

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 11</b>
<b>12 APRIL 2017</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

## **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

The following notice of motion has been received in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders:

### **1. Motion from Councillor Ed Murphy**

The following motion requests that the Council take action to reverse a previous decision of the Council. This is in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme, which was agreed by Council on 12 October 2016. This Scheme introduced an increase in the level of Basic Allowance paid to Members and, subsequently, an increase in the level of Special Responsibility Allowance. This decision was taken six months ago, to the date of the meeting on 12 April 2017. As notice of the motion has been received within 6 months of the previous decision, the motion is required to be signed by five Councillors.

The following undersigned Councillors agreed to this motion (in accordance with standing order 22.1).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
30 March 2017	Councillor Mohammed Jamil
30 March 2017	Councillor Angus Ellis
30 March 2017	Councillor Ed Murphy
30 March 2017	Councillor Richard Ferris
30 March 2017	Councillor Alan Clark

It is requested that the Council:

- 1) Notes the difficult financial times currently faced by organisations within the public sector and the reduction in expenditure required in order to achieve the savings required for a balanced budget.
- 2) Agrees that saving be made equivalent to or greater than the amount of Special Responsibility Allowance paid to those Members with a Special Responsibility being reverted to a level equivalent to that in place during the 2015/2016 municipal year resulting in a minimum saving of £39,300;
- 3) Calls upon the Leader of the Council to make savings in excess of £39,300 by reducing the number of Cabinet Advisors and Cabinet Members within the Cabinet and/or reducing the level of Special Responsibility Allowance Payment or a combination of both, in order to reduce the overall amount Special Responsibility Allowance paid up to at least a further £10,700; and

- 4) Further, calls upon the Leader of the Council to create a discretionary fund with the savings achieved from the reduction in Special Responsibility Allowances to contribute to tackling homelessness in Peterborough and which may be applied where required as discretionary payments to people in severe distress due to homelessness, to the elderly, or to those leaving care.

## **2. Motion from Councillor Julia Davidson**

There is evidence of an increase in exploitation of migrants in Peterborough, where unscrupulous employers are exploiting vulnerable new arrivals to the area. These employers are isolating migrants from the local community and controlling them by providing overcrowded housing and transport to work in the fast food industry

Subsequently, these victims then gain very little in return for their labour and the traffickers take a large proportion of the wages and sometimes passports in return. Workers then often end up in debt to their rogue bosses, giving them more leverage over the exploited workers and their money. This is often used to perpetrate fraud.

Recently convictions and arrests have been made in Peterborough relating to exploitation and trafficking, which have made the headlines. For example, Dutch Bangla Direct Ltd are accused of selling over 100 tonnes of low cost white meat to takeaways and shops.

This company has allegedly made £250,000 in profit by fraudulent actions and not making correct contributions to HMRC.

The Council therefore calls upon relevant Cabinet Members to:

- 1) Work in partnership with the Police and relevant Government and local agencies to protect migrants and others from these forms of exploitation; and
- 2) To provide Members with a report on this work, as well as providing information on the nature and scale of the problem to fight modern slavery across Peterborough and the progress which is being made.

## **3. Motion from Councillor Ansar Ali**

The twenty thousand plus Muslim community of Peterborough were horrified by the events in Westminster, London on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, like the rest of our wonderfully diverse city of Peterborough and the country.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by these horrific events, wherever they occur in the world.

These acts of criminality can never be justified or condoned. However, when an act of terror takes place it not only causes deaths and injuries, it also facilitates the media and many others in positions of responsibility to relate the actions of these criminals to my beautiful faith of Islam by irresponsibly projecting that the individual was an Islamist, inspired by Islam and radicalised, without any evidence to support these ill-informed conclusions.

This deeply offends the significant Muslim community within this city, myself and no doubt all other right thinking people of our wonderfully diverse communities of Peterborough.

We, as a city, are rightly proud of our diversity and I believe a beacon for interfaith relations and dialogue for the rest of the country, built on mutual respect for “One Peterborough One Community”.

This council urges our government to increase its efforts to combat irresponsible reporting and

statements from those in positions of influence which unfairly associate the peaceful religion of Islam with acts of terrorism and criminality.

These evil criminals don't represent any religion. Their motivation is to divide our communities and cause disharmony. They should not be allowed to succeed.

It is requested that Peterborough City Council, calls upon the support of our two members of Parliament, to urge our government to increase its efforts to:

1. Quell the increasing public climate of hate and fear;
2. Condemn Islamophobia and all forms of systemic racism and religious discrimination;
3. Develop a whole-of-government approach to reducing or eliminating systemic racism and religious discrimination including Islamophobia;
4. Discourage the use of the terms Islamic terrorism and other such pejorative language when referring to the crimes committed by psychopathic individuals who clearly do not represent Islam or any other faith; and
5. Collect data to contextualise hate crime reports and to conduct needs assessments for impacted communities.

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