

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE DEPUTY MAYOR – COUNCILLOR SANDFORD

Present:

Councillors Ansar Ali, Imtiaz Ali, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bi, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Alison Jones, Dennis Jones, Moyo, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Rangzeb, Ray, Robinson, Rush, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Seager, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Stevenson, Tyler, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dowson, Councillor Lane and Councillor Knight.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. Minutes of the meetings held on 7 December 2023

3(a). Special Council Meeting

The minutes of the special Council meeting held on 7 December 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.

3(b). Ordinary Council Meeting

The minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held on 7 December 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.

COMMUNICATIONS

4. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised of the following civic engagements:

- The opening of a local Nisa Store in Stanground
- The opening of the Board Game Café in Bridge Street
- Several community events, including Christmas events
- A Christmas Wreath Laying Service on Thursday 15 December in Bridge Street

- The Salvation Army Christmas Day Lunch
- A Free Community Christmas Day Meal at the St Mary's Church on New Road
- A Christmas Event for Lithuanian Families with Children
- A Lithuanian Defenders of Freedom Day event at Peterborough Museum on 13 January
- A reception in the Mayor's Parlour for two Security Guards who helped to save the life of a member of the public when they used a defibrillator located outside the Town Hall
- A reception in the Mayor's Parlour for the retiring Deputy Lieutenant Neil McKittrick
- A small reception to unveil a plaque to celebrate the life of former council leader and longest serving councillor in the UK, Charles Swift

The Mayor announced that a Holocaust Memorial Service was to be held at St John's Church on 26 January 2023 at 12 noon – 1.00 pm, and a Katharine of Aragon commemoration event in the Cathedral on 27 January 2023.

5. Leader's Announcements

The Leader made a number of announcements on the following areas:

- Charlotte Black, Executive Director of People and Communities was leaving at the end of the month, having first joined the Council in 2017.
- Simon Lewis had joined the Council this month as Director for Commercial Partnerships, Property and Assets.
- The Council had received of £48 million in levelling up funding for the area around the train station.
- £4 million had been secured to relocate the bus depot and to begin the electrification of buses.
- An infrastructure project to deliver low carbon heat and electrical power was approved by the Government.
- The PIRI project had been one of the first national schemes to receive support from the Green Heat Network Fund.
- £14.5 million of Government funding had been received to help the city to become one of the first carbon-zero cities of the future.
- NHS England were making £200 million available to support integrated care boards to move medically fit patients from hospitals into community care settings.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICB had received £2.9 million.
- The Council's Domestic Abuse Services had been awarded funding to provide vital support to protect people from harm. Peterborough was to receive £488,271 this year and a further £500,000 next year.
- The full allowance (nearly £5.7 million) of Government funds from the COVID Additional Relief Fund to local businesses had been awarded.
- The monthly ask the leader sessions were ongoing for the public to ask the Leader any questions about Council services and the city in general – the next session would be held on 1 February 2023, with questions to be submitted via asktheleader@peterborough.gov.uk.

Group Leaders responded and raised the following points:

- All echoed their thanks to Charlotte Black and welcomed Simon Lewis to the Council.

- The additional funding to the Council was also welcomed, comments raised that focus also needed to be given to North West Gate and sustainable transport.
- It was noted that the funding received had followed a period of consistent cuts to funding provisions.

Councillor Howard, as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health, was permitted by the Mayor to address the Chamber, and thanked Charlotte Black for her work over the years as well as the support provided to Members and wished her the best of luck for the future.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

6. Questions from Members of the Public

One question was received from members of the public in respect of the following:

1. Obstacles to residential solar energy generation.

The questions and responses are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes.

7. Petitions

(a) Presented by Members of the Public

There were no petitions presented by Members of the public at the meeting.

(b) Presented by Members

There were no petitions presented by Members at the meeting.

8. Questions on Notice

(a) To the Mayor

(b) To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet

(c) To the Chair of any Committee of Sub-Committee

(d) To the Combined Authority Representatives

Questions (a)-(d) were raised and taken as read in respect of the following:

1. Parking for users of the Regional Pool
2. Pressures in Social Care
3. Anti-social behaviour
4. Anti-social behaviour in Puttstars, Queensgate
5. Voter ID
6. Energy from Waste (EfW) Plant

The questions and responses are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

9. Executive and Committee Recommendations to Council

9(a). Cabinet Recommendation – Review of the Peterborough Local Plan

Council received a report from Cabinet in relation to a review of the Peterborough Local Plan.

Councillor Cereste moved the recommendation and advised that Council were being asked to agree to begin a review of the Local Plan and to approve the timescale for the review. The current plan was adopted in 2019 to run until 2036, however, national policy stated that a review was necessary every 5 years. Peterborough was a fast-growing city, so it was important to continue to plan long-term to attract businesses, jobs and investment.

Councillor Simons seconded the recommendation and reserved his right to speak.

Council debated the recommendation and the summary of the points raised by Members included:

- Comment was made that this felt like an appropriate time for review, given the Council's newly adopted priorities and declaration of a climate emergency.
- The revised plan would need to adhere to the Council's climate commitments or, it was felt, that the Council's zero carbon aims would not be achieved.
- Challenges in the Council's urban areas were considered to be important was reviewing the plan.
- Members suggested that that land supply in the areas should be carefully considered in order to avoid any unsuitable developments in the future. Members were further urged to get actively involved in the development of the plan.
- It was commented that public engagement around a revised Local Plan needed to be well communicated and accessible to all.
- Suggestion was made that the Council could learn lessons from previous modern developments and increase its minimum standards.
- It was advised that the process would take around three years to complete, with public engagement and development and would be open, honest and transparent.
- It was suggested that public engagement take place outside of the summer months when people are generally away or busy elsewhere.

As seconder of the recommendation, Councillor Simons advised that the city's infrastructure was vitally important, and it was felt that a move to communal underground refuse collection would be a key consideration.

As mover of the recommendation, Councillor Cereste summed up, stating that he was pleased to hear Members' comments and that having the right strategy in place was key to Peterborough's future.

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Authorise officers to commence a review of the Local Plan; and
2. Approve the attached (Appendix 1 to the report) Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out a timetable for the production of a new Local Plan, and bring into effect from 26 January 2023.

9(b). Cabinet Recommendation – Licensing Schemes – Raising Housing Standards

Council received a report from Cabinet in relation to raising housing standards.

Councillor Cereste moved the recommendation and advised that the recommendation related to compliance and enforcement around housing conditions in the private rented sector. There were well-maintained properties in the city, but there were also those that put the welfare of residents at risk, and it was these that needed to be addressed.

Councillor Coles seconded the recommendation and reserved his right to speak.

Council debated the recommendation and the summary of the points raised by Members included:

- Disappointment was expressed that not more areas of the city were included in the scheme and Cabinet were urged to take up the option of an additional selective licensing scheme.
- It was noted that the report referenced outsourcing the service to an external provider, with it being suggested that the Council had not learnt its lessons from NPS or the procurement service.
- Comment was made that the Secretary of State had to approve any selective licensing scheme, and that this was based on evidence. Members were encouraged, then, to report instances that may add to this evidence base.
- It was further commented that the Council did not have the expertise or capacity to resource this scheme at the current time and so were outsourcing in order to improve the service and make it fit for use.
- Differing views were expressed that previous cases of outsourcing had consistently resulted in the Council bring services back in-house.
- It was questioned whether it was too late to suggest other areas for inclusion in the licensing scheme.

As seconder of the recommendation, Councillor Coles advised that, in relation to outsourcing, the scheme needed to be implemented by people with the relevant expertise which was not, at the moment, something the Council could offer in-house. All work would be monitored and any company engaged would be held accountable.

As mover of the recommendation, Councillor Cereste summed up and advised that it was not too late to make suggestions about areas for consideration, though evidence was required. All Members were aware of what poor housing could do to families and individuals and it was important to work together to get rid of any inadequate housing in Peterborough.

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Approve the submission of an application to the Secretary of State for the implementation of a Selective Licensing Scheme for the area defined within the public consultation undertaken between 20 January 2022 and 13 April 2022.
2. Agree to support analytical work being undertaken to identify areas within the city suitable for the implementation of Additional Licensing Schemes and the subsequent public consultation on proposed scheme areas.

10. Questions on the Executive Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting

Cllr Fitzgerald introduced the report which outlined the record of Executive decisions made since the last meeting.

Members asked questions on the following Executive Decisions.

A16 Norwood Improvement Scheme

In response to a question from Councillor Imtiaz Ali, Councillor Cereste advised that Milestone was the formal 'preferred' contractor for the Council's highways work, and was allocated following a procurement process.

In response to a question from Councillor Hogg, Councillor Cereste advised that the two major highways schemes for the Council related to Junction 3 and Norwood. If these were not delivered, future growth in Norwood and Hampton would be threatened, with the city's economy based on growth.

In response to a question from Councillor John Fox, Councillor Cereste advised that he would check if consideration had been given by the highways service to instead providing a footbridge.

Passenger Transport Changes to Mileage

In response to a question from Councillor Jones, Councillor Ayres advised that mileage changes had been discussed with drivers and 60p was determined to be an appropriate figure which would help save money. An exact date for implementation could not be provided, but it would be as soon as possible.

Application for Moving Traffic Enforcement Powers

In response to a question from Councillor Hogg, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that the new powers would allow officers to enforce specific traffic violations across the city and outside of the city centre.

Rural Disposals

In response to a question from Councillor Day, Councillor Coles advised that the disposal of Turves Farm was specifically for the capital receipt but in relation to land disposal generally, consideration should be given to environmentally-beneficial methods.

Towns Fund Business Case – The Vine

In response to a question from Councillor Hogg, Councillor Steve Allen advised that a suggestion to move the library was only a secondary plan, as the Vine proposal was dependent on money from the Towns Fund.

Transfer of Regional Pool Car Park for Phase 3 of the University Project

In response to a question from Councillor Hogg, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that disabled parking spaces were available on the Regional Pool site and that the Regional Pool Car Park would not be closed. A temporary care park would be provided so that nobody was inconvenienced.

Uplift in payments for delivery of public health services in primary care

In response to a question from Councillor Qayyum, Councillor Howard advised that the fewer people smoking in Peterborough the better, and that if Councillor Qayyum wished

to discuss the priorities of Public Health, then he was happy to go over the detail with her.

Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies Update – NPS Peterborough Limited

In response to a question from Councillor Hogg, Councillor Fitzgerald confirmed that continuous representation was needed from the Council on the NPS board until the end of their agreement.

11. Questions on the Combined Authority Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting

The Mayor introduced the report which outlined the record of Combined Authority decisions made since the last meeting.

There were no questions from Members.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

12. Notices of Motion

12(1) Motion from Councillor Burbage

Councillor Burbage moved his motion and advised that work was ongoing among communities to introduce 'Autism Communication Boards', which helped people in Peterborough to become more autism aware from a young age, and aided those with autism, non-verbal children, and those without English as a first language. It was hoped that this motion would allow this work to spread more widely.

Councillor Ray seconded the motion and advised that the board in his own ward, which had been provided through Community Leadership Funding, had received positive feedback from residents. It was hoped that uptake for the proposal would be strong.

A vote was taken on the motion moved by Councillor Burbage (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain). The motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

"During 2022, Bretton Ward Councillors worked with Peterborough City Council, to install an Autism Communication Board in a play area in Bretton Park. This has been enthusiastically welcomed in Bretton by autistic children and by children who do not necessarily use English as a first language.

This Council notes:

Peterborough's first Autism Communication Board was installed at Longthorpe Park in November 2021, with a further board being installed in Fletton and Stanground in July 2022. The boards have several images and symbols which allow children who are non-verbal to communicate how they are feeling and express by pointing at a symbol anything they want to do. The boards have been a great success in raising awareness amongst park users, helping people communicate in different ways and making the parks more accessible and Peterborough autism friendly.

This Council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member:

Works with all education providers to ensure that information on how to access and install Autism Communications Boards are shared, so that all children can gain awareness and communicate with non-verbal children in an inclusive way,

as well as helping communication with students that struggle with English as a first language.”

12(2) Motion from Councillor John Fox

Councillor John Fox moved his motion and advised that 50 years ago, Werrington were promised a pool with the school, and have been trying ever since. At times, arrangements had been close, particularly when it was announced that the Regional Pool would be closed, though arrangements had fallen through. The matter had already been considered by the scrutiny committee and was supported by Sports England.

Councillor Harper seconded the motion and advised that the north of the city needed a public swimming pool, with provision being long overdue. Stakeholder groups were all in support of the proposals, and it was hoped that this could be included in any future plans for pool provision in the city.

Council debated the motion and the summary of the points raised by Members included:

- Members supported the principle of swimming pools being located across the city.
- Comment was made that provision for a new pool would require funding to be made available.
- The reason, it was suggested, that previous developments stalled, was due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- It was requested that Simon Martin, the Co-Chair of the Swimming Club be kept informed about developments.
- It was comments that some Members had initially believe the motion to be requesting that the Regional Pool move to Werrington, but could now see that Councillor Fox was advocating for an additional pool, which was felt to be right and proper.
- It was noted that pools are an expensive investment, with high costs around building and maintenance.
- Comment was made that previous plans to provide a pool at Pleasure Fair were too expensive, but that work continue to try to solve the issues around the Regional Pool. A pool in Werrington was still part of discussions, but were subject to issues of finance.

A vote was taken on the motion moved by Councillor John Fox (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain). The motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

“The residents of Werrington have recently been close to getting a purpose-built sports complex, which included a swimming pool; something the residents of Werrington were promised nearly fifty years ago by the council.

It was planned to be built by the same contractors that were going to build the replacement leisure complex before the closure of the regional swimming pool.

The importance of this sports complex was reinforced by the lack of public sports facilities in the north of our city, and now that Market Deeping leisure centre has been closed the need is even greater. This has been compounded with the reduction of services at the Werrington Sports Centre.

The reason provided for not progressing with the delivery of this facility was financial. However, given that leisure/pool facilities are now under review it is vital to ensure that

the needs of all communities are at the forefront of any decisions, especially the ward councillors for the relevant areas concerned.

The Council resolves to request that the Leader of the Council:

- 1. Confirms that if/when a replacement for the Regional Pool is planned, that this will consider the needs of the whole city and in particular the provision of a pool facility in Werrington.**
- 2. Ensures that an open and transparent consultation takes place with all councillors representing affected wards, to reassure them that the best interests of the residents living in those wards are taken into account before any decision takes place for either facility.”**

12(3) Motion from Councillor John Fox

Councillor John Fox moved his motion and advised that a significant amount of campaigning in the past had resulted in the disabled parking bays being introduced at the rear of the Town Hall. At that time it had been agreed that additional blue badge parking spaces would be found, in order to provide further access to banks within the city and to Cathedral Square. It was felt, however, that the locations currently proposed for additional spaces were impractical and inconvenient for people with disabilities. It was queried whether any disability forums were consulted on the proposals.

Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion and advised that reasonable accommodations must be made in order to allow disabled individuals, and those who assist them, to visit the city centre. It was questioned by electric vehicle charging bays could be added, but not blue badge spaces.

Councillor Hogg moved a procedural motion, under Council Standing Order 20.1 to refer the motion to the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee, and advised that he was concerned that there was not enough data to make an informed decision at the meeting currently. A report provided to scrutiny would allow officers to provide more detail and to engage with disability groups.

Councillor Wiggin seconded the procedural motion and reserved his right to speak.

Council debated the procedural motion and the summary of the points raised by Members included:

- Concern was raised that referring the item to scrutiny would simply delay its implementation, when disability forums had already been consulted.
- An offer was made by the previous Cabinet Member to meet with Councillor Fox and consider what could be done to place blue badge parking in more convenient places throughout the city centre.
- It was suggested that consideration should be given to providing additional parking spaces in the station quarter.

With the agreement of the seconder and the Chamber, Councillor Hogg **WITHDREW** his procedural motion.

Council debated the motion and the summary of the points raised by Members included:

- It was suggested that a dialogue between Councillor Fox and Cabinet Members would be beneficial in resolving this issue.

With the agreement of the seconder and the Chamber, Councillor John Fox **WITHDREW**

his motion.

13. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

13(a) Revised Political Proportionality and Committee Seat Allocation

Councillor Day moved the recommendation.

Councillor Harper seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Agree the allocation of seats on committees subject to political balance arrangements (Updated Appendix 1 to the report).

13(b) Draft Programme of Meetings 2023-2024

Councillor Fitzgerald moved the recommendation.

Councillor Steve Allen seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to approve, in principle, the draft programme of meetings 2023/2024 (attached at Appendix 1 to the report).

The Mayor
6.00pm – 8.44pm
25 January 2023

**FULL COUNCIL 25 JANUARY 2023
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	<p>Question from Mark Simlo</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Regarding the EG1 index plate assigned to the mayor's car.</p> <p>Please could I ask for an explanation as to what benefits to the taxpaying residents of Peterborough would be lost if it were to be sold in these tough economic times?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may respond:</p> <p>The historically significant number plate EG1, being the first issued in Peterborough, which has recently been valued at £38,500. This valuation was requested by members of our cross-party Financial Sustainability Working Group, who also requested other Council valuable assets to be valued, but it was agreed at this cross-party meeting that it would not be in the Council's best interest to sell EG1.</p> <p>Question deferred to next February Council Meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Barry Turner</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>Thank you, my name is Barry Turner and I live in Orton Waterville. My question is. Peterborough Council has declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has committed to zero carbon by 2030.</p> <p>There are opportunities for residents to contribute towards this, at little cost to the public purse, for example by installing double glazing, better insulation, installing heat pumps, switching to electric vehicles and installing solar panels.</p> <p>The recent exponential rise in energy costs has transformed the economics of installing domestic solar photovoltaic power and rising inflation has further added to this. These installations can be up and running within a matter of months.</p> <p>Will the Council urgently review its policies and remove obstacles it imposes on solar energy and enable more residents to generate their own electricity and also to allow the supply of low-cost electricity to the grid for other users? Thank you.</p>

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you, Mr Mayor, thank you Mr Turner.

First of all, I am not aware of any obstacles that the council puts in front of people wanting to use solar panels and if there are, please make me aware of them.

The Council is committed to supporting the city to reduce carbon emissions to net zero, and part of that means supporting renewable energy generation. We do have to act within the law, and much of this is set by central Government. The Government takes the view that renewable energy generation will not always be appropriate and for example solar panels are not generally allowed on listed buildings.

The Council works with owners of all properties, to achieve the best outcome wherever possible, but it is not always possible to please everybody. We are legally obliged to follow the Government's rules.

We do recognise the need to keep our policies up to date, and to that end the proposed Local Plan review offers an excellent opportunity to review our planning policies to support renewable energy generation, and this process is due to formally start in April.

Supplementary Question:

Yes, please. Thank you for the comments.

I would like to point out what my position is. I am currently installing solar panels on our south facing roof which has a 45-degree slope. We could produce 7500 kilo watt hours of electricity per annum, with this installation. But the projected actually output is only going to be 5000 kilo watt per annum. We aren't certain yet. The loss is due to shading from a band of Council trees which are within 3 metres within the south and east borders of our property. Some of the trees are up to 15 metres tall and are nearing maturity after some 30 or 40 years of growth. And just taking a couple of comments from your tree policy, they include things like plant the right tree, in the right place and allowing for. May I have a few more moments.

I was going to quote some of your comments but what you did say was that you need to do things differently, you need to be committed to taking action and you need to demonstrate leadership in climate action and all I would say is, I would request that all of your policies are reviewed to be more helpful towards residents like myself who wish to generate solar power some of which could be exported to the grid and will add to the reduction of Co2. Thank you.

The Cabinet Member responded:

My Mayor, I am completely committed to everything Mr Turner has said and so is the Council. I am not quite clear what he wants us to do but if Mr Turner would like to write to be personally, I will have a look at what he would like us to do to help his situation.

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 Skibsted

Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport

It has recently been published that the car park for the regional pool will now be used for a further university building and that currently there is no firm plan for where residents using the regional pool will be able to park.

While expansion of the university is very important for the city, the regional pool is a facility enjoyed by many - not least many children who learn to swim - and is one of the few places in Peterborough where people can swim for a reasonable price. Membership of the leisure centre is not way beyond many people's budget, as with private leisure facilities and clubs. Apparently, construction will start in February leaving very little time for alternative arrangements to be made for parking.

Can the Cabinet Member give assurance that a suitable parking alternative will be found for those using the regional pool to ensure that everyone has the access they need, be it families with children, elderly people, or disabled people, showing that welfare and health of Peterborough's citizens is of equal importance to university students. If this is not possible within one month, will the construction work be postponed to allow time to find a suitable alternative?

The Cabinet Member responded:

Our new university, as you very well know, is developing at pace and with the first teaching block opened in September, the new research and innovation building now complete, and building work on the second teaching block about to start. It is a fantastic achievement and something that we should all be very proud of and have long waited for.

It is unfortunate that one of the unintended circumstances of the development is the loss of the regional pool car park, or just a small part of it. However, alternative parking arrangements most definitely will be put in place to ensure that regional pool users are not inconvenienced. Not inconvenienced at all. Alongside the use of Bishop's Road car park which is just a minute or so away from the regional pool car park, we will be providing new spaces on the site of the regional pool itself, including parking bays for disabled drivers, and new additional temporary parking will be provided very close by to the pool building, the details of which will be shared in the upcoming days.

The timetable for completing the new building is governed by the funding being used to deliver it, and so delaying the start of the building is not possible. However, given that there should not be a significant gap between the closure of the regional pool car park and the provision of new parking bays, this will not be necessary.

Supplementary Question:

Yes, I do, thank you Deputy. I'm glad that solutions are being considered. I'm still very concerned as a Councillor and user of the pool that moving the car parking arrangements further away will mean that people will not be able to access it as easily and this will detract from usage. Especially families, elderly, users of the athletic track and so on. I am aware that staff have targets to meet for usage which will be affected,

and I have recently spoken to members who are intending to cancel their memberships because of this issue. Can I have assurance that and I understand that you are saying there are various plans put in place but can I have an assurance that a long term solution will be considered to create a car park that will ensure that the regional pool is fully accessible to all, will attract new users which I'm sure we all wish to happen and thereby ensure the health and wellbeing of our citizens and particularly those who are less mobile. Thank you.

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor. I can assure you that actually it is not the case that people will have to walk further, or it is not that case that they are going to be inconvenienced. Much of the new disabled bays will be even closer to the regional pool than they are now, and we will be creating more space, more spaces on the existing car park. However, we will also be creating more space on a temporary car park very close by until the future is clear as to what we are going to do for the city and the pool.

2. **Question from Councillor Hemraj**

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

With over capacity within our hospital and some patients who are medically fit for discharge putting pressure on our residents needing emergency care, do we know the pressures on social care currently in the city?

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor, and thank you Councillor Hemraj for the question.

I know it's well documented, the pressures on our local hospital continue due to increased demand and the number of people presenting at the emergency department requiring admission. There are multiple factors that have contributed to the difficulties managing patient flow, patients admitted versus patients being discharged, and increasing numbers of flu and covid through the winter have also contributed.

The current position for Adult Social Care changes daily however the average snapshot taken on Friday 20 January – was there zero delays waiting for Reablement at home, there was five packages of care which had been commissioned for people not yet medically fit for discharge and four packages were being commissioned for people who had just become medically fit for discharge but only just referred to Adult Social Care within the last 24 hrs.

The current and historic position for Adult Social Care discharges in the city is good especially given the time of year with the increased demand and staffing pressures in social care. Currently there are 165,000 vacancies nationally as reported by Skills for Care. The Transfer of Care Team continue to work in partnership with the acute trust and review all medically fit patients on a daily basis to agree the correct pathway for discharge. I hope this assures you that there are no delays caused by the work of this Council. Thank you.

Supplementary Question:

I do. I look after many patients at the hospital and the frustrations I hear is waiting to go home because they tell me personally, they're waiting for care packages. I'll come

in the next few days and the same patient is still there. So, what I see at work is totally different to what you're telling me here. So, I would like to see some truer figures.

The Cabinet Member responded:

Councillor Hemraj, you have to consider at the local hospital that obviously there are patients there from many different local authorities. They will all have their different discharge procedures, they will all have their own different pressures. So the assurances I'm giving you are specifically on Peterborough City Council, there are other councils that aren't in as fortunate position as we are on the matter I have to say and obviously you are experiencing that first hand but the figures I've given you are specifically for people who live in the authority area and on that side I hope it assures you that we are performing very well.

3. **Question from Councillor Wiggin (1)**

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

What progress is being made on the Council's strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour across the city?

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor, and thank you Councillor Wiggin for your question. The Safer Peterborough Partnership has an active problem-solving group which allows for multi-agency approach to tackling anti-social behaviour, recognising that many of the reported issues cannot be resolved by any one agency. Through this forum, we are making excellent progress to co-ordinate joined up interventions that address ASB.

This financial year, a total of 91 case reviews have been carried out centred around protecting the vulnerable, supporting victims and identifying appropriate interventions against perpetrators proportionate to the extent of their anti-social behaviour and crimes. For example, this has included closure orders, prosecutions, referrals to support services, together with Public Space Protection Orders, landlord enforcement of tenancy breaches associated with ASB, community protection warnings and notices, as well as deterrent activities such as patrols and enforcement at hot spot locations. Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor.

Supplementary Question:

Yes, thank you Mr Deputy Mayor. Thank Councillor Allen for his response and for detailing the work that's being done. That doesn't match the public perception that I'm getting from my residents who do not think that anything is being done in certain areas and there have been several high profile incidents recently where anti-social behaviour is causing problems for the city such as causing the removal of the e bikes scheme, the Puttstars issue which Councillor Stevenson has referred to in her question, lots of graffiti around the city and other issues. What more can we do to reassure our residents that we are as part of the multi-agency response, on their side.

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor, and thank you Councillor Wiggin for the follow up.

	<p>We all want a safe and inviting City without the perception of no go or dangerous areas. The Safer Peterborough Partnership works hard to ensure that outcome with a co-ordinated input from a number of agencies. And I'm sure that we all think the police should be here there and everywhere but there are revenue issues and there are capacity issues. In turn, I think we have a responsibility, as Councillors, that to ensure that false perceptions are not propagated, and I think we all want to be on board with that whilst ensuring that the Safer Peterborough Partnership do the work they should be doing. Thank you so much.</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor Stevenson (1)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications, Culture and Communities</p> <p>Peterborough Police have issued a public call to parents after reports of anti-social behaviour involving teenagers at the new Puttstars facility in Queensgate. While Puttstars is private business, and Queensgate is a private business, is there anything the council can do resolve the situation, given the very negative impression these incidents leave with the public and potential visitors to the city?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may respond:</p> <p>Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor, and thank you Councillor Stevenson for your question. The ASB issues at Puttstars have been discussed at the Safer Peterborough Problem Solving Group, and we are committed to support the business run as a safe and welcoming operation that enhances our city.</p> <p>To achieve this, Officers from the council are facilitating an extraordinary Multi Agency Problem Solving Group on the 26th of January. The meeting will bring together relevant partner agencies including representatives from Puttstars and Queensgate, which as you say are private businesses they have to be on board with the solution and the idea is to discuss actions that can be undertaken to reduce the level of incidents at this location. Thank you, Councillor Stevenson, and thank you Mr Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>Supplementary Question:</p> <p>Yes, thank you Mr Deputy Mayor and thank you Councillor Allen for your response. I just wondered do the police work with the council when preparing their statement and if they didn't could they be encouraged to do so in the future.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I could say yes but I'll also elaborate. The future success of shopping malls is predicated on mixed leisure use. It's essential that incidents of ASB are addressed at this early stage of the transformation of Queensgate if the centre is to re-establish itself as a family destination for our residents and for visitors to the city, combining shopping, cinema and leisure. And importantly that footfall is not diminished by the actions of a few. We do need to have parents taking responsibility as the start of your question mentioned so do education establishments ensuring that respect and decent behaviour is a given. However, that cause needs to be backed up by an understanding the venue, the centre has affective stewardship in place. The change of business model from shopping to leisure and entertainment clearly has different control requirements and we sympathise with the police in helping those businesses ensure that outcome. Thank you.</p>

5. **Question from Councillor Stevenson (2)**

Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance

Voters will be required to produce ID when voting in person at the local elections in May. What is the council doing to ensure the city's disabled people are fully aware of the changes and to ensure they do not become disenfranchised?

The Cabinet Member may respond:

Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor, and thank you Councillor Stevenson for your question.

The Elections Act of 2022 has brought in changes to the voting system requiring anybody wishing to cast their votes in a polling station to show photographs, sorry photographic id before they are given a ballot paper. This will take effect from the 4 May 2023.

The Electoral Commission are fronting a national campaign to get this message across and if you go to the electoral commission website, you'll be delighted to hear that there's a specific area of information for disabled people, Gypsie Rom and traveller communities, older people, people experiencing homelessness, people who are registered to vote anonymously and trans and non-binary people. So, there's quite a bit of material there for people who perhaps need to be communicated with in different ways.

There's a national campaign, some of you may have seen adverts that are going out currently across social media and on the main broadcast media. Peterborough City Council will be supporting this campaign with targeted social media posts, leaflets at community hubs and more informative poll cards that will list the full requirements of voters. Full details can be found on the Councils website, including how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate that can be used for anybody who does not currently have suitable photographic id and those that are suitable are currently listed on the gov.uk website.

The Electoral Services team will also be working closely with Peterborough's Disabilities and Older Peoples Advisor Cllr Brian Tyler, to my left, to discuss ways in getting the message across to all electors within the city in readiness for May's elections. Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor.

Supplementary Question:

I do, thank you Mr Deputy Mayor and thank you Councillor Coles for your answer. I am one of those who had neither a driving license nor a passport so I will be one of those who will be needing one of those user authentication certificates we're going to have to make sure people know about. I was wondering then, once we have had the elections in May, if there is a drop in turn out, what will the Council be doing to examine the reason for that and to find out whether disabled people in particular have been the ones who have become disenfranchised.

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you very much for your supplementary. Of course, we will be looking at what the results show us. I think thing to also emphasise that if you want to you can elect to register to vote by post or proxy so you don't necessarily have to ger the voter id to do that and I hope that all members here and all candidates likely to stand in the next

	<p>elections will be promoting this as they put out their electoral material to make sure that we can encourage as many people as possible to vote.</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>The Council is going to rely on the Energy from Waste (EFW) plant as the main heat source for a heat network to supply local businesses (called the PIRI project). How are the businesses going to obtain heat when the EFW plant is not operating?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may respond:</p> <p>Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor, and thank you Councillor. PIRI is an amazing, innovative scheme. Whereas most low-carbon energy schemes focus only on single energy requirements i.e., heating, power, or mobility, PIRI seeks to identify opportunities to bring forward all of these things simultaneously. This means achieving complimentary benefits that would not be realised if these interventions were developed singularly as individual projects. PIRI is designed to be technology agnostic, this means that the focus of PIRI is on the “enabling infrastructure” – the network required to connect a source of power to an end user. This allows the scheme to remain flexible enough to incorporate a range of heat or energy sources, including new technologies that may not be currently available. PIRI looked at all potential sources of power at the outset of the project. The Energy from Waste (EfW) plant offers the greatest potential for both heat and electricity. Its location close to local businesses and in Council ownership made it a clear that there was an obvious solution. However, the technology agnostic approach and focus on enabling infrastructure means that other options can still be included such as Water Source Heat Pumps of course given the proximity to the river Nene, other types of heat pumps and waste heat from other industrial processes in the area. This creates future expansion potential and long-term resilience without full reliance on EfW. The PIRI design also incorporates thermal and battery storage options to take advantage of times when supply exceeds demand, ensuring that nothing ever goes to waste. Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>Supplementary question:</p> <p>Yes, thank you, thank you Mr Deputy Mayor. Thank Councillor Cereste for his detailed answer which I think was a very long-winded way of saying yes. My understanding was that in 2021 the energy from waste plant was down for 41 days so just to confirm that the Council is confident that the PIRI scheme will be able to make up for that kind of loss of supply from the energy from waste plant. Thank you.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>Thank you again Mr Deputy Mayor. Yes, I'm confident that we'll be able to do that.</p>

Questions on notice to:

d. The Combined Authority Representatives

NONE RECEIVED

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