



**NORWICH**  
City Council

**NORWICH CITY COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, 14 July 2009**

**7.30 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**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 May and 9 June 2009.

**6. Questions to Executive Members/Committee Chairs**

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

**7. Appointment of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer**

(Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

**Purpose** - To consider the appointment of Returning Officer.

**8. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies 2009/10**

(Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

**Purpose** - To consider appointments to outside bodies for the current Civic Year.

**9. Proposed Changes to the Northern City Centre Area Action Plan**  
(Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration)

**Purpose** - This report seeks Council approval of a small number of proposed changes to the Submission version of the Northern City Centre Area Action Plan. These changes are considered necessary to improve the 'soundness' of the plan before submitting it to the Secretary of State.

**10. Annual Scrutiny Review 2008/09**  
(Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

**Purpose** - To receive the Annual Scrutiny review 2008/09

**11. Motion - Area-Based Decision-Making**

Councillor Wright to move:

"Council notes:

- the important role played by the Safer Neighbourhood Area Panels in allowing local people to have a say in matters affecting their immediate area;
- the desire of the Council to develop existing area-based decision-making bodies, as expressed in its bid for unitary status;
- the widespread use, by local authorities, of area-based bodies such as area committees and area forums.

Council believes that involving the public in council-related business through such bodies can help to achieve more effective decision-making and restore trust in local political processes.

Council resolves to ask the Executive to investigate ways of developing existing area structures and to report back on progress as soon as possible."

**12. Motion – Social Housing**

Councillor Lubbock to move:

"Council notes:

- latest figures reveal that nearly one-in-eight households in Norwich are stuck on the housing waiting list. In 2008, 6999 households were on the waiting list compared to 2948 households in 1997.
- that the Local Government Association's (LGA) publication "Local Housing - Local Solutions: the case for self-determination" calls for receipts and rents from council housing to be spent locally; councils to have financial self determination and be able to invest in their housing and contribute to the local economy; councils to be able to borrow money to invest in their new homes in the same way and with similar conditions as their Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners; all matters relating to council

housing to be properly funded and placed on a sound financial footing to ensure long-term investment; councils unable to finance their council housing stock 100% to receive ongoing central investment; the scrapping of "notional" debt.

- Gordon Brown's promise that the government "will consult on reforming the council house finance system and allow local authorities to keep all the proceeds from their own council house sales and council rents."
- the lack of clarity over government intentions regarding council housing financing, and the concern, as expressed by Labour MP Austin Mitchell, that money could be taken from the Decent Homes Programme.

This council believes the interests of Norwich will be best served by the replacement of the current housing finance system with a new system that allows councils to retain 100% of locally-raised revenue and a system that provides flexibility for investment in locally-determined priorities.

This council resolves to write to:

- (1) local MPs urging them to sign Early Day Motion 1683 supporting the LGA campaign -  
<<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38870&SESSIOON=899>>
- (2) the Prime Minister stressing this council's support for a system to allow local authorities to retain all the proceeds from their own council house sales and council rent, and stressing the need for him to fulfil his promises to the people of Norwich to increase overall investment in council housing."

### **13. Motion – Waste Management**

Councillor Morrey to move:-

Council recognises the County Council will meet its landfill targets up to 2011 but is concerned that, in the light of the decision of the County Council not to proceed with Contract A, this will not be the case thereafter without further action being taken.

This Council expresses its deep concern that the alternatives being suggested will be unsustainable, expensive and fail to deal with the City Council's residual waste after 2011.

Council believes that collected recycled materials are the source of potential new business opportunities, jobs and raw materials and will support policies that reflect that.

Council resolves to:-

- (1) ask the Executive to press the county council to :-
  - (a) support the City Council's proposals for a waste recovery centre close to the city;

- (b) support the development of small businesses that make use of locally collected materials to establish and promote local jobs and business;
  - (c) explore complimentary options to increase waste that can be turned into something useful on a Norwich or wider scale, for instance food waste;
  - (d) encourage cross council working locally to explore options for minimising residual waste and appropriate ways of disposing of it;
- (2) ask the Waste Management Working Party to consider the response from the County Council, and in due course to advise the Executive on how to take this matter forward.

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