

<b>COUNCIL</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
<b>29 JULY 2020</b>	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 Joseph**

"In June 2019, MPs debated the findings of a six-month review of the measure put in place to deal with sexual harassment in politics.

An alarming 81.1% of respondents to a 2016 interparliamentary union survey of female parliamentarians reported facing psychological violence. 65.5% said they had been subjected to humiliating sexual remarks and 20% reported having been sexually harassed

The norms, rules and practices Parliament is built upon are founded on 'assumptions of masculinity'. The assumed norm is a white, cisgender man and the greater an individual's deviation from this norm, the more excluded they find themselves from the culture of Parliament.

And at local level, the picture is not much different. In the 2018 national census of local authority councillors only 35.7% were female. Having spoken to many women in Peterborough and asked them why they don't want to put themselves forward to become councillors and they have cited bullying, aggressive behaviour and rudeness as some of the main reasons.

Many have said that since the advent of live streaming, the behaviour in the chamber has become worse.

Council recognises that:

- Women are the biggest consumers of council services, the majority of its staff are women, yet the majority of councillors and council leaders are male.
- Equal opportunity is not a 'one size fits all' approach. It is about recognising that different people have different requirements to enable them to achieve the same goal.
- It has a duty to consider all individuals when carrying out its day to day work, including shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to its employees.
- Improved provision for parental leave will contribute towards increasing the diversity of age experience and background of councillors. In addition to assisting with retention of experienced councillors and make public office more accessible to those who might otherwise feel excluded
- Action must be taken to improve the number of female councillors, by not only making it easier for them to become councillors but by creating a culture where they wish to stay

**The council therefore to resolves to:**

- **Pay particular attention to all aspects of equality and diversity as each policy comes up for review.**
- **Adopt the LGA's policy for Parental leave, to assist and encourage younger people to come forward as councillors.**
- **To ensure councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate**
- **Ensure better behaviour in the Chamber to create an atmosphere to mutual respect by:**
  - **Reminding members of their responsibilities at the start of each meeting**

- **Stepping in quickly if members fail to behave correctly**
- **Apply fairness in their decisions and in the overseeing of meetings.**
- **To phase out the use of gender defining titles**

Only by recognising and working towards putting in place the necessary policies and creating a respectful and positive atmosphere can we truly become an all-inclusive body which in turn can communicate, encourage and promote across our City.”

## **2. Motion from Councillor Jones**

“Council notes the prevalence of COVID-19 related scams and resolves to continue to work with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership and other community associations to tackle this important issue.”

## **3. Motion from Councillor Coles**

“During the COVID-19 pandemic we have celebrated the fantastic work done by the NHS, by carers, by the police and by the extraordinary number of volunteers who have responded magnificently to the crisis.

However, some members of our community have, like me, suffered the pain of bereavement because a loved one has died from the virus.

There have been many cases where family and friends were not able to say good bye to their loved ones. There have been many funerals where only small numbers of the family could be present, and many occasions where the lives of our family members have not been celebrated or remembered.

This sense of lives lost and unremembered is not new to our society, as we have remembered lives lost on a foreign field though establishing War Memorials, and many examples of local memorials set up after loss of life during disasters.

**This Council resolves to run a consultation, in support of the many bereaved families of our city, to establish what might be the best way of remembering all of our loved ones and to set up a body representing the bereaved and public authorities to make recommendations as to the most fitting way to mark the loss of so many to COVID-19.”**

## **4. Motion from Councillor Burbage**

“At the moment all e-scooters are not legal on our roads and there appear to be barriers for the police to take enforcement action as identification of an owner is difficult while both they and the vehicle are unlicensed.

The government has been consulting on urgent legislation to allow trials of rental e-scooters to commence more rapidly and in more areas than initially planned, as part of its green restart of local transport in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To support this and to help mitigate reduced public transport capacity e-scooter trials are being brought forward.

The Department of Transport is currently looking to find Local Authorities who are willing to trial rentable e-scooters. The intention is to licence particular brands, restrict top speeds and to require riders to have a driving licence and insurance and ride them on roads and cycle lanes only. Training, and the wearing of helmets will be encouraged but not made mandatory. Privately owned e-scooters will remain illegal during the trials.

Local areas will be able to host trials of rental e-scooters if they wish to do so and local agreement reached on what controls should be in place during such a trial. For example, this could include controls over the number of vehicles permitted in a given area, requirements to park in designated spaces only, arrangements for access to certain geo-locational and wider trip data, service level agreements and

vehicle hygiene arrangements. Agreements will be contracted between local areas and e-scooter rental companies allowing for these controls to be put in place.

This Council believes it would be good to look at introducing such vehicles to reduce one's carbon footprint and to avoid a risk of COVID-19 transmission on public transport. We're a modern, connected and growing city and we want to support ideas like this that bring greater mobility to our residents. However it is also sensible to take a prudent approach to any new form of transport that has yet to be tested on a large scale in the UK.

**Council therefore resolves to refer this issue to the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee for further consideration by a Task and Finish group who will make a recommendation to Cabinet."**

## **5. Motion from Councillor Hiller**

"Coronavirus and its wake has decimated social norms and forced us all into new realities we couldn't have fathomed just a few months ago. Its effects have been the most significant to our ways of living and working in peacetime and continue to be felt throughout the world.

This motion is to propose that the Council formally recognises our city's unsung heroes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by introducing a special Citizen's Award for their contribution to the response to the coronavirus crisis, to ensure that the efforts made by so many individuals in the battle against the coronavirus can be recognised and celebrated.

This contribution could, but not exclusively, include:

- Frontline work supporting the most vulnerable members of society and those who have caught COVID-19
- Providing critical care to COVID-19 patients
- Developing innovations to support the vulnerable and those with COVID-19
- Going to extraordinary lengths to keep critical services going
- Volunteering in the community or for service organisations in support of those affected by COVID-19

The council has had an independent cross-party Honours Panel for many years, whose members are experienced and non-partisan in the process of reviewing and selecting nominations for a variety of honours submitted by both members of this council and the general public. Members will be aware these considered selections are then proposed to full council for ratification so it is proposed this process is largely adopted for the COVID-19 Peterborough Citizen's Awards.

**The Council resolves to establish a new COVID-19 Peterborough Citizen's Award scheme in order to recognise and honour the amazing contribution and sacrifices made by some of the citizens of our city during this pandemic, which has affected so many lives."**

## **6. Motion from Councillor Ali**

"This Council notes how important heritage, museum, library, leisure, sports and arts facilities and services are for the city council and its residents.

Council believes that we need a long-term plan to secure such services and with the current situation in relation to Vivacity the council should explore direct provision and the establishment of a co-operative to deliver these services.

Council instructs that work to directly deliver, re-open such services, set up summer schemes and explore establishing a co-operative is progressed as a matter of urgency."

## **7. Motion from Councillor Murphy**

“Council notes the regulations and guidance on meetings and governance during the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting new ways of working, including different methods of decision making and a change in the duties and activities of elected members. Formal meetings of some committees have not occurred such as the Constitution and Ethics Committee, ordinary Scrutiny Committees and Full Council. This has affected all councillor activities and in particular those councillors with special responsibilities such as the Chairs of committees and the Mayor. In the case of the Mayor there has also not been the usual visits and similar activities nor council meetings to convene.

Council requests that all Special Responsibility allowances should be reviewed by the council's Independent Remuneration Panel as soon as possible and a report made back to Full Council for decision. Consideration should be given to achieving a reduction of at least 50% for this financial year, subject to further review as and when normal council meeting activities are resumed. The savings should be used for the benefit of local residents or special activities for residents to promote well-being.”

## **8. Motion from Councillor Sandford**

“Council supports Natural Cambridgeshire's aim of doubling the area of land managed for nature across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by 2050 and in particular supports the John Clare Countryside project, which aims to create, launch and deliver an ambitious and accessible nature recovery area across the landscape areas to the west of Peterborough. Further information can be found in **Appendix 1** to the motions report.”

## **9. Motion from Councillor Sandford**

“Council:

1. Congratulates City Council staff, NHS and social care staff and all volunteers who have worked so hard in managing the COVID-19 crisis in Peterborough.
2. Believes that decisions on management of any future outbreaks of COVID-19 and any local lockdowns or other measures to deal with such outbreaks are best made locally here in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
3. Asks the Director of Public Health to write to Peterborough's members of Parliament urging them to press the Government to delegate the necessary powers to Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils to enable any such decisions to be made locally in future.”

## **10. Motion from Councillor Day**

“Access to high quality, affordable, nutritious food should be a right of all Peterborough residents, but is not currently the case. For example,

- Peterborough is one of the 20% most deprived districts/unitary authorities in England and about 19% (8,500) of children live in low-income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average (source: Public Health England).
- In Peterborough, in Year 6, 22.6% (524) of children are classified as obese, worse than the average for England (source: Public Health England).

A ‘Food Strategy’ is a document that identifies actions to help enhance our current food system and prepare for the future. Key elements include environmental sustainability, healthy eating, economic and community growth and social justice. More specific topics within the Food Strategy may include growing, rearing or foraging for food, processing food, preparing food for consumption for households and the food service industry, eating food and composting the remains.

By creating a collaborative Food Strategy, as 51 other councils have done, Peterborough will become a city with a vibrant food culture, renowned for high quality, sustainable food and offering a rich variety of local produce accessible to everyone. Peterborough will become a city where a wide range of local

food businesses achieve high standards of sustainability, generate employment and contribute to economic prosperity.

The Council resolves to:

- Create a Food Strategy to address the causes of food inequality in Peterborough for implementation during the 2021/2022 municipal year. In order for this to happen, the council will:
  - Identify 'food champions' within the council to lead the project
  - Identify a lead partnership organisation and apply for funding to develop the strategy, action plans and projects
  - Create a network of food partnership organisations and consult residents to contribute to the creation of a 'Food Action Plan'
  - Prioritise those with least access to healthy food.
- The Council will endeavour to encourage the production of food locally and support the sale of such produce.”

### **11. Motion from Councillor Hogg**

“Council notes:

- There are a number of recycling banks across the city, these banks are supplied and operated by a number of different charities and companies
- They are well used by residents and become full fairly often. This can lead to donations being left around the outside of the bank, with the potential for this to be spread around the area in high winds. Technically this practice is considered flytipping and should be discouraged.
- Currently if a member of public report full banks via FixMyStreet or the council's own website they are told that the council doesn't operate these banks and for the resident to contact the owner of the bank to get it emptied.

Council resolves to:

- Identify all the banks across the city, to create a register so that when the council has a full bin reported to it, the council will email the operator of the bank to get the bank emptied.
- Require, where possible but certainly encourage, the operators of recycling banks to place contact details for reporting full banks to, by phone and/or email.
- Require, where possible but certainly encourage, the operators of recycling banks to place warnings that putting donations around the bank is flytipping and they might be issued with a fine, if caught.”

### **12. Motion from Councillor Wiggin**

“Council notes:

- The Black Lives Matter Movement was set up in 2013 after the death of Trayvon Martin and subsequent acquittal of his killer. Their aim is to end State-sanctioned violence, liberate Black people, and end white supremacy forever.
- Global protests have increased following the killing of George Floyd in June 2020, for which a Minneapolis police officer has been charged with second-degree murder and three other police officers have been charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder.
- Peaceful protests in support of Black Lives Matter have been held in Peterborough and throughout the UK, including at sporting events
- BAME people are 54% more likely than white people to be fined under the new coronavirus lockdown laws in the UK
- Around two thirds of healthcare staff who have died as a result of COVID-19 are from a BAME background whereas they make up 20% of the overall workforce.

Council believes:

- Racism in all forms, both structural and in individuals, continues to be a serious and often unseen problem in the UK.
- Although progress has been made in combating racism, work to eradicate it entirely is far from complete.
- This Council, representing people in Peterborough, has a duty as a public leader to actively lead that work.

Council resolves:

- To reaffirm the Council's support for the annual events in Peterborough celebrating Black History month
- That the relevant scrutiny committee convenes a Task and Finish group to review BAME issues to:
  - o Review and examine the City Council structure to ensure ethnic minorities are not disadvantaged. Understand specifically how many BAME we employ, where are they working, what barriers, if any exist to their career progression and whether a "name blind" recruitment process would aid in the recruitment of more BAME staff. Review the evidence, provide recommendations to Council and devise a set of KPIs and a challenging outturn for us to achieve this.
  - o BAME access to housing and to homelessness and welfare support are important parts of the council remit. Group to review and recommend concrete actions on how we adopt an actively anti-racist outlook within areas where we have influence. by reviewing our corporate policies so that anti-racism is explicit and not implied; by routinely calling for transparent reporting and continuous monitoring of the impact on the BAME community: and if any other meaningful statistics that can be monitored regularly can be produced.
  - o Review council Equality policies and recommend if any amendments are required
  - o Review progress on recommendations produced by this group.
    - To conduct an audit of street names and any public monuments or other buildings this Council is responsible for which name individuals or organisations, to review any that have racist links. Upon completion, the relevant scrutiny committee to convene a task and finish group to review this list and produce a set of recommendations back to Council on any actions that should be taken.
    - Ensure Peterborough schools include BAME history and culture in lessons, including providing further historical context for events normally only seen through the lens of white British history.
    - Ask the Combined Authority to produce a toolkit for businesses to help broaden their understanding of race inequality in the workplace, including but not limited to materials, signposts to relevant local groups and training that can be provided for staff, and links to relevant networks.
    - Write to our MPs to ask that, rather than spending money on another race inequality review, that the Government implements recommendations of previous reviews - for example the Lammy and Windrush recommendations."

### **13. Motion from Councillor Wiggin**

"Council notes:

- No fault evictions, introduced under Section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act, allow landlords to evict tenants, without having to give a reason, once the term of the tenancy has expired;
- 80% of England's 11 million renters are on tenancies with fixed terms of six months or a year; after this period has ended, landlords can evict their tenants under Section 21 without cause;
- Research published by The Observer campaign group Generation Rent indicates that Section 21 evictions are now the single biggest cause of homelessness in England; and that
- In 2017, the Scottish Government made tenancies indefinite and banned no-fault evictions under the terms of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.

Council believes:

- Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions would help to make renting more secure and

- communities more stable, improve standards and increase tenant confidence;
- Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions would further help to tackle homelessness, which should be a priority for government at all levels; and,
- Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions should happen as soon as practicably possible.
- Welcomes the UK Government announcement in April of plans to consult on new legislation to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions in England; and

Council resolves:

- to work with the Unfair Evictions Campaign led by Generation Rent, the New Economics Foundation and renters' unions, to bring about the swift abolition of Section 21 no-fault evictions.
- to write to our MPs to ask that the Government introduce legislative changes to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions as soon as possible”

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