

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
16 OCTOBER 2019	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 Irene Walsh

"Peterborough City Council is rightly proud of its efforts to tackle discrimination and hatred in all its forms.

Peterborough City Council expresses concern about the rise in antisemitism in recent years across the UK. As well as physical manifestations through violence and criminal damage, it has also been seen in the use of antisemitic language and characteristics which criticise Israel. It may be legitimate to criticise the policies and practices of Israel, but not if this involves using language and imagery that is antisemitic.

Peterborough City Council therefore resolves to join with the Government, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Police and Judiciary, as well as other Local Authorities, in signing up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, which states that:

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community institutions and religious facilities."

The IHRA highlight contemporary examples of antisemitism as including (but not limited to):

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extreme view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonizing or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective – such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other social institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens as being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavour.

- Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the state of Israel.

This council resolves to:

- 1) Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism and hate in all its manifestations
- 2) Oppose racism and hate against all communities, in keeping with our commitment to eradicate all acts of hatred on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sex or sexual orientation
- 3) Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of anti-Jewish racism.”

2. Motion from Councillor Murphy

“This council notes:

- Local government has endured central Government funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010.
- Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central Government.
- The 2019 Local Government Association (LGA) survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23.
- The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
- Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
- At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010, a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.

This council believes:

- Our workers are public service heroes. They keep our communities clean, care for those in need, and keep our towns and cities running. Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the Council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund

increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

- Support the pay claim submitted by Unite, GMB and UNISON on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 per hour minimum wage and a 10% uplift across all other pay points' in 2020/21.
- Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central Government to fund the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central Government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Communicate with all local government workers encouraging them to join a trade union."

3. Motion from Councillor Sandford

"Council notes:

1. The decision of the UK Government to implement the result of the 2016 referendum on whether to remain in the European Union or not, with a majority of those who voted being in favour of leaving.
2. The decision of the current Prime Minister to leave the European Union on 31st October 2019 regardless of whether a deal has been agreed.
3. The Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts, based on International Monetary Fund estimates, that GDP growth will be 1.6% lower with no-deal than with a deal, and government borrowing would be £30bn higher next year, with this analysis representing "not necessarily the most likely outcome" but also "by no means the worst case scenario".
4. There are many companies in Peterborough who rely heavily on trade with other EU countries and/or on the labour of people who have come to the UK from other EU countries.
5. By current automatic operation of law, under the European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 2) Act 2019, if a deal has not been reached with the European Union the Prime Minister must request a further extension of Article 50 until January 31st 2020.

Council believes:

1. The Office for Budget Responsibility analysis shows that a no-deal Brexit would be worse for the UK economy than any other scenario, including leaving with a deal or remaining in the European Union.
2. Many companies and citizens in Peterborough could be particularly badly hit by the impacts of a no deal scenario.
3. The Prime Minister must comply with the law, including the European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 2) Act 2019.

Council therefore resolves:

That the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive should write to the Prime Minister and the two MPs representing the Peterborough City Council area to request that they do not allow the UK to leave the European Union without a deal, and to request that the Prime Minister complies with the requirements of the European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 2) Act 2019.”

4. Motion from Councillor Sandford

“This council notes:

1. Its previous decision at the Full Council meeting on 24 July 2019 to declare a climate emergency and as a response make all Council activities and the Peterborough City Council area net zero carbon by 2030.
2. Transport is one of the main sources of carbon emissions and hence has to be one of the main areas of focus for delivering measures to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.
3. The consultation draft of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan issued during the summer makes no reference to climate emergency or any measures needed to deal with it.
4. For Peterborough most of the major capital schemes proposed in the Local Transport Plan are road widening or dualling schemes, which will do little or nothing to achieve reductions in carbon emissions and, through encouraging additional road traffic, could actually cause emission to increase.

Council asks the Leader of the Council as, our representative on the Combined Authority Board:

1. To use his best efforts to secure significant amendments to the draft Local Transport Plan to ensure that Peterborough sees substantial additional investment in public transport, walking and cycling to encourage a modal shift away from car travel and hence reduced carbon emissions.
2. If no such significant amendments are achieved to consider exercising Peterborough City Council's right of veto to prevent the Local Transport Plan being adopted by the Combined Authority until the necessary changes are made.”

5. Motion from Councillor Qayyum

“It is very well documented by environmentalists and research that within the United Kingdom 2 of 26 species of bee have become extinct since the 1940's. This is in part due to the lack of adequate nutrients in plantation, urbanisation, and environmental pollution, causing detriment to our wildlife and natural environment.

Peterborough has long wanted to pride itself on becoming an environmental capital. Many of the plants used by the Council in bedding areas produce very little pollen and as a result bee population is declining.

This council notes:

Many of the grassy areas managed by the Council alongside bedding are seen to cultivate flowers and plants that are not productive of Pollen and Nectar

Small areas such as Queensgate grass area and a small number of roundabouts have a wildflower display that is both pleasing to the eye and is environmentally beneficial.

The existing flower beds managed by the council, although pleasing cosmetically, bear species of flower that are unsuitable for the propagation of bees.

The council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment:

- Considers extending the current wildflower plantation to include all Council maintained flower beds and baskets to be replaced with wildflower varieties that are bee-friendly.
- If successful, considers future projects to include boards to be placed alongside grassy areas and bedding in public areas, areas of interest and tourism, to educate Schools and visitors and the public on the species planted and their significance to the environment.
- Engages with the Council's working groups and community based groups to assist with the provision of seeds/Beebombs (charitable donations from a major retailer are already in place).
- Works with local volunteer groups and wildlife groups to carry out surveys in order to identify land that is suitable for cultivation of wildflowers in the city.
- Develops a wider set of measures to incorporate future budgets in the Council to thus provide a more holistic approach."

6. Motion from Councillor Christian Hogg

"Council notes:

Medesham Homes applied for planning permission to build 20 homes on Tenter Hill Meadows. Residents in Stanground and across the wider area of Peterborough came together to fight this development. The application was called in by local ward councillors and the Planning Committee came to the conclusion to reject the planning application.

Medesham Homes then sought to appeal this decision with the Planning Inspectorate. Residents put together a petition of over 3,500 signatures to get the Council to use their co-ownership of Medesham Homes to withdraw this appeal. This showed the depth and breadth of feeling that Tenter Hill should be protected and continued to be enjoyed by the people of Peterborough. This land had previously been common land for the enjoyment of the people of Stanground, but was transferred into the ownership of Peterborough City Council due to changes in the Land Registry.

The planning inspectorate has now delivered their decision in this regard and has rejected the appeal. This land had been in the Local Plan for possible development but now the new Local Plan has been adopted this is no longer the case. So there is now even less likelihood of an alternative development being allowed going forward.

The people of Stanground, however, need firm assurance from Peterborough City Council that Tenter Hill Meadows is now safe from the threat of development.

This council, therefore, resolves to:

Consider all suitable mechanisms, such as designation as a town/village green or as an area of local green space, which would protect this land from development in order to ensure that the residents of Peterborough are able to enjoy the open space provided by the land for all generations to come."

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