



NORWICH
City Council

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL

Members of the council are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the council, to be held in the council chamber, City Hall

Tuesday 26 March 2013

7.30pm

AGENDA

Page No.

1. Lord Mayor's announcements

2. Declarations of interest

3. Questions from the public

4. Petitions

5. Minutes

To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the council meeting held on 19 February 2013.

6. Questions to cabinet members/committee chairs

(A printed copy of the questions and replies will be available at the meeting)

7. Development Management Policies Plan and Site Allocations Plan – authorisation and submission

(Report of the head of planning service)

To authorise the submission of the Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (the 'Development Management Policies plan'), the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (the 'Site Allocations plan'), and the accompanying Policies Map to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

(Annexes 1 and 2 are 258 and 322 page documents respectively, making them unsuitable for printed reproduction here. An electronic copy is available via the meetings calendar on the Norwich City Council website. A single hard copy for members has been made available in each of the group rooms)

8. Members' interests and appointment of a reserve independent person (Standards)

(Report of the Head of law and governance)

Purpose –

To update members on the Localism Act 2011 Standards and Conduct regime and in particular developments in relation to members' interests; and to appoint a Reserve Independent Person in accordance with the new code of conduct outlined in the Localism Act 2011 which was unanimously adopted by Council on 19 June 2012.

9. Motion – Welfare reform act

Councillor Waters to move:

Council **RESOLVES** to ask cabinet to call on the coalition government to withdraw the provisions of the Welfare Reform Act relating to so-called 'under occupation' in social housing (the 'bedroom tax')

10. Motion – Welfare reform act

Councillor Haynes to move:

From April 1st 2013, working-age households who live in social housing and are in receipt of housing benefit will face a reduction in their payments of up to 25% if they are said to be "under-occupying" their homes. As well as affecting social tenants financially this may also cause emotional stress.

People may wish to downsize, but be unable to get a smaller home with the council as availability is limited and demand increases.

Estimated figures suggest that 2744 council tenants and 323 registered provider tenants could be affected in Norwich and to mitigate the impact of the proposed changes:-

Council **RESOLVES** to ask cabinet to:-

- 1) disregard the sum by which a household's housing benefit payment has been reduced by under-occupancy restrictions when determining whether and when to initiate proceedings to recover a tenancy as a consequence of rent arrears;
- 2) encourage housing associations in the Norwich City Council area to do the same by providing them with advice and assistance to help them avoid evicting people due to the bedroom tax; and

- 3) work with housing associations to provide as many smaller homes as possible for people who wish to downsize, including keeping the voids process moving as fast as possible, and help affected residents access Discretionary Housing Payments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hyde', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Philip Hyde
Head of law and governance

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT -

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21 January 2013



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