

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2021, VIRTUALLY**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR GUL NAWAZ

Present:

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

8. Amendment to the Virtual Meetings Protocol

A vote was taken (27 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) and the recommendation was **DEFEATED**.

Councillors For: Ali, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Against: Aitken, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

10(a). Independent Remuneration Panel Report

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous) to defer consideration of the recommendations of the IRP for one year, subject to the referral of its recommendation in relation to a Parental Leave Policy to the Task and Finish Group established to promote equality and diversity amongst Councillors, for that group to consider as part of its work.

13(1) Motion from Councillor Qayyum

A vote was taken on an amendment from Councillor Walsh. The amendment was **AGREED** (28 voted in favour, 28 voted against, 0 abstained from voting, the Mayor exercising his casting vote in favour of the amendment).

Councillors For: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Against: Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

Mayor's Casting Vote: For

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Qayyum as amended. The amended motion was **AGREED** (40 voted in favour, 16 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) as follows:

“The Council notes that:

- Online abuse, bullying and harassment against women in politics is an issue which is increasingly growing in visibility.
- The LGA are aware that an increasing number of councillors and candidates are being subjected to abuse, threats and public intimidation, undermining the principles of free speech, democratic engagement and debate. The growth of social media has provided an additional and largely anonymous route for individuals and groups to engage in such activity. This abuse is more prevalent towards females
- While debate and having different views is all part of a healthy democracy; abuse, public intimidation and threats are designed to undermine democratic decision making by generating fear in those who represent it. The LGA further goes on to state that, ***“Councillors, and in particular female Councillors, are unfortunately increasingly the subject of online abuse, bullying and harassment on social media.”***

The Council resolves to refer this matter to the current Task and Finish Group to promote equality and diversity among Councillors to:

- **Consider how to best assist Councillors in relation to online abuse, bullying and harassment, particularly but not exclusively against female Councillors, with a view to report back to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2 March 2021 with appropriate recommendations.**
- **Share any learning, training or any other opportunities that may arise from the work of the Task and Finish Group with all Councillors.**

Councillors For: Aitken, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Barkham, Bashir, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day Dowson, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Haynes, Hiller, Hogg, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Lillis, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Sandford, Seaton, Shaheed, Simons, Walsh, Warren, Wiggin

Councillors Against: Ali, Ellis, Hemraj, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Skibsted, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

13(2) Motion from Councillor Ali

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Ali. The motion was **AGREED** (28 voted in favour, 27 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) as follows:

“Council notes the budget concerns of the police service in Cambridgeshire which is one of the fastest growing areas of England, with Peterborough’s population rising in particular when police funding has not been rising accordingly. The Chief Constable has proposed a reduction in Police Staff including reducing PCSOs to a fraction of the previous level.

Council believes that this is not the correct time during a pandemic to be cutting established staff who know their communities and in particular have been able to help engage with the public and educate on public health covid matters and the rules. This is the time for security and continuity rather than the insecurity of cutting these staff.

Council believes that the Chief Constable should seek additional funding for the additional Coronavirus work the Constabulary is and has been undertaking and not progress any plans to cut these Police Staff who play such a significant role in protection our communities here in Peterborough.

Council resolves that a letter be sent from the Chief Executive to the Chief Constable outlining the above and asking the consideration to be given to these points within budget proposals.”

Councillors For: Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Against: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

13(3) Motion from Councillor Jamil

A vote was taken on an amendment from Councillor Allen. The amendment was **AGREED** (28 voted in favour, 28 voted against, 0 abstained from voting, the Mayor exercising his casting vote in favour of the amendment).

Councillors For: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Against: Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Jamil as amended. The amended motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Council believes:

- Everyone ~~has a right to~~ should have a home.
- Current emergency measures put in place during the pandemic may need to be extended beyond the crisis response to support people who become homeless, or resort to rough sleeping, through no fault of their own
- The government ~~should~~ recognises the impending challenge faced by households that are ineligible for support from the housing service or have no recourse to public funds
- The current crisis has caused thousands of people in privately rented accommodation to be in possible danger of losing their homes through eviction.

Council recognises:

- It is unacceptable that we have homelessness and rough sleeping in modern day Britain.

- After the emergency measures introduced during the coronavirus pandemic come to an end, many people ~~will~~ could be left without a safety net, resulting in ~~This could lead to an increase in rough sleepers. due to less support being available.~~
- Many renters have been unable to work or lost their jobs due to the pandemic and currently the situation is worsening due to rising infection and death rates. Citizens Advice says half a million renters are now in arrears, owing an average of £750. More than half (56%) of those struggling to make payments had no previous history of arrears before the start of the COVID-19 outbreak last Spring. This could result in eviction.

This Council believes that:

- A tenant should not be evicted from their home without good reason;
- Tenants should have more stability, avoiding the need to make frequent moves at short notice and enabling them to put down roots and plan for the future;
- Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions would help to make renting more secure and communities more stable, improve standards and increase tenant confidence;
- Landlords should be able to regain their property should they wish to sell it or move into it themselves;
- Tackling homelessness, ~~which~~ should be a priority for government at all levels; and,
- The Government should bring forward its legislative proposals as soon as practicably possible.

Council resolves:

- ~~To write to the government to ask for stronger measures to help with the housing crisis and specifically:~~ To write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to reiterate its support for these reforms and urge him to respond to the consultation and introduce legislation in this Parliamentary session.
- ~~To review the priority need categories, which currently support only the most vulnerable single people, to include anyone who finds themselves to be homeless and rough sleeping.~~
- To review eviction laws and offer better protection to tenants, starting with an ~~immediate~~ widening of the ban of evictions under Section 21 of the Housing Act 1998. ~~which since January 11th 2021 allows eviction of renters with just 6 months of rent arrears.~~
- ~~Follow through~~ Reinforce with their ambitions to end rough sleeping by ~~increasing~~ reassessing funding to local authorities and ~~providing longer term funding~~ for rough sleeping initiatives so that services are ~~better~~ fully resourced and equipped to deal with individual circumstances. ~~on a case-by-case scenario."~~

13(4) Motion from Councillor Casey

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Casey. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Council recognises that:

- Access to IT hardware and good broadband connections have become essential tools in:
 - enabling children to continue with their studies remotely
 - enabling adults to work effectively from home, as well as access services and businesses, including supermarkets
- There are families within the Peterborough local authority area who are not equipped adequately with IT tools as a result of their being on low incomes or having more than one child who are sharing equipment. This affects the short and long-term outcomes for school-aged children and also opportunities for adults

- There are also families who may not have the necessary digital skills, including parents and carers, which is inhibiting the potential for them to take full advantage of IT tools

Therefore, Council resolves to:

- **Support the survey that is being conducted at Peterborough's schools which aims to identify those children who are most in need of support with technology, and request that government support to be extended at pace.**
- **Request that the Council's administration writes to government with a view to providing access to broadband services to families on low incomes.**
- **Request that Members and officers work together to ensure equality of access for all pupils in a coordinated and safe way.**
- **Request that the Council's adult skills service, City College Peterborough, to work with skills providers across Peterborough to ensure the necessary training opportunities are in place to support parents and carers to support their children."**

13(5) Motion from Councillor Sandford

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

"Council notes that:

1. The Paston Reserve/Manor Drive housing development was started in 2011 and has now grown into an estate with more than 1000 new homes, with further extensions planned, including new nursery, primary and secondary schools.
2. Nearly ten years after the start of the housing development, the estate still has no bus service (even though bus stops and a turning circle were put in at an early stage), no shops, no other amenities and not even a post box. The nearest bus service is in Gunthorpe Ridings but to get from there to the estate involves crossing a footbridge over the A15, which has very poor lighting, and walking along a long passage way with high fences on either side. This has forced many Manor Drive residents to try to cross the A15 at ground level, which is a highly dangerous procedure.

Council strongly believes that the Combined Authority should as a matter of urgency address the lack of a bus service in this area.

Council asks our Council Leader to raise the matter with the Mayor and the relevant committee of the Combined Authority at the earliest opportunity.

Council also asks the Executive Director of Place to ensure that, where appropriate, viable and having factored in competing infrastructure demands, the Council uses its planning powers so that for all future large housing developments financial contributions are sought from developers to ensure that public transport and other important amenities are included at the start of a development and not left until years afterwards"

13(6) Motion from Councillor Sandford

A vote was taken on the amended motion from Councillor Sandford. The amended motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Council notes that:

1. Initial work by the Council's Climate Change Member working group has identified that carbon emissions from domestic dwellings are one of the top three sources of carbon emissions in Peterborough.
2. The Peterborough Local Plan sets planning policies for new development in Peterborough and there is a lot of new housing proposed, so any changes to the policies within the Local Plan could potentially have a large impact on carbon emissions over coming years and decades.
3. There are also other parts of the Local Plan which have major impacts on carbon emissions and climate change, including the policies on transport, renewable energy generation and the natural environment.
4. The current Peterborough Local Plan was produced before the Council declared its climate emergency and target for reaching net zero carbon as a city by 2030.

Council therefore asks our planning policy officers to investigate whether a revision to our local plan, an addition to it or production of a supplementary planning document on climate change be of significant benefit in helping us reach our climate emergency targets and to report their findings, including budget implications of the options investigated, to the Cross Party Working Group on Climate Change and to the Growth and Environment Scrutiny Committee.”

13(7) Motion from Councillor Day

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Day (28 voted in favour, 28 voted against, 0 abstained from voting, the Mayor exercising his casting vote against the motion). The motion was therefore **DEFEATED**.

Councillors For: Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Against: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

Mayor's Casting Vote: Against

13(8) Motion from Councillor Murphy

A vote was taken on the altered motion from Councillor Murphy, on behalf of Cllr Amjad Iqbal. The amended motion was **AGREED** (31 voted in favour, 25 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) as follows:

“Council notes that Saint Peter's Arcade access has been closed for some time now, a decision that wasn't taken with great transparency or consultation. An alternative route for disabled people is to use Bridge Street round a narrower entrance on a pavement where the width has been restricted due to building works. It has been commented that two wheelchair users can't use this at the same time.

Council believes that a number of people and residents, particularly those who use wheelchairs, would wish to see Saint Peters Arcade opened as an access route into the town centre and that both routes could have been used to reduce possible COVID-19 risks with a one-way advisory in place.

Council believes that as and when Covid risks reduce Saint Peter's Arcade should be reopened.

Council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member consider, when appropriate, the reopening of Saint Peter's Arcade to allow for and enhanced access for disabled people into the city centre, along with the potential for registering it as a public right-of-way."

Councillors For: Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, John Fox, Judy Fox, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lane, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Against: Aitken Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

14(a) Political Balance and Allocation of Committee Seats

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

1. Note that there were 109 seats on committees.
2. Agree the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 1 to the report).
3. Agree the allocation of seats on those committees not subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 2 to the report).

14(b) Chair and Vice-Chair of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (45 voted in favour, 0 voted against, 11 abstained from voting) to appoint Councillor David Over as Chair of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.

Councillors For: Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Dowson, Ellis, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hemraj, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lane, Murphy, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Skibsted, Warren, Walsh, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Against: Nil

Councillors Abstaining: Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Haynes, Hogg, Howell, Lillis, Sandford, Shaheed, Wiggin

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (28 voted in favour, 17 voted against, 11 abstained from voting) to appoint Councillor Andy Coles as the Vice-Chair of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.

Councillors For: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Against: Ali, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Hemraj, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Skibsted, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Abstaining: Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Haynes, Hogg, Howell, Lillis, Sandford, Shaheed, Wiggin

14(c) Draft Programme of Meetings 2020/21

A vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous) to approve, in principle, the draft programme of meetings for 2021/22 (attached at Appendix 1 to the report).