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Councillor Chris Ash was elected as the city's first citizen at the annual meeting of Peterborough City Council on Monday (21 May 2018).

His friend Doreen Roberts will be Mayoress. Councillor John Fox was named Deputy Mayor and his wife Judy Fox will be Deputy Mayoress.

The Mayor's theme for the city will be harmony and he will not have a dedicated chaplain to lead prayers, instead he has approached the Peterborough Inter-Faith Council and will have a different religious representation at each meeting.

During his year of office, Councillor Ash will raise money for The Light Project, The Alzheimer's Society and Deafblind UK. His cadet will be Cadet Safoorah Umar, a police cadet.

Councillor Ash has been a serving councillor in Peterborough since 2000 and previously, from 1986 to 1994.

At the meeting at Peterborough Town Hall, it was also confirmed that councillor John Holdich will continue as leader of the council and will continue to take a lead role in the Combined Authority as the portfolio lead for skills, in which he has helped secure £9.7 million to invest in a University for Peterborough.

A number of cabinet positions remain unchanged.

Councillor Wayne Fitzgerald will remain as deputy leader and cabinet member for integrated adult social care and health. Pressure on services continues to rise, however the council was recently announced as a top performer in the country for discharging people from hospital.

Councillor Peter Hiller retains his portfolio for growth, planning, housing and economic development. He will work to ensure progress is made on a commercially viable scheme for the North Westgate development. He also leads on temporary accommodation, homelessness prevention and the city's environmental aspirations.

Councillor Lynne Ayres retains her portfolio for education, skills and university. She will continue with a new approach to school improvement which recognises the responsibility of our schools to drive their own improvement and ensures the Council is able to support and, in some cases, robustly challenge poor performance. She has also supported the drive for further investment in new schools which has put us in a position to be able to bid for future investment in our schools.

Councillor Marco Cereste joins the cabinet as member for waste and street scene, including the possible start up of a Local Authority Trading Company to manage waste and street cleansing.

Councillor Diane Lamb remains as the lead for the public health agenda with the aim of improving the health of our residents. Cllr Lamb has run a workshop attended by Members of this Council on mental health and has been instrumental to the success of the first year of Healthy Peterborough in which 2,600 people set personal health goals.

Councillor Irene Walsh remains in charge of communities, overseeing the new prevention and enforcement service. She was praised for her work with Syrian families arriving in Peterborough and has also seen success with our prevention and enforcement service, with over 8,500 fixed penalties issued for littering, anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping since June 2017.

Councillor David Seaton will continue to manage the resources portfolio, including the council's budget. Cllr Seaton was noted for delivering a balanced budget and good financial management which has been recognised by external auditors.

Councillor Sam Smith will continue to lead the children's services portfolio. She was praised for putting forward a compelling case which allowed the council to successfully bid for £2.9 million to promote family safeguarding.

The Cabinet will continue to have two Cabinet Advisors. Cllr Steve Allen who will remain as Cabinet Advisor. Cllr Allen has been instrumental in his work with Vivacity and city centre initiatives and tourism. Secondly, Cllr Howard Fuller as Cabinet Advisor for Commercial Strategy and Investments.