

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR GUL NAWAZ

Present

Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Barkham, Bashir, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Fower, Harper, Haynes, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Holdich, Howard, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lamb, Lane, Lillis, Murphy, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Sandford, Seaton, Shaheed, Simons, Skibsted, Walsh, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin and Yurgutene.

32. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Goodwin.

33. Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Fower in relation to agenda item 13 'Motions on Notice', Motion 7, confirming his employment as a postal worker.

A declaration of interest was also received from Councillor Murphy in relation to agenda item 13 'Motions on Notice', Motion 2, confirming his membership of an animal welfare society.

34. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record.

COMMUNICATIONS

35. Mayor's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Mayor.

36. Leader's Announcements

The Leader thanked Council staff and the Peterborough community for their work during the year in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and wished all a Merry Christmas. Group Leaders' extended this thank you to other public services, front line workers, and community leaders.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

37. Questions with Notice by Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

38. Petitions

(a) Presented by Members of the Public

There were no petitions presented at the meeting.

(b) Presented by Members

There were no petitions presented at the meeting.

39. Amendment to the Virtual Meetings Protocol

Council received a report in relation to the temporary amendment to the Virtual Meetings Protocol for the present meeting only, in order to waive the requirement for questions from Members to be responded to verbally.

Councillor Shaz Nawaz introduced the report and moved the recommendations. The Councillor expressed concern over the time available to Members to debate motions. Group Leaders had considered a number of solutions to this with officers and, as such, proposed a temporary change to the manner in which questions on notice from Members were handled, to be responded to in writing only. This would ensure that up to an extra 45 minutes was available to debate motions. It was emphasised that this change would affect only the current meeting.

Councillor Holdich seconded the recommendation and advised that while an additional number of Full Council meetings had been suggested by a number of Members, this would place extra demand on officers, which was not ideal in current circumstances.

The Mayor confirmed that due to the nature of the recommendation to save time and debate motions, Council would move directly to the vote.

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (45 voted in favour, 11 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) to agree to amend the 'Virtual Meetings Protocol' as adopted by Council on 29 July 2020, to restrict Questions on Notice from Members to be answered in writing only (on a trial basis for this meeting only), as per the wording set out in paragraph 2.4, to enable more time for the debate of council motions.

Councillors For: Ali, Aitken, Rush, Judy Fox, Cereste, Dowson, Walsh, Lane, Casey, John Fox, Joseph, Gul Nawaz, Yasin, Over, Robinson, Ellis, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Howell, Jones, Ayres, Jamil, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Harper, Murphy, Farooq, Shaz Nawaz, Bisby, Fower, Skibsted, Holdich, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Coles, Fitzgerald, Hussain, Day, Hiller, Simons, Lamb, Bashir

Councillors Against: Sandford, Barkham, Hogg, Wiggin, Warren, Ash, Haynes, Lillis, Sandra Bond, Shaheed, Andrew Bond
Councillors Abstaining: Seaton, Allen

40. Questions on Notice

(a) To the Mayor

(a) To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet

(b) To the Chair of any Committee of Sub-Committee

(c) To the Combined Authority Representatives

Questions and answers were taken as read and were published online.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

41(a). Cabinet Recommendation – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Phase One

Council received a report considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 30 November 2020, in relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Phase One.

Councillor Seaton introduced the report and moved the recommendations. The Councillor explained that the consultation for phase one of the budget had been launched in October 2020, with the feedback from this included in the report appendices. The Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees also met in November to consider the proposals, resulting in a recommendation to remove the proposals on the brown bin service. The Councillor suggested that the amendment outlined in the additional information pack would result in a loss of £1.2 million of income. Additionally, costs of £0.8 million would be incurred and it was considered that they may be a resulting reduction in compositing levels.

Members were reminded of the context of the proposals. Councillor Seaton stated that in March 2020 a balanced budget was agreed. All local authorities had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, many with long term implications. Government support, it was advised, had been substantial, with 88% of COVID-19 related spending being provided for and extra funding provisions expected with the Autumn Statement. Members were advised that the previous £2 million budget gap and increased to a £36 million gap, as a result of lower income generation through Council Tax and Business Rates and through the cost of COVID-19 measures.

Councillor Seaton reiterated that the Council's external auditors, Ernst and Young, considered the Council to be well run, however the Council did face specific challenges. The Council did not have a large amount of reserves, had a low Council Tax return and faced challenges around transformation delivery. The COVID-19 pandemic had plunged the Council into the greatest challenge of a lifetime and, as such, the Council had entered formal talks with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in order to find a long term solution.

Councillor Cereste seconded the recommendation and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Wiggin moved his amendment to the recommendation. The Councillor noted the points raised by Councillor Seaton and suggested that, in terms of vision, it was not felt by all Members that the Council was well run. It was considered that the recycling rates of the city were not up to standards, which was part of the motivation for the amendment, as it was felt the Council needed to push greater recycling rates and address the climate change emergency as declared by the Council. The Council further expressed uncertainty as to why action had not been taken to address these figures in the past 20 years, as the Council was below the national average for recycling levels.

Councillor Sandford seconded the amendment and reserved his right to speak.

Council debated the recommendation and amendment, and the summary of points raised by Members included:

- Comment was made that no consideration had been given to the implications and costs of the proposed amendment, however, Members further noted that the amendment simply asked for further thought be given to specific proposals.
- Members noted the decreased level of reserve funding held by the Council at the current time.
- It was suggested that the renovations to the Town Hall building had gone well over budget and were still not finished, with other Members stating that parts of

the building had been rented out to two long term tenants, with income in excess of the capital expenditure.

- Members considered that austerity measures had impacted local authorities significantly, and it vital that central Government support authorities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It was suggested that the currently financial struggles of the Council were solely the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that financial mismanagement was another contributing factor.
- Comment was made that housing waiting lists remained high and that targets were not being met, though other Members advised that this was due to officer vacancies and there was no longer any delay in placements.
- In relation to the proposed amendment, Members suggest that officers and the Cabinet take the additional time to investigate the wider implications of garden waste provisions and why the Council was not reaching its targets.
- Members were advised that this phase of the budget was not the complete budget and that a second phase of proposals would be submitted to Council in March 2021 for consideration.
- The wisdom of purchasing new waste collection vehicles before the Government had issued its updated regulations was questioned.
- Questions were raised as to why the university proposals were coming forward without any accommodation provision, as it was considered this would not allow Peterborough to benefit from an influx of young, intelligent people.
- Members were pleased with the work towards the Innovation Hub and green technology.
- Concern was raised that the Council would struggle to agree a balanced budget following the submission of phase two proposals in March.
- Comment was made that consideration had to be given to the unique challenges present within Peterborough.
- Members discussed the lack of engagement within the Budget Working Group and it was noted that the Working Group had not held any meetings since March 2020.

Councillor Cereste exercised his right to speak as seconder of the recommendation and advised that previous levels of reserves had been much lower, and had been built up in recent years. It was felt that the Council had supported growth in the city and the upcoming university plans represented the next stage of this. In relation to brown bins, it was considered that as those who use the service were in the minority, it would not be appropriate to ask those who did not use the service to pay for it. Councillor Cereste agreed that the Council needed to improve its recycling levels and actions to tackle climate change. This included the upgrading of fleet vehicles, which would take place incrementally to allow for any change in Governance guidance to be incorporated.

As mover of the original recommendation, Councillor Seaton summed up and noted that as the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups not attending the Budget Working Group, it was no longer practical to meet, though briefings had been maintained for all groups over 2020. It was suggested the lack of investment in the Millfield area was due to an absence of agreement by Ward Councillors as to what action should be taken. In relation to Sand Martin House, it was advised that the extra available space was due to the success of the agile working programme, with the reduction of used space from 3 floors to 2 floors. The top floor was rented out. Following COVID-19 working arrangements, it had become clear that the Council could reduce its used space further.

A vote was taken on an amendment from Councillor Wiggin. The amendment was **DEFEATED** (12 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 17 abstained from voting).

Councillors For: Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Haynes, Hogg, Howell, Lillis, Sandford, Shaheed, Wiggin

Councillors Against: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lamb, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Warren, Walsh

Councillors Abstaining: Ali, Ash, Ellis, Fower, Hemraj, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Skibsted, Yasin, Yurgetene

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (29 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 0 abstained from voting, the Mayor exercising his casting vote in favour of the recommendation) to approve:

1. The Phase One service proposals outlined in Appendix C to the report.
2. The updated budget assumptions, to be incorporated within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2021/22-2023/24. These are outlined in sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the report.
3. The revised capital programme outlined in section 5.5 and referencing Appendix B to the report.
4. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Phase One, as set out in the body of the report and the following appendices to the report:
 - Appendix A – 2021/22- 2023/24 MTFS Detailed Budget Position - Phase One
 - Appendix B – Capital Programme Schemes 2021/22- 2023/24
 - Appendix C – Budget Consultation Feedback, including Phase One Budget Proposal detail
 - Appendix D – Financial Strategy pre-C-19
 - Appendix E – Financial Risk Register
 - Appendix F – Equality Impact Assessments
 - Appendix G – Carbon Impact Assessments
 - Appendix H – Budget Consultation Feedback
5. The strategic financial approach taken by Council outlined in section 5.4 of the report.
6. The forecast reserves position, and the statutory advice of the Chief Finance Officer outlined in Section 6 of the report, The Robustness Statement.
7. The feedback received on the budget proposals, received via the consultation detailed in Appendix H to the report and the supplementary report.

Councillors For: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lamb, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Warren, Walsh

Councillors Against: Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Fower, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

Mayor's Casting Vote: In Favour

42(b). Licensing Committee Recommendation – Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative Impact

Council received a report considered by the Licensing Committee at its meeting on 18 November 2020, in relation to the Statement of Licensing Policy.

Councillor Hiller introduced the report and moved the recommendations. The Councillor advised that the Committee had considered the policy and the responses received from the consultation. The Committee determined the cumulative impact to new and variation applications, and revised and republished the Cumulative Impact Policy in line with that. The proposal to recommend the Statement of Licensing Policy to Council for approval was agreed by the Committee unanimously.

Councillor Coles seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous) to adopt the final Statement of Licensing Policy (**Appendix X** to the report).

43. Questions on the Executive Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting

Replacing the Regional Pool

In response to a question from Councillor Hogg, Councillor Allen advised that a working group had been set up, as Cabinet Members also wished to undertake further investigation of areas such as the provision of a hydrotherapy pool, the length of the pool and the future of the Lido.

In response to a question from Councillor Qayyum, Councillor Allen confirmed that the Council's intention was to maintain the current St George's Hydrotherapy Pool for as long as possible, however it was only reasonable to include this provision in scoping proposals for the new site. The working group would consider this in more depth.

In response to a question from Councillor Sandford, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that any Member was invited to attend the working group, who would be happy to hear their opinion on proposals.

In response to a question from Councillor Skibsted, Councillor Fitzgerald explained that Members could also express their views in writing to the working group, or attend in person.

In response to a question from Councillor Joseph, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that decision had already been taken by Cabinet and any further delays would also delay the ongoing project.

At this time a motion was moved by Councillor Sandford and seconded by Councillor Jamil to suspend Standing Order 12.4 to enable the meeting to extend beyond the three hour guillotine.

A vote was taken on the motion (26 voted in favour, 31 voted against, and 1 abstained from voting). The motion was therefore **DEFEATED**.

Aragon Direct Services Providing PCC Trade Waste

In response to a question from Councillor Hogg, Councillor Cereste advised that it had taken this length of time to take on the trade waste aspect of the service as the priority

for Aragon Direct Services prior to this had been to get the core business settled before expanding.

44. Questions on the Combined Authority Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting

As part of the Virtual Meetings Protocol, any questions in relation to this agenda item were not taken verbally. No questions had been received in relation to this item.

COUNCIL BUSINESS TIME

45. Notices of Motion

45(1). Motion from Councillor John Fox

Councillor John Fox introduced the report and moved the motion. The Councillor ???

Councillor Allen seconded the motion and agreed that the Green Wheel routed required expansion. It was not felt that a task and finish group would add any benefit to the proposal.

At this point the three hour guillotine took effect, and debate ceased. The Council proceeded to move to the vote on all remaining items.

A vote was taken on an amendment from Councillor Hogg. The amendment was **DEFEATED** (28 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

Councillors For: Ali, Sandford, Dowson, Barkham, Hogg, Wiggin, Joseph, Yasin, Haynes, Robinson, Ellis, Howell, Lillis, Jones, Jamil, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Murphy, Sandra Bond, Shaz Nawaz, Shaheed, Fower, Skibsted, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Andrew Bond, Hussain, Day

Councillors Against: Aikten, Judy Fox, Cereste, Walsh, Lane, Casey, John Fox, Seaton, Warren, Gul Nawaz, Ash, Over, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Ayres, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Harper, Farooq, Bisby, Holdich, Coles, Allen, Fitzgerald, Hiller, Simons, Lamb, Bashir

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Fox in relation to upgrading Carr Dyke as a cycle path. The motion was **AGREED** (56 voted in favour, 1 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) as follows:

“During the recent lockdown members will have noticed the increase of cycle use within our City and more importantly our Rural areas.

Sadly, since the lockdown has been eased there has been an increase in road traffic accidents nationally and many have happened in the rural areas of our cities.

The Roman towpath from Peakirk to Eye, known as Carr Dyke was originally used to transport materials by barge, linking up the river Welland and Nene, creating the towpaths for the horses that towed the barges along its route.

This length of pathway is still there and is mainly only used for grazing horses and cattle. However, the route is equally used by walkers a lot and would make an ideal cycleway.

This would encourage more people to use a much safer route between the areas, especially bearing in mind the new estate at Manor Farm and proposed new estate on the Newborough Road, of which Carr Dyke passes alongside both estates.

Council resolves to:

Undertake a feasibility study regarding an upgrade of Carr Dyke to be used as a cycle path, linking up Peakirk, Werrington, Gunthorpe & Eye, with the results of this feasibility study to be considered by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments.”

Councillors For: Ali, Sandford, Aitken, Judy Fox, Cereste, Dowson, Walsh, Barkham, Lane, Casey, John Fox, Hogg, Wiggin, Seaton, Warren, Joseph, Gul Nawaz, Ash, Yasin, Haynes, Over, Robinson, Ellis, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Howell, Lillis, Jones, Ayres, Jamil, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Harper, Murphy, Farooq, Shaz Nawaz, Bisby, Shaheed, Fower, Skibsted, Holdich, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Coles, Allen, Fitzgerald, Andrew Bond, Hussain, Day, Hiller, Simons, Lamb, Bashir

Councillors Against: Sandra Bond

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

13(2) Motion from Councillor Ali

A vote was taken on the altered motion from Councillor Ali in relation to trail hunting. The motion was **AGREED** (30 voted in favour, 26 voted against, 1 abstained from voting) as follows:

“Peterborough City Council notes that Fox hunting, Deer hunting and Hare hunting with Dogs is illegal under the terms of the Hunting Act 2004, except where an exemption applies.

Most registered hunts claim to now be ‘trail’ hunting, an activity invented after the ban which allows hunts to claim that any chase of a wild mammal is an accident rather than intentional

This Council resolves to do everything within its legal powers to prevent that it will not permit trail hunting, exempt hunting, hound exercise and hunt meets on its land.”

Councillors For: Ali, Sandford, Dowson, Barkham, Hogg, Wiggin, Joseph, Ash, Yasin, Haynes, Robinson, Ellis, Howell, Lillis, Jones, Jamil, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Sandra Bond, Shaz Nawaz, Bisby, Shaheed, Fower, Skibsted, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Andrew Bond, Hussain, Day, Murphy

Councillors Against: Aitken, Judy Fox, Cereste, Walsh, Lane, Casey, Seaton, Warren, Gul Nawaz, Over, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Ayres, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Harper, Farooq, Holdich, Coles, Allen, Fitzgerald, Hiller, Lamb, Bashir, Simons

Councillors Abstaining: John Fox

Councillor Bisby advised, following this vote, that he had intended to vote against the motion.

13(3) Motion from Councillor Howard

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Howard in relation to a Peterborough marathon. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Council Notes:

- Running has become an ever increasingly popular pastime, with Marathon events selling out and growing increasingly the last few years.
- A Marathon would be a welcome boost to the local economy, especially with the new hotels due in our City and the proposed cafe culture, this event would bring new people to our City and would increase tourism and local investment.
- Becoming a University City, hosting a City Marathon would be another major asset to Peterborough’s reputation
- Hosting a City Marathon would give us the chance to help support important local charities with preferential fund-raiser entries for nominated charities, with a view to focus on Charities that do so much in our City, making this a true Peterborough event.
- Hosting a City Marathon in line with the Great Eastern Run, already a popular event, would boost the popularity of the event further still by making the Great Eastern a running festival, and would give us a vital start in having infrastructure and logistics in place to add the Marathon option.

Council resolves for Officers to conduct a feasibility study on hosting a City Marathon including the option of enabling The Great Eastern Run to come back even stronger as a full running festival, and report to Cabinet on their findings about the feasibility of holding this event.”

13(4) Motion from Councillor Bisby

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Bisby in relation to cycle races. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“This council recognises the value of residents having opportunities to live active lifestyles, and our open spaces, footpaths and cycle lanes further support this. Never more so than now has it been important for all of us to look after our health and wellbeing in safe and appropriate ways. To further promote an active lifestyle in Peterborough, there is an opportunity for the Council to organise, support and promote a cycling race and associated events within the city centre, also serving to showcase our vibrant city centre environment. As part of this event, relevant businesses could be invited to participate, including those involved with green energy solutions enabling the promotion of home energy efficiency options to reduce emissions and household costs, cycle and cycling equipment vendors, and electric car retailers.

Council resolves to request the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation to investigate the possibility of re-establishing a cycle race and associated events in Peterborough City Centre.”

13(5) Motion from Councillor Yasin

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Yasin in relation to domestic violence. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Domestic abuse is a complex social issue which affects people from all groups, genders and cultures and impacts across all services. However, it is important to note that Domestic Abuse remains a gendered crime. The Office of National Statistics states that in 2019 up to 2 million adults aged 16-59 experienced domestic abuse out of which 1.6 million of victims were female. Almost one in three women will experience domestic

abuse in their lifetime and two women a week are killed by a current or former partner.

However, it is important to note that we were not in the midst of a global pandemic when these figures were obtained. Covid-19 has significantly impacted domestic abuse as more than 40,000 calls were made to the National Domestic Abuse Helpline during the initial three months of lockdown and Men's support lines received 8,500 calls.

Furthermore, it is reassuring to see the Domestic Abuse Bill has been finally brought to Parliament. This Council welcomes the Bill as it is urgently needed but will only be effective if it is supported by funding for specialist services.

Council resolves to:

- **Call upon the government to fully fund the Bill. This is vital piece of legislation which could change the lives of the estimated 2 million people a year who are subjected to forms of Domestic Abuse. Whilst the Bill is welcomed as an initial step, the safety of Domestic Abuse must be made an economic priority.**
- **Call upon both Peterborough MPs to lobby for funding to ensure we are in the best position to support our residents and to respond to the increasing demand in Domestic Abuse services in light of the current pandemic.**
- **Ensure that we promote awareness and raise the profile of Domestic Abuse across the Council and all partner organisations.**
- **Ensure elected members have training available to them so that members are able to offer support and guidance to residents if/when needed, this will include both basic e-learning and bespoke training.**
- **Recognise the work currently being done around Domestic Abuse services and congratulates the team for all their efforts.**
- **Encourage ALL employers within the Council's area to implement a Domestic Abuse policy in the workplace to ensure support is available for ALL employees in the event of a Domestic Abuse and/or Violence situation."**

13(6) Motion from Councillor Hemraj

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Hemraj in relation to COVID-19 testing. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

"The residents of Peterborough know that it is likely that some people in the large proportion of the Peterborough population and nationally will have COVID-19 yet have no symptoms.

The impact of Covid-19 in Peterborough is manifested by the increasing number of cases since mid-September into the second lockdown. Locally, the North West Anglia Foundation trust has lost 286 patients to Covid-19. Sadly, this number is rising.

With this rise sees a renewed pressure on the NHS locally as the hospital is trying to address the backlog of cancer patients and urgent appointments, coupled with the annual winter pressures which will no doubt have additional challenges this year.

It has also been recognised by government to mass test NHS employees twice weekly.

The Council recognises:

- That it was reported in the first half of November that over 146 children were self-isolating at home due to Covid-19, which demonstrates one of the risks that the

population is exposed to, as children as well as adults can be a source of infection in households. The stark reality appears to be that in such circumstances, we are not effectively able to control all disease propagation. Although disease rates appear to have levelled off in the last week, they are still high compared to the summer. This means that rapid steps must be taken to ensure we contain the spread of the virus and take the pressure off the local hospital. We can be hopeful of a less challenging winter than normally seen, to the detriment of valuable lives lost.

- The more the transmission rate is reduced, the quicker we will be able to get closer to a more normal way of life and do the things we all enjoy, such as meeting family and friends.
- All of the above and agrees that implementation of the following measures would lead to a swift and safe recovery of our city, enabling a faster return economically too.

This Council resolves to:

- **Ask the Director of Public Health to investigate the risk posed by the number of self-isolating children within the city, and whether mass testing of all teaching staff and children with their families would be an appropriate intervention. If so whether this would be feasible using the resources already available within the Local Authority. The urgency and need for this has been suggested by Education Trade Unions.**
- **To revisit the potential and need for the city to become a pilot project for mass testing as originally proposed by the Labour Group at the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting in April 2020 in view of the rising cases. To work with Director of Public Health Dr Liz Robin to assess whether this would be an appropriate intervention for the city, and the feasibility of this being carried out within current resources. If not, to consider a modification in approach by utilising current mobile testing facilities to actively test populations within the "hot spot" areas in the city, through mobile outreach operations rather than stationary operations.**
- **To call upon the city's two MPs to make representations on behalf of the local authority if this is required, to support the need for more funding towards further testing resource or for further testing capacity to be made available."**

13(7) Motion from Councillor Fower

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Fower in relation to Postal Service workers. The motion was **AGREED** (42 voted in favour, 10 voted against, and 6 abstained from voting) as follows:

"Council notes the effort shown by Postal Workers in Peterborough during the pandemic.

Council records its appreciation for the commitment shown by these key workers.

Council notes Peterborough Posties, along with working throughout the pandemic, have seen workload increase by 34% in some areas, worked during record heat waves, through several significant storms, including Saturday 3 October, the wettest day for UK-wide rainfall since records began in 1891.

Council most importantly notes that without our local posties, a range of essential items, such as Covid Testing kits, Legal Documents, NHS information, medication and even letters from MPs would not have reached their destination.

Council resolves:

1. That the leader of the City Council to write a letter of thanks and gratitude to Royal Mail and the CWU Eastern No5 Branch, Papyrus Road, Peterborough PE4 5PE as soon as possible.
2. To urge councillors to take a solidarity photo in the next week, to be shared on their social media using the tags @cwunews @RoyalMail and #PboroPostiesMatter.”

Councillors For: Ali, Aitken, Judy Fox, Cereste, Dowson, Walsh, Lane, Casey, Seaton, Warren, Joseph, Gul Nawaz, Yasin, Robinson, Ellis, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Jones, Ayres, Jamil, Azher Iqbal, Burbage, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Harper, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Bisby, Fower, Skibsted, Holdich, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Coles, Fitzgerald, Hussain, Hiller, Simons, Lamb, Bashir, Rush

Councillors Against: Barkham, Wiggin, Haynes, Over, Lillis, Sandra Bond, Shaheed, Andrew Bond, Day, Sandford

Councillors Abstaining: John Fox, Hogg, Ash, Howell, Farooq, Allen

13(8) Motion from Councillor Shaz Nawaz

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Shaz Nawaz in relation to motions. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“This council notes:

1. Motions are an integral part of council business
2. Motions are a useful mechanism for proposing substantive issues for consideration including council action
3. Motions enable the council to adopt a particular course of action, to do some act, or to document a specific approach or attitude
4. Motions are an opportunity for members to debate and discuss important issues
5. Motions are part of our democratic process and serve as a vital instrument to help the council move forward

The council believes:

It is the democratic right of its members to table motions to create a robust and forward-thinking Local Authority.

The council resolves to:

Request the Constitution and Ethics Committee to review the situation in terms of allowing more time for debating motions. In particular, it is to review and consider introducing additional full council meetings to discuss and debate motions specifically.”

13(9) Motion from Councillor Casey

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Casey in relation to arts, heritage and theatre. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Arts and Culture are recognised as important elements for the creation of confident communities, towns and cities.

With the demise of Vivacity and its former provisions being taken back in house, it is important that Peterborough reconfirms its dedication to recognising arts, culture, heritage and theatre as central to its identity.

In doing so, the Council's plans should reinforce the commercial and social value of arts and culture to the city, not only for our residents but with a commitment to the future development of our tourism appeal regionally, nationally and internationally. The Council will need to consider a post Covid world and the dramatically reshaped demands of our High Street, and the leisure and recreation spend.

Importantly the plans need to recognise and embrace the valued contribution of all groups and partners in the sector.

The Council resolves:

To task the Cabinet Member for Culture to work with officers, all partners, and stakeholders, to develop an ambitious Culture Strategy for Peterborough; recognising the outstanding assets in place, and the potential for further development of the arts, heritage and theatre scene in our City.

Additionally, as part of our aspirations, we provide a commitment that a bid for City of Culture status will be refreshed and prioritised as a short to medium term project."

13(10) Motion from Councillor Sandford

Councillor Sandford advised that he no longer wished to move his motion.

13(11) Motion from Councillor Hogg

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Hogg in relation to fireworks. The motion was **AGREED** (33 voted in favour, 17 voted against and 7 abstained from voting) as follows:

"This Council notes that:

- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) says the law is failing. It does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury, or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury, or distress to animals.
- That further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and people. In the meantime, several things can be done to improve the situation for wildlife and people at risk of being affected by firework explosions.
- Applying the same Challenge 25 (whereby anyone who is over 18 but looks under 25 is asked to produce acceptable ID when they want to buy alcohol) legislation to fireworks as there is with alcohol will ensure that less young people will be injured by fireworks.
- Review of the licensing all public firework displays is needed, ensuring displays are better advertised to the public informing of noise levels and how it may affect people and animals.

This Council resolves to:

- **Encourage public firework displays within the Peterborough area to be advertised in advance of the event, with appropriate advertising for the size of the display, allowing residents to take precautions for people in their care and pets. To include a webpage on the council's own website giving details of public firework displays.**
- **Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks. To be included on the fireworks webpage.**

- **Encourage local suppliers of fireworks to separate ‘quieter’ fireworks from the loud ones so people can choose which ones they prefer with animal and people safety in mind. Provide large labels to sticker the products with green for quiet, red for loud.**
- **Encourage local suppliers to apply Challenge 25 policies in the same way alcohol sales are conducted.**
- **To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.”**

Councillors For: Sandford, Rush, Dowson, Barkham, Lane, Hogg, Wiggin, Joseph, Ash, Yasin, Haynes, Robinson, Ellis, Howell, Lillis, Jones, Jamil, Azher Iqbal, Amjad Iqbal, Qayyum, Harper, Murphy, Sandra Bond, Shaz Nawaz, Shaheed, Fower, Skibsted, Hemraj, Yurgutene, Andrew Bond, Hussain, Day, Lamb

Councillors Against: Walsh, Casey, Warren, Gul Nawaz, Over, Nadeem, Brown, Howard, Ayres, Burbage, Farooq, Holdich, Coles, Fitzgerald, Hiller, Bashir, Bisby

Councillors Abstaining: Aitken, Judy Fox, Cereste, John Fox, Seaton, Allen, Simons

46(a). Appointment of the Section 151 Officer

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous) to:

1. Note the decision by the Employment Committee on 17 November 2020 to permanently appoint the role of Director of Resources; and
2. Formally appoint Peter Carpenter to the Section 151 Officer role.

The Mayor
6.00pm – 9:28pm
9 December 2020
Town Hall
Bridge Street
Peterborough