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| <b>COUNCIL</b>      | AGENDA ITEM No. 12 |
| <b>28 JULY 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 with Major Implications from Councillor Skibsted**

"The use of herbicides such as glyphosate in the UK has increased by 60% in real terms since 1990 [1]. Italy, Portugal and the Canadian city of Vancouver have all banned the use of glyphosate [or glyphosate-based weed killers] and France is working towards this. Monsanto and German owner Bayer face 9,000 lawsuits in the USA from those that believe their illnesses are caused by their products, the first plaintiff won unanimously with many more to follow [2]. Recent studies published in ScienceDirect show a 41% increased risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma caused by exposure from glyphosate-based weed killers and products [3].

#### **Council believes:**

- There are some studies that glyphosate and a wide range of other herbicides may be harmful to human health. However, it is currently regulated and permitted for use in the UK by the HSE.
- The use of weed killers reduces biodiversity, impacting negatively on insects, birds and bees, in a time when the world is losing 2.5% of its insect population per-year [4]
- Harmful weed killer residues can creep into the food chain, although it is recognised that the Councils does currently dilute the chemical used on PCC land.

#### **Council resolves to recommend that the Cabinet Member agrees to:**

- **Investigate over the next 12 months alternative methods of weed control to establish if they are both economical and operationally viable on land maintained by Aragon Direct Services.**
- **Trial herbicide-free alternatives during this period. Particularly those adopted by the likes of Hammersmith and Fulham and Lewes Councils who use biodegradable foam or hot steam treatments on weeds.**
- **Arrange to visit areas that have already moved to phase out the use of Glyphosate to learn from their practice.**
- **Report to Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the findings of the above and implement new procedures where possible.**
- **Grant an exception to the above ban regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, or other invasive species, where there are currently no effective mechanical techniques available. However, in this case chemicals such as glyphosate will only be stem-injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment.**
- **Grant an exception on sprays only in relation to Giant Hogweed where it's not safe to be dug out or safely removed by other means and then cordon off the surrounding area.**

1. <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticides-agriculture-uk/> Link to external page/site

2. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/oct/07/monsanto-trial-cancer-appeal-glyphosate-chemical> Link to external page/site
3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887> Link to external page/site
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature> Link to external page/site”

### **Briefing Note from Director:**

Aragon Direct Services (ADS) are permitted under the contract to use herbicide to control weed growth within the City, this is both on hard standing areas to prevent damage and areas of open space where needed e.g. around obstacles including on roadways.

The contractor that is used by ADS to spray weeds on hard services within the city is fully licensed and all staff are trained to use the chemical.

They will only spray where weeds are present and will not blanket spray areas unnecessarily, as this reduces their efficiencies as it means they must fill up more often (which involves leaving site to get more water). Weed treatment is target spot sprayed and the herbicide is quickly absorbed through the leaf of the plant upon application.

The glyphosate used is massively diluted, at a rate of at most one part glyphosate to 50 parts water. Glyphosate has been subject to extensive testing and regulatory assessment and is approved by the Health and Safety Executive and Chemicals Regulations Department for Hard Surface/Amenity Weed Control.

The Council has trialled some alternative methods in the past and has found them to not be financially or operationally viable due to the quantities of hard surfaces that needs to be treated.

## **2. Motion with Major Implications from Councillor Qayyum**

“This Council notes that:

On 3rd June 2021, England had reached an important milestone in that 75 % of adults had received the first dose of the covid – vaccine, whereas 50.2 percent had received the second dose.

The data demonstrating vaccine uptake in Peterborough, however, is less than the national average.

It is important from a Public Health and Local Authority perspective to ensure that whilst mitigating factors, such as the disproportionate impact that Covid – 19 on BAME communities is being addressed and worked towards, negative perceptions surrounding the vaccination as well as accessibility issues are posing as challenges within populations that could be a possible contribution to the less than national average uptake of the Covid- 19 vaccine within the city.

The challenges faced by the visually impaired, disabled, less able bodied and elderly populations with no access to transport due to the distance of vaccination centres must be revisited whilst there are increasing infection rates of the delta variant of covid.

It is notable that the concentration of the city’s population is within its centre, with reports of long queues and waiting times at available vaccination centres, contributing to vaccine hesitancy and delay as people from outside the city also use the vaccination facilities within Peterborough.

We have already seen some excellent examples of covid testing facilities set up within Mosques, Churches and other faith-based sites and community centres in various cities which are accessible and a familiar venue for residents to access for a covid vaccine. Examples of this have been seen in Birmingham, London and Manchester.

On Thursday 4 March, SNP MP Chris Stephens tabled an Early Day Motion in the Houses of Parliament, calling for the vaccination roll out and vaccine testing to be made accessible for blind and partially sighted people, a factor that should be considered at available vaccination sites

**This Council resolves to:**

- **Identify strategies actively and swiftly by working with relevant stakeholders such as NHSE and Peterborough and Cambridgeshire CCG, in identifying and encouraging more risk assessed premises within the city such as Mosques, community centres and Pharmacies to make the Covid vaccination programme within the city, more accessible.**
- **To give faith groups and their representative committees the opportunity to propose their grounds and building spaces as vaccination hubs after adequate risk assessment has been provided and staff are identified as fully trained and facilities standardised with governance in place.**
- **To distribute, update and implement and ensure staff working at the vaccine centres are aware of managing and guiding those who are visually impaired by reading through the vaccination management as recommended by the sight council uk's guidance thus: <https://www.sightlosscouncils.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Covid-19-Vaccine-Rollout-Advice.pdf>**

**Briefing Note from Director:**

The COVID-19 vaccination programme is led by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). As at 13 July, 66.8% of Peterborough's adult population had received their first vaccination dose, and 47.1% had received their second dose.

The City Council is directly engaged in the planning for vaccination sites, in recognition of the expansive knowledge we have of the communities we serve and the extensive relationships we enjoy with community and faith leaders.

A range of Large-Scale Vaccination Sites are available, via a pre-booked appointment, including the City Care Centre, the East of England Showground, Halls Chemist, and Boots in Queensgate. Additionally, a wider range of walk-in vaccination sites are available, for which no appointment or pre-booking is necessary. Full and up to date details of all vaccination centres can be found at [www.thevaccinators.co.uk](http://www.thevaccinators.co.uk).

The Council co-chairs the Vaccine Confidence Steering Group alongside the CCG, which reports into the Vaccination Strategic Group. The Confidence Group's tasks include supporting vulnerable, isolated, and excluded groups to get vaccinated, to promote the vaccination programme amongst the whole population, and to work with different communities who are hesitant or reluctant to be vaccinated. Additionally, the group is able to analyse data and informal feedback to identify other potential vaccination sites to better meet the needs of our population. So far, these sites have included Mosques, GP surgeries in targeted locations, and the Peterborough United Football Ground.

Alongside this, work is underway by the CCG to screen and approve several additional community-

based venues, details of which have come from community workers, voluntary community champions, and faith leaders. It is anticipated that these sites will remain on standby and brought into use in line with demand. The CCG has also recently commissioned a mobile vaccination vehicle, which initially will be deployed to workplace settings in the city.

The COVID-19 Coordination Hub is able to provide information about ways in which people can get to their vaccination appointment, or to arrange for transportation for anyone unable to get to an appointment and who isn't able to make their own arrangements or who doesn't have anyone available to take them. For more information, people are asked to complete the form on the council's website, which can be found at <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/public-health/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination> or to call the Hub on 0345 045 5219. Caring Together are also able to offer support for people to get to their appointments, and details of this are also on the council's web site.

At every vaccination site there are a wide range of staff and volunteers drawn from across different organisations and based on different needs – clinicians, screening and triage staff, administrators, marshals, parking staff etc. It is vitally important that they are all aware of the diverse needs of our whole population, including blind and partially sighted people, and appropriate practical training is provided ahead of each clinic. We are also offering training to all our staff, volunteers and community groups in vaccine confidence to support them when speaking to residents about barriers they may face in taking up the vaccine, and have included guidance for engagement with blind and partially sighted people in our training toolkit for staff.

### 3. Motion from Councillor Ansar Ali

“This Council notes that the Festival of Hunting took place at Peterborough's East of England Showground on Wednesday 21 July 2021, as it has in previous years.

In 2020, this council resolved to ban 'trail' hunting, exempt hunting and hound exercise on council land. This resolution is a clear reflection of Members' rejection of the facilitation of hunting for sport in Peterborough.

This Council believes that Peterborough is no longer a suitable place to host the Festival of Hunting.

**This Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chairman of the East of England Agricultural Society to request that it does not host the Festival of Hunting at the East of England Showground in future.”**

### 4. Motion from Councillor Cereste

The Article 4 direction relates to development comprising change of use from a use falling within Class C3 (dwelling houses) to a use falling within Class C4 (houses in multiple occupation).

This means that a property owner within the defined area who may want to convert their property (Class C3) into a small HMO (Class C4, 3-6 persons) would be required to apply for planning permission.

More and more family homes are being turned into Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Residents are worried as this can lead to increased parking, traffic issues, health and safety (tenants and neighbours), as well as affecting the environment and fabrication of the area, which was not designed or planned for this impact.

Peterborough City Council, having received the report on the Article 4 direction, should start the consultation to implement the article 4 in the Hampton Wards and any other ward in the City that is thought to be appropriate.

**The Council agrees to initiate a formal public consultation with a view to introducing an Article 4 Zone in the Hamptons, subject to evidence that the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation in the area is having an adverse effect."**

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

"Council thanks officers in the legal and democratic services teams for their hard work in ensuring that the democratic processes of the Council have been able to continue during the period of the Covid pandemic, albeit sometimes in a modified form.

Council notes in particular that Peterborough and many other councils have successfully run meetings on Zoom or other online platforms and that the House of Commons has run hybrid meetings, with some MPs in the chamber and some joining virtually. However, following a recent High Court ruling, councils are now prohibited from holding virtual or hybrid meetings, unless Parliament passes primary legislation enabling this to happen.

Council believes that, within reason, councils should be free to set their own rules of procedure, taking into account the needs of their councillors, officers and local residents.

**Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council to lobby central government to put forward legislation giving all councils the necessary powers to hold virtual and hybrid meetings if they choose to do so and asks the chief executive to write to the local government minister and to our local MPs urging them to support this proposal."**

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