

FULL COUNCIL 22 MARCH 2023 QUESTIONS

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	<p>Question from Christopher Taylor</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Local councils are often given huge sums of money from central government to implement Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), 15 Minute Cities, roadblocks and other restrictions on the freedom of movement, and stand to rake in more money from new fines on motorists. Local authorities ignore the public and push ahead with these undemocratic schemes regardless.</p> <p>People should be able to travel and live their lives as they see fit. What plans do Peterborough City Council have with regard LTNs and other restrictions on the freedom of movement of the citizens of this city, and when will these plans be submitted to, at the very least, public scrutiny via a consultation process?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Sue Magill</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</p> <p>We have spoken to Councillor Alan Dowson regarding a bus/transport meeting at Huntingdon today and are very disappointed no one from Peterborough City Council attended this meeting. Our question is: why was this important meeting not represented?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Julia Cunnington</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</p> <p>We have spoken to the Peterborough Mayor Councillor Alan Dowson today after attending the Combined Authority Transport and Infrastructure meeting. We are extremely disappointed a representative from Peterborough City Council did not attend. This was very important meeting, as we put our question to the panel for the reinstatement of a bus service for Wittering, Wansford, castor and Ailsworth. Why wasn't a Peterborough representative there?</p>

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 Cllr John Fox

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

It is great news that the council have secured funding for the station quarter, which will be good news for many residents.

We must however ensure that the elderly and disabled residents are catered for and that before any decisions are made, the administration liaises with disability groups as a matter of course.

Council should be seriously looking for a Changing Places toilet to be built in or near the station itself, which is long overdue and in much demand.

At long last the Council can now take a serious look at the footbridge from the Station quarter to Queensgate striving to make it more user friendly for pedestrians, mobility scooter users, blind or partially sighted residents, the elderly and those with limited mobility.

Will the leader and cabinet member reassure this chamber that this will be actioned on and taken in serious consideration?

2. Question from Councillor Ansar Ali (1)

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

It is extremely embarrassing to hear, from residents in my ward, our city being called dirty Peterborough. The sight of ever-growing litter and fly tipping across our city is extremely heart-wrenching, this is particularly bad in my North Ward. I would urge urgent action to address this decline. Can I be advised as to what strategy and action the Council is taking to address this blight in our city?

3. Question from Councillor Dennis Jones

Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance

I have read, with some alacrity, that PCC does not have a break clause in the Serco contract until 2031 at an estimated cost of £105m.

My question is two-fold. Why was this signed with no break clause in the first place?

	<p>And five years on from signing and one year on from the city being close to bankruptcy, what was the prevailing culture within the cabinet at that time where a now retired councillor was able to sign the city up for such a contract? Hindsight is a wonderful thing but no break clause without the benefit of a crystal ball does appear to be rather careless.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member may respond:</p>
4.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg (1)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities and Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>At the Full Council meeting of 25 January Councillors were given assurances that "no one would be inconvenienced in the short term" by the closure of the Regional Pool Car Park and that disabled parking spaces lost by the closure would be replaced for the use of customers of the Regional Pool. On 13 February the car park was closed to prepare for the forthcoming development of the phase 3 University building. At the time of writing this question no extra disabled parking spaces have been provided for Regional Pool customers. Why has this been allowed to happen despite firm assurances that extra provision would be put in place before the closure of the car park?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Skibsted</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities and Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>I asked a question about car parking at the regional pool to Councillor Cereste at Full Council in January. The council leader claimed in the PT on 28 January that, although the car park would close for users on 11 February, that "no one would be inconvenienced at all" by this closure. On 2 February I was informed by a senior officer that PCC was waiting for contractors to confirm the exact timelines for completing the works of building a temporary car park, which were not expansive and that we could expect this facility to be open "within the next few weeks".</p> <p>I see no sign of this work and we are now at the end of March and the original regional pool car park was closed on 11 February.</p> <p>Why was this promised and what is the cause of the delay in building and opening this much- needed. temporary car park?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford (1)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Could the leader of the Council please explain why there was no representative of Peterborough City Council at the meeting of the CPCA Transport and Infrastructure Committee on 15 March? This absence rendered the committee inquorate and unable to make any decisions on important issues such as the CPCA Local Transport Plan and Bus Strategy.</p>

<p>7.</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Seager</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</p> <p>When the council sold back the freehold of the football ground to London Road Peterborough Properties Ltd it retained a large area of the gravel car park at the front of the sight fronting London Road. It seems that PUFC are using this space and charging for vehicles to park there on match days. Is Peterborough City Council leasing this land to PUFC or in a commercial arrangement to split the proceeds of the parking revenue?</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Ansar Ali (2)</p> <p>Councillor Andy Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</p> <p>Over recent days a number of residents of my North Ward have expressed concerns at the further delay and deferral of £15 million of loan repayment by Hilton Hotel Group to the Council. They feel the Council will not get its money back or make any profit from this loan as originally stated. Can I please have an explanation of the situation?</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p> <p>In July 2019 the Council set targets of getting both the Council itself and the whole city to net zero carbon by 2030. Could the relevant cabinet member give a report on what progress has been made towards reaching these targets?</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg (2)</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance</p> <p>There have been many questions asked by residents regarding the Serco contract that was signed in 2018, which removed certain key performance indicators and also any break clauses. How was this allowed to pass through the council's decision-making process?</p>

	<p><u>Questions on notice to:</u></p> <p>d. The Combined Authority Representatives</p>
	<p>None.</p>

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