

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 13
10 JULY 2013	PUBLIC REPORT

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following notices of motion have been received in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 15.2:

1. Motion from Councillor David Harrington

That this Council:

1. Notes the widespread concern and opposition to energy park plans on tenant farms; the financial and project risks are considerable and that the council has moved away from its core activities in the establishment of Blue Sky Peterborough on which Councillors and officers hold directorships;
2. Believes that enough time and money has already been spent on solar farm energy schemes; and
3. Recommends to Cabinet that it takes note of residents' concerns and cuts its losses through the introduction of a moratorium on any further expenditure on solar farm schemes on our tenant farms and on the Blue Sky Peterborough organisation.

2. Motion from Councillor John Fox

That this council:

1. Acknowledges that the council has a duty to protect its vulnerable residents;
2. Agrees that more could have been done to make vulnerable residents aware of their obligation to pay the new charges prior to receiving the notice;
3. Acknowledges that frustration and distress was caused to some residents upon receipt of a summons for non-payment of the new council tax requirement;
4. Agrees that a review of the Council's communication policy and that of its strategic partners is carried out to ensure that the lessons learned from the council tax summons letters are implemented and the unnecessary disruption and distress that was experienced by vulnerable residents is not repeated; and
5. Ensures that monitoring of the impact on residents of the change to the council tax support scheme takes place with a report to be taken back through scrutiny for any further recommendations to be made.

3. Motion from Councillor Shearman

That this Council:

- Notes with grave concern that a recent OFSTED report reveals the proportion of disadvantaged pupils in Peterborough schools achieving the Governments benchmark standard at GCSE is the lowest in the Country;
- *Notes that the OFSTED report highlights the success of a programme of support known as the London Challenge (City Challenge in other areas), and that as a group disadvantaged pupils in the Local Authorities participating in this programme achieved, and in many cases exceeded, the Governments benchmark standard at GCSE;
- Notes that the additional funds received by our schools for meeting the needs of these pupils in the current year (known as the Pupil Premium) totals £7.2 million (indicative figures); and
- Notes that in a report published by OFSTED in September 2012 entitled 'The Pupil Premium', Inspectors identified a number of areas for improvement in the way this money is used in schools.

In view of this Council resolves to:

1. Set up a Task and Finish Group tasked with:
 - (i) examining the way in which the Pupil Premium is used in all secondary schools particularly insofar as it meets the recommendations outlined in the OFSTED report; and
 - (ii) investigating the way in which the needs of disadvantaged children are being met in all secondary schools; and in both instances report back its findings and recommendations to full council by the end of the Spring Term 2014.

And specifically:

2. Request from all secondary schools information on the way in which the Pupil premium is being used, and publish that information on the council's website.
3. Ensure the Chairs of Governing Bodies in all Peterborough secondary schools understand the importance of maintaining a strong focus on the way in which the Pupil Premium is used;
4. Ensure that all secondary schools in Peterborough understand the value and importance of developing a strong and supportive link with a successful UK secondary school facing similar challenges; and
5. Urge the Coalition Government to replicate something similar to the London Challenge on a regional basis across the country, as recommended by the Chief Inspector.

4. Motion from Councillor Peach

That this Council:

1. Recognises the importance to local business and via business and employment the stability to Peterborough residents of having a clear legally binding route to a referendum on future membership of the EU; and therefore
2. Supports the current private members bill going through Parliament by Conservative MP James Wharton and the Lib Dem manifesto pledge at the last election to hold a referendum in 2017 or before, thus giving Peterborough voters a say on their relationship with the EU.

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