

**FULL COUNCIL, 24 JULY 2024
QUESTIONS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	<p>Question from Nyree Ambarchian (1)</p> <p>Councillor Cole, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services</p> <p>Who provided the advice that planning permission wasn’t required and what is the basis for this? We are concerned that this is a material change of use and a planning process absolutely should happen for the loss of such a large space that will affect so many and irrevocably change the character of Werrington.</p> <p>In September 2022 in a Peterborough City Council briefing note, dual use of the area was confirmed, along with confirmation that a planning permission is required.</p> <p>"This will include a recommendation that the Council should seek planning permission for a material change of use of that part of Werrington fields which would be enclosed by the fence from dual use to education use, with public access out of school hours under a Community Use Agreement. This will be subject to the council call in process for decision making.</p> <p>The decision on whether to approve the planning application and grant approval to enclose that part of Werrington fields would rest with the Council’s Planning Committee.</p> <p>To deal with the dual use aspect of the playing fields and its use by the public as open space, the Council will also need to advertise its intention to change (appropriate) the use of the land from unrestricted open space to enclosed land for education purposes and consider any objections made. At that stage, anyone with an interest in this project, will have the opportunity to submit comments to the planning application and to the proposal to appropriate the land."</p>
2.	<p>Question from Nyree Ambarchian (2)</p> <p>Councillor Cole, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services</p> <p>Why has the Academy Trust been given such preferential access to council officers and councillors in the matter of the fencing off of green open space in Werrington? Why was the same access not afforded to Werrington's councillors and the Neighbourhood Council?</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded:</p>
<u>COUNCIL BUSINESS</u>	

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

PART B

1.	<p>Question from Cllr Skibsted</p> <p>Councillor Jamil, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport</p> <p>Litter and fly tipping continues to be a huge problem in all areas of the city and on our parkways around the city</p> <p>There are a number of hard-working volunteers who work tirelessly to pick litter across the city and on these parkways. It is good that communities come together to clean up their local areas, but I have had reported to me that where Aragon do their annual cutbacks of bushes etc, litter is not cleared from within the bushes leaving a backlog of old litter and waste. It is not acceptable to expect volunteers to clear this - some of it has been there for many years and is difficult to access. This cannot continue.</p> <p>There is a need to thoroughly clean up these areas at the time of cutting back as otherwise the problem will only continue to get worse. I am aware that budgets have been cut in many areas, but this issue needs to be addressed. What will the cabinet member do to ensure that these areas get properly cleaned up at the time of maintaining the bushes and green spaces?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Hiller</p> <p>Councillor Thulbourn, Cabinet Member for Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Having attended quite a few Town's Fund Board meetings since its inauguration some years ago, I have kept a keen interest in the progress of the originally defined and subsequently changed or removed projects.</p> <p>Can the currently responsible Cabinet member please give a brief update on the progress of what they consider are the top two schemes, in terms of their significance and/or benefit to the residents of this great City?</p>
3.	<p>Question from Cllr Allen</p> <p>Councillor Thulbourn, Cabinet Member for Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Whist I am delighted learn of the Changing Places toilet opening in Queensgate, and the shortly to open facility at The Cathedral, I like many others in the City bemoan the lack of standard conveniences suitable for use by those who are visiting our City for shopping, tourism, on business or socialising.</p>

	<p>It's not everybody who is willing to use the toilets at cafes and bars if they are not customers. Indeed I read regular posts on social media that visits to the City Centre are avoided by many because of the lack of public conveniences.</p> <p>I believe as City we are not fulfilling our duty in that respect.</p> <p>The provision of public conveniences has long been looked at by officers. I would like to ask the responsible Cabinet member where the issue currently sits, and what plans are being formulated to see this longstanding resolved.</p>
4.	<p>Question from Cllr Howard (1)</p> <p>Councillor Jones, Leader of the Council</p> <p>I ask the Leader, does he have enough support and has there been a good enough induction process for the new Cabinet? It was very disappointing to get through an entire Cabinet meeting on the 16th July without any Cabinet interaction or debate, especially with a big ticket agenda that included the LCWIP, Hilton Hotel and a decision on Werrington Fields? Can we be assured that suitable support is in place to help the new Cabinet?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Cllr Allen</p> <p>Councillor Thulbourn, Cabinet Member for Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Unfortunately age, difficulty with maintenance and finally the discovery of RAK concrete saw the end of the Regional Swimming Pool, and with it any claim we might have to provide public swimming facilities to match a city of our size; not to say the ambition and vision to provide for our growing population.</p> <p>The Regional Pool was opened in 1976, with great fanfare at the time. I am sure many were expecting the 'new pool' to be a long term fixture in the City, but regretfully building techniques and materials used at that time have not stood the test of time and this has meant we need to address a replacement facility at pace.</p> <p>Hopefully with leisure facilities and a public Hydrotherapy pool, and should costings allow with a 'long course' 50 meter length to allow a new generation of athletes to train in our city; seeing the new building cater for both leisure, and serious sport users.</p> <p>Can I ask the responsible Cabinet Member for Growth and Regeneration to outline an anticipated timescale to demolish the closed and redundant building, clear the site, achieve the required funding and build a facility fit for the 21st Century?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Cllr Howard (2)</p> <p>Councillor Qayyum, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member responsible reassure us that the provision and support level for those living with dementia will not suffer as a result of the recent cut in budget for the Dementia Centre?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Cllr Fitzgerald</p>

	<p>Councillor Qayyum, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health</p> <p>Can the cabinet member for health and social care please inform council who it was that suggested to cut the budget by almost 50% and thus the funding for the dementia resource centre which will have serious service implications for those they are most in need. This decision was seemingly hidden in the budget document council passed some months ago. Would the cabinet member agree that was this was deliberate in an attempt in order to avoid public scrutiny of this particular cut in funding. What plans does the administration have to ensure that service users and their families do not suffer.</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Farid</p> <p>Councillor Cole, Cabinet Member for Children's Services</p> <p>Youth Services have been decimated in the city and many residents feel that young people need youth workers and activities in place across the city. What are the administration's plans for improving youth service provision across the city for our young people?</p>
9.	<p>Question from Cllr Day</p> <p>Cllr Alison Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities</p> <p>There are over 2,500 people on housing waiting lists with the current supply of social homes unable to keep up with demand. Will the current administration commit to building council homes, which would be socially affordable housing to meet the urgent needs for those individuals and families waiting in temporary (and costly) accommodation?</p>
PART C	
	<p><u>Questions on notice to:</u></p> <p>The Combined Authority Representatives:</p> <p>There were none.</p>