

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 4.00PM, ON
TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 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 – 12 November 2024](#)

Cabinet Members Present:

Councillors Dennis Jones (Leader), Katy Cole, Angus Ellis, Mohammed Jamil, Alison Jones, and Shabina Qayyum.

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

53. MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2024

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 October 2024 as a correct record.

54. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET.

There were none.

55. BUDGET CONTROL REPORT AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

Cabinet received a report that presented the Budget Control Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Interest rates remained high which impacted on several areas of the Council's spending; however these were improving. A capital spending moratorium, a freeze on recruitment and a revenue expenditure moratorium had been undertaken to address the current overspend as the Council did not have sufficient reserves to offset it.

In discussion of the report Members:

- Noted that Corporate Services had returned the largest savings so far. The service was broad in scope that contained unavoidable costs such as bad debt provision and it would be difficult to reduce the budget any further without incurring significant risk.
- Questioned whether the most cost-effective providers of home to school transport were being used. Officer explained that work was being undertaken to explore how costs could be reduced. Proposals included Peterborough Ltd and using digital means to track performance and usage. A briefing for member would be prepared on the work that was taking place in the area.
- Questioned why the Engine Shed at Sand Martin House was being retained for internal use. Members noted that there were several commercial tenants in Sandmartin House and there was opportunity for increasing income generation at the site and would form part of the property review.
- Noted the success of the recent jobs fair that took place at which 500 people attended. Since the fair 53 applications had been received across a broad spectrum of the Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

Notes the Council's financial performance and forecast for 2024/25, and over the life of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as at 30 September 2024

56. PETERBOROUGH MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY TRUST

The Cabinet received a report that presented recommendations from Shareholder Cabinet relating to the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery Trust.

Members emphasised the importance of the museum as one of the jewels of the city and the ambition for it to be a successful tourist destination.

RECOMMENDATION:

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

1. Confirm the continuing appointment of Councillor Alan Dowson to represent the interests of Peterborough Museum and Arts Gallery Trust to the Council

2. Invite the Charity Commission to draw up a new Scheme for the management of the Peterborough Museum and Arts Gallery Trust.

57. REVIEW OF ASSETS

The Cabinet received a report that sought approval for a review of assets to support the Council's budget strategy. Councillor Jamil, Cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Governance, proposed with the unanimous agreement of Cabinet amendments to the recommendations set out in the report. The amendments ensured that all disposals would be presented to Cabinet for approval.

During debate Members:

- Noted that the whole asset portfolio was being considered in relation to the relocation of the contact centre for a cost-effective replacement premises.
- Sought clarity assurance on timescales and communications being issued. Cabinet noted that notification of the process had taken place, and work would continue with affected groups to find suitable accommodation where necessary. Where assets could be handed to community groups assurance was provided that they would be supported in running the buildings when taking them over.
- Noted that as much consultation as possible would be undertaken, however, the financial pressure faced by the Council was significant and it needed to be addressed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

1. Approves in principle the review of PCC freehold assets at market value as listed in the cabinet report
2. Note locality asset disposals will be subject to cabinet approval regardless of value
3. Delegate authority in accordance with Financial Regulations and the Constitution to the Executive Director Corporate Services for disposal of all commercial assets.

58. CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL – CARE AND SUPPORT TO THE EXTRA CARE HOUSING SCHEMES AT ST EDMUNDS COURT AND BISHOPFIELD COURT

A report was received by the Cabinet that sought approval for the award of a contract to Atlas Care Services for two Extra Care Housing Schemes at St Edmunds Court and Bishopfield Court. In discussing the report Members confirmed that provision for wage uplift had been included within the cost of the contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Cabinet resolved unanimously to:

1. Approve the award of a contract to Atlas Care Services Ltd (company reference 06326201) for two extra care housing schemes at St Edmunds Court and Bishopsfield Court, Peterborough; to begin 1st March 2025 for a period of two years and 1 month (ie until 31st March 2027), with an option to extend up to two years in increments of 12 months, for a total contract value of £5,250,000 (value includes the possible extension period).
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care and Commissioning to award an uplift in accordance with the contract.

Leader
16:00 – 16:47
12 November 2024