

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR DOWSON

Present:

Councillors Ansar Ali, Imtiaz Ali, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bi, Bisby, 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, Moyo, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Ray, Robinson, Rush, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Seager, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Tyler, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

1. 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. Ask the Cabinet to consider this report and respond with the action it wishes to take as a result.
2. Request the Growth, Resources, and Communities Scrutiny Committee to review this report, the Cabinet's response to it and the progress being made with the delivery of the Improvement Plan.

2. Cabinet Recommendation – Tree Management: Review of Existing Policy for Managing Tree Related Subsidence Claims Against the Council

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

1. Agree to amend the Trees and Woodland Strategy by way of introduction of the newly created tree related subsidence policy.

3. Cabinet Recommendation – Making of Helpston Neighbourhood Development Plan Following Successful Referendum Outcome

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

1. 'Make' (which means to all intents and purposes 'adopted') the Helpston Neighbourhood Plan, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, and thereby form part of the Development Plan for Peterborough for the purpose of making decisions on relevant planning applications within the Helpston Neighbourhood Area (the Helpston Neighbourhood Area is the same area as Helpston Parish).

4. Cabinet Recommendation – Local Area Energy Plan

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

1. Adopt the Local Area Energy Plan.

5. Cabinet Recommendation – Fees, Charges, and Inflation Review

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

1. Adopt the increases in Fees and Charges as outlined in the report and Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the revised Burial & Cremation fees at weekends as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.

6. Audit Committee Recommendation – Treasury Management Mid-Year Update

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

1. Approve the addition of non-specified investments detailed within Appendix C to the report (Property Funds, Bond Funds and other pooled funds) to the Treasury Management Strategy.

7. Motion from Councillor Hogg

Councillor Hogg advised that he no longer wished to move this motion.

8. Motion from Councillor Qayyum

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

“The City of Peterborough has 8 Mobile Park homes sites, home to some 1,000 people of our city.

Over the years, people who have lived in such homes have expected to live a peaceful life with dignity and enjoy their lives, without worrying about legislation which can lead to greater expense, and which can cause distress and undue anxiety. In frequent cases, residents may be devoid of the support that is necessary to ensure that their quality of life in retirement is safeguarded.

This Council notes that:

- Whilst licensing legislation is a necessary step after the introduction of the Mobile Homes Act 2013, in order to safeguard residents’ rights and wellbeing it is necessary to establish clear lines of communication between site owners, the authority and residents and ensure the authority is given greater autonomy to carry out due diligence.
- There are certain challenges to be met with reference to providing evidence around safety parameters for residents and officers
- The cost-of-living crisis has placed residents facing increasing financial difficulties with state pensions and other income inversely proportional to the rise of inflation, and support from the local authority in such instances is sadly insufficient, resulting in the ability to meet standards or paying for pitch fees at the Retail Price Index (RPI) rate along with 10 percent commission fees upon selling homes, near enough impossible. In October 2018 the government committed to use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the index for pitch fees (as happens in Wales and Scotland) but this change has not yet happened as primary legislation is needed.

The Council resolves to:

- **Develop a consistent approach towards all Mobile Park homes across the city irrespective of their ownership and to ensure that legislation and licensing conditions are applied equitably to prevent unnecessary costs and inconvenience to the residents.**
- **To recognise the difference in the rights of park homeowners and bricks and mortar-built dwellings and offer the support needed to all residents under section 12 of the Mobile Homes Act.**
- **To continue to work with UPPH (United Peterborough Park Homes) to achieve agreed outcomes in the best interests of all who reside and own park homes, including ensuring the confidentiality of residents' concerns to prevent safeguarding issues arising acknowledging appropriate issues to signpost residents and work with agencies ensuring protection from the fear of harassment and intimidation.**
- **Welcomes the House of Commons passing all stages of Sir Christopher Chopes' Mobile Homes (Pitch Fees) Bill on 18th November 2022 and urges the House of Lords to pass the Bill swiftly, so the switch from RPI to CPI becomes law."**

9. Motion from Councillor Skibsted

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

"This Council notes that:

- We are experiencing the highest inflation in 40 years. Energy is costing more, directly threatening household budgets and the viability of local businesses.
- Historical evidence suggests that increases in food poverty and fuel poverty will lead directly to increased health problems and winter deaths.
- Poor insulation, inefficient heating and the effects of climate change are intensifying the impact of energy prices, increasing pressures on families and businesses, and there are insufficient skills in the city and East of England to deliver on these issues.
- As the cost-of-living increases, people and businesses are less able to finance adaptations to improve energy efficiency and to prepare for extreme weather events.
- More families are in need of help. Yet steeply increasing inflation means this Council's ability to mitigate impacts and provide essential services is increasingly challenging.
- As the cost-of-living increases and the effects of climate change take hold, our residents also face the reduction of local bus routes. Many families are now challenged with finding alternative transport to work and school. This places added strain on family finances, increases carbon emissions and drives up air pollution.

The Council agrees to:

1. **Recognise that the Cost of Living and Climate Crisis are interlinked and jointly require attention to ensure the wellbeing of local people and businesses in Peterborough.**

2. **Make decisions on the budget and major policies that, wherever possible, contribute to environmental and social benefits across the Peterborough area.**
3. **Advocate to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for more robust, affordable public transport that connects employees with work, links students to education and reduces carbon emissions.**
4. **Continue and expand the work with social landlords operating in the Peterborough City Council area to review the energy efficiency of their housing stock, recognising that poor insulation and inefficient heating are key factors in the rising cost of living.**
5. **Request that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee revisit this motion in 12 months as part of its work programme to look at targets on climate considerations in budget proposals as well as retro-fitting of social housing for energy efficiency gains via a report from officers.**
6. **Request That the Leader of the Council asks our local MP's to write to the Prime Minister, ~~our local MPs~~ and the relevant government ministers to call for:**
 - **Increased financial support for residents, with most support provided to low-income households.**
 - **More funding for small and medium local businesses, helping them manage the challenge of increasing energy costs and rising inflation.**
 - **A more ambitious nationwide commitment to fund improvements in the energy efficiency of homes, resulting in energy bill reductions and environmental benefits.**
 - **Increased grant opportunities for community groups, housing providers and public sector partners to improve energy efficiency in their buildings.**
 - **Insulation schemes and renewable energy generation programmes funded by fossil fuel profits.”**

10. Motion from Councillor Sandford

Councillor Sandford advised that he no longer wished to move his motion.

11. Notification of Change 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 (Appendix A to the report).