

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
12 December 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 Farooq

“I have now had the privilege of sitting on full council meetings and observing the proceedings including questions and motions. I have seen Members passionately debating issues faced by their ward residents and the issues faced by the Peterborough city overall, backed by the professional work of our officers. May I congratulate members and the officers for providing an excellent service to the residents of Peterborough.

On occasions, I have found some of the motions coming to the council, generic, beyond the remit of the council, not achievable and at worse, not relevant to local residents, local issues, or stakeholders.

The discussions on these proposals become lengthy and lose the emphasis on the core points. These motions take valuable time away from the real issues faced by our residents.

I propose that the Constitution and Ethics Committee consider at its next available meeting the introduction of the following criteria for future motions presented to council and make a recommendation back to Council on its findings:

Relevance: Does the motion benefit the residents of specific ward and/or all the residents of Peterborough

Within the remit of the council: Can the council provide the service/product the motion asks for, or is it something for Parliament.

Cost of the proposal and source of funding: How much will it cost to deliver the proposed service/product?

The ultimate test should always be, does it benefit the majority of the residents and does it provide value for money

	Fill in details
Relevance	
Within remit of council	
Cost of the proposal and source of funding	

Such a process will have considerable advantages not least, the ability to introduce real policies and probe and discuss current policies, adding considerable value to the work of the council. Overall, making a real difference to the lives of our residents in Peterborough.”

2. Motion from Councillor Seaton

“Peterborough City Council;

- Notes that the Standards Board was a cumbersome and expensive approach to monitoring the ethics of elected councillors
- Believes that the move to local management of ethics was appropriate
- Notes the commitment of the Council Leader to improving standards and welcomes the establishment of the Constitution and Ethics Committee
- Notes the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) ongoing review of local government ethical standards

However Peterborough City Council is concerned that;

- Current sanctions such as giving an apology or attending training can only be instigated with the agreement of a member and can lead to an extended process with no acceptable final outcome.
- Current available sanctions for breaches, apart from those in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests, are not set down by statute but arise through the common law and are weak and ineffectual.

Peterborough City Council therefore resolves to;

- Ask the Constitution and Ethics Committee to review the current Code of Conduct in light of the CSPL review and present a revised Code of Conduct to Full Council for agreement.
- If Full Council accepts the recommendations of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, all members will be expected to abide by and accept the new Code of Conduct under the terms of their Declaration of Acceptance of Office which is signed when they are elected.

Constitution and Ethics Committee will continue to oversee any complaints made and ensure sanctions are abided to.”

3. Motion from Councillor Fower

“Council notes that the Christmas decorations in the city centre around Cathedral Square have remained the same for a number of years. Council believes that next year there should be a variation to what we have had for several years. Council resolves to look at changing the Christmas decorations in the City centre for next year so we have a traditional Christmas tree.”

4. Motion from Councillor Barkham

“This Council notes that:

- The United Kingdom has outlawed the farming of animals for their fur on ethical grounds since 2000 and that the use of one of the most common traps used to catch animals for their fur has been illegal for many years.
- Nonetheless fur products are imported from overseas nations.
- Real fur comes from animals raised in deplorable conditions or trapped in the wild and killed inhumanely.
- Regrettably these products are often found for sale on public markets in the UK and customers can inadvertently buy them thinking them to be made of imitation fur.

Accordingly Council resolves to:

- Prohibit the sale of any product wholly or partially made with real animal fur on Council owned land and at Council run or Council leased markets. This ban to cover such items as fur coats, vintage fur, fur shawls, garments with fur trim, fur pompom hats, and fur accessories and trinkets.
- Support the Fur Free Markets campaign of the animal welfare charity, Respect for Animals, the UK's leading anti-fur organisation, by:
 1. Becoming a signatory to the initiative (further information can be found on the 'respect for animals' website here - <http://www.respectforanimals.org/fur-free-markets/>).
 2. Seeking the advice and assistance of the charity in the enforcement of this ban."

5. Motion from Councillor Hogg

"Tenter Hill Meadows was gifted to the people of Stanground for their use and enjoyment, as recreational land. Previously designated as common land it subsequently passed to Peterborough City Council with the changes to Land Registry.

Today this land is heavily used all year round by residents of all ages. In particular young people from across both the Fletton and Stanground ward and Stanground South wards who attend the popular local Scout group whose Scout hut adjoins this land. Fletton and Stanground ward, in which this land is located, is currently 5.7 hectares in deficit for neighbourhood parks and open spaces. Although currently identified in the current local plan as suitable for development, this has been withdrawn from the emerging Local Plan which has been approved by full council is currently with central government for approval.

Residents feel that this land should be regarded as a local community asset, which the Council should look after for continued use by local residents and the wider Peterborough community and not as a financial asset available to be sold off for a one-off single gain.

This council resolves to:

Use its co-ownership of Medesham Homes to ensure that tens of thousands of pounds of local taxpayers money isn't wasted in appealing the refusal for planning permission for the Tenter Hill Meadow development.

Council further resolves to:

Protect the area known as Tenter Hill Meadow from future development to ensure the continued use and enjoyment of this area as a much loved open space by the residents of Stanground and the wider Peterborough community."

6. Motion from Councillor Seaton

"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.

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 shift to a zero-carbon economy presents significant opportunities and challenges for Peterborough in meeting its environmental aspirations.

Peterborough City Council notes: - it has introduced an ethical procurement policy - it does not hold any direct or indirect investments in fossil fuel producers - it has proposed and implemented significant energy infrastructure, with an Energy from Waste plant, solar on all council buildings and many schools and has offered free solar power to residents - it has worked to reduce fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency with schemes such as Heatborough and LEAP (which offers a free of charge in-home advice visit that may include installing free simple energy saving measures and finding funding for further energy saving home improvements).

Peterborough City Council also supports the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund, which already has an ethical investment policy, agreed by cross party and employee / union representatives, in using its good offices to persuade companies involved in the production of fossil fuels to seek alternative approaches.

However the Council undertakes to; - work further with councillors, businesses and community groups to support positive investment in local companies and projects, including community energy schemes, which are hastening a rapid shift to a zero-carbon economy - to undertake such work in the context of a city-wide energy descent plan and energy security policy which will be developed with councillors, businesses and community groups including Peterborough in Transition. - write to the national U.K. government to support the principle of eliminating fossil fuel use, to seek alternative approaches, 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.”