

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>COUNCIL</b>         | AGENDA ITEM No. 13 |
| <b>27 JANUARY 2021</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 Qayyum**

"The Council notes that:

- Online abuse, bullying and harassment against women in politics is an issue which is increasingly growing in visibility.
- The LGA are aware that an increasing number of councillors and candidates are being subjected to abuse, threats and public intimidation, undermining the principles of free speech, democratic engagement and debate. The growth of social media has provided an additional and largely anonymous route for individuals and groups to engage in such activity. This abuse is more prevalent towards females
- While debate and having different views is all part of a healthy democracy; abuse, public intimidation and threats are designed to undermine democratic decision making by generating fear in those who represent it. The LGA further goes on to state that, ***"Councillors, and in particular female Councillors, are unfortunately increasingly the subject of online abuse, bullying and harassment on social media."***

**The Council resolves to refer this matter to the current Task and Finish Group to promote equality and diversity among Councillors to consider how to best assist Councillors in relation to online abuse, bully and harassment, particularly against female Councillors, with a view to report back to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2 March 2021 with appropriate recommendations."**

### **2. Motion from Councillor Ali**

"Council notes the budget concerns of the police service in Cambridgeshire which is one of the fastest growing areas of England, with Peterborough's population rising in particular when police funding has not been rising accordingly. The Chief Constable has proposed a reduction in Police Staff including reducing PCSOs to a fraction of the previous level.

Council believes that this is not the correct time during a pandemic to be cutting established staff who know their communities and in particular have been able to help engage with the public and educate on public health covid matters and the rules. This is the time for security and continuity rather than the insecurity of cutting these staff.

Council believes that the Chief Constable should seek additional funding for the additional Coronavirus work the Constabulary is and has been undertaking and not progress any plans to cut these Police Staff who play such a significant role in protection our communities here in Peterborough.

**Council resolves that a letter be sent from the Chief Executive to the Chief Constable outlining the above and asking the consideration to be given to these points within budget proposals.”**

### **3. Motion from Councillor Jamil**

“Council believes:

- Everyone has a right to a home.
- Current emergency measures put in place during the pandemic need to be extended beyond the crisis response to support people who become homeless, or resort to rough sleeping, through no fault of their own
- The government should recognise the impending challenge faced by households that are ineligible for support from the housing service or have no recourse to public funds
- The current crisis has caused thousands of people in privately rented accommodation to be in danger of losing their homes through eviction.

Council recognises:

- It is unacceptable that we have homelessness and rough sleeping in modern day Britain.
- After the emergency measures introduced during the coronavirus pandemic come to an end, many people will be left without a safety net. This could lead to an increase in rough sleepers due to less support being available.
- Many renters have been unable to work or lost their jobs due to the pandemic and currently the situation is worsening due to rising infection and death rates. **Citizens Advice** says half a million renters are now in arrears, owing an average of £750. More than half (56%) of those struggling to make payments had no previous history of arrears before the start of the COVID-19 outbreak last Spring. This could result in eviction.

**Council resolves:**

- 1. To write to the government to ask for stronger measures to help with the housing crisis and specifically:**
- 2. To review the priority need categories, which currently support only the most vulnerable single people, to include anyone who finds themselves to be homeless and rough sleeping.**
- 3. To review eviction laws and offer better protection to tenants, starting with an immediate widening of the ban of evictions under Section 21 of the Housing Act 1998, which since January 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 allows eviction of renters with just 6 months of rent arrears.**
- 4. Follow through with their ambitions to end rough sleeping by increasing funding to local authorities and providing longer term funding for rough sleeping initiatives so that services are better resourced and equipped to deal with individual circumstances on a case-by-case scenario.”**

### **4. Motion from Councillor Casey**

“Council recognises that:

- Access to IT hardware and good broadband connections have become essential tools in:
  - enabling children to continue with their studies remotely
  - enabling adults to work effectively from home, as well as access services and businesses, including supermarkets

- There are families within the Peterborough local authority area who are not equipped adequately with IT tools as a result of their being on low incomes or having more than one child who are sharing equipment. This affects the short and long-term outcomes for school-aged children and also opportunities for adults
- There are also families who may not have the necessary digital skills, including parents and carers, which is inhibiting the potential for them to take full advantage of IT tools

**Therefore, Council resolves to:**

- **Support the survey that is being conducted at Peterborough’s schools which aims to identify those children who are most in need of support with technology, and request that government support to be extended at pace.**
- **Request that the Council’s administration writes to government with a view to providing access to broadband services to families on low incomes.**
- **Request that Members and officers work together to ensure equality of access for all pupils in a coordinated and safe way.**
- **Request that the Council's adult skills service, City College Peterborough, to work with skills providers across Peterborough to ensure the necessary training opportunities are in place to support parents and carers to support their children.”**

## **5. Motion from Councillor Sandford**

“Council notes that:

1. The Paston Reserve/Manor Drive housing development was started in 2011 and has now grown into an estate with more than 1000 new homes, with further extensions planned, including new nursery, primary and secondary schools.
2. Nearly ten years after the start of the housing development, the estate still has no bus service (even though bus stops and a turning circle were put in at an early stage), no shops, no other amenities and not even a post box. The nearest bus service is in Gunthorpe Ridings but to get from there to the estate involves crossing a footbridge over the A15, which has very poor lighting , and walking along a long passage way with high fences on either side. This has forced many Manor Drive residents to try to cross the A15 at ground level, which is a highly dangerous procedure.

Council strongly believes that the Combined Authority should as a matter of urgency address the lack of a bus service in this area.

**Council asks our Council Leader to raise the matter with the Mayor and the relevant committee of the Combined Authority at the earliest opportunity.**

**Council also asks the Executive Director of Place to ensure that, where appropriate, viable and having factored in competing infrastructure demands, the Council uses its planning powers so that for all future large housing developments financial contributions are sought from developers to ensure that public transport and other important amenities are included at the start of a development and not left until years afterwards.”**

## 6. Motion from Councillor Sandford

“Council notes that:

1. Initial work by the Council's Climate Change Member working group has identified that carbon emissions from domestic dwellings are one of the top three sources of carbon emissions in Peterborough.
2. The Peterborough Local Plan sets planning policies for new development in Peterborough and there is a lot of new housing proposed, so any changes to the policies within the Local Plan could potentially have a large impact on carbon emissions over coming years and decades.
3. There are also other parts of the Local Plan which have major impacts on carbon emissions and climate change, including the policies on transport, renewable energy generation and the natural environment.
4. The current Peterborough Local Plan was produced before the Council declared its climate emergency and target for reaching net zero carbon as a city by 2030.

**Council therefore asks our planning policy officers to investigate whether a revision to our local plan, an addition to it or production of a supplementary planning document on climate change would be of significant benefit in helping us reach our climate emergency targets and to report their findings to the Cross Party Working Group on Climate Change and to the Growth and Environment Scrutiny Committee.”**

## 7. Motion from Councillor Day

“The concept of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) has been widely debated in recent months, with advocates arguing it is the fairest and most effective way to mitigate the effects of coronavirus on people’s incomes. [1] A network of UBI Labs has been set up that is working with local authorities across the UK to develop UBI proposals to address problems such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term as well as in the immediate term in relation to coronavirus. [2]

This Council notes:

- a. the danger of increasing numbers of people facing poverty as a result of the coronavirus crisis;
- b. the concept of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) where citizens are paid a non-means tested sum from the state to cover the basic cost of living, which is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status.

This Council believes:

- a. that the current benefit system is failing citizens, with Universal Credit causing hardship to many communities in Peterborough;
- b. that testing a UBI is needed (as a replacement to the current benefit system), as a UBI has the potential to help address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, loss of community, and breach of planetary boundaries through:
  - a. Giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their job;
  - b. Valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
  - c. Removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality;
  - d. Giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society;

- e. Breaking the link between work and consumption, thus helping reduce strain on the environment;
  - f. Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy.
- c. that the success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by impact upon take-up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them;
- d. that, given its history of social innovation, wealth of expertise, and active networks across community, business and public services, Peterborough is ideally placed to pilot a UBI;

**This Council resolves to send a copy of this Motion to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor, the leaders of all political parties, and to all Peterborough MPs.”**

#### References

1. [Beyond the Lockdown: A proposal for a Recovery Universal Basic Income during COVID-19](#)
2. <https://www.ubilabnetwork.org/>

#### **8. Motion from Councillor Murphy**

“Council notes that Saint Peter’s Arcade access has been closed for some time now, a decision that wasn’t taken with great transparency or consultation. An alternative route for disabled people is to use Bridge Street round a narrower entrance on a pavement where the width has been restricted due to building works. It has been commented that two wheelchair users can’t use this at the same time.

Council believes that a number of people and residents, particularly those who use wheelchairs, would wish to see Saint Peters Arcade opened as an access route into the town centre and that both routes could have been used to reduce possible COVID-19 risks with a one-way advisory in place.

**Council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member consider the reopening of Saint Peter’s Arcade and enhanced access for disabled people into the city centre.”**

This page is intentionally left blank