

**FULL COUNCIL 26 JULY 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 John Bradshaw</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>Peterborough City Council (PCC) has adopted an Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) This provides for the promotion of "fair access to a wide range of services" including Health.</p> <p>Please explain how the failure to provide a regular bus service to Wittering is consistent with the principles of the AFC.</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 Cllr John Fox (1)</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>I've noticed volunteers are working to clear the overgrown grassed areas around our city's footpaths as it is encroaching over the pathways, especially at this time of year.</p> <p>Although this is laudable work they are doing, I ask the question why are they having to do this, other than a sense of loving where they live and wanting to improve their own areas? This is a city-wide issue, not just my Werrington ward.</p> <p>What is the cabinet member going to do about organising Aragon to do this work as it should not be down to council tax paying volunteers to carry out the maintenance of our footpaths.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Cllr Skibsted</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>It appears to be council policy from the Tree Department that if trees on council land overhang residents' gardens or property, the residents are responsible for cutting back the overhang, unless there is an issue of disease or safety. This may be due to a cutback to funding in the Tree department where many large trees are no longer regularly maintained. Many residents have approached me regarding very large trees which completely overshadow their gardens or are hanging over their properties, causing much inconvenience to them.</p> <p>Many of these residents are elderly or disabled and also have no funds to employ an arborist to do the work - several of these trees are very high and would need specialist equipment. This is happening across the city. It seems very unreasonable to expect residents to bear the cost of maintaining council owned trees on council land and many are simply unable to afford to do so. What will the council do to assist in this matter?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Cllr Mohammed Farooq</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>In this month's Cabinet meeting (10 July 2023), it was revealed there is a budget shortfall of a further £5m and rising. Will the relevant cabinet member please explain</p>

	to the council, how such a large amount has come to light (all of a sudden) and what services is he proposing to cut, to make up for this shortfall?
4.	<p>Question from Cllr Howard (1)</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>It has been reported in the press that the opening of the Hilton hotel is further delayed to Summer 2024. Can the relevant cabinet member explain to this council how much has been drawn by the hotel and how many payments have been made to PCC. What will happen now with the most recent extension of the loan till the end of 2023?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Cllr Harper</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adults Services and Public Health</p> <p>Land registry documents reveal the Vine building has cost the council £3.97m. The leader is now intending to sell this property. Can the leader assure the council this building will be sold for more than £3.97m and therefore no losses will be picked up by our residents?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Cllr Iqbal</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>We are finding that more and more of the Council's committee and Cabinet report are coming out with vital information held back under the exemption law, the latest being the legal advice received around a recent planning committee application. Our residents deserve a more transparent council. Can I ask the leader of the administration, what steps is he proposing to take, for this council to be more transparent?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Cllr Qayyum (1)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adults Services and Public Health</p> <p>Given the changes to the Cabinet roles and appointments of Advisors to each Portfolio, can the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health Scrutiny give us a reason as to why there was no representation from either Cabinet Member or advisors at the First Adults and Health Scrutiny meeting of the Municipal year? As all roles are remunerated at the cost of the tax paying people of this city.</p>
8.	<p>Question from Cllr Elsey</p> <p>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>A few years ago, we were told by this administration that merger with Cambridgeshire was the best and most efficient way of delivering services to our residents. The same administration is now de-coupling the delivery of these services from Cambridgeshire.</p>

	<p>Can I ask the relevant cabinet member, what is the cost of this failed experiment so far? How much extra money will it cost to run the new de-coupled services?</p>
9.	<p>Question from Cllr Qayyum (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Can the relevant Cabinet member inform us as to whether the proposed development of the Station Quarter and Funding allocated from Central Government will be used for the development of the Railway Station in isolation or will there be other sites redeveloped inclusive to this project such as the adjacent footbridge on Thorpe Road and Prominent buildings within the vicinity? Could we have the details of the extent of the proposals, please?</p>
10.	<p>Question from Cllr Howard (2)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adults Services and Public Health</p> <p>Following the recent in-depth review within the Conservative group of Cabinet Member meeting attendance, I wondered if the Leader could explain why 4 members of the Cabinet were absent from the Full Cabinet meeting on 10th July?</p>
11.	<p>Question from Cllr John Fox (2)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adults Services and Public Health</p> <p>One of the most bizarre moments in my time as a councillor has been, when this leadership proposed a recommendation of all-out elections and then voted against it - one can only assume for political reasons, at the expense of the taxpayer. Can the leader explain to the council, his full plan on all-out elections for next year.</p>

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

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