

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 4.00PM, ON
TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2024
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

To be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting.

Should you wish to listen to the debate had, please visit Peterborough City Council Website and select Audio - [Cabinet Meeting – 6 August 2024](#)

Cabinet Members Present:

Councillors Amjad Iqbal (Chair), Katy Cole, Mohammed Jamil, and Nick Thulbourn.

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Dennis and Alison Jones and Councillor Shabina Qayyum

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

26. MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON 16 JULY 2024

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 July 2024 as a correct record subject to the correction of the typographical error with Councillor Cole's surname.

27. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET.

There were none.

28. IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS IN EXCESS OF £10,000

Cabinet received a report that sought approval for the write-off of the irrecoverable debt as outstanding.

In response to Councillor's questions officers:

- explained that the Council had a clear focus on debt recovery and the write-off exercise was completed biannually. It was accepted that recovery of all

debts would not be possible owing to businesses closing and council taxpayers that left the area and could not be traced.

- informed that when a council tax payment was late a reminder was issued and if there was no response then the full liability for the year would be due. In cases of continued non-payment then court action would be taken to seek a liability order for recovery to be undertaken by bailiffs. It was noted that debt was not sold to debt collection agencies in respect of council tax or business rates.
- Noting that the process could be long it was explained that debts could take a significant amount of time to clear, especially when a debt was being repaid as a deduction from welfare benefit payments.
- Advised that bad debt was part of the budget setting process and would not impact on other areas of the Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

Authorise the write-off of the irrecoverable debt shown as outstanding in respect of Non-Domestic (Business) Rates, Council Tax, Housing Benefit Overpayments and Sundry Debt accounts. The total value of irrecoverable debts in excess of £10,000 outlined in this report is £1,250,801.

29. CONTRACT AWARD – HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT

The Cabinet received a report that sought approval for delegation of the procurement and the contract award of Housing Related Support to the Executive Director – Place and Economy

Members raised the following points:

- Outcome monitoring needed to ensure quality and not just cost. The Executive Director Place and Economy informed cabinet that switching from grant agreements to a contract model provided greater control over providers in terms of cost and quality.
- Questioned whether the services could be provided in-house. Officers explained that the majority of services procured were highly specialist and the needs of the cohort could not be met in-house.
- Questioned whether the scheme would support care-leavers. Cabinet noted that it was possible, however, there was a need to develop more targeted arrangements to support care leavers.

RECOMMENDATION:

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

Delegate the decision-making function in relation to the outcome of the procurement and the contract award of Housing Related Support to the Executive Director Place and Economy. The contract(s) awarded shall be for the contract period 1 November 2024 to 31 March 2027 and optional extension periods (2 x one year) and total contract value shall not exceed £1,868,992.

30. SMART MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE (OPPORTUNITY PETERBOROUGH)

The Cabinet received a report that presented a recommendation from Shareholder Cabinet that the Smart Manufacturing Alliance be wound up.

RECOMMENDATION:

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

Agree to the proposal that the Smart Manufacturing Alliance Ltd be wound up and authorises the commencement of the process to dissolve the company.

31. ACADEMY CONVERSION OF A SCHOOL

A report was received by the Cabinet that sought approval for the academisation of Peackirk-cum-Glinton Church of England Primary School.

In response to the report, the Cabinet requested a briefing note be issued regarding the lease once agreements had been reached. Action

RECOMMENDATION:

The Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

1. Authorises the Council to enter into the following:
 - a. A Commercial Transfer Agreement (CTA) between the Council, the Governing Body of Peakirk-cum-Glinton Church of England Primary School (the "School") and Peterborough Diocese Education Trust ("PDET").

- b. A Deed of Novation between the Council, the Governing Body of the School and PDET, for the Governing Body's interest in the following contracts to be novated from the Governing Body to PDET:
 - i. PV System Roof Access Agreement between the Council and the School; and
 - ii. Solar Power Purchase Agreement between the Council and the School.
 - c. Deeds of Novation/Assignment between the Council, PDET and (if applicable) the relevant third-party contractors, for the Council's interest in any contracts which are identified as requiring to be novated or assigned to PDET.
2. Authorises the Council to enter into the following:
- a. A lease of 125 years of the playing fields occupied by the School, at a peppercorn rent granted by the Council to PDET
 - b. A statutory transfer of hardstanding areas and built land on the School site from the Council to Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance ("Diocese")
 - c. [any other *property documents to be authorised*],

the main terms of which are set out in Appendix 1 (or such alternative terms as the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Director for Legal and Governance and the Executive Director for Corporate Services, determines are necessary to facilitate the academy conversion of the School).

- 3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Director for Legal and Governance and the Executive Director for Corporate Services to negotiate and enter into any legal documentation reasonably required to facilitate the academy conversion of the School.

32. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER ONE 2024/25

The Cabinet received a report that provided the Council's performance data for quarter one.

In discussion, Members raised the following points:

- Questioned how child poverty would be tackled collaboratively. The Cabinet noted that a range of interventions were required. Housing would need to be addressed together with a focus on better, more secure employment. There would also need to be a community focus to ensure they were resilient and self-reliant. Poverty was a key focus with health partners.

- Expressed concern about recycling levels within the city, highlighting the increase in black bin collections. In response, officers explained that although recycling rates were increasing, however, there was a need to address what appeared to be a blip.
- Queried how the average wage equated to £34k per year, however, Universal Credit Claims were increasing. Officers explained that data was based on Department for Works and Pensions figures. The data highlighted the stark inequalities within the city.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Cabinet resolved to:

Note the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter One, 2024/25

Leader
16:00pm – 17:20pm
6 August 2024

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