

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2022
ENGINE SHED, SAND MARTIN HOUSE, 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, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Haynes, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Howell, Ishfaq Hussain, Mahboob Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Joseph, Knight, Lane, Moyo, Murphy, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robins, Rush, Sainsbury, Sandford, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Tyler, Walsh, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin

In attendance virtually:

Councillor Jones

9(a). Review of Peterborough City Council's Members' Allowance Scheme – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

A vote was taken on the proposal and Council **RESOLVED** (29 voted in favour, 21 voted against, 8 abstained from voting):

1. Note recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in Appendix 1 and summarised in paragraph 2 of the report;
2. Agree to adopt the recommendations of the panel in relation to the Member Allowance Scheme.

9(b). Audit Committee Recommendation – Invitation to Opt into the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments from April 2023

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to agree to confirm the Public Sector Audit Appointments that it will opt into the national scheme for auditor appointments from April 2023.

9(c). Cabinet Recommendation – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 - 2026

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to approve the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2026 and Action Plan.

9(d). Cabinet Recommendation – Budget Control Report November 2021

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to approve:

1. Capital Budget virements as outlined in Appendix C(i) to the report, these include:
 - a. Update on Clare Lodge Bid
 - b. A1260 Nene Parkway Junction 15 Improvements

9(e). Introductory Report of the Peterborough City Council Independent Improvement and Assurance Panel

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Note the report.
2. Approve the amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Panel to report to Council on a six-monthly cycle.

12(1) Motion from Councillor Murphy

A vote was taken on the motion moved by Councillor Murphy (9 voted in favour, 43 voted against, 6 abstained from voting). The motion was **DEFEATED**.

12(2) Motion from Councillor Ansar Ali

A vote was taken on the amended motion moved by Councillor Ansar Ali (26 voted in favour, 31 voted against, 1 abstained from voting). The amended motion was **DEFEATED**.

12(3) Motion from Councillor Day

A vote was taken on the motion moved by Councillor Day (29 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 0 abstained from voting, with the Mayor's Casting vote against). The amended motion was **DEFEATED**.

12(4) Motion from Councillor Moyo

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

"County Lines are gangs who operate highly sophisticated criminal networks. The criminals export illegal drugs from big cities into smaller cities such as Peterborough and towns across the country. Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county lines. It occurs where an individual or group coerces, controls, manipulates or deceives a child or young person under the age of 18 to move, sell, store drugs and money for those higher up in the network. The hierarchy is designed to protect the leaders to evade capture by the police and to distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs. Nonetheless, vulnerable adults can be victims too of the criminal networking.

The Council notes:

1. Perpetrators operating county line networks are commuting to the city of Peterborough, frequently evolving their techniques to groom and exploit young people and vulnerable adults to deal Class A drugs such as crack cocaine and heroin.
2. According to Cambridgeshire Constabulary, in the last 12 months there were approximately 791 drug related crimes reported.
3. The exact numbers of young people affected by County Lines is unknown and there is currently no systematic data collection.
4. Children aged 15 to 17 years are those most commonly identified as victims of County Lines exploitation, although those younger and older are also at risk of exploitation.
5. Studies show the coronavirus pandemic is driving a rise in inequality, poverty, and mental health conditions, particularly among already vulnerable groups, pushing more people into drug use and exacerbating existing dependency issues.
6. There are now county line gangs originating from Peterborough operating networks across Cambridgeshire.

The Council resolves:

1. To support Operation Spotlight a pilot scheme co-ordinated through the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) to examine and publish a review of the scale and impact of County Line exploitation of young people and vulnerable adults in Peterborough.
2. To assist Safer Peterborough Partnership with applying for external grant bids to fund for a dedicated officer to manage Operation Spotlight's delivery plan effectively and report back to the Council.
3. To take a more co-ordinated public-health approach in identifying risks and protective factors for preventing County Lines exploitation within Peterborough by working collaboratively with Operation Spotlight to deliver key strategic aims.
4. Provide Operation Spotlight with better intelligence and research to:
 - identify children most at risk and those already exhibiting signs of involvement with County Lines.
 - understand safeguarding needs of children exploited through County Lines.
 - assist young people to gain early help and advice and ensure young people know how to access help.
5. Support Neighbourhood Support Teams (NST), the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and Neighbourhood Watch Teams with identifying vulnerability indicators and encouraging residents to report drug suppliers or suspicious activity through better training and communication.
6. Evaluate and measure the impact of working with schools, community groups, public health teams, police officers and youth services as well as, develop contingency plans to address areas of improvement.”

13(a). Appointment of Interim Section 151 Officer

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) approved the appointment of Ms Cecilie Booth as the Interim Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer for Peterborough City Council.

13(b). Appointment of Independent Audit Committee Members and Chair

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Agree to appoint Chris Brooks to the position of Chair of the Audit Committee for a term of four years ending in May 2026, with the position being awarded an honorarium of £3000 per annum, plus travelling and subsistence expenses.
2. Agree to appoint Mike Langhorn and Dr Stuart Green as independent members of the Audit Committee for a term of four years ending in May 2026, with the positions being awarded honorariums of £1500 per annum, plus travelling and subsistence expenses.
3. Agree the revised Audit Committee Terms of Reference at Appendix 2 to the report

13(c). Revised Political Proportionality, Committee Seat Allocation, and Appointment of Chairs

A vote was taken on the amendment to the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (29 voted in favour, 28 voted against, 1 abstained from voting) to accept the amendment.

A vote was taken on the recommendation as amended and Council **RESOLVED** (29 voted in favour, 0 voted against, 29 abstained from voting) to:

1. Agree the allocation of seats on committees subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 1 to the amendment) to reflect:
 - Planning and Environmental Protection Committee – Conservatives to lose one seat, Peterborough First to gain one seat
 - Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee – Conservatives to lose one seat, Peterborough First to gain one seat
 - ~~Planning and Environmental Protection Committee – Labour to lose one seat, Conservatives to gain one seat.~~
 - Children and Education Scrutiny Committee – Labour to lose one seat, Conservatives to gain one seat.
2. Appoint the Chair of the Council's Committees as follows:
 - Children and Education Scrutiny Committee - Councillor Over
 - Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Mohammed Farooq
 - Planning and Environmental Protection Committee – Councillor Harper

13(d). Draft Programme of Meetings 2022/23

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to approve, in principle, the draft programme of meetings for 2022/23 (attached at Appendix 1 to the report).