

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 18 March 2014

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 budget council meeting held on 18 February 2014.

6. Questions to cabinet members / committee chairs

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

7. Review of the constitution

(Report of the executive head of strategy, people and democracy)

Purpose –To consider proposed amendments to the council's constitution.

8. Returning officer

(Report of the chief executive)

Purpose – To consider the implications of the temporary senior management support provided to Great Yarmouth Borough Council on the role of returning officer at Norwich City Council.

9. Community infrastructure levy

(Report of the deputy chief executive (operations))

Purpose – To note the constitutional arrangements for the Greater Norwich Growth Board and to consider pooling a proportion of community infrastructure levy income across greater Norwich.

10. Pay policy statement 2014-15 (to follow)

(Report of executive head of strategy, people and democracy)

Purpose – To consider the pay policy statement 2014-15.

11. Motion – Private sector housing standards

Councillor Stonard to move and Councillor Bremner to second the following motion:

“Research carried out by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) shows that 22% (14,398) of households in the city rent from a private landlord which is one of the highest levels in the East of England. Of these, 33% will be on low income, 21% live in fuel poverty and 20% are experiencing conditions posing a significant threat to the health and safety of the occupants (known as a Category 1 hazard.) These include hard-to-heat homes, the presence of damp and mould, trip and fall hazards and a lack of fire precautions. BRE estimates that of the 3,114 houses in multiple-occupation in Norwich, 25% have a Category 1 hazard.

Council **RESOLVES** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the housing strategy’s commitment to “explore options for increasing the size of the private rented sector and to substantially reduce the number of hazardous, poorly managed and sub-standard privately rented homes through enforcement”.
- (2) ask cabinet to :-
 - (a) examine the case for using a system of accreditation and licensing as a way of setting standards and incentivising landlords to manage their properties in an acceptable manner thereby offering the opportunity for prospective tenants to make informed choice
 - (b) continue to use enforcement powers when appropriate to act against landlords who have failed to meet acceptable standards.

12. Motion – Welfare Reform Act: Local Housing Allowance

Councillor Sands (S) to move and Councillor Sands (M) to second the following motion:

Council **RESOLVES** to ask the cabinet member for resources to write to Ian Duncan Smith, Secretary of State at the Department of Work & Pensions, asking him to revoke the Welfare Reform Act regulations relating to Local Housing Allowance for single claimants under 35 years of age.

13. Motion – Apprenticeships through council contracts

Councillor Wright to move and Councillor Ackroyd to second the following motion:

“High-quality apprenticeships are an excellent way of providing opportunities for young people to gain skills and to improve their chances of securing employment, with the added bonus that organisations in the East of England get an average boost of £2,009 for every apprentice hired (after costs).

The Richard Review recommends reforms to apprenticeships which aim to raise standards and produce a more rigorous system, ensuring apprenticeships are increasingly seen as a first-choice career move.

This council is already “using our procurement spend to create opportunities for employment through requiring apprenticeships” as part of the *Procurement Strategy* from October 2012.

Council **RESOLVES** to –

- (1) renew its commitment to the Procurement strategy that requires apprenticeships,
- (2) ask cabinet to commission a report into the feasibility of requiring set percentages of high quality apprenticeships in each contract awarded, a proportion of which should be higher or advanced status, which must be advertised locally.”



Russell O'Keefe
Executive head of strategy, people and democracy

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT -

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10 March 2014



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