

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR DOWSON

Present:

Councillors Ansar Ali, Imtiaz Ali, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bi, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Alison Jones, Dennis Jones, Knight, Lane, Moyo, Gul Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Rangzeb, Ray, Robinson, Rush, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Stevenson, Tyler, Warren, Wiggin, Yurgutene

1. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendation - Timetable for Reviewing Peterborough City Council Constitution

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer to make any necessary changes to the Contract Rules, following the implementation of revised procurement procedures.

2. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendation - Process for Appointing to Outside Bodies

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (33 voted in favour, 21 voted against, and 2 abstained from voting) to:

1. Approve the process for appointments to Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix 2 (Revised 'Section 5 – Appointments to External Organisations' – Leader of the Council as decision-maker) to the report.

3. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendation - Update to Civic Protocol

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office (outlined in Appendix 2 of the report);
2. The revised Civic Protocol (outlined in Appendix 1 to the report).

4. Cabinet Recommendation – Flood Risk Management Plan

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Approve the updated Peterborough Flood Risk Management Strategy (FMS).

5. Motion from Councillor Dennis Jones

A vote was taken on the motion moved by Councillor Dennis Jones (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain). The motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

“The intimidation and abuse of councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; preventing elected members from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election, and undermining public life in democratic processes.

This council notes that increasing levels of toxicity in public and political discourse is having a detrimental impact of local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors feel safe and able to continue representing their residents.

This council therefore commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and officers and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does. The council further agrees to sign up to the LGA’s Debate Not Hate campaign. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support those in public life facing abuse and intimidation.

In addition, this council resolves to:

- **Write to the local Members of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign.**
- **Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians.**
- **Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and councillor safety.**
- **Work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families and discuss the need to take a preventative approach that accounts for the specific risks that councillors face, as they do with other high-risk individuals, like MPs.**
- **Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.”**

6. Motion from Councillor Sandra Bond

Councillor Sandra Bond confirmed that she no longer wished to move the motion.

7. Annual Pay Policy Statement

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2023. The Policy is attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Revised Political Proportionality and Allocation of Committee Seats

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Agree the allocation of seats on committees subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 1 to the report).

9. Appointment of Statutory Scrutiny Officer

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to appoint Philippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager as the authority's Statutory Scrutiny Officer.