

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
14 OCTOBER 2015	PUBLIC REPORT

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The following notices of motion have been received in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 13.1:

1. Motion from Councillor John Knowles

That this Council records its concern that members convicted of electoral fraud should be permitted to stand for election and that this Council ought to write to the Electoral Commission expressing its concern and calling for a change in the law for a lifetime disqualification on any proposed candidate who has such a conviction.

2. Motion from Councillor John Knowles

That in order to assist our councillors to communicate effectively with their residents, the Council makes annual training available, backed by a financial support scheme, to councillors who wish to undertake a course of training to improve their skills in verbal and/or written English.

3. Motion from Councillor John Knowles

That Council notes the damaging impact that electoral fraud has on democracy and that the Members of this Council can actively discourage electoral fraud by removing photographs of ex-Mayors from the Council chamber if that Councillor has been convicted of an electoral offence.

The position of Mayor is a highly respected civic role and those convicted of electoral fraud, even where those convictions may be spent, ought not to be allowed the privilege of their photographs remaining on display in the Mayor's Parlour. The shame of knowing that their Mayoral photograph will be removed from the Chamber is a good deterrent and this Council is invited to consent to the removal of any such current photographs from the Mayor's Parlour.

4. Motion from Councillor Ed Murphy

That this Council:

1. Notes that the proposals to close Bridge Street Station and dispose of the buildings have not been discussed widely.
2. Notes that a new Chief Constable has recently been appointed and that the incumbent Police and Crime Commissioner has indicated he may not be seeking re-election.
3. Believes that major decisions should be made transparently and that the closure of the Bridge Street Police Station should be considered in consultation with Peterborough City Council and its Leader. Confidence in frontline policing in the Peterborough area is a major issue and the closure of our Police Station is a matter of public concern and interest.

4. Requests that the proposal to close Bridge Street Station is determined through transparent decision making and following the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2016, the police service leadership engage with council representatives over any future ideas to close Peterborough police stations.
5. In view of this motion Council requests that any decision on the disposal of Peterborough Police Station is deferred until such time as the new leadership of the police service in Cambridgeshire at the forthcoming election is determined.

5. Motion from Councillor John Fox

That this Council:

1. Acknowledges the extraordinary risks that members of our Armed Forces, past and present, take with their health and lives in defence of our freedom. Unfortunately, this unique sacrifice is not being properly recognised within our social care charging policies as only veterans who were injured after April 2005 are able to retain their military compensation awards in full when accessing support for their care. In contrast, veterans who were injured before April 2005, who are known as War Pensioners, typically find that all but the first £10 per week of their military compensation is taken to cover their care costs.
2. Agrees that it is profoundly unfair that the date when a veteran was injured should determine the level of support that they can expect to receive when accessing social care. This is particularly true given that both forms of military compensation are otherwise treated the same and fully exempted from other means tests for statutory benefits, including Universal Credit. To add insult to injury, the current situation amounts to a clear breach of the Armed Forces Covenant, which states that;

“Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services”.

This is because current charging guidance stipulates that compensation awarded to civilians injured at work must be fully exempted if placed in a trust fund. War Pensioners are unable to protect their military compensation in this way as their payments are received in regular, weekly instalments, as opposed to a one-off lump sum payment.

3. Recognises, in light of the information above, that there is an unfair anomaly in existing social care charging guidance and accordingly resolves to:
 - i. Identify the number of War Disablement Pensioners currently accessing social care support from the Council;
 - ii. Honour its Community Covenant commitments by bringing a report to Cabinet which explores whether both forms of military compensation can be fully exempted from financial assessments for social care support; and
 - iii. Support the Local Government Association’s call for additional funding to be provided by Central Government to ensure that such a policy change is financially sustainable.

6. Motion from Councillor Richard Ferris

Recognising the extent of the Syrian refugee crisis, and the significant public support for action, this motion calls upon Peterborough City Council to offer its full support to HM Government’s

commitment to accepting 20,000 Syrian refugees across the UK over the remainder of this Parliament.

Specifically, it calls upon this Council to make an offer to support the expanded Syrian Vulnerable Person Scheme, working through the East of England Regional Strategic Migration Partnership; to agree and put in place appropriate arrangements to house and support vulnerable refugees, noting that the cost of supporting them in Britain for at least their first year will be funded from foreign aid spending.

7. Motion from Councillor Nick Sandford

This Council recognises that:

- i. Around four million Syrians have fled their country since the civil war began four years ago;
- ii. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has stated that Syria "has become the greatest tragedy of this century - a disgraceful humanitarian calamity with suffering and displacement unparalleled in recent history"
- iii. The UN has organised an international scheme that aims to resettle 130,000 Syrian refugees by the end of 2016;
- iv. A number of Western European countries have so far resettled tens of thousands of Syrian refugees under this scheme;
- v. The UK Government has only committed to taking 20,000 refugees over five years. In comparison, Germany has taken more than this in one weekend.

Council believes that the UK should be resettling more Syrian refugees than it currently is, and that it is our moral responsibility to do all we can as a Council and as a country to help to alleviate this humanitarian crisis.

Council therefore calls on:

- i. The Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister expressing dismay at how small a number of refugees a rich country like the UK is willing to take.
- ii. The Leader and Cabinet to do all they practically can to work with other local authorities, the LGA, government agencies and third sector organisations to provide assistance to refugees that are being settled in Peterborough.

This page is intentionally left blank