

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY 26 JULY 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR SANDFORD

Present:

Councillors Ahmed, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Asif, Barkham, Bi, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Case, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, John Fox, Harper, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Khan, Lane, Mahmood, Moyo, Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Rangzeb, Ray, Rush, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Seager, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Stevenson, Strangward, Thulbourn, Tyler, Warren, Wiggin

1. Audit Committee Recommendation – Annual Audit Report

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to approve the Annual Audit Committee Report shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

2. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendation – Honorary Recorder of the City of Peterborough

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to agree the appointment of His Honour Judge Bishop as the Honorary Recorder of the City of Peterborough, for the duration of his term of office.

3. Motion from Councillor Fenner

A vote was taken on a procedural motion to refer the motion moved by Councillor Fenner to the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain). The procedural motion was **CARRIED** and the following motion was referred to the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee:

“The city, as we know, has a growing population.

This brings with it many challenges, in particular, for those families seeking accommodation with a child or dependant who has disabilities and complex needs. This number is also growing.

The housing situation in the city is under enormous pressure with those in need of a medically adapted property finding availability to be extremely limited, with many families struggling in properties which are overcrowded and totally unsuitable.

Many of those on the waiting list get bypassed, following a successful bid, due to the shortage of suitable properties, even though, confusingly, the description placed the Jigsaw bidding platform states suitability!

We currently have 65 households in band 1 with an overriding medical need, which require some sort of level or adaptation. An example of these are as follows, and in no particular order: Ceiling Track Hoist, Full lift, through floor lift, Fully wheelchair adapted, ramps, the list goes on.

The City Council and Registered Housing providers (Cross Keys homes, Accent Nene, Longhurst, Minster, etc) and private landlords **MUST** come together and look at the needs of these families and ensure the properties advertised are in fact suitable.

Those that are not, but have the sufficient space required, should also be permitted to have adaptations made to the properties if required.

The council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities and relevant officers:

- **Urgently engage with all registered housing providers, private landlords and the disability group within the council, to ascertain the best way to create housing for those families.**
- **Continue to speak to charitable organisations and affected families for input to determine the specific needs, as each case will be unique.**
- **Continue to deliver and maximise the government disabled facility grant allocation through the Better Care Fund in order to adapt properties to meet the needs of disabled adults and children across the city.**
- **Ensure the families are kept informed throughout the process.**
- **Ask housing providers to undertake an audit of their stock in relation to adapted properties to ensure that the council to give us the best possible opportunity to match clients to properties and to increase the amount of suitably adapted properties available and Request that housing providers provide an annual update.”**

4. Motion from Councillor Asif

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

“Council resolves to:

1. Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the MPs calling for legislation/policy change to make flytipping a more serious offence and to give Council more powers to take actions against flytippers.

Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change:

2. Considers options to increase the number of successful prosecutions for flytippers.
3. Commits to more transparency around efforts to tackle flytipping, including:
 - a. Detail on the results of prosecutions and sharing information with the public about enforcement and clear up activities within the relevant Cabinet Member portfolio report to scrutiny.
 - b. Publication of the names of those successfully prosecuted.
4. Completes data analysis related to flytipping incidents, including locations and types of waste. This could help to identify hot spots for flytipping and target increased enforcement action against flytipping, including more frequent patrols, increased use of CCTV cameras, and a crackdown on repeat offenders.”

5. Motion from Councillor Hussain

A recorded vote was taken on the motion moved by Councillor Hussain (24 voting in favour, 28 voting against and 1 abstaining from voting). The motion was **DEFEATED**.

Councillors Voting in Favour: Ahmed, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Asif, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Fenner, Fitzgerald, Hussain, Khan, Lane, Moyo, Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Rangzeb, Ray, Rush, Sainsbury, Sharp, Simons, Tyler, Warren

Councillors Voting Against: Barkham, Bi, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Judy Fox, John Fox, Harper, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Iqbal, Jamil, Mahmood, Qayyum, Sabir, Sandford, Seager, Shaheed, Stevenson Strangward, Thulbourn, Wiggin

Councillors Abstaining from Voting: Skibsted

6. Motion from Councillor Hussain

A vote was taken on the motion moved by Councillor Hussain (21 voting in favour, 12 voting against and 20 abstaining from voting). The motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

“Council notes that:

The Prime Minister is setting out clear guidance for schools on how to best support and manage transgender pupils, which includes requiring parental consent to allow students to change their name, pronouns or uniform. It also outlines that schools must inform parents if their child wishes to transition and take a precautionary approach to doing so. The guidance also says that schools can refuse to socially transition children if they believe that doing so may harm the well-being of other children in the school. It states that students who go by different pronouns to that of their biological sex should be banned from competitive school sports in their assigned gender to promote fairness and safety. There is also a review into the teaching of relationships, sex and health education and how this needs to be age appropriate with parents understanding what is being taught in the classroom.

Many parents have made representation to me and to fellow councillors from other wards about the lobbying group stonewall who many feel, does not represent, or understand the concerns of parents. Schools should closely follow the guidance set out by the Prime Minister and reject previous advice given to them by Stonewall that fails to mention parents at all. A primary School in Park ward had over 100 parents demonstrating after the school didn't follow its own guidelines and inform parents about the subject matter in a RSE lesson it had conducted the day before. A similar situation almost occurred at an academy run primary school in my ward. Where the demonstration was averted after representation was made by parents to me and our MP. And it's one of the reasons I bring this motion before the council today.

We cannot have our schools and nurseries follow guidance, such as trans pupils being allowed to choose which bathroom and changing rooms they use. This may put children at risk, especially those in older age groups. Child safeguarding and parental input matters, it is up to parents to decide how they raise their children and schools must do their best to support them by accepting and upholding this new guidance. Once the review comes out on RSHE curriculum we must work with schools to ensure that lessons are age appropriate, and parents are kept informed on what their children are learning about in the classroom.

Council resolves to request that the cabinet member:

Review the national guidance, once published, with officers of the Council, and promote it with schools so that all schools, including academies, are aware of their responsibilities. Schools are encouraged to implement the guidance, with the safeguarding of all children at the forefront of all their work and ensure that parents and carers are involved and kept informed.”

7. Motion from Councillor Day

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

“Peterborough City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and committed to becoming a net zero carbon organisation by 2030. The council also committed to supporting Peterborough to become a net zero carbon city. To achieve this, all our residents, businesses, organisations, and community groups will need to make changes to reduce emissions. The council can play an important role in educating our communities on the importance of tackling climate change and options to reduce emissions.

Council notes that:

A ‘Just Transition’ is about moving towards our net zero carbon targets in a fair and ‘just’ manner to ensure that all groups and individuals feel included and that no-one is left behind. It should ensure that those from all communities in Peterborough will not be negatively impacted by this council’s climate change policies. A ‘Just Transition’ is about a move to sustainable, fairer communities and workplaces.

A Just transition requires that climate change transition policies are also justice policies from the outset and that there is room for bottom-up participation and substantial investment in social discussion and dialogue, where civil society, including trade unions, environmental groups and people on lower-incomes, are represented. A just transition is both about creating new jobs and about increasing social justice, as well as being about providing new answers to complex problems. (Holemans, 2022)

In 2008 the International Labour Organisation, the UN Environment Programme and the International Trade Union Conference and the International Organisation of Employers produced a report titled ‘Green Jobs: towards decent work in a sustainable, low-carbon world’. The report argued that just transition is essential to decarbonise the economy and to move towards sustainable and egalitarian societies, (Neito, 2022). The report also highlighted that ‘Climate change itself, adaptation to it and efforts to arrest it by reducing emissions have far-reaching implications for economic and social development, for production and consumption patterns and thus for employment incomes and poverty reduction.’ (ILO, 2008).

Those economies that are better placed in this transition will have better opportunities; those that take longer will have more difficulties and greater negative social impacts. It is for all of us to move towards environmentally sustainable and socially just societies.

Council resolves to:

- **Ensure that a ‘Just Transition’ is a key theme within the development of Climate Change action plans and impact assessments.**
- **Share the ‘Just Transition’ approach with local partners including the Peterborough Climate Change Partnership and encourage them to develop climate change policies with a ‘Just Transition’ in mind.**

- Consider the inclusion of a ‘Just Transition’ policy pledge within the developing citywide Climate Change action plan, to ensure that as the council and city transition towards ‘green jobs’ that every effort is made to ensure that no-one is left behind and that there are opportunities for employees to be reskilled, trained and that new job opportunities are created within the local economy.
- Ask officers to invite discussion and dialogue at all levels, mainly with trade unions and employers’ federations, to understand how their employees are affected and ensure their experiences are reflected in council actions and programmes.
- Coordinate focused ‘Climate Debate’ talks, representing people from all communities, ensuring every effort is made to engage people from all backgrounds, ensuring their experiences are reflected in council actions and programmes.
- Liaise with the Peterborough Trade Union Councils and ask the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee to consider inviting a Peterborough Trade Union Council representative to sit on the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee, as an independent co-opted member.
- To explore ways of localising our energy systems to create a ‘people’s energy transition’ that explores practices that ensures that energy is a right and not a commodity.”

Holemans, (2022) Introduction ‘A European Just Transition for a Better World’.

Neito, (2022) ‘Just Transition in the Climate Agenda: from origins to practical implementation’.

8. Motion from Councillor Cole

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

“Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their life-whether it be societal stigma, self-doubt, trauma, depression, attachment disorders, trust issues or finding a sense of ‘where they belong’. Many care leavers, and despite the resilience of many care experienced people have had no choice but to develop, society all too often does not take these added barriers in to account. Peterborough needs to be a city that shatters these barriers.

Housing, health, finance, education, positive relationships, employment and involvement in the criminal justice system care experienced people may encounter inconsistent support in different geographical areas. In plain English, it can be a Post Code Lottery. As corporate parents, all Peterborough City Councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care, safeguarding and life chances for the children who are looked after by us as an authority. Being placed in care is not their fault and should not cause continued lifelong problems.

All Peterborough City Council Corporate Parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in all aspects of our council work. All our wards within Peterborough will benefit from this motion being proposed.

All Councillors should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society. The Public Sector Equality Duty (2010) requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination,

harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics. I would like Peterborough City Council to give Care Leavers a Protected Characteristic status.

Council therefore notes that:

- Care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination.
- Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.

Council agrees to:

- **Annually publish all statistical information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment alongside other equality data.**
- **Formally call upon all other public bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.**

Council requests that Cabinet commit to:

- ~~The possibility~~ **Future decisions, services and policies made and adopted by this Council being assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.**
- **Including care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives, in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council.**
- **Treating care experience as a as a Protected Characteristic.**
- ~~Working together to establish where services and departments are combined with Cambridgeshire, that all care leavers within the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire will treat all Care Leavers similarly.~~
- **To continue to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.”**

9. Motion from Councillor Iqbal

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

“This council notes:

The latest decision to cut the 36 bus route on 30 July that links Thorney, Eye and Peterborough on commercial grounds.

Scrapping the 36 will mean that there is no direct bus link between Thorney and Eye. This is particularly important for Thorney residents who need to travel for Doctor’s appointments.

The 36 also provides a link between Eye and Peterborough city centre.

This is just the latest cut to bus routes affecting residents in Peterborough and the villages. In October 2022, Stagecoach East stopped running buses on 18 bus routes and used fewer buses on 5 more.

The Combined Authority stepped in to subsidise these routes with an expected cost of £3.5 million in the financial year to March 2024.

The government only spend £16 per person on public transport in our area. They spend £32 per person in Yorkshire and £36 per person in East Midlands.

That current deregulated bus rules do not allow local control over bus routes or the ability the cross-subsidise routes across a network to maintain services.

This council believes:

Buses are particularly important to our region even for people who do not use them. Buses help other people get to their jobs, which helps our area to grow. For every £1 we spend on buses, it helps the region grow by about £7. Buses are also especially important for the environment.

We need a level playing field for bus funding between Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, and other parts of the country.

Whilst a solution is required to save a direct bus service between Thorney and Eye, it is not sustainable for the taxpayer to pick up the bill every time a commercial provider threatens to withdraw a service.

Residents and the city would be better served by a franchised bus network that allows local input into services and a wider network across the area.

This council resolves to:

- **Campaign for a new deal for business in the area with a franchised bus network for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, recognising that the Combined Authority is working on the business case for options around Enhanced Partnership and Bus Franchising.**
- **Lobby the government to create fairer funding for our area, which matches other parts of the country.**
- **Work with the Mayor of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to find a sustainable solution to save a direct service between Thorney and Eye.”**

10. 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. Request the Cabinet to consider this report and respond with the action it wishes to take, including on the following issues:
 - Completing the audit and sign off of all outstanding annual accounts in this financial year,
 - Planning for the permanent recruitment to the S151 role,
 - Continuing to invest in the work of the Portfolio Boards,
 - Considering the approach to the disposal of assets,
 - Developing and approving a Commercial Strategy to strengthen the work of the Shareholder Committee and align with best practice, Completing an Asset Management Plan and a Corporate Landlord approach,
 - Considering replacement of the building compliance IT system,
 - Reconsidering the proposal to move to all out elections,
 - Facilitating handover between the outgoing and incoming Audit Committee chairs.
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.

11. Notification of Changes to the Leader's Scheme of 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).

12. Revised Political Proportionality and Committee Seat Allocation

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

1. Agree the allocation of seats on committees subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 1 to the report).
2. Revise the following appointments to the Fire Authority for the 2023/2024 municipal year:
 - a) Appoint four members to the Fire Authority and four substitute members from the same political parties as those appointed (Appendix 2 to the report).

13. Establishment of an Independent Panel

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (52 voting in favour, 0 voting against and 1, the Mayor, abstaining from voting) to:

1. Approve the establishment of an Independent Panel.
2. Approve the terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, for inclusion in the constitution.
3. Approve the subsequent changes to the constitution as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report.