

## COUNCIL MEETING – 13 APRIL 2011

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

<b><u>AGENDA ITEM 5 - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TIME</u></b>	
<b>5(i)</b>	<b><u>Questions with notice by members of the public</u></b>
	There were no questions raised.
<b>5(ii)</b>	<b><u>Questions with notice by Members of the Council relating to ward matters to Cabinet Members and to Committee Chairmen</u></b>
	There were no questions raised.
<b>5(iii)</b>	<b><u>Questions with notice by Members of the Council to representatives of the Police and Fire Authorities</u></b>
1.	<p><b>Councillor John Fox asked the representative of the Police Authority:</b></p> <p>Would the Council's Police Authority Representative please confirm to me how the full time Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), working at the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Schools and the hospital are paid for and assure me that they are not being paid for by the taxpayers of Peterborough?</p> <p><b>Councillor Fitzgerald, the Council's Police Authority representative responded:</b></p> <p>The Safer Schools Partnership works with the schools identified as having pupils at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. Resources are allocated according to a risk profiling methodology which takes into consideration for example absence, excluded pupil numbers and the level of emerging or existing risk. There is no distinction between PFI financed and directly funded schools. Until the end of 2010/11 one part-time sergeant, three police officers, three full-time and two part-time PCSOs worked on the partnership – resources are moved around the schools as risks emerge. These posts were in the main funded from the main police staffing budget with short-term funding from Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) and the Home Office. Contributions were made by three schools. Going forward negotiations are ongoing with partners and schools to seek similar contributions to keep this vital partnership running into 2011/12. The situation is similar within the hospital and the allocation of resources is based purely on policing need. The answer refers to the Safer Schools Partnership, which like all these things, are all in jeopardy and I sit on the board for the Voyager School and having spoken to Chief Superintendent Hebb, he would be happy to give you more details about the issues as they stand at the moment, because they are operational and not really authority matters. I think the only promise of finance is likely to come from the schools as budgets are tight everywhere. But they are doing what they can to keep us going. Chief Superintendent Hebb would be happy to speak to you more on that issue if you require further information.</p> <p><b>Councillor Fox asked the following supplementary question:</b></p> <p>I am not against the project, but common sense would say that a sergeant, three PCs, the equivalent of four PCSOs, their wages would come to about roughly £170k. If you were to employ eight retired police officers who could quite easily do that job, it would</p>

	<p>only cost in the region of £100k which would be quite a big saving. Would that be something the Police Authority would consider in the future?</p> <p><b>Councillor Fitzgerald, the Council's Police Authority representative responded:</b></p> <p>I very much doubt that as, again, it is an operational matter and the question would be best directed to the police force itself and I am sure Chief Superintendent Hebb would be happy to have that conversation with you.</p>
2.	<p><b>Councillor David Over asked the representative of the Police Authority:</b></p> <p>Could the Council's Police Authority Representative explain why the Peterborough Villages Police Constable (PC) has had one third of his duty hours dedicated to work patrolling the new Peterborough Hospital rather than continuing to police the 20 plus villages in Peterborough's rural areas?</p> <p><b>Councillor Fitzgerald, the Council's Police Authority representative responded:</b></p> <p>This is an operational matter. The resource allocation is informed by regular assessments of crime figures. A review of crime figures in the villages policed by PC Norman McCallum (Maxey, Etton, Wittering, Sutton, Glinton, Northborough and Barnack) in January 2011 by Inspector Karen Newton didn't justify the attention of a full-time officer in the area. At the same time it was identified that additional resources were needed in West Ward and at the new city hospital, which accounted for a quarter of all incidents in that area in December 2010. PC McCallum was tasked to spend a third of his shifts in the Bretton/West Ward/Ravensthorpe areas. He arranged the initial contacts at the hospital, which is used by people from across the city, before handing over to a PCSO so he could focus on the rest of West Ward. February's crime figures for these rural villages do not show the decision has caused an adverse effect, in fact there has been a reduction in total crime in February compared to the previous month and the same month last year. Chief Superintendent Hebb has made the same offer, due to it being an operational issue, to Councillor Over and I have communicated and put them in touch with each other directly.</p>