

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
7 MARCH 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The following notice of motion has been received in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders:

1. Motion from Councillor Ed Murphy

Council notes the housing emergency that there is in Peterborough at present and that there are a number of empty buildings or soon to be vacated buildings in Peterborough including in the city centre.

Council believes that empty buildings bring a downward spiral to the city centre in particular and that buildings should not be left empty for year upon year. Council believes it is better for the local authority to use buildings and consider converting them into dwellings to tackle the homeless situation than let them lie empty.

Furthermore council notes that developers do not have to meet the requirement for affordable or social housing if they convert empty office blocks and it would be far better for the council to ensure this provision happens by taking them on to ensure that there is affordable and social housing provision.

Council therefore asks Cabinet, where it is deemed appropriate, to acquire empty properties and bring them back into useful purpose in the city and to request the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to provide grant funding from its housing infrastructure fund to refit the buildings once acquired by the Council.

2. Motion from Councillor Irene Walsh

Peterborough has a proud history of welcoming newcomers and is recognised for its successful integration of those from other countries, as well as from other parts of the UK. There is much work ongoing to ensure that the city's ethnic minority groups, as well as all groups as defined under Equalities legislation, are fully considered in the Council's strategies and policies.

This success has been noticed and has resulted in an invitation to this Council to participate in two prestigious programmes:

1. The **Integrated Communities** programme: in partnership with four other local authorities, Peterborough will work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to pilot new ways of achieving genuine integration. This work will help shape the approach to integration and community cohesion across the country, which will be expressed in the imminent publication of an Integrated Communities Green Paper.
2. The **Inclusive Cities** programme: in collaboration with the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity Peterborough will, in partnership with five other cities, work to better understand what an inclusive city looks like (i.e. the narrative) and how it is achieved and maintained.

Both of these programmes will enable Peterborough to showcase our own good work, but also to learn from national and international organisations to enhance our own efforts.

This Motion calls on Members, as community leaders and champions to:

1. Actively support the programmes (Integrated Communities and Inclusive Cities) that we have been selected to participate in
2. Promote the inclusivity and integration of our city by supporting local community action and initiatives

3. Support the successful community asset transfer of local community facilities and their ongoing management
4. Carefully review the emerging cross-Party ***Community Involvement in Neighbourhood Issues*** report to Adults & Communities Scrutiny Committee, providing support to any recommendations agreed.

3. Motion from Councillor Andy Coles

Peterborough City Council has had a good record of supporting residents who are in the grip of drug addiction, ensuring those who inject themselves with illegal drugs get access to clean equipment so that they can avoid taking risks to their health through sharing needles.

Public Health estimates that approximately 1,500 addicts inject opiates or crack cocaine in Peterborough. Aspire, who run the Council's drug programmes, report that between 800 to 1,200 individuals are receiving treatment at any one time.

Residents in my ward in Fletton and Woodston have seen a noticeable increase in used needles being found in the streets, along the riverbank, in public toilets and even in children's play areas.

This problem is not seen purely in my own ward, but is becoming very noticeable across the city and members from my own and other political groups have been receiving reports from residents about discarded needles in public spaces.

We need a coordinated response across Council portfolios to ensure that this issue is addressed.

Therefore this Council calls on the Chief Executive to instruct the Directors of Public Health and People and Communities to immediately put the structure in place to examine the issue and to work towards its resolution.

4. Motion from Councillor Nick Sandford

Council believes that it is wrong for councillors to have the final say on the allowances that they themselves receive.

Council therefore asks the chief executive to write to the minister for local government requesting that legislation be brought forward to make the recommendations of independent member allowances panels mandatory on councils.

In the absence of such legislation, Council asks the Leader of the Council to work with opposition group leaders to try to establish a cross party agreement that recommendations of future independent member allowances panels be accepted, other than in the most exceptional circumstances.

5. Motion from Councillor Nick Sandford

Council believes that councillors are representatives of the people and therefore members of the public should be able to easily find out how their councillor has voted on any given issue.

In pursuance of this principle, Council resolves that lists of how each councillor has voted in electronic votes taken at Full Council meetings be published on the Council website with the minutes of each meeting.