



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 17 July 2012

7.30pm

AGENDA

Page no.

1. Lord Mayor's announcements

2. Presentation of long service awards

3. Declarations of interest

4. Questions from the public

5. Petitions

6. Minutes

5

To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the council meeting held on 19 June 2012

7. Questions to cabinet members/committee chairs

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

8. Motion - Using Post Offices for council services:-

Councillor Wright to move and Councillor Ackroyd to second -

The current coalition government is investing £1.3 billion to stabilise, improve and extend the services of post offices throughout the UK.

Following a successful pilot in Sheffield, 25 councils nationwide have entered into strategic relationships with the Post Office to:

- Review the current location of post offices
- Review the services which they provide at present and could do in the future
- Look at ways of enhancing co-operation between the Post Office and all public sector bodies, but particularly the Council
- Develop methods for working together to deal with problems of financial exclusion.

Council:-

RESOLVES to

- 1) recognise the importance of local post offices to Norwich's neighbourhoods, residents and reinforcing strong communities
- 2) ask Cabinet to consider the potential benefits of working with local branches and Post Office Ltd to deliver council services, with the objectives of:-
 - improving access to local services for residents
 - saving council taxpayers money

9. Motion – Workfare

Councillor Haynes to move and Councillor Howard to second -

Council:-

RESOLVES to ask the :-

- 1) cabinet to ensure that the council continues not to be involved in supporting any workfare schemes.
- 2) Leader of the Council to send a message of support to the Boycott Workfare campaign and sign their pledge refusing to participate in compulsory work-for-benefits placements.

10. Motion – The Wensum

Councillor Galvin to move and Councillor Stammers to second -

The full potential amenity, and the social and economic value of the River Wensum has not yet been maximised. There is broad support for the Wensum River Parkway project, including from the Norwich Society, HEART and GNDP.

A well maintained area encourages people to visit and to look after it. The river is a natural attraction that many people would like to see enhanced and it is also a richly diverse natural wildlife corridor. Well maintained and visited streets and routes are safer than deserted ones.

Council:-

RESOLVES to :-

- 1) take all practical action to ensure that:-
 - a) pedestrian and cycle access to the river is encouraged through the planning process
 - b) subject to regulatory issues, private developments will not be allowed to prevent access to public amenities, including the river.

2) ask cabinet to :-

- a) fully support the Wensum River Parkway project.
- b) encourage and promote safe waterborne activities

11. Motion – Private sector tenants petition

Councillor Stephenson to move and Councillor Rogers to second -

Norwich City Council participates in an Accredited Landlord Scheme to provide tenants with peace of mind and to ensure landlords maintain a positive and professional relationship with their tenants. Every week a number of private tenants seek help from Norwich City Council after being served notice by their landlords. Further national legislation would provide better security for tenants in the private rental sector in Norwich.

Council :-

RESOLVES to ask the cabinet to support the petition to Housing Minister, Rt Hon. Grant Schapps MP asking him to undertake an urgent review and update of UK housing legislation to provide protection worthy of a 21st century developed nation, to tenants in the private rental sector. In particular, the following issues must be urgently addressed and loopholes in current legislation removed:

- Endemic lack of security for tenants;
- Endemic lack of rent controls;
- Inadequate legal and local authority powers against landlords who neglect their properties;
- Preventing rogue landlords from using complex ownership and changes of ownership to avoid compliance with court judgements over improvement notices;
- Failure of local authorities to fully take up their enforcement powers;
- Ensuring where local authorities use such powers that there is statutory duty of care to re-house tenants whilst work is carried out with the cost recouped from the landlord, and;
- Ensuring where enforcement action is taken and the property upgraded, the landlord cannot make unreasonable rent hikes.



Philip Hyde
Head of law and governance

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT -

Andy Emms Democratic services manager

Tel. No: 01603 212459
e:mail: andyemms@norwich.gov.uk
Democratic services,
City Hall, Norwich, NR2 1NH

11 June 2012



If you would like this agenda in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact the committee officer on tel: 01603 212459 or email: andyemms@norwich.gov.uk

Access

Ramps and automatic entrance doors are provided for wheelchairs and mobility scooters at the Bethel Street entrance for access to the main reception and lifts to other floors.

There are two lifts available in City Hall giving access to the first floor committee rooms and the council chamber where public meetings are held. The lifts accommodate standard sized wheelchairs and smaller mobility scooters but some electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters may be too large. There is a wheelchair available if required.

Hearing loop systems are provided.

Please contact the committee officer on tel: 01603 212459 or email: andyemms@norwich.gov.uk in advance of the meeting if you have any other access requirements.