

**Motion to:** Council

14 March 2023

**Subject:** The Local Electricity Bill

**Proposer:** Councillor Grahame

**Seconder:** Councillor Osborn

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An amendment has been received from **Councillor Hampton**.

**Councillor Hampton** is amending the motion as follows:-

Insert the words “**continue to**” at the start of resolution 2a)

Insert the words “**continue to work with partners to**” at the start of resolution 2c)

Replacing resolution 2d) with the following “**continue to work with partners, as opportunities arise, to ensure that Norwich has the skills and infrastructure needed to rapidly upscale the transition to a zero carbon economy, e.g. supporting and encouraging local retrofit skills to improve the energy efficiency of Norwich’s homes.**”

Replace the word “**announce**” with the word “**reaffirm**” in resolution 2e)

Replacing resolution 2f) with the following “**incorporate into the proposed Environmental Programme work to scope potential opportunities for development of local renewable energy in Norwich and how the council can engage with communities to encourage community ownership of energy; and**”

Replacing resolution 2g) with the following “**incorporate into the proposed Environmental Programme work to scope finance models for local solar and extend this to other forms of local renewable energy including hydropower.**”

So that the revised motion becomes:-

The Local Electricity Bill is a private members’ bill with cross-party support that was introduced unopposed in June 2020. If this Bill was passed in Parliament it would give the energy regulator, Ofgem, a duty to create a Right to Local Supply. This would enable local community energy groups to achieve their vision of supplying generated energy back to the local area, help us as a council to meet our carbon reduction aspirations for the city and also bring multiple benefits to the local

**Item 13(b)**

community. It is supported by many stakeholders, local authorities, and town councils and currently has the backing of 317 MPs.

Council acknowledges the efforts that this council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;

1) Council notes:

- a) There needs to be a fundamental change in how we generate and consume energy in all aspects of our lives. Both electricity generation and distribution are undergoing rapid evolution, in both shape and scale.
- b) The distribution grid must now cope with power flows in both directions. In scale, electrification of heat and transport will require a quadrupling of electricity capacity. Local, community-based energy schemes can make a significant contribution to addressing both issues and encourage a sense of local empowerment to tackle climate change.
- c) Community schemes encourage local generation and storage to match local demand thus relieving pressure on the grid. Local schemes would be given new impetus and be able to contribute more renewable energy if local people could buy their electricity directly from local suppliers. But the disproportionate cost of meeting regulatory approvals makes it impossible to be a local energy supplier at a local scale and so, under the current system, this local energy gets sold back to the central grid.
- d) In June 2019, council unanimously passed a motion committing to “Ask the cabinet member for sustainable and safe city environment to present a report detailing how Norwich City Council might develop new models of finance to support the local solar industry whilst also helping residents and businesses to benefit from renewable energy via the use of power purchase agreements (PPAs) and innovative behind-the-meter services.” The report requested never came to cabinet or to any committees.

2) Council agrees to ask cabinet to:

- a) Continue to work with partners to encourage investment in the electricity grid to increase capacity and improve capacity for two-way flows
- b) investigate potential partnership with Community Energy Pathways to support the development of local community-owned renewable energy
- c) continue to work with partners to explore ways to increase options for energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofitting measures in conservation areas
- d) continue to work with partners, as opportunities arise, to ensure that Norwich has the skills and infrastructure needed to rapidly upscale the transition to a zero carbon economy, e.g. supporting and encouraging local retrofit skills to improve the energy efficiency of Norwich’s homes.

**Item 13(b)**

- e) publicly reaffirm its support for the Local Electricity Bill (LEB)
- f) incorporate into the proposed Environmental Programme work to scope potential opportunities for development of local renewable energy in Norwich and how the council can engage with communities to encourage community ownership of energy; and
- g) incorporate into the proposed Environmental Programme work to scope finance models for local solar and extend this to other forms of local renewable energy including hydropower.