

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 Norwich 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.