

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2021
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR STEPHEN LANE

Present:

Councillors Ansar Ali, Imtiaz Ali, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bashir, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Eley, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Haynes, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Ishfaq Hussain, Mahboob Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Knight, Lane, Moyo, Murphy, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Robinson, Rush, Sainsbury, Sandford, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Tyler, Walsh, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

12(1). Motion from Councillor Iqbal

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Iqbal. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) as follows:

“The growing shortage of gravesites in the UK is a nationwide problem. With almost a half of all local authorities claiming that they will run out of burial plots in just 20 years, burials in cemeteries and church yards may one day turn into an exclusive privilege reserved for the wealthy.

Currently, Peterborough City Council provides grave sizes as follows:

- Adult - 7 feet and 8 inches long by 2 ft and 8 inches wide.
- Babies at any stage of gestation or after birth - 3ft long and 2 ft wide.

The Council believes it is important to:

- Provide facilities and services which meet the needs of all the local communities who use the service, with the highest possible standards of care, dignity and choice.
- Provide cemeteries, a crematorium with gardens of remembrance, and associated facilities at the highest possible standards.
- Facilitate the best possible options for meeting the needs of the public, by encompassing the values of Business Excellence in the management of the cemeteries, Crematorium, and associated services including the general administration of all closed churchyards.
- Demonstrate that the service effectively meets the needs of the community, without tolerance for mediocrity or non-compliance with published service standards including meeting religious/ethnic needs.

There are unique circumstances affecting the Muslim community who carry out their burial rites in an Islamic manner. Peterborough City Council and the funeral management committee have always enjoyed a close and respectful relationship with the Muslims community and taken their views and needs on board when considering modifications to improve funeral experiences for Muslim families within the city.

Given that the area we have is limited and in consideration of circumstances surrounding Covid-19, the perception of increased projected burial space and its effect on our communities may require additional space within our cemetery.

This Council resolves to request that the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities consider exploring the feasibility and potential benefits of:

- **Ensuring babies, at any stage of gestation or post term, to Muslim and other faith families are laid to rest in a grave size that is appropriate for their size of gestation or term, akin to Huntingdonshire District Council where burials of babies and infants take place according to the size of the casket.”**

12(2). Motion from Councillor Sainsbury

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Sainsbury. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) as follows:

“Council notes that:

- Knife Crime is a very serious issue and can have long term impact on victims, their families and whole communities.
- In 2019/20, Cambridgeshire Police recorded 565 offences across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough involving a knife or sharp weapon, more than double the rates reported in 2012/13.
- Some areas of the UK have achieved significant reductions in knife crime amongst young people by adopting a public health approach to the issue and working closely across partner agencies including with youth services, the voluntary sector, social care, health and education.
- The Safer Peterborough Partnership has set up a multi-agency Problem Solving Group which manages the tactical response to local issues as and when they arise but there is not currently a specific focus on knife crime within the work of the Group.

Council resolves to:

- **Request the Safer Peterborough Partnership Problem Solving Group to establish a particular focus on knife crime to ensure that incidents are identified and reported and that measures are instigated to prevent further incidents.**
- **Develop and instigate plans to adopt a public health approach to the issue of knife crime, as demonstrated elsewhere in the UK.**
- **Set up, in conjunction with the police, the police and crime commissioner’s office, Cabinet Members for Housing, Culture and Communities and for Integrated Social Care, Health and Public Health and neighbourhood watch, a Peterborough-wide publicity and education campaign pitched at young people, their parents and carers on the subject of knife crime.**
- **The results of this work to be reported regularly to the Communities Scrutiny Committee.”**

12(3). Motion from Councillor Sandford

A vote was taken on the altered motion from Councillor Sandford. The altered motion was **AGREED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) as follows:

“Following publication of the Waste Management Plan for England in January 2021, the Government has announced that it intends to legislate for consistent collection of recyclable materials by local authorities across England and that this may include requirements for more kerbside separation of different recyclable materials. They are currently consulting on what form these new regulations may take.

In its waste management plan, Government states that its aim is get recycling rates for municipal waste up from around 45% currently to 65% by 2035. Peterborough’s current recycling rate is only just over 40%.

~~Council therefore believes it would be premature for Peterborough City Council to invest further in domestic waste collection vehicles until precise Government waste collection requirements are known.—~~

~~Council also believes it is important, as part of the Council's commitment to get the city to net zero carbon by 2030, that wherever possible future investment is in electric or hybrid vehicles.—~~

Council recognises that we need to procure some new vehicles now to ensure we can meet the council's statutory duty to collect household waste but, would ask that any future purchases, beyond the CMDN that has already been approved and the additional 2 fully electric RCV's for garden waste be paused, to allow for further guidance to be published. Council also believes it is important, as part of the Council's commitment to get the city to net zero carbon by 2030, that wherever economically and operationally possible future investment is in electric or hybrid vehicles.

Council therefore requests the Cabinet to pause any further investment in new waste collection vehicles beyond the approved CMDN and the 2 additional electric RCV's for garden waste and requests that the Growth and Environment Scrutiny Committee carry out an urgent review of collection of domestic waste, with a view to significantly increasing our recycling rates and ensuring cost effective investment in new vehicles and machinery, receive an update on proposed measures to be taken to increase recycling rates.”

12(4). Motion from Councillor Jones

A vote was taken on the altered motion from Councillor Jones. The altered motion was **AGREED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) as follows:

“This Council notes that:

- The Covid-19 lockdowns have shown how vital technology is to keeping people connected, in particular the vulnerable in society, many of whom have been confined to their homes and unable to see loved ones.
- According to Age UK, 51% of digitally excluded people are over the age of 65, while refugees and the homeless also face worrying levels of digital exclusion. According to homeless charity C4WS, 90% of those in shelter don't have access to IT devices.

This Council believes:

- We need to embrace new ways to bridge the digital gap, as it has taken a global pandemic to show what can happen when we don't do that.
- Companies need to embrace innovative ways to upcycle their old technology rather than simply sell for scrap, which just gets shipped around the world and adds to our carbon footprint.
- Digital exclusion is particularly concerning for the most vulnerable in society, including those on low income, such as pensioners living on pension credit, refugees and those without homes.
- Along with other public bodies in local area, such as schools and universities, we have a civic duty to work together to find the most beneficial solutions to challenges we face as a local community, including digital exclusion.

The Council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation consider:

- **Donating IT equipment locally to those in need rather than scrapping it, using schemes such as the Laptops for Homeless and Vulnerable Initiative.**

- Encouraging public bodies, council suppliers and other local businesses in Peterborough to take similar action as set out above, by use of the Council's-
- ~~Encouraging council suppliers, together with the Council, to proactively take part in sponsoring and promoting this message to local businesses, through traditional media and social media channels and any other means appropriate."~~

13(a). Political Balance and Allocation of Committee Seats

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to agree the amendment to the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements:

- The Labour Group to lose a seat on the Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee and gain a seat on the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.
- The Green Group to lose a seat the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and gain a seat on the Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

13(b). Chair of Parish Council Liaison

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to appoint Councillor David Over as Chair of the Parish Council Liaison meeting, for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year.

13(c). Notification of Changes to the Executive Delegations

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to note the changes made by the Leader of the Council to the Executive Scheme of Delegations.