board Representative</p> <p>What assessment has been made as to the success the bus services tendered by the Combined Authority following their cancellation by Stagecoach in October, and what discussions have been had regarding the renewal of these tenders when they expire in April?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Combined Authority Board Representative</p> <p>At a recent member briefing on public transport, councillors were told that PCC pays around £3.5 million each year to the Combined Authority (CPCA) for public transport and this sum includes funding for subsidy of bus services in Peterborough. Over the past few weeks, Stagecoach have cancelled hundreds of bus journeys across their network, including some which they operate under contract to CPCA. Could the Member tell me what steps CPCA are taking to recover from Stagecoach subsidy that they have paid for journeys which are cancelled and what steps he is taking to ensure that CPCA then pass any relevant portion of that refund back to PCC?</p>

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