

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2020 6PM
VIRTUAL MEETING: PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S YOUTUBE PAGE
THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR GUL NAWAZ**

Present: Councillors Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Fower, Goodwin, Harper, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Holdich, Howard, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lamb, Lane, Lillis, Murphy, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Sandford, Seaton, Shaheed, Simons, Skibsted, Walsh, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin and Yurgutene.

A one minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for Councillor Louise Coles, who served on Peterborough City Council representing Fletton and Woodston ward and sadly passed away in April, she would be greatly missed.

Members also acknowledged the efforts of all key workers in the city who had helped to protect the local economy.

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barkham and Haynes.

5. Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 12 - Motion 8

Declarations of interest were received regarding Motion 8 from Councillor Walsh who declared membership on board of Natural Cambridgeshire. Councillor Sandford declared that he was a member of the Peterborough Environment City Trust who were participating in the John Clare Countryside Project.

Agenda Item 12 - Motion 13

Declarations of interest were received regarding Motion 13 on unfair evictions from the following Members who declared being landlords within Peterborough:

Councillor Walsh
Councillor Holdich
Councillor Shaz Nawaz
Councillor Nadeem
Councillor Cereste
Councillor Cole
Councillor Ali
Councillor Over
CouncillorJamil
Councillor Hogg
Councillor Allen

Councillor Amjad Iqbal
Councillor Farooq
Councillor Gul Nawaz
Councillor Azhar Iqbal

6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 March 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the replacement of, "Group Leaders were invited to join the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Resources Acting Corporate Director and the meeting was adjourned," with, "Group Leaders were invited to join the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Resources Acting Corporate Director and the meeting was adjourned by the Mayor."

COMMUNICATIONS

7. Mayor's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Mayor.

8. Leader's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Leader.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

9. Questions with Notice by Members of the Public

Questions from members of the public were raised in respect of the following:

1. Bretton Water Park
2. Safety measures including a speed camera for Mayors Walk
3. Consideration and consultation with local sports clubs and community groups to re-open sport and leisure services
4. Personal voluntary contribution request to Members to re-open the Lido
5. Pop up cycleway on Crescent Bridge
6. Anti-social behaviour in Lincoln Road

The questions and responses are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes.

10. Petitions

(a) Presented by Members of the Public

There were no petitions presented by the public.

(b) Presented by Members

A petition was presented by Councillor Ali containing a number of pages from business and residents of Millfield requesting the Council to take urgent action against anti-social behaviour and rising crime.

A petition was presented by Councillor Seaton containing a 1,117 people requesting the Council take action regarding the renaming of streets in Peterborough. Members expressed concern that the petition may not be permissible due to a lack of address details.

Two petitions were presented by Councillor Fitzgerald, one of which he stated had previously been sent to Democratic Services, one regarding the Council's initial proposals on Cowgate and the surrounding area to implement changes to cycleways and another for the Broadway area.

A petition had been submitted to the Council electronically in advance of being presented at this meeting by Councillor Murphy from residents in Mayors Walk, Central Ward and Ravensthorpe concerning speed and accidents in the aforementioned area, and requested that the lead petitioner be allowed to take the petition to Cabinet or the Scrutiny Committee in view of the initiatives to encourage cycling.

Members were advised that petitions should be forwarded electronically to the Democratic Services Officer and would be validated after the meeting.

11. Questions on Notice

- (a) To the Mayor**
- (b) To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet**
- (c) To the Chair of any Committee of Sub-Committee**
- (d) To the Combined Authority Representatives**

Questions (b) to the Leader or Member of the Cabinet were raised and taken as read in respect of the following:

1. Commercial expansion of waste collection across Peterborough
2. Covid 19 workplace testing for large employers
3. Reopening of leisure facilities
4. Mass testing people of Peterborough
5. Local Electricity Bill - Act of Parliament to establish a Right to Local Supply
6. The re-opening of libraries
7. Vivacity gym subscriptions
8. The University of Peterborough awarding independent degrees
9. BAME personnel at director level
10. Non receipt of reports through Fix My Street to Aragon Direct Services
11. Free Brown Bin Collections
12. Review of anti-discriminatory practices and discrimination within the council
13. The introduction of free bulky waste collections
14. Update of the commitment to reduce emissions to zero by 2030
15. Review Library, Arts, Cultural and Leisure Services
16. The reputation of Peterborough
17. Sustainable travel recovery following the Covid crisis
18. Peterborough as the nation's digital city
19. Housing and the Combined Authority

20. Adopted Roads in the Manor Drive development - WARD SPECIFIC - answered in writing
21. Werrington Sports Centre and Swimming Pool - WARD SPECIFIC - answered in writing
22. Assessing the success of the biodiversity scheme in John Clare Rec - WARD SPECIFIC - answered in writing

Questions (d) to the Combined Authority Representatives were raised and taken as read in respect of the following:

1. Letter to Mayor Palmer from Ministry Housing, Communities and Local Government (*regarding Governance & Transparency*)

The questions and responses are attached in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

12. Executive and Committee Recommendations to Council

(a) Cabinet Recommendation - Budget Setting Process

The Council received a report on adopting a revised budget process for 2021/22.

The purpose of this report was to update the Budget Policy Framework Procedure Rules as set out in the Councils Constitution, Part 4, Section 6, by adopting a permanent change to the Budget Policy Framework. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) approved by Council in March had indicated a budget deficit of £14.2million in 2021/22, which together with the additional financial challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic - the loss of income streams, additional pressures from service users and difficulty with delivering the planned savings - necessitated changes to the budget setting process. The revised process would enable budget proposals to be implemented throughout the financial period to the benefit of the Councils financial position.

Councillor Seaton introduced the report and moved the recommendations. He advised that he had intended to present initial budget proposals for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy however the pandemic had caused great uncertainty and priorities had changed. The recommendation proposed two phases, one for consultation in the Autumn and another in the Spring of 2021. As the 2021 process had been approved by Full Council, this report regularised the position for the coming year.

Councillor Holdich seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Council debated the motion and expressed confusion over how this was a departure from the normal process.

In his summing up, Councillor Seaton explained that previously the budget had often been conducted over two phases, however that was not in the Policy Procedure Framework Rules. Changes of the phasing was contained within the Constitution and therefore needed to be signed off by Full Council.

A vote was taken (unanimous) on the recommendation and it was **AGREED** that the Council would approve the updated Budget Policy Framework outlined in Appendix A to the report.

12. Questions on the Executive Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting

Councillor Holdich introduced the report which detailed Executive Decisions taken since the last meeting including decisions from the Cabinet meeting held on 11 May 2020.

He referred to the decision made on 20 May 2020 regarding the Implementation of the City Space Public Protection Order and advised it should refer to Councillor Walsh and not Councillor Fitzgerald as stated in the agenda.

Questions were asked regarding the following:

Special urgency and waiver of call-in provisions

Councillor Murphy asked if some urgent decisions could have been taken more timely with a little more planning, avoiding the use of waiver and special procedures.

Councillor Holdich replied that this criticism was unfair at the moment as some officers were not doing their original roles, causing some timings to slip.

Councillor Sandford asked why the dimming of streetlights was considered urgent.

Councillor Hiller replied it had been to allow the council to enjoy the savings generated as soon as possible.

Councillor Sandford felt that that the saving of 5 days energy achieved from dimming the street lighting was not sufficient grounds to bypass the council's scrutiny process and asked Full Council to check that the Cabinet was behaving in a reasonable way in exercising the urgency powers.

Award of contract for the refurbishment of Town Hall North

Councillor Murphy asked if Council should reconsider the decision to authorise the main refurbishment works of the Town Hall North to facilitate the letting of the space to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) as in light of the current trend to work from home, the CPFT may no longer require a large office space.

Councillor Hiller replied that the decision had been approved to allow the completion of the refurbishment of the Town Hall to allow the letting to proceed to CPFT which would generate income and avoid leaving the building in an unfinished state. This would lead to ongoing associated costs and security issues, call the Council's reputation into question and could have legal consequences. The lease had already been signed with the CPFT and the decision had not been called in.

Lease renewal at St. Michael's Gate, Parnwell, Peterborough

Councillor Murphy asked if the Council was pleased it had listened to the Call-In request and reversed the decision of the Cabinet Member. *(To lease rather than to purchase the building)*

Councillor Allen replied that the freehold potential had been considered, however after consideration, the decision was taken to lease the premises although the council may re-consider purchasing the property at a future date.

Councillor Hiller advised that had the council purchased this property, the value of the investment may have reduced because of the Covid pandemic. This type of proposition was constantly changing, and as homeless presentations were reducing, it was unclear if there would be a long term need for this type of property and leasing at the time seemed the better option.

Disposal of Plots 7 & 8 Fletton Quays (Whitworth Mill)

Councillor Wiggin asked for confirmation that the plans to build the boutique hotel had failed to materialise and if the plots would be resold. He sought assurance that any plans would include provision for arts and culture facilities as included in the previous plans.

Councillor Hiller replied that the recommendation would enable the council to develop the site without further claims on the public purse and would contribute towards the regeneration of Fletton Quays. The original purchases had withdrawn due to the Covid crisis however another company had expressed interest in the site and negotiations were proceeding at an acceptable figure.

Urgent decision required to approve streetlight dimming

Councillor Hogg asked if the decision to dim streetlights was associated with the number of streetlights which were permanently on for an extended period.

Councillor Hiller replied that this was not the case.

The Mayor announced a short break in the meeting for 15 minutes and the meeting recommenced at 20:15pm.

15. Questions on the Combined Authority Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting

The Mayor announced that, as part of the Virtual Meetings Protocol, any questions in relation to this agenda item would not be taken verbally as all questions and answers would be provided in advance and included in the agenda pack.

COUNCIL BUSINESS TIME

16. Notices of Motion

The following motions had been received in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

Councillor Sandford moved a motion without notice under Standing Order 20 regarding the motion proposed by Councillor Wiggin, Motion 12 on the Black Lives Matter Movement to re-order agenda and move this motion to be moved as the next item.

A vote was taken to allow the motion on the Black Lives Matter Movement to be debated as the first motion (24 voted in favour, 32 voted against, 1 abstained from voting).

The motion was **DEFEATED**.

1. Motion from Councillor Joseph

Councillor Joseph moved the altered motion on gender equality and advised the motion was based on the findings of a recent Parliamentary report. She advised that the council had a duty to ensure there was a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for those who

were elected and employed. Only 4% of local authorities in 2017 had a parental leave policy in place for councillors. She would like a Task and Finish Group to look at the feasibility of childcare and other ways to reduce barriers which prevented women being involved with the council.

Councillor Qayyum seconded the motion and reserved their right to speak.

Council debated the altered motion and the summary of points raised by Members included:

- It was important women should feel safe and supported in their role as a councillor.
- Members expressed concern that changes needed to be made locally.
- The Chamber should be a place where all can express their views freely with decency and respect given to all members.
- Consideration needed to be given to any additional costs which may be incurred by the outcome of the motion as the council emerged from the financial impact of the pandemic.
- The council needed to reflect the community it served.

Councillor Qayyum exercised their right to speak and endorsed her support to the motion.

Councillor Joseph summed up and responded to comments and agreed that consideration was required on the financial impact.

A vote was taken (unanimous) on the (altered) motion relating to equality and diversity and the motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

“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 recognised that:

- Women were the biggest consumers of council services, the majority of its staff were women, yet the majority of councillors and council leaders are male.
- Equal opportunity was 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 had 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 resolved to request that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee set up a Task and Finish Group to review:

- ~~Pay particular attention to all aspects of~~ **How the council can promote equality and diversity as each policy comes up for review for all councillors including consideration of phasing to phase out the use of gender defining titles.**
- ~~Adopt the LGA's policy for~~ **The adoption of a Parental Leave policy for councillors,** to assist and encourage younger people to come forward as councillors.
- ~~To~~ **How the council can ensure councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate**
- **How political groups, Group Leaders and the Mayor/Chair can help ensure better behaviour in the Council Chamber to create an atmosphere of mutual respect – for example by:**
 - **Giving a reminder to all reminding members of their responsibilities at the start of each meeting.**
 - **Stepping in quickly Quick intervention if members fail to behave correctly.**
 - ~~Apply fairness in their decisions and~~ **Ensuring a fair approach is applied to all councillors in the overseeing of meetings.**

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee would report any recommendations it agreed from the Task and Finish Group back to Full Council for decision.

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

2. Motion from Councillor Jones

Councillor Jones elected not to move his motion on in relation COVID-19 related scams.

3. Motion from Councillor Coles

Councillor Coles moved the motion concerning bereaved families as amended by Councillor Hemraj, and asked that the loss of loved ones during the pandemic was

acknowledged and that consideration be given to a suitable memorial for those who had died, their families and those who had cared for them.

Councillor Hemraj, a healthcare worker within the NHS, seconded the motion and added her support to holding a memorial event for all lives lost in Peterborough throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and also to acknowledge the key workers who had worked extremely hard during this stressful period.

A vote was taken (unanimous) on the (altered) motion concerning bereaved families and the motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

“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 through establishing War Memorials, and many examples of local memorials set up after loss of life during disasters.

The Council resolved to run a consultation to establish what might be the best way of remembering all of our loved ones and to set up a body representing the bereaved families and public authorities to make recommendations as to the most fitting way to mark the loss of so many to COVID-19 during the pandemic and to recognise the sacrifices and efforts of health service, care workers and volunteers. The consultation was to consider, among other proposals:

- a. **setting up a memorial event as soon as practical, where residents from all faiths, beliefs or none can participate;**
- b. **Consider establishing an annual memorial to all those lost during the pandemic;**
- c. **To explore opportunities to set up a permanent memorial structure.”**

4. Motion from Councillor Burbage

Councillor Burbage moved the amended motion on the use of e-scooters and advised that the motion was not against their use, but to consider how they could be used responsibly. They be a viable alternative to the use of cars within the city however controls and licensing needed to be put in place.

Councillor Coles seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak

Council debated the motion and the summary of points raised by Members included:

- Members expressed reservations with the use of e-scooters and associated safety issues. There had been an increased number visible on the streets and

trial scooters may give the impression that people could use their own rather than only those on hire.

- It was unfortunate this matter could not be discussed at an earlier date.
- This council could wait and see the results of trials in other cities which were already underway rather than conduct their own.
- The council could then concentrate on the provision of cycle routes in the city and should it be decided to allow e-scooters at a later date, the infrastructure would be shared and already be in place.
- Members requested that the Task and Finish Group consult with elderly and all disabled groups and considered the feelings of those who have been shielded for the last few months due to the Covid pandemic as many had not been out for sometime.
- Members confirmed that the amended motion referred the matter to the next meeting of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee, not set up a Task and Finish Group.
- Members would like to discuss the use of alternative forms of transport.
- The Leader of the Council advised that the Combined Authority had been asked by the government to look into the matter and he had already received several emails from different disabled organisations expressing their concerns and he agreed that the Council needed a policy on the matter.
- The use of public transport had declined dramatically recently, and more people were walking and cycling.

Councillor Cole exercised his right to speak and confirmed it was still illegal to use e-scooters on the public highway and confirmed disabled groups were concerned.

Councillor Burbage summed up and confirmed that the motion was about protecting the public and other road users and to enable the council to make an informed decision.

A vote was taken on the altered motion from Councillor Burbage in relation to e-scooters (48 voted in favour, 9 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) and the motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

“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.

This Council resolved to consider whether to introduce e-scooters with the proper licensing and agreements as one alternative form of transport to the motor vehicle to reduce carbon emissions. This needed to be referred to the next therefore resolves to refer this issue to the meeting of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee for full further consideration by a Task and Finish group who will make a recommendation to Cabinet."

5. Motion from Councillor Hiller

Councillor Hiller moved the motion on a Peterborough Citizen's Award.

Councillor Jamil seconded the motion and felt this motion would recognise the many local heroes in Peterborough.

Council debated the motion considered that it was right to recognise those who had given their time and financial resources to helping others in their local communities.

Councillor Sandford proposed to suspend Council Standing Order 14.2 to enable the meeting to be extended by half an hour to allow one specific motion to be debated which he felt had attracted much public interest.

Councillor Shaz Nawaz seconded the motion from Councillor Sandford.

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Sandford in relation to suspending standing order 14.2 (26 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) and the motion was **DEFEATED**.

Debate continued on a Peterborough Citizen's Award, including:

- Members felt that those who were hard to reach, sick or disabled tended to be excluded from this type of award and an award recognising everyone would be more inclusive.
- Members were impressed how local people had supported each other during the pandemic.
- Celebrating the support local people had given would encourage further volunteering in the future.

Councillor Hiller summed up and explained that nominations for the proposed awards could be made by Councillors and members of the public and this proposal was to recognise individual responses to the Covid pandemic. The financial costs would be minimal however it would reward hugely in terms of recognition and pride in the people of Peterborough.

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Hiller in relation to a COVID-19 Peterborough Citizen's Award scheme (49 voted in favour, 8 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) and the motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

“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 resolved 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 had affected so many lives.”

Members discussed the length of the meeting being three or four hours and the use of the guillotine. The Monitoring Officer therefore suggested the agenda be re-ordered and the item on the Virtual Meeting Protocol moved as the next item.

Councillor Fitzgerald proposed the item be heard next and this was seconded by Councillor Holdich.

17. Virtual Meetings Protocol

Councillor Holdich moved the recommendations in relation to the updated Virtual Meetings Protocol and this was seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald.

It was suggested that the wording within the protocol was not quite correct as it referred to a different council structure. The Monitoring Officer advised that the essence was correct and the policy would be reviewed going forward by Group Leaders who had already agreed to abide by the protocol for this meeting at their last gathering.

Council had received a report on the Virtual Meeting Protocol in the agenda pack. Following the introduction of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic, it had been necessary for the Council to hold its meetings virtually. Group Leaders had reviewed and provisionally agreed the protocol awaiting the next meeting of the Full Council.

The motion was moved by Councillor Holdich and seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald.

A vote was taken on the Virtual Meetings Protocol (43 voted in favour, 11 voted against, 1 abstention and 1 person did not vote).

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Virtual Meetings Protocol (Appendix 1 to the report).

The Monitoring Officer advised that the guillotine for the Full Council meeting had been met and, as such, all motions, amendments and recommendations would be deemed formally moved and seconded and the recommendations were read out by the Head of Constitutional Services and each was taken to a vote.

18. Motions on Notice

6. Motion from Councillor Ali

A vote was taken (unanimous) on the amended motion from Councillor Ali as amended by Councillor Allen in relation to re-opening of leisure services. The motion was **AGREED** as follows:

“This Council ~~notes~~ recognised how important heritage, museum, library, leisure, sports, summer activities, and arts facilities and services are for the city council and its residents.

Council ~~believes~~ was clear that we need a long-term plan to secure such services and with the current situation in relation to Vivacity the council ~~should~~ was exploring all options; this including direct provision, working with partners, the creation of a new Arts and Leisure Trust, and the establishment of a co-operative to deliver these services.

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

7. Motion from Councillor Murphy

The Mayor had received confirmation from Councillor Murphy prior to the meeting that he no longer wished to move his motion.

8. Motion from Councillor Sandford

A vote was taken (unanimous) on the motion from Councillor Sandford in relation to Natural Cambridgeshire. The motion was **AGREED** as follows:

“Council supported 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 aimed to create, launch

and deliver an ambitious and accessible nature recovery area across the landscape areas to the west of Peterborough. Further information could be found in Appendix 1 to the motions report.”

9. **Motion from Councillor Sandford**

A vote was taken on the motion from Councillor Sandford in relation to the delegation of local lockdown powers (39 voted in favour, 13 voted against, 5 abstained from voting).

The motion was **AGREED** as follows:

“Council:

Congratulated City Council staff, NHS and social care staff and all volunteers who have worked so hard in managing the COVID-19 crisis in Peterborough.

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.

Asked 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**

A vote was taken (unanimous) on the motion from Councillor Day in relation to a Food Strategy. The motion was **AGREED** as follows:

“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 resolved 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 endeavoured to encourage the production of food locally and support the sale of such produce.”

11. Motion from Councillor Hogg

A vote was taken (unanimous) on the motion from Councillor Hogg in relation to recycling banks. The motion was **AGREED** (unanimous) as follows:

“Council noted:

- 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 fly tipping 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 resolved 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 fly tipping and they might be issued with a fine, if caught.”

12. Motion from Councillor Wiggin

A vote was taken (unanimous) on the amended motion from Councillor Wiggin in relation to no fault evictions. The motion was **AGREED** as follows:

“Council noted:

- 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 believed:

- 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 resolved:

- 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."

18. Reports to Council

(a) Political proportionality and Allocation of Seats

A vote was taken on the political proportionality proposal from Councillor Holdich (38 voted in favour, 17 voted against, 2 abstained from voting).

Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note that there were 109 seats on committees.
2. Agree the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 1 – Councillor Holdich proposals).
3. Agree the allocation of seats on those committees not subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 2).

(b) Calendar of Meetings 2020-2021

A vote was taken on the calendar of meetings for 2020/21 (49 voted in favour, 7 voted against, 1 abstained from voting).

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Calendar of Meetings (Appendix 1 to the report) for the remainder of 2020/2021.

The Mayor
6:00pm – 9:30pm
29 July 2020
Virtual meeting