

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
17 October 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 Ferris

“Peterborough City Council recognises that fossil fuels have played a central role in the past 150 years of social and technological development, but that their continued use poses a serious risk to the stability of the climate upon which our well-being and economy depends. Climate change endangers the health of local residents in Peterborough, directly through impacts such as heatwaves and indirectly through impacts on food systems and global security. Scientists have recently estimated that fossil fuel reserves still in the ground are approximately three times the amount which can be burned to have a 50:50 chance of staying below the agreed target of 2 degrees C of global average warming. A rapid large-scale shift away from fossil fuels towards energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy is needed to avert catastrophic climate change. This will soon render investments in fossil fuel reserves ‘stranded assets’, representing substantial risk for investors and pensioners. This shift to a zero-carbon economy presents significant opportunities for Peterborough in its mission to become the UK’s Environment Capital.

In response to this Peterborough City Council pledges:

- to develop and implement an ethical investment policy, including a commitment to not knowingly invest directly in businesses whose activities and practices pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the Council’s mission and values. This will include avoiding investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies. It may also include other companies associated with environmentally or socially harmful activities.
- with respect to its indirect investments, to work with a ratings agency to develop a workable ethical policy aligned with the above mission and values with the aim of achieving full divestment within 5 years.
- to work with local businesses and community groups to support further positive investment in local companies and projects, including community energy schemes, which are hastening a rapid shift to a zero-carbon economy.
- to undertake the above pledges in the context of a city-wide energy descent plan and energy security policy which will be developed with local business and community groups including Peterborough in Transition.
- to call on the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund to adopt a similar ethical investment policy and divest from fossil fuels.

to call on the national U.K. government to support the principle of fossil fuel divestment, to stop subsidising the fossil fuel industry and to advocate for all other countries to commit to this in the wake of the Paris Agreement.”

2. Motion from Councillor Shaz Nawaz

“This council notes:

- The far-reaching negative impact of national government welfare reform policies and austerity

measures on residents of Peterborough.

The council believes:

- That action needs to be taken to support the weakest and vulnerable in society who have been impacted the most by the austerity measures.
- The government should do more through its Fair Funding Review to support the people of Peterborough.

This council resolves to:

- Call upon all city council group leaders to be signatories to a letter to the government raising concerns over the impact of welfare reform and the effects of government austerity on the residents of Peterborough.
- In particular to raise concerns about the increasing levels of homelessness, increased dependency on food banks, the detrimental impact on child poverty and the suffering inflicted on people living with a disability as a result of the introduction of measures such as Universal Credit, Bedroom tax and Personal Independence Payments.
- Most importantly urge the government to consider the issues outlined above in its Fair Funding Review.”

3. Motion from Councillor Martin

“This council notes:

- There is a housing crisis in our city
- Travelodge and other accommodation is costing the Council millions
- Families in temporary accommodation are suffering in many ways

This council believes:

- More needs to be done to address the housing crisis in the city
- Families need to be kept within Peterborough with longer-term accommodation so that they can live normal lives
- The financial costs are unsustainable and a better solution must be sought

The council resolves that:

- It will commit to delivering at least 100 homes per year via its joint venture company Medesham Homes
- As part of this commitment it will consider the option of using modular homes due to the speed of delivery”

4. Motion from Councillor Sandford

“Council notes that in the Transport User Hierarchy in our Local Transport Plan, we state that in all aspects of transport planning, priority shall be given to walking, cycling and public transport.

Council recognises that for various reasons people may prefer to use their cars for certain journeys but it is important that large numbers of cars do not enter the city centre at busy times, thus causing congestion and air pollution. Saturdays in the run up to Christmas are particularly busy times and roads into the city centre often become congested, thus causing delays to all road users.

Council therefore asks the Cabinet and officers to investigate the feasibility of reintroducing a Park and Ride service on Saturdays in the pre-Christmas period and to seek financial support and support in kind (for example by provision of car park sites) from local businesses to enable this to happen.”

5. Motion from Councillor Fower

“In 2015, the basic salary for a Peterborough City Councillor was £7,962 and £20,761.04 for the role of Leader.

In the last financial year, the basic pay had risen to £10,100 and £30,300 for the role of Leader. That's a 27% increase on the basic salary and a 46% pay increase for the Leader of the Council respectively.

Whilst, it is recognised that the increases were proposed by an independent panel, it does not mean that elected members cannot make alterations.

Given how hard the majority of people in Peterborough have to work to earn their pay, the state of the Council purse and cuts in services people are being asked to endure, it is surely time that elected members showed their solidarity to the situation?

Therefore, Council agrees:

- 1) to establish a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel to review a proposal to reduce the basic allowance for all City Councillors, Special Responsibility allowances and payments made to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor by 8.5%. This would save the City Council around £72,250 a year, and
- 2) to consider reducing the basic allowance for all City Councillors, Special Responsibility allowances and payments made to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor by 8.5%, having regard to the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation.

Council notes that some Councillors also receive thousands of pounds extra by attending outside organisations. This motion would not affect this income.”

6. Motion from Councillor Fower

“I would hope colleagues agree that it was with dismay and disappointment to recently discover Peterborough City Council had treated vulnerable individuals from our city like chess pieces, by sending them to Travelodges in Bedford, Luton, Hemel Hempstead, Nottingham and Doncaster, as part of their attempts to deal with homeless levels in our city.

It is the opinion of myself and others, that such actions are an embarrassment to our city, exercises an air of hypocrisy and shows incompetence from this Conservative controlled City Council, in their attempts to resolve the increasing homeless crisis in Peterborough.

According to the Council's website, Councillor Hiller is responsible for "housing including homelessness and ensuring adequate supply" and in that role, enjoys an extra £15,150 a year, on top of his basic councillor allowance.

Given Cllr Hiller would no doubt happily associate himself with any positive "housing" news associated with the City Council, he should also be held responsible for any negative coverage.

Therefore, Council recommends to the Leader of the Council that:

- 1) Cllr Peter Hiller be removed from the Office of Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning Services, Growth and Economic Development, and

2) a replacement is appointed at the earliest possible opportunity.”

7. Motion from Councillor Farooq

“Our city is suffering from a chronic shortage of housing. This is despite the government’s help to buy and other schemes helping first time buyers.

The demand for housing is outstripping supply by a mile. This market condition has pushed house prices artificially high, resulting in first time buyers being priced out of the market.

In some areas of the UK, tenants living in council houses are eligible for maximum of 40% discount when they look to buy their council house. However, nearly half of councils have passed their housing stock to housing associations or partner agencies. Although these housing associations have been successful in maintaining and letting the housing stock, these housing associations only offer a maximum discount of 9% to their tenants if they purchase. This prices these tenants out of the market and they are never able to get onto the housing ladder.

Many residents in my ward have approached me regarding this inconsistency as they are unable to purchase their rented houses with such a little discount.

I would like the housing associations and partner agencies in our city to offer the same discount as many other city councils. This will bring the following benefits:

- More first time buyers on the housing ladder
- A consistent discount for everyone
- Reward for good tenants
- No cost to tax payer

May I ask the cabinet member for housing to propose this motion to the Housing Minister, so that this can be considered in future legislation.

The residents not only in my ward but throughout Peterborough will benefit from this.”