

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 7 (ii)
14 JULY 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following notices of motion have been received in accordance with Standing Order 11.1:

1. Motion from Councillor Sandford

That this Council:

- (i) Welcomes those measures in the new Government's coalition agreement which will be of benefit to the people of Peterborough, including the following specific points:
 - (a) A radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups, including a review of local government finance;
 - (b) Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies and return of decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils, including giving councils new powers to stop 'garden grabbing';
 - (c) A reform of the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live;
 - (d) Abolition of the unelected Infrastructure Planning Commission and replacement with an efficient and democratically accountable system that provides a fast-track process for major infrastructure projects;
 - (e) Creation of a new designation – similar to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities;
 - (f) Measures to bring empty homes into use;
 - (g) Phasing out of the ring-fencing of grants to local government and reviewing the unfair Housing Revenue Account;
 - (h) Giving all councils a general power of competence;
 - (i) Banning the use of powers in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) by councils, unless they are signed off by a magistrate and required for stopping serious crime;
 - (j) Allowing councils to return to the committee system, should they wish to;
 - (k) Abolition of the Standards Board regime;
 - (l) Tougher rules to stop unfair competition by local authority newspapers;
 - (m) New powers to help communities save local facilities and services threatened with closure, and give communities the right to bid to take over local state-run services;
 - (n) Implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act, so that citizens know how taxpayers' money is spent in their area and have a greater say over how it is spent;

- (o) Cutting local government inspection and abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment;
 - (p) Requiring continuous improvements to the energy efficiency of new housing;
 - (q) Giving councillors the power to vote on large salary packages for unelected council officials;
 - (r) Measures to protect wildlife and promote green spaces and wildlife corridors in order to halt the loss of habitats and restore biodiversity;
 - (s) Launching a national tree planting campaign;
 - (t) Working towards a 'zero waste' economy, encouraging councils to pay people to recycle, and work to reduce littering;
 - (u) Significantly cutting the number of health quangos and giving every patient the right to choose to register with the GP they want, without being restricted by where they live;
- (ii) Requests the Cabinet to co-operate with the Government in delivery of these aspects of its programme in particular, whilst at the same time retaining the right to raise legitimate questions and concerns about any proposed measures (for example reductions in grant) which may have a detrimental impact on the City or its residents.

2. Motion from Councillor Goldspink

That this Council expresses its deep regret over the accidents that have happened recently in Oxney Road, endangering life and limb, and agrees to ask the Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development to make the design and implementation of a remedial scheme for Oxney Road the Council's number one local traffic scheme for 2010/11, with a view to starting work no later than 1 October 2010.

3. Motion from Councillor Jamil

That this Council:

- (i) Recognises that the increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20% announced in the Government's June Budget will fall hardest on those least able to afford it and that it will lead to higher prices for goods and services, resulting in a disproportionate impact on pensioners and other low income groups and a severe impact on businesses, charities and community groups in Peterborough;
- (ii) Acknowledges that the effect of the increase in VAT, when taken with other measures in the Budget, will be unfair to pensioners, who have not had a compensatory increase in other benefits and allowances;
- (iii) Acknowledges that the way the VAT increase will affect pensioners and other low income groups runs counter to the Government's Coalition Agreement statement on 20 May 2010 that it would 'ensure that fairness is at the heart of those decisions so that all those most in need are protected'.
- (iv) Notes that the Institute of Fiscal Studies has stated the VAT increase was not 'unavoidable', as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his Budget speech.

- (v) Asks the Leader to write directly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, raising the Council's concern about the impact of the proposed VAT increase on pensioners, other vulnerable groups and businesses in Peterborough;
- (vi) Calls on both Members of Parliament representing Peterborough to stand up for Peterborough's pensioners, businesses, and wider community to voice their opposition to this unfair increase in VAT and to vote against it in Parliament.

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