

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 14
9 OCTOBER 2013	PUBLIC REPORT

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following notices of motion have been received in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 15.2:

1. Motion from Councillor John Fox

That this council:

1. Acknowledges that consultation methods have caused concern recently with elected Members and members of the public;
2. Agrees that a consultation process/guide/policy should be written in order to:
 - a. provide guidance and instruction to officers to ensure all consultations are conducted fully and fairly;
 - b. reassure councillors and members of the public that they will be made aware of any changes to council services;
 - c. provide information to councillors and members of the public on how consultations will be carried out so they know how and when they can make themselves heard and can contribute to those consultations;
 - d. ensure that the impact of national policies, such as the Welfare Reform Act, is considered before making decisions on local services and policy; and
 - e. provide reassurance that consultation responses are considered when formulating final recommendations.

2. Motion from Councillor Ed Murphy

Council notes that Zero-hours contracts mean insecurity and stress for too many Peterborough families. Some on these contracts have to be available at the drop of a hat for their employer, even if there is no work. Others are required to work exclusively for one employer with no guarantee that they will get enough hours to pay the bills.

Council believes that in practice, many work regular hours, for the same employer and as such should be employed as hourly paid or salaried workers. We need to build an economy that works for workers. Peterborough was built on hard work and we believe people want to feel secure at work and proud to work. Ending the exploitative use of zero-hours contracts is a step towards this.

Council resolves to review any zero hour contracts with a view to moving staff to other arrangements and for the chief executive to review all council departments to establish whether any contractors currently carrying out work for the authority have employees on the controversial contracts, which does not oblige the employer to provide work for the employee.

Having ascertained which, if any, contractors use the zero hour scheme, the authority will then meet to discuss how appropriate it is to continue using those businesses.

Further Peterborough City council will encourage other employers in private, partner and statutory organisation to halt the continued and regular use of zero hour contracts.

3. Motion from Councillor Darren Fower

With hundreds of people having signed up to a petition to support the call to introduce a cycle lane along Bridge Street, and given the Council Leader's clear concerns regarding potential safety issues from a minority of cyclists, this Council recommends that the Cabinet introduce a bespoke cycle lane along this stretch from Cathedral Square to the junction with Bourges Boulevard.

4. Motion from Councillor Lisa Forbes

This council recognises that the rail network is vitally important to Peterborough and the UK's economic and social livelihood as well as a greener and more sustainable future, and is key to economic regeneration and job creation in the city and across the country.

This council acknowledges that the present structure of the UK rail network does not provide value for money or fairness for passengers and taxpayers. The UK has the highest fares in Europe, with no incentive for private investment, and public subsidy that has doubled since privatisation.

This council notes a survey carried out in August 2013 by polling firm Survation, which found that 58% of the public want East Coast to remain in public hands, with only 21% believing it should be re-privatised.

This council welcomes the Labour Party's commitment to retaining the East Coast in public hands and notes that the franchise has delivered more than £600 million to the Department for Transport since it left the private sector in 2009, and over £800 million by the end of the financial year.

This council further notes unlike other failed operators of Intercity East Coast, the current publicly owned operator has successfully made all its contractual payments back to Government, and that it paid back £177 million to the Government compared to Virgin Trains payment of £156 million for West Coast.

Given the considerable benefits to the taxpayer and to the people of Peterborough as noted, this council cannot agree with Stewart Jackson MP's position of equivocation on East Coast. Speaking in Parliament on 20 June 2013, Mr Jackson misrepresented East Coast's punctuality statistics in order to make them seem worse than they were, and declared that "it is important that we have a new, long-term private partner to innovate and drive up standards on the east coast main line".

This council believes Mr Jackson's views to be out of step with local and national opinion, and constitute a failure to champion the best interests of Peterborough and its residents.