

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR SANDFORD

To be read in conjunction with the agenda and additional information pack for the meeting at

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Council, 21/02/2024 18:00 \(peterborough.gov.uk\)](#)

[\(Public Pack\)Additional Information Agenda Supplement for Council, 21/02/2024 18:00 \(peterborough.gov.uk\)](#)

Should you wish to listen to the debate had, please visit Peterborough City Council YouTube Channel at

[Full Council 21/02/2024 at 6pm \(youtube.com\)](#)

Present:

Councillors J Allen, S Allen, Asif, Barkham, Bi, Bisby, A Bond, S Bond, Casey, Cole, Coles, Dowson, Eley, M Farooq, S Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, John Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, A Jones, D Jones, Khan, Mahmood, Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Rangzeb, Ray, Rush, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Seagar, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Stevenson, Strangward, Thulbourn, Trust, Tyler, Warren and Wiggin.

88. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ahmed, Ayres, Cereste, Day, Knight, Lane and Skibsted.

89. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

NOTE: *Should they have had any pecuniary interest, Members had been granted a [general dispensation](#), which enabled them to debate and vote on the Council's Final Budget 2024-25 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024-27, as detailed at Minute No.96 below.*

90. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 January 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record.

COMMUNICATIONS

91. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor introduced his announcements report, which outlined the recent civic engagements attended by the Mayoral Party (the full report can be found in the agenda pack). In addition, the Mayor made other announcements in relation to:

- (i) A new version of the board game "Monopoly" based on Peterborough.
- (ii) A quiz night held in January, which had raised over £640 for the Mayor's Charities.
- (iii) Peterborough's twinning link with Vinnytsia.

92. Leader's Announcements

The Leader made several announcements and Group Leaders were able to respond.

Topics included:

- (i) Funding received from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund to plant the first Tiny Forest in the city.
- (ii) The Council, along with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Anglia Ruskin University had been shortlisted for the Public/Public Partnership prize for the successful delivery of its new university, which opened on time and on budget.
- (iii) The Council had also been shortlisted for its School Streets Scheme.
- (iv) Peterborough Crematorium, which recently received an outstanding inspection report.
- (v) Tribute paid to all staff at the Council's secure children's home, Clare Lodge, who had been praised by government Ofsted inspectors when they visited last month.
- (vi) Tribute also paid to Peterborough's outgoing Youth MP, Eva Woods.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

93. Questions from Members of the Public

One question had been received from a member of the public in respect of the level of funding available either through held funds and/or government funding for the refurbishment of the regional pool or replacement facility?

The question and response given are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes and are available on the Council's website.

94. **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.

95. **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**

Given this was the Budget-Setting Meeting of the Council, political group leaders had agreed that no formal questions, on notice, would be submitted to this meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

96. **Executive and Committee Recommendations to Council - Cabinet Recommendation - Final Budget 2024-25 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024-27**

RESOLVED that:

1. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/27, outlined in **Appendix A**, which included the key financial assumptions, strategic direction, and estimated budget gaps in future years, be **approved**.
2. The Budget for 2024/25, outlined in **Appendix B**, which included:
 - a) Funding and Council Tax Summary, which included a proposed Council Tax increase of 4.99% in 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27;
 - b) Detailed Revenue budgets and proposal detail;
 - c) The Capital Budget (Programme); and
 - d) Section 25 Robustness Statement, be **approved**.
3. The feedback from the budget consultation, summarised in Section 4 of this report and outlined in **Appendix C**, along with the Council's response, which was outlined in **Appendix O**, be **approved**.
4. The Reserves commitments, outlined in Section 2 of the budget report and the draft Reserves Strategy and Policy, outlined in **Appendix D**, which set the future direction of travel and planned use of reserves, be **approved**.
5. The Treasury Management Strategy, outlined in **Appendix E**, which had the fundamental roles of managing external investments, ensured debt was prudent and economic, outlined the Prudential Indicators and ensured that

decisions complied with regulation, be **approved**.

6. The draft Capital and Investment Strategy, outlined in **Appendix F**, which managed its assets and investment resources to help achieve the strategic priorities of the Council, be **approved**.
7. The outline Asset Management Plan (AMP), as set out in **Appendix G**, which set out principles for managing the Council's assets in the most efficient and effective manner and the direction of travel for future years, while a more detailed and refreshed AMP was developed, be **approved**.
8. The newly introduced Sales, Fees and Charges Policy, as outlined in **Appendix H** and the full Sales, Fees and Charges Schedule for 2024/25 as outlined in **Appendix I**, be **approved**.
9. The Dedicated Schools Grant and the Schools Budget 2024-25, as set out in **Appendix J**, be **approved**.
10. The Council Tax Resolution for 2024, which set out the Council Tax requirement and precepts, including those from the Parish Councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, as outlined in **Appendix K**, be **approved**.
11. The increase in the level of Council tax premiums in line with Section 2.5, be **approved**.
12. The Budget Virement Rules, outlined in **Appendix L**, which set out the financial approval limits for transferring budgets between different cost codes and directorates, be **approved**.
13. The Equality Impact Assessments, outlined in **Appendix M**, which had been completed for all major budget proposals, be **approved**.
14. The Carbon Impact Assessments, outlined in **Appendix N**, which had been completed for all major budget proposals, be **approved**.
15. The Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme, as referred to in Section 2.6, and as outlined in **Appendix P**, be **approved**.

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

Councillor Farooq introduced the report, which outlined the record of Executive decisions made since the last meeting.

Members asked questions on the following Executive Decisions:

- Award of Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System (PDPS) Agreement for Supported Accommodation Services for Young People In Care Aged 16 –18 And For Separate Migrant Children And/Or Formally Separated Migrant Children With

- No Recourse To Public Funds – FEB24/CAB/79
- Localities Assets Review Update – FEB24/CAB/81
- Healthy Schools Support Service in Peterborough- FEB24/CMDN/76
- Draft Housing Strategy – JAN24/CMDN/74

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

There were no questions on the Combined Authority decisions made since its last meeting.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

99. Motions on Notice

Given this was the Budget-Setting Meeting of the Council, political group leaders had agreed that no formal motions, on notice, would be submitted to this meeting.

100. Reports to Council

100(a) Polling Districts, Places and Stations 2024

RESOLVED that the following changes to polling districts, places and stations for elections taking place in 2024, be approved:

1. Brookside Methodist Church, Gunthorpe Road to be assigned as the dedicated polling station for the GUN2 (Gunthorpe Ward) Polling District, to replace Gunthorpe Primary School, The Pentlands.
2. PARCA, Unity Hall, Northfield Road to be assigned as the dedicated polling station for the PAR2 (Park Ward) Polling District, to replace 367 Dogsthorpe Road (Formerly St George's Hydrotherapy Pool), Dogsthorpe Road.
3. Highlees Primary School, Ashton Road, Westwood, to be assigned as the dedicated polling station for the RAV2 (Ravensthorpe Ward) Polling District, to replace Stafford Hall, Hampton Court, Westwood.

The Mayor
6.00pm – 7.45pm
21 February 2024

APPENDIX A

FULL COUNCIL 21 FEBRUARY 2024 - BUDGET 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 Collette Francis</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Growth and Regeneration.</p> <p>Thank you Mr Mayor, I just wanted to firstly apologise for reading off my phone, my printer died.</p> <p>So, the question I am putting towards council, is how much money is available either in held funds or government funding for either a replacement of the pool or refurbishment of the pool?</p> <p>Given the regional pool's age, the building is unfortunately coming to the end of its life. Would the funds for refurbishment not be better spent building a new one better suited for the growing population of Peterborough.</p> <p>Peterborough City Council have a real unique opportunity here. Since the regional was built, there have been great advances in technology. Peterborough City Council have the opportunity to build a bigger and better family orientated pool, much similar to the ones in other places, with a shift to greener building and technology with the use of heat pumps, living roofs, solar panels and all that.</p> <p>The opportunity is there to include a replacement to the lost and vital hydrotherapy pool in the plans. This pool does need to be bigger than the one previously proposed by the previous administration.</p> <p>Peterborough is an ever-growing city with many open waterways, so water confidence is vital in our city. Not only this, but by building bigger and better will also encourage people from outside the city to visit too; bringing much needed trade to our city centre.</p> <p>If the funding for refurbishment at the Regional Pool is there, why not build new that will last longer and better rather than sticking a plaster over a building that may not be fit for purpose much longer.</p> <p>Understandably, Peterborough will be without a pool for some time, regardless of the choice made. So, let's take this opportunity now and look to the future.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p> <p>I thank Miss Francis for her question, albeit not the question that was originally submitted. Nevertheless, you've padded it out particularly well, I think.</p>

Mr Mayor, I think the established view is that a new pool would most likely be funded from a combination of grant and private sector funding. Although, a formal decision is yet to be made about the future of the existing building, this council and our Peterborough First administration, is wholly committed to ensuring there is a fit for purpose, future swimming provision, for our residents and visitors; and that it is provided as soon as is practicable.

If a new facility is indeed decided upon Miss Francis, the funding level required really rather depends on the specification, land acquisition and the necessary planning and contracting infrastructure required for this project to happen. So, I hope you'll understand with the complexities that this will involve, I don't imagine anybody would be able to give you a specific figure at this very early stage.

A report is being presented to Cabinet in March and I hope you will look at that with great interest, I'm sure you will, you are nodding, to determine the way forward; and our officers are already exploring potential funding opportunities with both Government and the private sector. Thank you, Miss Francis, thank you Mr Mayor.

Supplementary question:

Just wanted to thank you for your response to that, it was very informative. Can I just ask, would agree that Peterborough does need a pool?

The Cabinet Member responded:

Yes.

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