

Motion to Council
23 July 2019

Subject Dying to work

Proposer Councillor Matthew Fulton-McAlister
Seconded Councillor Waters

Item
8(a)

Norwich City Council recognises and applauds the hard work, dedication and commitment to public service achieved by its staff, particularly during times of acute austerity facing local government. Recognising the continued importance of creating and maintaining a valued, respected and supported workforce to enable the policies of this council to be successfully implemented in our city we applaud and support the Trade Union Congress new 'Dying to Work' campaign.

Council **RESOLVES** to

- (1) Support a charter which sets out an agreed way in which our employees will be supported, protected and guided throughout their employment, following a terminal diagnosis
- (2) recognise that terminal illness requires support and understanding and not additional and avoidable stress and worry
- (3) Acknowledge that terminally ill workers will be secure in the knowledge that we will support them following their diagnosis and we recognise that, safe and reasonable work can help maintain dignity, offer a valuable distraction and be therapeutic in itself.
- (4) We will provide our employees with the security of work, peace of mind and the right to choose the best course of action for themselves and their families which helps them through this challenging period with dignity and without undue financial loss.
- (5) We support the TUC's Dying to Work campaign so that all employees battling terminal illness have adequate employment protection and have their death in services protected for the loved ones they leave behind.
- (6) Call on employers in this city to support the TUC's Dying to Work campaign so as to raise the wider general quality of terms and conditions of employment needed in large areas of our local economy.
- (7) Delegate responsibility to the cabinet member with responsibility for HR to review and champion Norwich City Council employment policies and support the council's compliance with the spirit of the Charter.

Motion to Council
23 July 2019

Subject School funding cuts

Proposer Councillor Wright
Seconder Councillor Ackroyd

Item
8(b)

Schools in Norwich are facing a bleak financial outlook due to a combination of inadequate government funding and increasing cost pressures.

In total, Norwich school budgets are £6.9m lower this year than they were in 2015/16.

Already we have seen local schools cut staff to the detriment of the pupils' education.

Across the country, many schools report having to ask for donations from parents, cutting back teaching hours, reducing staff numbers, reducing mental health support and reducing mentoring for vulnerable pupils.

Council **RESOLVES** to

(1) note with dismay;

- a) the Government's failure to properly fund schools is jeopardising the education, and future opportunities, of young people in Norwich and is particularly letting down more vulnerable children, such as those with special educational needs and disabilities, and those who need mental health support
- b) that years of real-terms pay cuts for teachers, coupled with the pressure caused by funding cuts in schools and excessive workload, have led to a crisis in retention and recruitment in the teaching profession. This is driving thousands of dedicated professionals out of the jobs they love, and further undermining the quality of education in our schools.

(2) ask group leaders to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling for them to:

- a) reverse, in full, the real-terms cuts to per-pupil school budgets since 2015 – meaning schools in Norwich would receive £6.9m additional funding in 2020.
- b) guarantee all teachers a pay rise which is at least in line with inflation next year, in order to reduce the number of talented teachers leaving the profession.

c) provide additional funding to Norfolk County Council and others across the country, to give more support to children with special educational needs and disabilities

(3) Recognise the importance of Free School Meals to school funding, and therefore ask cabinet, as a matter of urgency, to use all mechanisms under the control of this council to promote Free School Meals and encourage parents to apply.

Motion to Council
23 July 2019

Subject A fairer form of local taxation

Proposer Councillor Schmierer
Seconder Councillor Neale

Item
8(c)

The Institute for Fiscal Studies recently reported that the current council tax system hits the poorest residents much harder than it does the wealthiest.

This new analysis of the impact of tax and benefits on income inequality revealed that the poorest tenth of the population pay 8% of their income in council tax. This is more than double what the richest 40% pay (2-3%).

A band D property in Westminster currently pays £753.85 a year (2019-20), compared to £1,879.45 a year for a similar property in Norwich.

Council therefore **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) note with concern the regressive nature of the current council tax system and also how the cuts to local government from national government have forced councils to raise council tax year after year well above inflation to cover the shortfall;
- 2) ask cabinet to investigate fairer and more progressive forms of local taxation, including a land value tax, and the impact it would have on the residents of Norwich, in particular the poorest in society;
- 3) ask the leader of the council to write to the secretary of state calling on the government to implement such a fairer form of local government taxation and suggest it is tested in Norwich before being rolled out across the rest of England; and
- 4) welcome Norwich City Council's decision to maintain 100% council tax reduction for the city's poorest residents thus far.

Motion to Council
23 July 2019

Subject Plastic free July

Proposer Councillor Osborn
Seconded Councillor Grahame

Item
8(d)

The world's annual consumption of plastic materials has increased from around 5 million tonnes in the 1950s to nearly 100 million tonnes today.

In 2016, this council committed to become a 'single-use-plastic-free' authority by the end of 2017. Since then, the dangers of plastic pollution have been shown to be even more harmful than previously known.

The impact of plastic waste is a burden on the city; flytipping and litter affect our communities.

Norwich now has two zero-waste shops, and Plastic-Free July offers an opportunity to join a growing movement of forward-thinking councils and organisations avoiding plastic.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) support Plastic-Free July in 2020 and thereafter by actively promoting the initiative to discourage plastic use, including with the business community and partners, including:
 - a) holding workshops and events; and
 - b) engaging the public and business communities in bin audits before, during and after Plastic-Free July to identify how much and which types of plastic are currently being used, raise awareness, and set SMART targets to reduce this waste
- (2) carry out bin audits in council buildings to identify how much and which types of plastic are currently being used, and set SMART targets to reduce the waste of these items ahead of Plastic-Free July 2020;
- (3) support market and street traders to end the supply of disposable plastics, and ask the cabinet to investigate the potential to introduce a Norwich equivalent of the "Freiburg Cup", a reusable cup that can be returned for a small deposit to any participating business, to support market traders and other businesses in the transition away from single-use plastics, and to promote Norwich Market as a plastic-free market;

- (4) ask cabinet to investigate establishing a “Plastic-Free Zone” programme that businesses can sign up to, to show that they avoid plastic where possible;
- (5) ask cabinet to assess what more can be done to phase out plastics in procurement for Norwich City Council;
- (6) work with partners to end plastic waste in events in Norwich, such as the Lord Mayor’s Parade and Run Norwich;
- (7) ask cabinet to investigate how businesses that actively seek to reduce plastic waste can be supported, and work with partners including the New Anglia LEP and Norfolk Chambers of Commerce to achieve this; and
- (8) establish regular repair cafés; or support community groups to do so.

Motion to Council
23 July 2019
Subject Motion to rescind decision
Proposer Councillor Waters
Seconder Councillor Maguire

Item
8(e)

In accordance with section 83 of appendix 1 of the council's constitution, the following motion to rescind the decision made at the meeting of council on 26 February 2019 in respect of the item on the Corporate Plan 2019-2022 has been received:

"That the decision to include the words 'and will establish a climate and environment scrutiny committee to oversee this work' in the Corporate Plan 2019 - 2022 be rescinded."

The motion has received the required ten signatures and was signed by councillors Waters, Harris, Maguire, Davis, Stonard, Maxwell, Giles, Peek, Stutely and Driver.

Council **RESOLVES** that the decision taken at the meeting of council on 26 July to include the words 'and will establish a climate and environment scrutiny committee to oversee this work' in the Corporate Plan 2019 - 2022 be rescinded.

Motion to Council
23 July 2019

Subject Formation of a climate change executive panel

Proposer Councillor Maguire
Seconder Councillor Waters

Item
8(f)

On 30 January 2019, Council acknowledged the climate emergency that exists pointing out that it is inextricably linked to social and economic emergencies. On 26 February 2019, Council resolved to amend the corporate plan to ensure council services mitigate climate change, reduce carbon emissions, and are planned with an awareness of the latest UK climate impact projections.

If we are to have a sustainable future, we must marshal our efforts based on the best advice and expertise available.

In order to address climate change, council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) set up a Climate Emergency Executive Panel which will:
 - a) consider climate change and sustainability including social and economic issues in both the short and the long term in order to gather information and generate reports to advise cabinet on:
 - i. their work to make the city of Norwich carbon neutral as soon as possible, considering both production and consumption emissions
 - ii. the continuation and expansion of its work of building climate-change resilient social housing
 - iii. their continued promotion of climate-change resilient planning and building
 - iv. working with other local authorities to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C;
 - v. continuing and expanding their work with partners across the city and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans, framed by the 2040 Vision.
 - b) be drawn from all parties in a politically balanced manner and composed of 7 members

- c) consider:
 - i. what the council is doing now
 - ii. what it plans to do
 - iii. what it might do
 - iv. what other partners could do and
 - v. which other partners or agencies could help us
 - vi. actions needed to be facilitated by or legislated for Government to enhance local action and lobby government to give these effect.
- d) report directly to and advise cabinet including judgements on deliverability and prioritisation; and
- e) have the power to ask for reports from officers and other outside experts in order to help with their recommendations to cabinet.