

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

7. Petitions

(c) Petitions for Debate – ‘Please Help to Stop St Michael’s Gate Residents Being Evicted

An amendment to the motion was moved and seconded. A vote was taken (21 voted in favour, 28 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) and the amendment was **DEFEATED**.

A vote was taken (31 voted in favour, 19 voted against, 4 abstained from voting) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Noted the petition and debated the request to take action;
2. Noted the letter sent to the Chair of the Local Government Association from the Leader of the Council on 5 December 2016 (Appendix 1), which outlines the concerns of the Council in relation to homelessness and the prevalence of, in our opinion, unethical business models among private housing investors; and
3. Supported the Leader of the Council in his request for assistance from the Local Government Association to ensure that neither Peterborough City Council, nor other local authorities, are placed in such an impossible situation again and to investigate these issues at a national level.

9. Executive and Committee Recommendations

(a) Cabinet Recommendation – Executive Procedure Rules

A vote was taken (34 voted in favour, 18 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council noted the changes to Part 4 – Section 7 of the Constitution (Executive Procedure Rules).

(b) Audit Committee Recommendation – Appointing Person Arrangements for the Appointment of the External Auditor

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

1. Adopted of Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) as the appointing person for the Council, subject to receiving a satisfactory invitation to opt into the PSAA’s appoint person arrangements; and
2. Delegated acceptance of the invitation to the Corporate Director: Resources, as the Council’s Section 151 Officer.

(c) Cabinet Recommendation – Appointing Person Arrangements for the Appointment of the External Auditor

A motion to defer consideration of this item was moved and seconded. A vote was taken (12 voted in favour, 34 voted against, 6 abstained from voting) and the motion to defer the item was **DEFEATED**.

A recorded vote was taken:

Councillors For: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bisby, Brown, Bull, Casey, Coles, Elsey, Fitzgerald, Fuller, JR Fox, JA Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Azher Iqbal, King, Lamb, Lane, Nadeem, Okonkowski, Over, Peach, Rush, Sanders, Seaton, Serluca, Sharp, Sims, Smith, Stokes, Walsh, and Whitby.

Councillors Against: Ali, Dowson, Ellis, Ferris, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Johnson, Martin, Murphy, Shearman, and Sylvester.

Councillors Abstaining: Ash, Barkham, Bond, Fower, Lillis, Saltmarsh, and Sandford.

Following the vote (35 voted in favour, 12 voted against, 7 abstained from voting) it was **RESOLVED** that Council, having regard to feedback, approved the phase on budget proposals, summarised in Appendices 1 and 2, to enable implementation of these budget proposals to commence. These proposals included a council tax increase of 2%, plus the increase of 2% for the Adult Social Care precept.

11. Notices of Motion

1. Motion from Councillor Ed Murphy

An amendment to the motion was moved and seconded. A vote was taken (29 voted in favour, 19 voted against, 4 abstained from voting) and the amendment was **CARRIED**.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion (27 voted in favour, 18 voted against, 5 abstained from voting) and the substantive motion was **CARRIED** with the amendment as follows:

That Council acknowledged that many households had been affected by the current housing crisis, homelessness and, locally, pending evictions, and noted:

- 1) The current housing emergency that was affecting Peterborough and England as a whole. Nationally, there was £27 billion per annum of revenue expenditure on housing benefit and this had massively increased over the last two decades. In addition, following the financial crisis Government and councils were left with the stark reality of less capital financing at a time when inward migration had continued particularly in this city, putting a huge strain on our housing stock;
- 2) That there was public concern over the situation at Saint Michaels Gate and that, despite the new owners having acted lawfully, they had the ability to charge uncapped rates to this or any other council;
- 3) The local stories and case histories provided and set out as Appendix 1 to this notice of motion.

There were medium and emergency measures that the city council were taking to resolve the problem.

That Council noted that decisive and proactive steps were being taken to resolve the problems of homelessness in our city including investing in new-build and refurbished

temporary accommodation. The Council noted too that a national solution was required to address the issue of the movement of homeless households between Council areas. Finally that Council noted and welcomed the changes proposed in the Homeless Reduction Bill which would require councils to offer assistance to households at risk of becoming homeless far sooner than was currently required.

That Council resolved to support:

- 1) Ongoing measures to provide quicker homeless persons decisions, sympathetic assistance and prevention work with and for families in Peterborough faced with homelessness;
- 2) The investigation of the increased use of private second leased homes as a solution to address the shortage of housing and, in the long term, increasing the supply of affordable dwellings;
- 3) The acquisition of empty buildings and the increased support to owners of empty dwellings to convert and refurbish to provide accommodation; and
- 4) The Local Government Association's work programme to mitigate the impact of homeless placements out of London on Councils in the East of England.

12. Reports to Council

(a) Review of the Constitution – Scrutiny Procedure Rules

An amendment to the motion was moved and seconded. A vote was taken (9 voted in favour, 22 voted against, 12 abstained from voting) and the amendment was **DEFEATED**.

A vote was taken (32 voted in favour, 16 voted against, 3 abstained from voting) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council approved changes to the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules (Part 4 Section 8) and consequential amendments to Article 11 of the Constitution, to take effect from 1 January 2017 (Appendix 1 and 2).

(b) Report of the 2018 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review Working Group

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council agreed the proposed response at Appendix 1 to the Boundary Commission for England consultation in respect of the 2018 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review.