

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 14
7 DECEMBER 2011	PUBLIC REPORT

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following notice of motion has been received in accordance with Standing Order 15.2:

1. Motion from Councillor Murphy:

That this Council:

1. Recognises the current challenging financial circumstances it is facing and notes the considerable amount of money spent on member's allowances and expenses, with a high number of cabinet members and special responsibility allowances being paid to councillors in what is a relatively small unitary authority;
2. Recognises that in view of the need for public services to be efficient and economic, bearing in mind the reduction and scope of responsibilities carried out by Peterborough City Council since the introduction of expenses and payments following local government reorganisation, it will ask the Leader to consider an immediate reduction in the number of members of the administration receiving additional allowances and the amount being spent on these allowances;
3. Resolves to reduce expenditure this financial year by £40,000 by reducing payments to the council leader, and asks that the Leader cuts the number of cabinet members and special advisers and reduces the amount paid to these council members' allowances; and
4. Will seek further reductions to achieve a budget saving of £150,000 next year.

2. Motion from Councillor Murphy

That this Council:

1. Notes the government's reintroduction of the kick start housing programme and desire to see brown field sites and publicly owned land made available for housing development and job creation;
2. Notes that in Peterborough we have a public owned site at the former Peterborough District Hospital (PDH), a need for homes both for social housing and a desire to develop some prestige homes; and
3. Notes that there is an identified need to urgently address the shortage of adequate primary school places in the neighbourhood around the PDH site; and
4. Instructs the corporate property officer to investigate the acquisition (perhaps in partnership with a local housing association) of the PDH site or part of it to be used to provide a new primary school, additional council/social housing and in doing so provide local jobs and apprentice opportunities.

3. Motion from Councillor Fower

Supporting Local Businesses

That in order to assist local businesses during the current difficult economic times, this Council:

1. Resolves that any business in the Peterborough unitary authority which provides goods or services to the Council be paid within 20 days of receipt of the invoice instead of the usual 30 day period in order to help the businesses' cashflows;
2. Encourages large businesses, particularly those who supply services to the Council, to pay invoices from their suppliers and sub-contractors promptly; and instructs officers to consider and make recommendations about what steps the Council can take when procuring goods and services from main contractors to ensure that sub-contractors are paid without delay; and
3. Instructs officers to review and recommend proposals for amending Contract Standing Orders with a view to preference being given when ordering goods and services to using wherever possible businesses within Peterborough and making contracts of sizes that are accessible to small businesses, whilst continuing to demonstrate value for money.

4. Motion from Councillor Fower

Bee and Pollinator Friendly Council

That this Council notes:

1. Neonicotinoids are a comparatively new group of pesticides that work systemically, meaning that the seed or soil is treated and the chemical pervades every part of the plant, from the roots to the nectar in the flowers;
2. Laboratory studies have shown that neonicotinoid pesticides reduce the activity levels and breeding success of bees, they have also been shown to make bees more susceptible to disease;
3. In addition their effects on wild pollinators (including bumblebees, hoverflies and moths) have not been studied and their environmental safety has not been proven;
4. Neonicotinoid pesticides have already been partly banned from flowering crops in Italy, Slovenia and France, because of concerns relating to their safety to bees; and

That this Council resolves to:

Make this council a neonicotinoid free council; we will not use, purchase or allow the use of neonicotinoids, neonicotinoid treated seeds or neonicotinoid treated pot plants on the council's land or within our other operations, by our staff, contractors or tenants.

5. Motion from Councillor Sandford

This Council:

1. Notes that the BBC Trust is currently carrying out a public consultation on the future of BBC local radio http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/consult/local_radio.shtml . The consultation is being carried out with a view to implementing spending cuts and one of the suggestions made is that BBC local radio services and/or programming should be merged to cover larger areas;
2. Further notes that Peterborough has recently lost the last of the commercial radio services based in the City and that the BBC now provides the only Peterborough based local radio service, with Radio Cambridgeshire broadcasting some Peterborough based programming at certain times of the day, principally at breakfast time on weekdays;
3. Believes that it is important that Peterborough continues to have a locally based radio service providing news, discussion and comment specifically related to Peterborough, to compliment the written news service provided by the Peterborough Evening Telegraph; and
4. Requests that the Chief Executive write to the BBC Trust in response to their consultation, arguing the case for retention of Peterborough based programming by the BBC and that our local MPs also be asked to take up this issue with the BBC and relevant Government ministers.

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