

## RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2020, VIRTUALLY

### THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR GUL NAWAZ

#### Present:

Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Fower, John Fox, Judy Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Holdich, Howard, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lamb, Lane, Lillis, Murphy, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Sandford, Seaton, Shaheed, Simons, Skibsted, Warren, Walsh, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

#### 9(a) Cabinet Recommendation – Budget Setting Process

A vote was taken on the Budget Setting Process and Council **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Budget Policy Framework outlined in Appendix A to the report.

#### 12(1) Motion from Councillor Joseph

A vote was taken on the altered motion from Councillor Joseph in relation to gender equality. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“In June 2019, MPs debated the findings of a six-month review of the measure put in place to deal with sexual harassment in politics.

An alarming 81.1% of respondents to a 2016 interparliamentary union survey of female parliamentarians reported facing psychological violence. 65.5% said they had been subjected to humiliating sexual remarks and 20% reported having been sexually harassed.

The norms, rules and practices Parliament is built upon are founded on ‘assumptions of masculinity’. The assumed norm is a white, cisgender man and the greater an individual’s deviation from this norm, the more excluded they find themselves from the culture of Parliament.

And at local level, the picture is not much different. In the 2018 national census of local authority councillors only 35.7% were female. Having spoken to many women in Peterborough and asked them why they don’t want to put themselves forward to become councillors and they have cited bullying, aggressive behaviour and rudeness as some of the main reasons.

Many have said that since the advent of live streaming, the behaviour in the chamber has become worse.

Council recognises that:

- Women are the biggest consumers of council services, the majority of its staff are women, yet the majority of councillors and council leaders are male.
- Equal opportunity is not a ‘one size fits all’ approach. It is about recognising that different people have different requirements to enable them to achieve the same goal.
- It has a duty to consider all individuals when carrying out its day to day work, including shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to its employees.
- Improved provision for parental leave will contribute towards increasing the diversity of age experience and background of councillors. In addition to assisting with retention of experienced councillors and make public office more accessible

to those who might otherwise feel excluded.

- Action must be taken to improve the number of female councillors, by not only making it easier for them to become councillors but by creating a culture where they wish to stay.

**The council therefore resolves to request that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee set up a Task and Finish Group to review:**

- ~~Pay particular attention to all aspects of~~ **How the council can promote equality and diversity as each policy comes up for review for all councillors including consideration of phasing to phase out the use of gender defining titles.**
- ~~Adopt the LGA's policy for~~ **The adoption of a Parental Leave policy for councillors,** to assist and encourage younger people to come forward as councillors.
- ~~To~~ **How the council can ensure councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate**
- **How political groups, Group Leaders and the Mayor/Chair can help ensure better behaviour in the Council Chamber to create an atmosphere of mutual respect – for example by:**
  - **Giving a reminder to all reminding members of their responsibilities at the start of each meeting.**
  - ~~Stepping in quickly~~ **Quick intervention** if members fail to behave correctly.
  - ~~Apply fairness in their decisions and~~ **Ensuring a fair approach is applied to all councillors in the overseeing of meetings.**

**The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee will report any recommendations it has agreed from the Task and Finish Group back to Full Council for decision.**

Only by recognising and working towards putting in place the necessary policies and creating a respectful and positive atmosphere can we truly become an all-inclusive body which in turn can communicate, encourage and promote across our City.”

### **12(3) Motion from Councillor Coles**

A vote was taken on the amended motion from Councillor Coles in relation to bereaved families. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“During the COVID-19 pandemic we have celebrated the fantastic work done by the NHS, by carers, by the police and by the extraordinary number of volunteers who have responded magnificently to the crisis.

However, some members of our community have, like me, suffered the pain of bereavement because a loved one has died from the virus.

There have been many cases where family and friends were not able to say good bye to their loved ones. There have been many funerals where only small numbers of the family could be present, and many occasions where the lives of our family members have not been celebrated or remembered.

This sense of lives lost and unremembered is not new to our society, as we have remembered lives lost on a foreign field through establishing War Memorials, and many examples of local memorials set up after loss of life during disasters.

This Council to resolves to run a consultation to establish what might be the best way of remembering all of our loved ones and to set up a body representing the bereaved families and public authorities to make recommendations as to the most fitting way to mark the loss of so many ~~to COVID-19~~ during the pandemic and to recognise the

sacrifices and efforts of health service, care workers and volunteers. The consultation is to consider, among other proposals:

- a. setting up a memorial event as soon as practical, where residents from all faiths, beliefs or none can participate;
- b. Consider establishing an annual memorial to all those lost during the pandemic;
- c. To explore opportunities to set up a permanent memorial structure.”

#### **12(4) Motion from Councillor Burbage**

A vote was taken on the altered motion from Councillor Burbage in relation to e-scooters (48 voted in favour, 9 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

The motion was **AGREED** as follows:

“At the moment all e-scooters are not legal on our roads and there appear to be barriers for the police to take enforcement action as identification of an owner is difficult while both they and the vehicle are unlicensed.

The government has been consulting on urgent legislation to allow trials of rental e-scooters to commence more rapidly and in more areas than initially planned, as part of its green restart of local transport in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To support this and to help mitigate reduced public transport capacity e-scooter trials are being brought forward.

The Department of Transport is currently looking to find Local Authorities who are willing to trial rentable e-scooters. The intention is to licence particular brands, restrict top speeds and to require riders to have a driving licence and insurance and ride them on roads and cycle lanes only. Training, and the wearing of helmets will be encouraged but not made mandatory. Privately owned e-scooters will remain illegal during the trials.

Local areas will be able to host trials of rental e-scooters if they wish to do so and local agreement reached on what controls should be in place during such a trial. For example, this could include controls over the number of vehicles permitted in a given area, requirements to park in designated spaces only, arrangements for access to certain geo-locational and wider trip data, service level agreements and vehicle hygiene arrangements. Agreements will be contracted between local areas and e-scooter rental companies allowing for these controls to be put in place.

This Council believes it would be good to look at introducing such vehicles to reduce one’s carbon footprint and to avoid a risk of COVID-19 transmission on public transport. We’re a modern, connected and growing city and we want to support ideas like this that bring greater mobility to our residents. However it is also sensible to take a prudent approach to any new form of transport that has yet to be tested on a large scale in the UK.

**This Council resolves to consider whether to introduce e-scooters with the proper licensing and agreements as one alternative form of transport to the motor vehicle to reduce carbon emissions. This needs to be referred to the next therefore resolves to refer this issue to the meeting of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee for full further consideration by a Task and Finish group who will make a recommendation to Cabinet.”**

#### **12(5) Motion from Councillor Hiller**

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Hiller in relation to a COVID-19 Peterborough Citizen’s Award scheme (49 voted in favour, 8 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

The motion was **AGREED** as follows:

“Coronavirus and its wake has decimated social norms and forced us all into new realities we couldn’t have fathomed just a few months ago. Its effects have been the most significant to our ways of living and working in peacetime and continue to be felt throughout the world.

This motion is to propose that the Council formally recognises our city’s unsung heroes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by introducing a special Citizen’s Award for their contribution to the response to the coronavirus crisis, to ensure that the efforts made by so many individuals in the battle against the coronavirus can be recognised and celebrated.

This contribution could, but not exclusively, include:

- Frontline work supporting the most vulnerable members of society and those who have caught COVID-19
- Providing critical care to COVID-19 patients
- Developing innovations to support the vulnerable and those with COVID-19
- Going to extraordinary lengths to keep critical services going
- Volunteering in the community or for service organisations in support of those affected by COVID-19

The council has had an independent cross-party Honours Panel for many years, whose members are experienced and non-partisan in the process of reviewing and selecting nominations for a variety of honours submitted by both members of this council and the general public. Members will be aware these considered selections are then proposed to full council for ratification so it is proposed this process is largely adopted for the COVID-19 Peterborough Citizen’s Awards.

**The Council resolves to establish a new COVID-19 Peterborough Citizen’s Award scheme in order to recognise and honour the amazing contribution and sacrifices made by some of the citizens of our city during this pandemic, which has affected so many lives.”**

### **13(b) Virtual Meetings Protocol**

A vote was taken on the Virtual Meetings Protocol (43 voted in favour, 8 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Virtual Meetings Protocol (Appendix 1 to the report).

### **12(6) Motion from Councillor Ali**

A vote was taken on the amended motion from Councillor Ali in relation to re-opening of leisure services. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“This Council ~~notes~~ recognises how important heritage, museum, library, leisure, sports, summer activities, and arts facilities and services are for the city council and its residents.

Council believes is clear that we need a long-term plan to secure such services and with the current situation in relation to Vivacity the council ~~should~~ is exploring all options; this including direct provision, working with partners, the creation of a new Arts and Leisure Trust, and the establishment of a co-operative to deliver these services.

Council ~~instructs~~ confirms that work to ~~directly deliver~~ and, re-open such services ~~is progressing, set up summer schemes and explore establishing a co-operative is progressed~~ as a matter of urgency.”

### **12(8) Motion from Councillor Sandford**

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Sandford in relation to Natural Cambridgeshire. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Council supports Natural Cambridgeshire's aim of doubling the area of land managed for nature across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by 2050 and in particular supports the John Clare Countryside project, which aims to create, launch and deliver an ambitious and accessible nature recovery area across the landscape areas to the west of Peterborough. Further information can be found in Appendix 1 to the motions report.”

### **12(9) Motion from Councillor Sandford**

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Sandford in relation to the delegation of local lockdown powers (39 voted in favour, 13 voted against, 5 abstained from voting).

The motion was **AGREED** as follows:

“Council:

1. Congratulates City Council staff, NHS and social care staff and all volunteers who have worked so hard in managing the COVID-19 crisis in Peterborough.
2. Believes that decisions on management of any future outbreaks of COVID-19 and any local lockdowns or other measures to deal with such outbreaks are best made locally here in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
3. Asks the Director of Public Health to write to Peterborough's members of Parliament urging them to press the Government to delegate the necessary powers to Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils to enable any such decisions to be made locally in future.”

### **12(10) Motion from Councillor Day**

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Day in relation to a Food Strategy. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Access to high quality, affordable, nutritious food should be a right of all Peterborough residents, but is not currently the case. For example,

- Peterborough is one of the 20% most deprived districts/unitary authorities in England and about 19% (8,500) of children live in low-income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average (source: Public Health England).
- In Peterborough, in Year 6, 22.6% (524) of children are classified as obese, worse than the average for England (source: Public Health England).

A ‘Food Strategy’ is a document that identifies actions to help enhance our current food system and prepare for the future. Key elements include environmental sustainability, healthy eating, economic and community growth and social justice. More specific topics within the Food Strategy may include growing, rearing or foraging for food, processing food, preparing food for consumption for households and the food service industry, eating food and composting the remains.

By creating a collaborative Food Strategy, as 51 other councils have done, Peterborough will become a city with a vibrant food culture, renowned for high quality, sustainable food

and offering a rich variety of local produce accessible to everyone. Peterborough will become a city where a wide range of local food businesses achieve high standards of sustainability, generate employment and contribute to economic prosperity.

The Council resolves to:

- Create a Food Strategy to address the causes of food inequality in Peterborough for implementation during the 2021/2022 municipal year. In order for this to happen, the council will:
  - Identify 'food champions' within the council to lead the project
  - Identify a lead partnership organisation and apply for funding to develop the strategy, action plans and projects
  - Create a network of food partnership organisations and consult residents to contribute to the creation of a 'Food Action Plan'
  - Prioritise those with least access to healthy food.
- The Council will endeavour to encourage the production of food locally and support the sale of such produce.”

### **12(11) Motion from Councillor Hogg**

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Hogg in relation to recycling banks. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Council notes:

- There are a number of recycling banks across the city, these banks are supplied and operated by a number of different charities and companies
- They are well used by residents and become full fairly often. This can lead to donations being left around the outside of the bank, with the potential for this to be spread around the area in high winds. Technically this practice is considered fly tipping and should be discouraged.
- Currently if a member of public report full banks via FixMyStreet or the council's own website they are told that the council doesn't operate these banks and for the resident to contact the owner of the bank to get it emptied.

Council resolves to:

- Identify all the banks across the city, to create a register so that when the council has a full bin reported to it, the council will email the operator of the bank to get the bank emptied.
- Require, where possible but certainly encourage, the operators of recycling banks to place contact details for reporting full banks to, by phone and/or email.
- Require, where possible but certainly encourage, the operators of recycling banks to place warnings that putting donations around the bank is fly tipping and they might be issued with a fine, if caught.”

### **12(13) Motion from Councillor Wiggin**

A vote was taken on the amended motion from Councillor Wiggin in relation to no fault evictions. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Council notes:

- No fault evictions, introduced under Section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act, allow landlords to evict tenants, without having to give a reason, once the term of the tenancy has expired;
- 80% of England's 11 million renters are on tenancies with fixed terms of six months or a year; after this period has ended, landlords can evict their tenants under Section 21 without cause;
- Research published by The Observer campaign group Generation Rent indicates that Section 21 evictions are now the single biggest cause of homelessness in

England; and that

- In 2017, the Scottish Government made tenancies indefinite and banned no-fault evictions under the terms of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.

Council believes:

- Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions would help to make renting more secure and communities more stable, improve standards and increase tenant confidence;
- Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions would further help to tackle homelessness, which should be a priority for government at all levels; and,
- Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions should happen as soon as practicably possible.
- Welcomes the UK Government announcement in April of plans to consult on new legislation to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions in England; and

Council resolves:

- to work with the Unfair Evictions Campaign led by Generation Rent, the New Economics Foundation and renters' unions, to bring about the swift abolition of Section 21 no-fault evictions.
- to write to our MPs to ask that the Government introduce legislative changes to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions as soon as possible."

### **13(a) Political Proportionality and Allocation of Seats**

A vote was taken on the political proportionality proposal from Councillor Holdich (38 voted in favour, 17 voted against, 2 abstained from voting).

Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note that there are 109 seats on committees.
2. Agree the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 1 – Councillor Holdich proposals).
3. Agree the allocation of seats on those committees not subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 2).

### **13(c) Calendar of Meetings 2020-21**

A vote was taken on the calendar of meetings for 2020/21 (49 voted in favour, 7 voted against, 7 abstained from voting).

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Calendar of Meetings (Appendix 1 to the report) for the remainder of 2020/2021.