

**Telephone:**

**E-Mail:** shauna.torrance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

**Please ask for:**

**Our Ref:** Fee Uplift Response

**Your Ref:** Care England Uplift Response 2022

PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES  
DIRECTORATE

Peterborough City Council  
Sand Martin House  
Bittern Way  
Peterborough  
PE2 8TY

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your response and follow up questions raised within your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022. I will endeavour to respond to each of these areas in turn.

### **The Cost of Care**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough appreciate the challenges associated with servicing data requests, particularly over the last two years where demand for information has significantly increased and requirements frequently changed. We have all, however, also been navigating unprecedented circumstances. Unfortunately, most of these requests are led by central government requirements or health and safety requirements linked to infection control and are issued on a national basis. Whilst local government can provide feedback through avenues available to us, limited influence can be applied beyond this. Locally, information requested is led by contractual requirements providers agree to during procurement processes, or locally agreed arrangements related to specific areas of works which have clear outcomes attached.

Both Councils welcome the introduction of a consistent national approach for cost of care data collection and are engaging in completion of the CHIP team joint LGA/ADASS data collection template. However, we are mindful that considerable support is required from local providers to ensure this is completed in a meaningful and useful way and note the risk that current timescales do not necessarily allow for that given the pressures you note within your letter.

### **2022/2023 Fee Uplift and Communication Timeline**

Within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, consultation and communication are continuous and ongoing through the use of both provider forums and contract management meetings. Through these areas, we regularly engage in individual and group discussions relating to inflationary pressures and uplifts as well as many other opportunities and challenges. We also work with two local Care Associations as another means of engaging with the market. These discussions have proven invaluable to informing a range of additional support provided to the market, including:

- Appropriate and targeted allocation of government grant funding arising throughout COVID-19

- Payment to Plan whereby the local authority continued to pay local providers at a pre-covid level despite reduced access to capacity. Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough this remains in place for day opportunity providers to help sustain these organisations in the face of reducing income due to the government guidance on infection control.
- Within Cambridgeshire, additional funding has been allocated to support the market with pressures over and above inflation funded allocated. [Insert how much]

The budget allocated to inflationary uplifts is set as part of business planning processes, with 2022/23 being approved by Cambridgeshire Committee in February and Peterborough Cabinet in March.

The budgets have been included below:

Council	Budget	Notes
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>	£10,038,000	Inclusive of National Living Wage, Inflation and National Insurance
<b>Peterborough City Council</b>	£3,572,000	

Please note, that in addition to this Cambridgeshire County Council are also launching a project in 2022/23 to implement the Real Living Wage and have allocated significant levels of funding to support with this.

The following areas are considered and used in setting the budget for inflation:

- Annual inflation clauses contained within contracts
- Spend by provider based on actuals
- Inflation Levels – National Living Wage, CPI and National Insurance
- Feedback from the market gathered through uplift negotiations in the previous year as well as forums identified above
- The Local Authorities financial position

We do not apply one cost model to the entirety of the sector. Where inflationary uplifts are not pre-determined by contractual mechanisms agreed at procurement stage, both Councils will enter a negotiation process with each provider which gives the market ample opportunity to challenge and present the evidence relating to their requirements in more detail.

### Council Tax Precept

Council	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>	1%	3%
<b>Peterborough City Council</b>	4.99%	3%

### Average Care Home Fees

Cambridgeshire County Council publish average care home rates. Information relating to people over the age of 65 can be found on page 12 of the report below:

[People and Communities and Public Health Finance Monitoring Report - January 2022 \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/reports-and-publications/people-and-communities-and-public-health-finance-monitoring-report-january-2022)

Please see below, average care home rates within 2021/22 for Peterborough City Council:

Type	Average Weekly Rate
Residential	£657.09
Nursing	£697.50

I'm aware we are currently in process of scheduling a date for a virtual meeting. I look forward to meeting both you and your colleagues to discuss this in more detail in due course.

Your Sincerely



Shauna Torrance  
Head of Adult Social Care - Commissioning