

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2023 COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR SANDFORD

Present:

Councillors Ahmed, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Asif, Barkham, Bi, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Casey, Cereste, Cole, Coles, Day, Dowson, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, John Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Alison Jones, Dennis Jones, Khan, Knight, Lane, Mahmood, Moyo, Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Ray, Rush, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Seager, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Stevenson, Strangward, Thulbourn, Tyler, Warren, Wiggin

17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rangzeb, Councillor Ayres, Councillor Skibsted, and Councillor Saqib Farooq.

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

19. Minutes of the Meetings held on 22 May 2023

19(a). Mayor Making

The minutes of the Mayor Making Council meeting held on 22 May 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.

19(b). Annual Council

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 22 May 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.

COMMUNICATIONS

20. Mayor's Announcements

Due to an error in the wording of the Declarations of Office at the Mayor Making meeting on 22 May 2023, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor re-made and signed their Declarations of Office.

The Mayor made a number of announcements, including:

- The Mayor's installation service in the Cathedral.
- Three citizenship ceremonies.
- A presentation at the Peterborough Eco awards.
- A charity quiz night at Maharanis to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Care.
- The first monthly "Meet the Mayor" open day at the Town Hall.
- A visit the Lido to celebrate its re-opening for another successful year.
- Attendance at a Peterborough Schools Country Dancing festival.
- A presentation at the Charity Dragonboat Festival.
- Meeting the Portuguese Consul General.
- A visit to the Kings School art exhibition.
- Attendance at an international women's choral festival in the Cathedral.
- Visiting a "Ukraine Calling" exhibition of art painted by wounded soldiers at the Museum.
- Meeting with Burnham Construction around environmentally friendly construction techniques.

Members were further prompted to attend the events around Armed Forces Day taking place in the city centre on Saturday 24 June 2023.

21. Leader's Announcements

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

- Welcome to Stephen Taylor, joining the Council as Executive Director for Adults Social Care and thank you to Debbie McQuade for acting up in the position in the interim.
- The new Executive Director for Children's Services, John Gregg, would be starting in the next month.
- Construction had begun on the second teaching building at ARU Peterborough.
- The third phase was progressing and was planned to open in Autumn 2024.
- Congratulations to Peterborough and Stamford Colleges and the Inspire Education Group for their Ofsted inspection results.
- Peterborough has been ranked the second most improved city in the Demos-PwC Good Growth for Cities report.
- £80 million of Government funding was anticipated through the Levelling Up Fund and Towns Fund, as well as private investment.
- A special flag-flying event would be taking place on 22 June to commemorate the 75th Windrush anniversary.
- Refugee Week was currently taking place, with more information available on the Council's website.

Other Group Leaders responded to the Leader's announcements and raised the following points:

- Congratulations were passed to Stephen Taylor and John Gregg.
- The development of ARU Peterborough was welcomed.
- Members were please to see Peterborough colleges performing well.
- It was hoped that the Windrush, Armed Forces, and PRIDE events taking place at the weekend were successful.
- Comment was made that the future development of ARU Peterborough was handled better that the closure of the regional car park.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

22. Questions from Members of the Public

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

1. Food Defences against unauthorised encampments.

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

23. 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.

24. 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. Food waste caddy bin liner stock.
- 2. Domestic abuse levels and allocation of funding.
- 3. Pleasure Fair Meadows use for hydrotherapy pool.
- 4. Alternative hydrotherapy pool location outcomes.
- 5. Hilton hotel loan extension reasoning.
- 6. Unauthorised encampments and anti-social behaviour.
- 7. JCB Pothole Pro trial outcome.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

25. Executive and Committee Recommendations to Council

25(a). Employment Committee Recommendation – Introduction of New Values Across Peterborough City Council

Council received a report from Employment Committee in relation to Peterborough City Council's values.

Councillor Alison Jones moved the recommendation and advised that, in October 2022, the Corporate Leadership Team initiated the establishment of a new set of values following the adoption of the Council's priorities. These values related inwardly to staff

and Members, and outwardly to residents. Nearly 400 Members, employees and associations worked to collate the values, which had been considered by the Corporate Leadership Team, Cabinet Policy Forum and Employment Committee.

Councillor Jackie Allen seconded the recommendation and advised that she was pleased to have participated in a detailed workshop and discussion around the Council's values. Although not everyone's preferred values would be included, embracing an agreed set of values would allow the Council to operate more strategically. Members were also reminded that the Nolan Principles were still in effect for Members to abide by.

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

- Officers had widely consulted on the new values in order to ensure that the behaviour around these values could be embedded internally and externally.
- It was hoped that the values could provide reassurance that officers and Members were accountable to them.

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

1. Approve the Peterborough City Council Values as outlined in the original report.

25(b). Cabinet Recommendation – 2023 Council Climate Change Action Plan

Council received a report from Cabinet in relation to the 2023 Climate Change Action Plan.

Councillor Simons moved the recommendation and advised that the Council had declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and had committee to a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The action plan set out how the Council would achieve this goal, citing the Council's carbon footprint, progress on previous commitments and commitments for the future. Highlights included the use of HVO fuel in highways vehicles, successful funding bids for tree planting, and researching for a number of future carbon reduction policies. The plan further committed to a comprehensive road map to net zero and the expansion of the offer of carbon literacy training for Members and officers.

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

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

- It was noted that this was the fourth edition of the action plan, with the new iteration having gone through scrutiny prior to Cabinet consideration.
- Comment was made that further use should be made of HVO fuel by refuse collection vehicles as well as highways vehicles.
- Members welcomed the development of a road map for the decarbonisation of the Council's buildings.
- It was felt that it was vital to keep taking action to combat climate change in order to meet the targets set by the Council.
- Members thanked all those who had been involved in the drafting of the plan, including the youth MPs and co-opted Members.
- Attention was drawn to the continued use of glyphosate as weed killer and Members looked forward to the trails by Aragon to eliminate its use.

- It was suggested that, as Councillors had been asked to engage with the public on this matter, if information could be provided on what public events had been held, how well these were attended, and what matters were raised.
- Further comment was made, suggesting that the detail of the plan could be graphically represented.

As seconder of the recommendation, Councillor Sainsbury advised that he was pleased with the points raised in debate and hoped that these could be taken on board.

As mover of the recommendation, Councillor Simons summed up, advising that he agreed that refuse vehicles should also be using HVO fuel, and work was being undertaken to bring that forward. If figures in relation to public engagement were available, these would be circulated. Councillor Simons would review the report and see if a more graphic presentation could be used going forward.

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

1. Adopt the 2023 Council Climate Change Action Plan.

26. 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.

Peterborough Investment Partnership 2022/2023

In response to a question from Councillor Hogg, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that the Shareholder Cabinet Committee received a report to provide oversight of the Peterborough Investment Partnership (PIP) and not for any particular decision to be made. It was felt that the PIP had been successful and arrangements around the company were suitably transparent.

In response to a further question from Councillor Hogg, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that there were a number of different PIPs for different projects. The company that dealt with Northminster was PIP Northminster and different to that which the decision related to.

Procurement of a Framework Agreement for the Provision of Specialist De-cluttering and Deep Cleaning Services

In response to a question from Councillor Qayyum around what the aim of the decision was why separate arrangements were in place, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that a response would be provided in writing, following a change in Cabinet positions.

Child Weight Management Procurement

In response to a question from Councillor Cole around whether child minder providers would be included in this service, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that that a response would be provided in writing, following a change in Cabinet positions.

Decision to Award Compensation as Recommended by the Local Government

Ombudsman

In response to a question from Councillor Bisby, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that it was impossible to prevent 100% or errors in a service. Councillor Jackie Allen advised that the decision had been closely considered by the Cabinet Member, who had been satisfied with the level of compensation awarded.

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

There were no Combined Authority decisions reported since the last meeting.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

28. Notices of Motion

There were no motions on notice.

The Mayor 6.00pm – 7.15pm 21 June 2023

FULL COUNCIL 21 JUNE 2023 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions were received under the following categories:

	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
Ques	Questions from members of the public	
1.	Question from Nigel Cracknell	
	Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities	
	Yes, thank you.	
	In May and June of this year there were five unauthorised encampments in Orton alone, and more elsewhere in the city. It seems that grass bunds are the most effective defence against these, but our ward councillors have been told we cannot have them as they will cost upwards of £20 thousand to install in the green space adjacent to where I live, in Orton Brimbles, and Aragon will charge even more to maintain them. Is this the case, and if it is, I cannot see how we will ever protect our green spaces? Obviously, we cannot put a price on the distress these encampments cause to residents, but has the council undertaken a cost/benefit analysis to measure whether it makes greater economic sense to spend the money on the installation and upkeep of the bunds or to spend it on court and clean-up costs instead?	
	The Cabinet Member responded:	
	Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Mr Cracknell for your question. Apologies about the tech issues at the start, it's always upsetting when your mic packs up. I can tell you that from a professional standpoint, anyway, moving on.	
	I fully understand the impact unauthorised encampments have on communities and the issues they sometimes cause, and indeed sympathise with those communities that are affected.	
	Defending areas of land against encampments is an option often used by the council, and, when budget allows or where there is an overwhelming need, preventative measures will always be installed. Officers take into consideration a range of factors before deciding on appropriate measures, including the number and frequency of encampments, location, impact, type of measures, and costs involved.	
	Just as important as protecting land though is having a robust enforcement process in place for moving encampments on, which this council has, as well as ensuring the Police use their powers when thresholds have been met.	

Finally, I can assure you, I have spoken to officers about the piece of land you refer to, and I can confirm they are looking at measures to try and protect the area.

Supplementary Question:

Yes, is it possible for the Council to quantify the distress these encampments cause to communities with a view to the Council then looking to make cuts to any other budgets so it can afford the bunds.

The Cabinet Member responded:

Thank you, Mr Mayor, I have the gentlemen with the sharp pencil sitting next to me, Councillor Coles in charge of our budgets and I think it is something we should always look at in protecting the interests and amenities of residents. But do recall that there are now measures brought in by the Conservative Government that allow the Police to be much more forceful with moving on these illegal encampments. Thank you.

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 Hogg (1)

Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change

Can the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change please give us an update on the current status of food waste caddy bags provision. Specifically, how many of the bags ordered by residents prior to May have still not been delivered, do Aragon envisage running out of bags before the July stock refresh, and will we be reinstating the 'tie a bag to your bin' method of asking for replacements?

The Cabinet Member responded:

Yes Mr Mayor, thank you.

	Food waste liners are currently in stock and are being delivered to residents by waste collection crews when ordered online. Our team has made excellent progress over the last few weeks catching up with the back log and reaching the stage where all historic orders will shortly be fulfilled.
	Moving forward we will continue to ask residents to order food bags online, but if any residents have difficulty, they can always ring the Call Centre and they will happily put the request through on their behalf. Whilst we appreciate that the process may feel slightly more complex for some residents it is essential that the Council manages the supply carefully to ensure there are bags available to all households that need them. We will keep this process under review and revise it again if necessary.
	We are confident that we have a sufficient supply until the next order is received in July.
	Thank you.
	Supplementary Question:
	I certainly do Mr Mayor. So from that reply, I gather that there are still some backlogged orders still to go out. In fact, we did in Fletton and Stanground offered our services and were able to clear the back log for our ward. So, I wondered maybe if other councillors might want to get in touch with Aragon and see if that they can do so in their wards too. Do you know how many bags are still outstanding?
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	No Councillor Hogg, I don't know exact numbers, but I have obviously been told by residents that they are still waiting for a supply of these bags, and I'd welcome any Councillors to contact us and then we can see if they would like some bags to give to the residents. Not a problem, thank you.
2.	Question from Cllr Cole
	Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
	According to Peterborough Women's Aid they receive approximately 468 referrals per year for women who are experiencing Domestic Abuse. What funding does the council intend to make to support specialised domestic abuse charities who help rebuild the lives of women and girls who are victims of this horrific crime?
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Cole for your question. I guess you call it your maiden question since being elected in May so welcome and thank you for your question.
	Peterborough City Council currently spend just over £800,000 on domestic abuse and sexual violence services per annum. This is a combination of the inhouse IDVA

	Service, strategic work and awareness raising and commissioned specialist services.
	Peterborough Women's Aid are currently commissioned and funded to run the refuge provision in Peterborough. They are also funded for two specialist posts that are provisioned through the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, and these are co-commissioned with the Peterborough City Council.
	An outreach service to provide support to all victims of domestic abuse was established in 2022. Peterborough Women's Aid was unsuccessful in the award of this contract and this service (Domestic Abuse Support Service) is now delivered by IMPAKT.
	All services are commissioned following national procurement legislation and go out to an open tender, allowing providers including specialist domestic abuse charities to apply for the funding.
	Thank you, Mr Mayor.
	Supplementary Question:
	I do yes, Mr Mayor, thank you.
	Given the recent increase of homicides of women in our city aside from Police interventions what additional policies or services have Peterborough City Council adopted in their safeguarding strategies to prevent yet another women from losing her life and having it so brutally ended.
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	I am going to find that difficult to respond to so what I'd like you to do is send me that question offline and I will respond. Thank you.
3.	Question from Cllr Stevenson (1)
	Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
	Pleasure Fair Meadow car park on Oundle Road has recently been sold to Medesham Homes which is a joint venture between the council and Cross Keys Homes. Might space on this large site be found for a new hydrotherapy pool to replace St George's?
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	Thank you, Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Stevenson for your question.
	Pleasure Fair Meadow car park was, in fact, sold by the council to the Peterborough Investment Partnership, PIP, several years ago. In the last year, it was sold by the PIP to Medesham Homes.
	There are currently no plans for the development of the Pleasure Fair Meadow land, and it remains in use as an operational car park for the city. However, this is an important site for our city, being located at a major gateway into the centre, and

	opposite our flagship Fletton Quays development. We will need to think carefully about any future development to ensure it's of high quality and aligned to our ambitions for a vibrant and thriving commercial centre.
	As Members are already aware, the council has no duty to provide hydrotherapy facilities.
	We are however following, with keen interest plans for a new hydrotherapy pool and treatment facility as currently being proposed by an accredited medical practitioner in the city and of course, would welcome involvement of others able to put forward similar projects.
	Supplementary Question:
	I do, Mr Mayor. Thank you, Councillor Allen, for your fulsome response. If not at this site, then when will the Council help find some land for a community hydrotherapy pool as previously agreed at a meeting of the Cabinet on the 11th of July 2022.
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you for the follow up Councillor Stevenson. We did say that we would use our best endeavours as and when we could find land. I don't think it's a proactive search, it's as something comes up that was in the Council estate that we could offer for that purpose, and for sale. Thank you.
4.	Question from Cllr Qayyum
	Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
	Now that the alternative facility for the Hydrotherapy pool has been in full operation since it was last set up, service user uptake, as per feedback from residents and those who represent disabled hydrotherapy users, that I have spoken to, appears to be poor. Whether this be due to higher rates charged for usage of the pool or difficulties accessing the location via transport, does the Cabinet member feel this operation has been successful?
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Qayyum for your question.
	Despite the council having no statutory requirement to provide hydrotherapy services, we have supported the trial at the Lime Academy since the autumn of last year. During the trial, the average occupancy has been as low as 15% per week, and
	although we have worked hard to promote the facility and to relax rules about charging for carers, there are no indications that usage is likely to increase, regretfully.

	
	We provided this service because of the significant demand we were told required hydrotherapy support, but as you have identified this has regrettably not translated into actual take-up.
	Looking forward, the Council would be supportive of proposals for provisioning of hydrotherapy facilities in the city by health practitioners in the care and rehabilitation sector; as well as of course keeping in mind any opportunities for land that can be identified for operators to purchase for the new facilities to be developed.
	Supplementary Question:
	I do Mr Mayor. Thank you very much Councillor Allen for that honest response. Do you also pledge to reflect the needs of less able-bodied persons and those will disabilities within our city going forward and are you able to cite any examples within the Council's remit where this important cohort of people have been prioritised in policies that have been introduced recently, thank you.
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Qayyum.
	I can assure you that Officers in those areas are cognoscente of the needs of those with special demands and special needs. We have a disability champion in Councillor Tyler who always advises accordingly, and we will take our responsibilities very
	seriously in that area. Thank you.
5.	seriously in that area. Thank you. Question from Cllr lqbal
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	Thank you for your response and what assurance can you provide that the loan is secured against the asset and what would happen if the developers default. Will the outstanding loan including interests be repaid by 31 December and how likely is it that a further extension will be requested. Thank you.
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	Thank you, Mr Mayor. For trying to be as brief as possible, 100 percent we would own it yes and it would be fine, we wouldn't necessarily have to extend it.
6.	Question from Cllr Stevenson (2)
	Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
	In respect of both unauthorised encampments and anti-social use of cars (also known as 'drifting') in the city, Cambs Police say they can only act when they receive sufficient calls from the public, yet recently they have turned off the Police webchat in the evenings (albeit on a trial basis) and many residents report to councillors that call centre operators aren't interested in calls about these issues. This is putting additional pressure on the council's enforcement team which is unable to deal with incidents outside normal office hours the way the Police can. Would the relevant cabinet member be prepared to write to the Cambs Police superintendent about this and ask him to raise the matter with his seniors as clearly the situation is doing nothing to help residents or instil faith in the Police or the council.
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	Thank you, Mr Mayor and no worries about that little delay it gave me a breather. Thank you, Councillor Stevenson, for your second question for me to answer.
	The Council officers work closely with the Police and other agencies to respond and resolve these, and many other, issues. Due to the community impact both have, we need our residents to have every confidence that we are tackling these issues in partnership. I appreciate your concerns and thank you for bringing them to my attention. I will raise these issues at the next Safer Peterborough Partnership Board meeting, at which the Police will be present, and will also liaise with the Police and Crime Commissioner on the matter. Thank you.
	Supplementary Question:
	I do, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Allen for entertaining another question from me.
	Does the Council have any plans to extend the availability of Enforcement Officers to late evenings to assist the Police in their efforts to stop the antisocial use of cars or antisocial behaviour at unauthorised encampments while the behaviour is in progress.
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	May I investigate the potential of that, we are conscious that Enforcement Officers can have a definite use in our city and indeed we now have Enforcement Officer

	doing the city centre area. Additional resources in that respect so let's see if that can be a portion to the area of your concern. Thank you.
7.	Question from Cllr Hogg (2)
	Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change
	Following the recent trial of the JCB Pothole Pro can the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change please outline how this trial wer and how use of this machine would improve our effectiveness in dealing with pothole across our area?
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	Yes, Mr Mayor. Thank you, Councillor Hogg, for your question.
	The council, and our highways contractor Milestone, are committed to ensuring our roads are as safe as possible, and this includes maintaining high performance in relation to pothole repairs. The latest data from 2021/22 shows that we repaired 2,681 potholes during that year alone.
	As we are always keen to take advantage of the latest developments, we were pleased to trial the new Pothole Pro machine in Peterborough. The data is now being analysed by Milestone and findings will shortly be presented to us.
	We are though looking at alternatives to the Pothole Pro technology and will be trying different options to ascertain their effectiveness too. Thank you.
	Supplementary Question:
	Just a brief one, do you have any ideas as to what the timescale on that decision will be.
	The Cabinet Member responded:
	I don't actually have timescales but I'm happy to share the data once we receive it.

Questions on notice to:
d. The Combined Authority Representatives
None.

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