



**NORWICH**  
City Council

**NORWICH CITY COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, 30 March 2010**

**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 meetings held on 23 February and 2 March 2010.

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

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

**7. Standards Annual Report**

(Report of the Chair of Standards Committee)

**Purpose** - To note the Annual Report of the Chair of the Standards Committee.

**8. Corporate Plan 2010-2012**

(Report of the Director of Transformation)

**Purpose** - The purpose of this report is to consider the City Council's Corporate Plan for the 2010 -12 period.

## **9. Treasury Management Strategy 2010/11**

(Report of the Head of Finance)

**Purpose** - This report outlines the Council's prudential indicators for 2010/11 through to 2012/13 and sets out the expected treasury operations for this period. It fulfils three key reports required by the Local Government Act 2003:

## **10. Northern City Centre Area Action Plan: Adoption**

(Report of the Head of Planning Services)

**Purpose** - The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with the northern city centre area action plan which has recently been found to be 'sound' by a public examination, and to seek Council approval to adopt the plan.

## **11. Unitary Status for Norwich – Proposed Membership of the Implementation Executive**

(Report of the Director of Transformation)

**Purpose** – To consider the political make-up of City Council representation on an Implementation Executive to manage the transition to a unitary council for Norwich by 31 March 2011.

## **12. Changes to the Constitution**

(Report of the Head of Legal, Regulatory and Democratic Services)

**Purpose** - To adopt changes to the Council's constitution as recommended by the Constitution Working Party at its meeting held on 1 March 2010, and also in the case of the Chief Finance Officer Protocol by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2010 and the Scheme of Delegations by the Executive at its meeting on 10 March 2010.

## **13. Members Allowances Scheme**

(Report of the Head of Legal, Regulatory and Democratic Services)

**Purpose** – To consider the recommendations of the Independent Panel set up to make recommendations on the members allowances scheme as required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations, 2003.

## **14. Motion – River Systems of Norwich**

Councillor Holmes to move:–

'Council -

**RESOLVES** to ask the Executive to explore, in consultation with the River Issues Group and where appropriate the Broads Authority and Anglian Water, the potential of Norwich's river system for future sustainable recreational and economic development including:-

- (1) carrying out a feasibility study for a non-polluting river taxi taking in the railway station and other city centre boarding/embarkation points;

- (2) developing a strategy for repairing and enhancing the river banks particularly in the vicinity of New Mills Yard;
- (3) developing a long term strategy centred on the river through the Local Development Framework and encourage new social enterprise schemes which promote public access to the river in new and existing developments adjacent to the river.'

### **15. Motion – Scrutiny**

Councillor Stephenson to move:-

'Council,

#### **RESOLVES,**

- (1) to increase the involvement of councillors in scrutiny by establishing an appropriate number of committees or panels to fully cover the work of the Council;
- (2) to ask the Head of Legal, Regulatory and Democratic Services to convene a meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, scrutiny officer, representatives of the Corporate Management Team, and leaders of other political groups to explore ways of embedding scrutiny throughout the City Council.'

### **16. Motion – No Recourse to Public Funds**

Councillor Jeraj to move:-

'Under the Immigration Rules, women who have temporary limited leave to remain are not allowed to have recourse to public funds if they leave a violent spouse and very few refugees will accept women without recourse to public funds. A pilot scheme to provide women with accommodation and support whilst their application for leave to remain under the domestic violence rule is under consideration, is coming to an end.

Council,

**RESOLVES** to ask the Executive to consider ways to work together with the Council's partners to counter the specific set of problems that such women face in Norwich.'

### **17. Motion – ICT Open Source Software**

Councillor Makoff to move:

'The recently published "Open Source, Open Standards and Re-Use: Government Action Plan" builds on existing policy for government departments to use open source software wherever it offers the best value for money and states that "where there is no significant overall cost difference between open and non open source products, open source will be selected on the basis of its additional inherent flexibility.  
Council,

**RESOLVES** to ask the Executive:-

- (1) as part of the Strategic ICT Review agreed in this year's budget, to consider whether any of the software currently used within the Council could be replaced with better value for money open source alternatives;
- (2) to review policy and options on ICT procurement including:-
  - how to ensure that systems procured are able to adapt to unforeseen changes and advances in technology;
  - making it a requirement to assess the opportunities to use open source software, including the potential benefits, in a Total Cost of Ownership assessment;
  - the opportunities to the local economy that arise from using software that can be modified by local IT workers rather than being restricted to modification by large companies elsewhere;
  - whether the upgrade and exit/replacement cost of current proprietary systems could or should be included as a liability on the relevant Council balance sheets.'

**18. Motion - Micro Power**

Councillor Morrey to move:-

'The Council is already committed to reducing its own carbon emissions by 30% by 2012/13. The Joint Core Strategy provides policies to require developments to be low or zero carbon and to maximise local renewable energy production.

Therefore Council,

**RESOLVES** to:

- (1) commit to acting as a leader in the city in emission reductions
- (2) ask the Executive to consider ways in which the objectives of the Micro Generation Council could help us achieve this in Norwich. These are to provide:
  - cohesive support, including a fiscal strategy and financial incentives for micro generation technologies;
  - clear consumer information to achieve and maximise consumer engagement;
  - comprehensive retrofit of Norwich's housing stock, including the private rental sector;
  - credible career options in this field in Norwich.

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