

<b>COUNCIL</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 14
<b>4 MARCH 2020</b>	PUBLIC REPORT

## **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

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

### **1. Motion from Councillor Skibsted**

"Vegan food has benefits that can be enjoyed by everyone and this motion seeks to promote veganism and its accompanying benefits across the public sector in Peterborough.

Veganism is a way of living which seeks to exclude, as far as is possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose.

#### **Inclusive**

Veganism has been found to come within the scope of international human rights provisions and vegans in the UK are protected under human rights and equality law. This means that service providers have an obligation to ensure that they do not interfere with a vegan's right to freedom of conscience, and a responsibility under the Equality Act 2010 to avoid any discrimination on the grounds of veganism. Ethical veganism qualifies as a philosophical belief for the purposes of the equality act 2010

This equality extends to the provision of suitable food, and this motion would like to see tasty, nutritious, appropriate vegan meals on daily menus in all our public sector institutions – starting with hospitals and schools.

#### **Sustainable**

Providing vegan options does not just protect the rights of vegans. Vegan food can be enjoyed by vegans and non-vegans alike. Increasing your vegan food provision will support environmental initiatives. A vegan diet can reduce your food related carbon emissions by 50% and this motion therefore supports PCC's commitment to the climate emergency. As a way of promoting the environmental benefits of veganism, Peterborough City Council could promote the The Vegan Society's 'Plate Up for the Planet' seven day challenge. As an environment capital this motion is compatible with our aims of sustainability.

#### **Healthy**

Both the British Dietetic Association and the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recognise that totally plant-based diets are can be suitable for every age and life stage, provided that the diet is carefully planned and nutritional supplements are considered where appropriate.

It's easy to produce tasty options that are rich in fibre and low in saturated fat, provide multiple servings of fruit and vegetables, and exclude processed meat, which the World Health Organisation has classified as a cause of certain types of cancer, such as bowel and colon cancer. In addition, some research has linked vegan diets with lower blood pressure and cholesterol, as well as lower rates of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some types of cancer.

The Vegan Society can help local catering teams to build vegan meal plans. They have an in-house

dietitian who can help with balanced meals and answer any questions that catering providers may have. They also have resources for services users and providers across the public sector and have produced an adapted 'Eatwell Guide'.

This Council agrees to:

- Promote 'The Vegan Society's Plate Up' for the Planet seven day challenge.
- Seek to enhance, through its partnership links and via its commissioned services, awareness of a vegan lifestyle, and availability of vegan options within, but not limited to, Council commissioned service, Council owned buildings sub-let to partners, City College Peterborough, and local employers.
- Aim to promote the inclusion of appropriate vegan options in all public events, that the Council is responsibility, and festivals including the Christmas Market."

## **2. Motion from Councillor Sandford**

"This Council notes with concern recent reports from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on global species and habitat loss, and also that Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (Greater Cambridgeshire) combined has one of the lowest percentages of land cover of priority habitats, natural green spaces and designated nature conservation sites in England, with only 5.5% of the land surface having statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations and only 6.5% being priority habitat.

We recognise the importance of a healthy and biodiverse environment that ensures our City's future prosperity and enforces the wellbeing of all who live, work and study here. We therefore pledge to provide leadership and to ensure that we work with government agencies, national and local conservation organisations and our communities to reverse the decline in biodiversity and deliver measurable biodiversity net gain within Peterborough and the wider region.

Further to this, Council:

- (1) Declares its recognition of the global biodiversity emergency and the local impact this could have on the communities and businesses we serve.
- (2) Supports the Government's proposal in the Environment Bill currently before Parliament for a 10% net gain in biodiversity in new development
- (3) Asks the cabinet to explore other ways in which biodiversity can be enhanced in Peterborough through delivery of the Council's existing Biodiversity Strategy.
- (4) Supports Natural Cambridgeshire's vision for a doubling of the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green-space by 2050, so that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will become a world-class environment where nature and people thrive and businesses prosper.
- (5) Recognises the crucial links between the Climate Emergency and the Biodiversity Emergency and asks the Council's Climate Emergency Working Group to consider biodiversity protection and enhancement as part of its ongoing work."

## **3. Motion from Councillor Yasin**

"Recorded sexual offences against children have reached an all-time high. New figures released by NSPCC found there were 76, 294 sexual offences against children in the UK in 2018/2019; a rise of over 60% since 201/15. These offences include rape, grooming and sexual assault.

More than 70% of sexual exploitation took place on the main social media networks such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Snapchat. The NSPCC also found 20% of the victims were under the age of 12 despite the minimum age of most social media platforms being 13 or 16 for WhatsApp. Online risks also include viewing sexual and violent content.

However, it can be difficult to measure the true scale and nature of all forms of abuse as victims often feel unable to report their experiences and the adults around them are not always able to recognise that abuse is taking place. This is particularly true for the rapidly changing world of online communications.

To prevent online and offline abuse those working with or supporting children and young people need access to timely and effective guidance to aid them in reducing risks, promoting healthy relationships, spotting issues and reporting concerns.

Therefore, this council resolves to:

- Call upon the government to expedite the Online Harms Bill to impose a statutory duty of care on tech companies to protect their users from harm.
- Call upon both of Peterborough's MPs to ensure the government delivers its commitment to regulate tech companies.
- Support our local schools in their safeguarding efforts by promoting the need for an online safety policy and sharing the latest guidance to Heads and Governing bodies about online safety including the DfE's 'Teaching online safety in school: Guidance supporting schools to teach their pupils how to stay safe online, within new and existing school subjects' 2019.
- Ensure that the safeguarding training offered to the council's youth workers and foster carers covers online safety plus provide signposting to information that they can use to up-skill children and young people on this issue.
- Circulate to registered early years settings in Peterborough a link to the latest UKCIS guidance about online safety 'Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations for manager' 2019."

#### **4. Motion from Councillor Burbage**

"Autistic people see, hear and feel the world differently to other people. Autism is a spectrum condition and all autistic people share certain difficulties, but being autistic will affect them in different ways.

Some autistic people also have learning disabilities, mental health issues or other conditions, meaning people need different levels of support. All people on the autism spectrum learn and develop. With the right sort of support, all can be helped to reach their potential and live a fulfilling life of their own choosing.

Our vision is to make Peterborough an autism-friendly city where people with autism have the same opportunities as everyone else.

Council notes:

- Autism is much more common than most people think. There are around 700,000 autistic people in the UK - that's more than 1 in 100;
- Whilst many autistic people are able to live a full independent life, some find certain situations difficult to cope with;
- Peterborough has a strong track record in supporting children with special educational needs and vulnerable adults, and is currently working towards the creation of Autism Strategy to cover all ages across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

- Peterborough MP Paul Bristow has become a Vice Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism, and has called for Peterborough to become an autism friendly City.

Council resolves:

- To engage with health and social care organisations, education, the police, charities, people with autism and their families and carers, with input from local MPs Paul Bristow and Shailesh Vara, in drafting the Autism Strategy.
- To ensure that the Autism Strategy currently in development is designed to make Peterborough an autism friendly City and improve the lives of those who live in Peterborough who have autism.
- That Council officers identify opportunities for frontline staff and Councillors, who have regular interactions with residents, to receive appropriate training to help residents with autism receive the best service from the Council and their ward Councillors.”

## **5. Motion from Councillor Robinson**

“The cost of school uniform and PE kits can be a huge financial pressure on families and carers. Many Peterborough’s secondary schools currently require pupils to have multiple school-specific items from a single supplier. These can include items such as trousers and blouses with a logo that could otherwise be purchased more cheaply elsewhere.

A statutory policy on uniform costs had been promised by the government in 2015. Now MP Mike Amesbury’s private member’s bill titled ‘Education (Guidance about costs of school uniform) Bill’ seeks to put the Department for Education’s 2013 school uniform guidance on a statutory footing. The guidance instructs schools to “give highest priority to the consideration of cost and value for money for parents” when sourcing uniforms and also discourages exclusive single-supplier contracts. The Children’s Society has reported that the guidance is not currently being followed by all state schools. The Private Member’s Bill has now passed its initial stage with cross-party support and for it to pass into law would benefit the parents and carers of Peterborough.

The council praises those Primary and Secondary schools in Peterborough who do offer a discount scheme or some free items of uniform to pupils who are in receipt of free school meals. However, with more than 26 000 children estimated to be living in poverty (after housing costs) in the Peterborough local authority area many other families are likely to be struggling with current uniform costs.

This council resolves:

To ask Peterborough’s two MPs to support the Education (Guidance about costs of school uniform) Bill at each stage as it moves through the House of Commons.

To ensure that local school governors, through the council’s round of update briefings, are aware of the current Department of Education guidance and keep them up to date with any change in the law relating to school uniforms.”

## **6. Motion from Councillor Hogg**

“Council notes:

- The Community Leadership Fund has been set up to enable elected members seek support for projects that will have positive impact within their wards.
- Each Councillor has been allocated £1,000 to spend each financial year on neighbourhood projects.
- The funding must be spent on capital projects.

Examples of Community Leadership Fund projects:

- Improving open spaces
- Improving accessibility to community facilities, for example providing signs, the creation of ramps for disabled access or the provision of automatic door openers. Improvements to parking, e.g. setting out parking spaces
- Investing in community buildings, for example the provision of a new heating system, kitchen, shed or storage facility. The installation of energy efficiency measures or the upgrading of toilets and changing areas
- The refurbishment and / or replacement of playground equipment, play areas, skateboard facilities
- Enhancing accessibility to open spaces, for example improvements to footpaths / trails, the provision of signs, the installation of a bench or litter bin
- Projects to encourage the re-use of household items, for example the provision of local recycling sites
- Projects linked to environmental sustainability, for example community composting schemes
- Improving road safety, for example the provision of road signs
- A wildlife garden / vegetable patch at a school
- Securing a piece of land to develop into a community orchard or allotment
- The installation of art to improve public space establishing a sense of place and local identity

Currently the deadline for applications is in the second week of February.

Council resolves to ask the Corporate Director for Place and Economy to look at the feasibility of:

- Allowing Councillors to defer either whole or part of this allocation of funds to the following financial year enabling newly elected councillors extra time to identify the most deserving projects in their wards.
- Allow for a doubling up of allowance from Councillors within the same ward for projects where a single allocation was not sufficient to fund a deserving project.
- Further consideration to be made to restrict the carried over funds to a shortened time period (e.g. a deadline of September) to spread the administration of the CLF.”

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