

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 13
8 DECEMBER 2021	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 Amjad Iqbal

"The term Windrush generation refers to those invited to relocate from their homes in commonwealth countries to settle in Britain between 1948 to 1971. The first significant number arrived at Tilbury docks aboard HM Empire Windrush on 22 June 1948, from the Caribbean, however, migration was from Africa and Asia as well as the Caribbean.

The 1948 British Nationality Act established the status of UK citizens and its colonies - anybody who could prove they were born within the British Empire had the right to settle and work in Britain. Indefinite leave to remain was granted in 1971. At the time, it was not unusual for children not to have their own documents travelling on their parents' passports. It has subsequently come to light that Home Office has not kept detailed records of arrivals. Since 2012, it has been the specific aim of government immigration policy to create a "hostile environment" for those without lawful right to live in the UK.

This policy has created an issue for the 'Windrush generation' unable to evidence or demonstrate their lawful status when facing immigration checks to continue working, access services or even to remain in the UK. It has led to access to benefits, healthcare, social housing and caused other to lose their job.

This Council notes:

1. The enormous contribution of members of the Windrush Generation to British society following the Second World War.
2. That the many thousands of members of the Windrush Generation who made their homes in this country to build a better life and contribute to our society were granted indefinite leave to remain in 1971.
3. The scandalous treatment of so many members of the Windrush Generation by the UK Government in recent years, including denial of their British citizenship and legal rights, wrongful detention, threats of deportation and in some cases deportation itself.
4. The ongoing implications of this treatment for many people and their families.
5. The Governments Windrush Scheme (get a document showing your right to be in the UK & apply for compensation)
(<https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk/windrush-helpline>)
6. The flag raising would be an annual civic event.

This Council therefore resolves:

- a) To continue to mark Windrush Day on 22nd June in the City of Peterborough annually as a civic celebration to recognise and honour the enormous contribution of those who arrived between 1948 and 1973.
- b) To call upon the Government to fully and financially support advice agencies in their work to achieve support, advocacy and justice for all Peterborough residents affected by the Windrush Scandal. Demand that the government fully support advice agencies in their work to achieve

- justice for all those affected, Peterborough and elsewhere
- c) To thank third sector organisations within the city for their support and advocacy for victims of the Windrush Scandal.
- d) Call on central government not to cap compensation amounts payable to victims under its compensation scheme or to apply confidentiality agreements, time limits and other arbitrary restrictions.
- e) Support for the call for fees for naturalisation to be waived for all who have been affected and provide legal aid for those who have been affected.

This Council further resolves to ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities:

- f) To offer support and signposting of the City of Peterborough residents affected by the scandal who may be seeking help, including to third sector organisations which provide support, advice, and advocacy.
- g) To promote the Windrush Compensation Scheme to help ensure that all Peterborough residents who may be eligible for compensation are aware of it.
- h) To identify the Windrush Generation residents and their descendants who are in receipt of adult social care support, or are in education or being looked after, and that the council will target its support towards those. To identify and address inequalities specifically targeting work with our Windrush Generation residents.
- i) To review the Council's policies and procedures to ensure that those affected are supported appropriately.
- j) To work with the Peterborough Windrush Support Group, Legacy of Windrush Descendants, to develop its activities to celebrate and give recognition to the Windrush generation."

2. Motion with Major Implications from Councillor Saqib Farooq

"Peterborough City Council should set up a process offering green bonds to local residents and businesses, giving them an opportunity to invest into greener Peterborough, while earning back on their investments. People and businesses can buy from as little as 5 pounds into the new security and collect interest on their investment.

The money will be put toward new green community infrastructure, including electric vehicle charging points, tree planting, solar panels on public buildings etc. PCC will also aim to develop a zero carbon recycling and waste collection. This will help us achieve our commitment of reaching our goal of net-zero carbon by 2030.

Green bonds are becoming popular with institutional investors, with governments globally issuing \$181 billion of debt so far in 2021.

More than a quarter of local councils in UK are considering their own climate bonds.

The bonds issued will pay fixed interest of 1.5% per annum over a 5/10 year period. That's more than double the interest paid by the UK government's green bonds and high street banks, making it more attractive for residents to buy green bonds from PCC. For PCC this interest paid will also be considerably lower than typical loans from statebacked entities. Other authorities who have implemented this scheme have found that many residents/investors donated back their accrued interest to the council, further increasing funding to use for green initiatives.

For PCC and its lenders it will not just be about money, 'PCC can look at the engagement it will get from local residents (bondholders). For example, If we get one thousand investors in the local green bond, we have a thousand people who are supporting the green projects locally and will do other things in their lives to support the drive to net zero by 2030.

The Council resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Finance to consider the establishment of a

Green Bond scheme.”

Briefing Note from the Corporate Director of Resources:

This will be a substantial piece of work as the Council would have to properly evaluate and set up a scheme which would take time, incur cost, would need external expertise, and would possibly have to go through a short accreditation (depending on the scheme).

The Council would have to consult on the scheme and what it would deliver. An agreement on the scope of the scheme would be needed, in terms of what it would do and how it would be measured - this would count in terms of which green scheme it linked to.

A number of Councils are going down this route, but not that many have a "live" scheme working at the moment. The Council should be able to "borrow" from Councils further down the line, depending on the scheme we agreed on.

Given the pressure on the Council in terms of the DLUHC Reports, our focus in the short term needs to be on moving to financial sustainability for 2023/24 with our limited resources (people/time) before coming back to this, which is something we should evaluate in the medium term.

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