

Matt Gladstone:

Hello, and welcome to Peterborough. My name's Matt Gladstone, Chief Executive. I've been here about six months, and we're very much on an improvement journey and very much interested in people applying for these new roles across the City Council.

I truly believe that the city is going through a huge amount of change at the moment. It's very much our strapline is around the City of Opportunity. We've got a lot going on. We've got a new university opening in September at Anglia Ruskin University. The city center's going through a huge amount of change and improvement and lots of investment has weathered the storm really well through COVID.

I think there's a lot of government hub and investment coming in. We've got a new Hilton hotel opening back-end of the year. We got some fantastic work going on with our Family Safeguarding Teams. Got new family hubs being created. Some great work around the education system and in business and inward investment is really strong.

Huge amount of house building going on at the moment and we're always looking to try and up the standards and quality, which is really important, but generally the city is going through a huge amount of change as I said, and the census data has highlighted Peterborough being one of the stronger cities for growth. I think we've had 17% growth in the city. A lot of young people coming into the city, which is fantastic to see. It does bring its challenges, but it's great to see new investment coming in, new population growth happening and a real vibrancy in change happening right across the city.

In terms of the City Council, we are on an improvement journey. We are going through a lot of change at the moment. We are on improvement notice with government, but I would say overall it's very positive. We're working close with government. I have an independent improvement panel made up of high caliber experts from Chief Executives, Directors of Finance, a lot of change people working right across central local government.

I have brought in a new top team and restructured that and I'm now looking for a number of new roles across the organisation. I am looking for internal talent and getting the best that we can get, but I'm also looking for fresh leadership, fresh ideas, and that creativity and innovation's absolutely key for our next stage of our improvement journey.

The politics is stabilising and we are working very collectively and collaboratively across a number of political groups. We have a new corporate strategy, which is now setting out our vision and direction, and now need to start restructuring and redesigning services in line with what the customer needs and what our corporate vision is all about for the future, very much around the City of Opportunity.

It's a really exciting place. There's a huge amount of change happening. I'm very much looking for fresh leadership and perspectives coming in from internal, private sector, voluntary business, doesn't matter. I want that fresh talent and fresh perspective coming in, so come and join us. Thank you for listening.