



**NORWICH**  
City Council

**NORWICH CITY COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, 21 October 2008**

**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 meeting held on 30 September 2008.

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

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

**7. Northern City Centre Area Action Plan**

(Report of Executive)

**Purpose** - The purpose of this report is to seek committee approval for the Submission report of the area action plan prior to consultation in late 2008 and formal submission to the Secretary of State in early 2009.

**8. Amendments to the Constitution**

(Report of the Constitution Working Party)

**Purpose** - To adopt a revised Code of Governance and procedures for the appointment of substitute members of Committees and Sub-Committees'.

## **9. Motion – Mobilty Benefits for Blind Residents of Norwich**

Councillor Waters to move -

“This Council Notes:

- Norfolk has 2565 registered blind residents, 80% of whom are Old Age Pensioners. This is the third highest total in the East of England.
- That blind people in Norwich experience significant barriers to independent mobility
- That blind people are often isolated and find it difficult to access basic services without mobility assistance, which is especially isolating in Norwich with many services located in the city centre
- That many blind residents in Norwich find it difficult to access Shops, Supermarkets, Doctors, Dentists and Community facilities and centres
- Our blind residents find it difficult to access many Council Services ranging from housing to voting without mobility support and face additional costs as a result, such as using taxis or private hire vehicles.

This Council Further Notes:

- That blind people are not entitled to the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance
- Loss of usable sight clearly causes significant independent mobility problems and incurs significant additional and unmet costs

This Council Resolves to support the blind residents of Norwich by:

1. asking the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, the Rt Hon. James Purnell MP, expressing these concerns
2. asking the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to write to Dr Ian Gibson and Charles Clarke asking that they sign up to EDM number 1982
3. supporting the Royal National Institute of Blind People's (RNIB) campaign on securing the higher rate mobility component of DLA for blind people.”

## **10. Motion – Norwich Airport**

Councillor A Little to move -

“This Council Notes:

- FlyBe has cancelled winter flights to some destinations during 08-09, and the subsequent loss of around 700 passengers (EDP, 23rd September 2008)
- The comments made by the Chief Operating Office of FlyBe saying that Norwich was finding attracting customers to Norwich Airport difficult because of the expansion of Stansted Airport (EDP, 16th September 2008)
- That the government has now given the go-ahead for the expansion of Stansted Airport (BBC, 9th October 2008)

This Council Believes:

- That Norwich International Airport is an important employer and a transport gateway that is vital for the City and for the region.
- That the Council, both as a shareholder and through its leadership role, should support the future development of the airport.
- That Norwich International Airport faces great challenges as a result of Stansted's future expansion.

This Council Resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to:

1. write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask how the Government can now help regional airports such as Norwich.
2. write to the Managing Director of Norwich International Airport to offer the support of the City Council and then to consider the best way of helping the future development of Norwich International Airport.”

## **11. Motion – Social Housing**

Councillor Lubbock to move -

“This Council Notes:

- The amount of social housing nationally has dwindled from 4.386 million social homes to rent in England in 1997 to just 3.936 million social homes in 2006 while the number of households on social housing waiting lists has risen almost 70% to 1.67 million;
- That, according to the National Housing Federation (NHF), one in every 16 households in the East of England are on a social housing waiting list;

- The last year has seen a steady rise in the number of people on social housing lists in Norwich;
- That many newly built flats and houses in the City are unsold or have been left empty due to the sharp economic downturn and associated problems;
- The policy of Newcastle City Council to buy houses on a new private development, which was in severe financial trouble, and make the homes available for affordable rents;

Council Resolves to ask the Executive to:

1. explore the possibility of this Council buying up unsold properties and sites from building companies in order to replenish the social housing stock and help the property sector, using existing funding streams or asking the government to relax borrowing rules, allowing councils and social landlords to borrow against their assets to fund such a scheme;
2. open communication with private developers to see if localised solutions can be found to enable unused or unsold private housing to be used as social housing."

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