

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR DOWSON

Present:

Councillors Ansar Ali, Imtiaz Ali, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bi, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Alison Jones, Dennis Jones, Knight, Lane, Moyo, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Rangzeb, Ray, Robinson, Rush, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Seager, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Tyler, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

1. Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee – Independent Improvement and Assurance Panel Report

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

1. Note that the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee reviewed the first report of the Independent Improvement and Assurance Panel and agreed with the actions and progress being made with the delivery of the Improvement Plan.

2. Cabinet Recommendation – Sustainable Future City Council Strategy and Priorities 2022 to 2025

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

1. Endorse the City Council's "Sustainable Future City Council Strategy 2022-25" and its accompanying "City Priorities", both artifacts which were attached as an appendix to the report, and refer them to a Joint Meeting of the Council's Scrutiny Committees for consideration, with any recommendations to be referred to the next available meeting of Full Council.

3. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendation – Constitution Updates

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

Constitution Naming Conventions

1. That Members have discretion as to how they wish to be addressed, including allowing the Mayor the discretion over whether they are addressed as "Mr Mayor", "Madam Mayor", or in the same format as Councillors, for example, "Mayor" and then their surname.

Officer Employment Rules

2. That the reference to two clear days for objections to be registered to the Leader be amended, as at Appendix 2 to the report, it allow the Leader to confirm once the appointment has been made that no objections had been received.

4. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendation – Appointment to Outside Bodies and Appointment of Council Champions

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

- ~~1. That the Constitution be amended so that appointments to outside bodies be agreed at Annual Council.~~
2. That the Constitution be amended to make clear that the Leader of the Council would be the Council's representative, ex officio, on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board, by virtue of holding the Office of Leader and that the Deputy Leader would be the substitute representative, ex officio, on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board, by virtue of holding the office of Deputy Leader.

5. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendation – Amendments to the Contract Rules

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

1. To amend the Contract Rules as set out in Appendix A to the report.

6. Motion from Councillor Imtiaz Ali

A vote was taken on the motion moved by Councillor Imtiaz Ali (25 voted in favour, 27 voted against, 5 abstained from voting). The motion was **DEFEATED**.

Councillors For: Barkham, Wiggin, Robinson, Haseeb, Dowson, Seager, John Fox, Hemraj, Alison Jones, Iqbal, Imtiaz Ali, Judy Fox, Knight, Harper, Yurgutene, Ansar Ali, Bi, Yasin, Day, Skibsted, Shaz Nawaz, Jamil, Qayyum, Sabir, Dennis Jones

Councillors Against: Casey, Rush, Warren, Fenner, Burbage, Rangzeb, Ayres, Sainsbury, Sharp, Gul Nawaz, Moyo, Simons, Lane, Elsey, Howard, Fitzgerald, Saqib Farooq, Perkins, Over, Coles, Steve Allen, Jackie Allen, Hussain, Ray, Hiller, Tyler

Councillors Abstaining: Sandra Bond, Sandford, Hogg, Andrew Bond, Shaheed

7. Motion from Councillor Day

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

“Peterborough City Council recognises that fossil fuels have played a central role in the past 150 years of social and technological development but that their continued use poses a serious risk to the stability of the climate upon which our well-being and economy depends. Climate change endangers the health of local residents in Peterborough, directly through impacts such as heatwaves and floods, like we have seen this year, and indirectly through impacts on food systems and global security. Research demonstrates that 80% or more of the world's fossil fuel reserves will have to remain unburnt if we are to

meet targets for climate change mitigation. A rapid large-scale shift away from fossil fuels towards energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy is needed to avert catastrophic climate change. This will soon render investments in fossil fuel reserves 'stranded assets', representing substantial risk for investors and pensioners. Research also shows that divestment actually reduces carbon emissions. Therefore, having declared a climate emergency in 2019, Peterborough City Council, should fully support this shift to a zero-carbon economy, which also presents significant opportunities for Peterborough in its mission to become Environment Capital.

In response to this Peterborough City Council pledges:

- to develop and implement an ethical investment policy, including a commitment to not knowingly invest directly in businesses whose activities and practices pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the Council's mission and values. ~~This will include avoiding investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies. It may also include other companies associated with environmentally or socially harmful activities.~~
- ~~Call on the~~ Support Cambridgeshire County Council's Pension Fund "Just Transition" approach with is consistent with the Paris agreement and provides a policy of engagement with businesses who are actively transitioning away from fossil fuels. Recognise that the fund expects each of its investment managers to appropriately manage environmental, social and governance risks alongside financial risks, and constructively engage with investee companies on any issues identified. Should these issues not be addressed satisfactorily, we recognise that selling or divesting from the individual stock remains an appropriate option for the fund.

~~to divest from fossil fuels by requesting its representative(s) on the Pension Fund Committee to call for the development and adoption of responsible investment policies which:~~

1. ~~Immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies.~~
 2. ~~Divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years.~~
 3. ~~Set out an approach to quantify and address climate change risks affecting all other investments.~~
 4. ~~Actively seek to invest in companies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimise climate risk.~~
- ~~to instruct the chief executive to write to the Leaders and Chief Executives of all other councils that use the Cambridgeshire County Council Pension Fund outlining this Council's position and asking for their support to adopt the same policies.~~
 - ~~with respect to its indirect investments, to work with a ratings agency to develop a workable ethical policy aligned with the above mission and values with the aim of achieving full divestment within 5 years.~~
 - to work with local businesses and community groups to support further positive investment in local companies and projects, including community energy schemes, which are hastening a rapid shift to a zero-carbon economy.
 - to undertake the above pledges in the context of a city-wide energy descent plan and energy security policy which will be developed with local business and community groups.
 - ~~to call on the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund to adopt a similar ethical investment policy and divest from fossil fuels.~~
 - to call on the national U.K. government to support the principle of a just transition from fossil fuels divestment, ~~to stop subsidising the fossil fuel industry and to~~

advocate for all other countries to commit to this in the wake of the Paris Agreement, which was reaffirmed at the 2021 Glasgow Climate Summit.

- To bring a report to the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee in 12 months' time to review the Council's investment strategy and the pension scheme's progress with its Responsible Investment Policy."

8. Motion from Councillor Sandford

A vote was taken on the motion moved by Councillor Sandford (27 voted in favour, 30 voted against, 0 abstained from voting). The motion was **DEFEATED**.

Councillors For: Barkham, Wiggin, Robinson, Haseeb, Dowson, Sandra Bond, Seager, Hemraj, Alison Jones, Sandford, Iqbal, Imtiaz Ali, Knight, Yurgutene, Ansar Ali, Hogg, Bi, Yasin, Day, Skibsted, Shaz Nawaz, Jamil, Qayyum, Sabir, Andrew Bond, Shaheed, Dennis Jones

Councillors Against: Casey, Rush, Warren, Fenner, Burbage, Rangzeb, Ayres, Sainsbury, Sharp, Gul Nawaz, Moyo, Simons, John Fox, Lane, Judy Fox, Elsey, Harper, Cereste, Howard, Fitzgerald, Saqib Farooq, Perkins, Over, Coles, Steve Allen, Jackie Allen, Hussain, Ray, Hiller, Tyler

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

9. Notification of Change to the Executive Delegations

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (49 voted in favour, 6 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) to note the changes made by the Leader of the Council to the Executive Scheme of Delegations (Appendix A to the report).

Councillors For: Ansar Ali, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bi, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Elsey, Saqib Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, Haseeb, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Alison Jones, Dennis Jones, Lane, Moyo, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Rangzeb, Ray, Robinson, Rush, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Seager, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Tyler, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

Councillors Against: John Fox, Imtiaz Ali, Judy Fox, Knight, Day, Skibsted

Councillors Abstaining: Dowson, Harper

10. Appointment of the Monitoring Officer

At this point a vote was taken and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on Item 13(b), Appointment of the Monitoring Officer on the grounds that the item contains exempt information under Paragraph 1 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (Information relating to an individual and negotiations in connection with a labour relations matter arising between the authority and employees or office holders of the authority).

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

1. Note that Employment Committee met on the 10 October 2022 to consider the appointment of the Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer.
2. Formally appoint the recommended candidate to the Monitoring Officer role.