

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
1 NOVEMBER 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

1. Motion with major implications from Councillor Harper

This Council has no confidence in the Leader of the Council, their Cabinet or their administration.

The minority administration has governed with the goodwill of the opposition members, however the opposition members no longer have trust or confidence in the Leader of the Council, their Cabinet or their administration, and seek an alternative leader and administration. The political attacks and weaponization of the Council administration against opposition members has led to the relationship between the leader (including his cabinet) and the opposition groups (including former group members) deteriorating to such an extent that the delivery of our council services and having majority consent on major policy including the budget are at risk. It is a vital time for our council to have stability and sensible leadership to navigate through the difficult financial and governance challenges it is facing. With this in mind we the opposition groups are proposing an alternative leader and subsequent administration, which will deliver the much needed stability our city deserves and an administration that will enjoy the support from the majority of members of the Council.

This motion asks for members to carry out a vote of no confidence to remove the current Leader of the Council

It is signed by 10 Members as required:

Councillor Chris Harper
Councillor Peter Hiller
Councillor John Howard
Councillor Dennis Jones
Councillor Alison Jones
Councillor Amjad Iqbal
Councillor Christian Hogg
Councillor Chris Wiggin
Councillor Nicola Day
Councillor Heather Skibsted

Plus two substitutes if required:

Councillor Ray Bisby
Councillor Brian Rush

2.Motion from Councillor Fenner

This council notes:

that we've received £48 million for the Station quarter. The redevelopment is likely to include the great northern hotel site.

At present the hotel is being used as a hostel for migrants that have crossed the channel on small boats.

Peterborough supports more asylum seekers than any other city in the east of England. We have a strong track record of helping those that face persecution and who are in need.

However, any further use of this hotel as a place for migrants may impact and delay any redevelopment plans.

This council acknowledges:

That the use of this hotel is not in the long-term interests of Peterborough and the young men themselves.

This council resolves to:-

- Press ahead with the station quarter redevelopment plans as quickly as possible
- Lobby government to find alternative accommodation, outside of Peterborough, for these individuals.
- To support the government in its campaign to stop the boats and illegal immigration.

3.Motion from Councillor Trust

The Council notes:

- The issue of domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment remains prevalent in our communities.
- According to Office of National Statistics, in the year ending March 2022, an estimated 2.4 million adults (1.7 million women and 699,000 men) had experienced domestic abuse and the number of domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by police in England and Wales increased by 7.7% compared with the previous year.
- Those from minority backgrounds (for example the LGBTQ+ community and people with disabilities) experience domestic abuse disproportionately.
- Members are often the first point of contact in the local community; some are subject to and most deal with domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment reports from residents.

The Council believes:

- No one should experience or live in fear of violence or abuse.
- All reports of domestic abuse should be taken very seriously and consider the needs of individuals by working in partnership with specialist agencies to provide to a coordinated response.
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence strategies across the Council and city are raising

awareness, supporting victims and providing opportunities for training for all.

- The Domestic Abuse and Guidance for Members (draft enclosed) sets out our commitment to support members and provide guidance on dealing with residents who report domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment.

The Council resolves to:

- Refer the Domestic Abuse and Guidance for Members to the relevant committee for consultation.
- Encourage members to take part in training sessions to consolidate understanding of the guidance when it is implemented.
- Encourage male members to take the White Ribbon Pledge to support the eradication of violence against women and girls.
- Improve communication of ongoing events, support services and make information on domestic violence more visible on the front page of the Council website.
- Support the ongoing work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership to:
 - Deliver Peterborough's Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) project, to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process.
 - Deliver targeted strategies and interventions that prevent future harm, in accordance with the findings of the Violence against Women and Girls Needs Assessment.

4.Motion from Councillor Hussain

The Council notes that:

The Government has opted to extend the date of the petrol and diesel car ban to 2035 to ensure a more fair and pragmatic approach towards achieving net zero. The delay aims to provide an opportunity for individuals and businesses, including taxi drivers, to take advantage of the decreasing costs of electric vehicles, thus promoting an eco-friendlier way of travelling.

In alignment with the Government's approach, the council should ensure that our transition to net zero remains fair and pragmatic while not punishing Peterborough taxi drivers with further financial burdens. By allowing taxi drivers to license vehicles which are Euro 6 compliant will allow those drivers a greater choice of vehicles there by guarantee convenient taxi services for the residents of Peterborough.

Euro 6 vehicles not only allow a great choice of vehicle but a wider choice of type of vehicle from small hybrids to larger MPVs, which can help school runs and improve accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges. By permitting Euro 6 emissions vehicles, it would strike the right balance between reducing harmful emissions and considering economic conditions, thereby offering taxi drivers a practical and fair path forward that protects their livelihoods.

The council therefore agrees to:

- recommend that the Licensing Committee consider bringing forward the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licencing Policy Review to allow for Euro 6 emission standards taxi vehicles.
- recommend to the highway authority to review road layouts to allow private hire cabs access to previously restricted areas around the city where practicable thereby reducing journey times, cost to public and emissions.

5 Motion from Councillor Ray

Council notes that the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles, are Selflessness, Objectivity, Leadership, Accountability, Honesty, Integrity and Openness.

Council also notes that in local elections here in Peterborough and elsewhere the public may cast their vote to elect Councillors based largely on the political manifesto's set out by each candidate and a general belief in the same principles of the party or person they choose to support. Generally, people vote for likeminded people, whether that be for a smaller party candidate or one of the main ones such as Labour, the Liberal Democrats or the Conservatives.

Council also notes that in my view it is simply not right that once elected, an individual Councillor can abandon that manifesto and swap to another party or claim to be independent of the party they stood for and the promises they made, without displaying accountability by going back to the public to face a further vote in the ballot box.

It betrays the trust of the people that voted for them when rather than displaying openness, individuals mislead the electorate by standing on a political platform, only to cross the floor within a matter of weeks or months.

The United Kingdom is known as the birthplace of democracy, and to remain true to that title we are today calling upon this council to support a change in the law that will seek to prevent this undemocratic practice in the future.

Council resolves to write to the City's MPs, Paul Bristow and Shailesh Vara, to take the necessary steps in Parliament to gain cross-party support and change the law to state "Any MP or Councillor that crosses the floor mid term should call a by election". This will hold elected representatives accountable and will ensure when they stand on a set of policies, funded by those that believe them and are elected by those that support them, they are doing so with honest and selfless intentions.