

Motion to Council
26 January 2021

Item

9(a)

Subject
Local government funding

Proposer Councillor Kendrick

Seconded Councillor Waters

Following the Local Government Finance Settlement last month, council remains aware that local government is now at breaking point with a catastrophic national funding gap of over £10 billion pounds for vital, local services. Throughout local government, including in Norwich, the national fight against COVID-19 has seen billions spent to protect the most vulnerable, while crucial income has been lost as the country has been in lockdown. After 10 years of cuts, local services were already stretched, particularly in more deprived areas where harsher cuts were targeted. As we face a major recession and increased infection demand on local services will increase and must be resilient and properly funded. The government must urgently fund local government.

Council **RESOLVES** to

(1) Note: -

- a) Between 2010 and 2020, Tory-led governments cut £15bn from English councils, 40% of their funding. Government cuts mean councils have lost more than 60p out of every £1 that the last Labour Government was spending on local government in 2010. Norwich City Council has seen its budgets reduced by £7.3m (or 29%) in cash terms since 2010 and is one of the hardest cut councils in the United Kingdom. This deliberate austerity has caused huge damage to our community in Norwich and throughout the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on.
- b) In order to help our communities throughout the pandemic the City Council were proud to rightly provide a range of extra services including examples such as food parcels for the vulnerable, housing all homeless people and supporting partners in the delivery of vital services. During this time, we have seen our various income streams decline because of government decisions and failure to provide promised support yet billions wasted on ineffective and unreliable private sector outsourcing.
- c) Both vital, valued city services, our ambitious Recovery Plan and 2040 City Vision to move our city forward in response to Covid-19 remains predicated upon effective funding from government together with resource

generated locally. Without support from government, promised at the start of this pandemic, such services will be risked, hampering our city recovery. Short-term emergency funding is no substitute against the need to provide a sustainable revenue source to local government.

- d) Last December, the Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announced the Local Government Finance Settlement claiming to make an extra £2.2 billion available to fund the provision of “critical” public services – but it has emerged that over 85% of this increase comes from a £2bn council tax rise, which will hit every family in the country, particularly those on lower incomes. According to the Local Government Association, councils in England will face a funding gap of more than £5 billion by 2024 just to maintain services at current levels. The LGA estimates that the Government will need to provide an additional £10.1 billion per year in core funding to councils in England by 2023/24 to plug the existing funding gap and to meet growing demand pressures.

2) Ask the Leader to call for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to end austerity in local government by:

- a) Reversing the national shortfall to council budgets and cuts to our City Council budget.
- b) Immediately investing sufficient resource in children’s and adult social care to stop these vital emergency services from collapsing; and
- c) Pledge to use the forthcoming budget to restore council funding to 2010 levels so that local government can deliver the services and support critically required.

Motion to Council
26 January 2021
Subject Maintaining the tree stock in Norwich
Proposer Councillor Neale
Seconded Councillor Grahame

Item
9(b)

The city council has committed to publishing a tree strategy by 2022, but the city loses a number of trees to development each year. The Woodland Trust has said 'Local authorities must plant more trees and protect those they already have'. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) says 'Having more trees in and around our towns and cities, close to where people live and work, brings people closer to nature and improves air quality, with consequent positive health impacts.'

This council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) protect trees in Norwich;
- 2) produce a supplementary planning document which would clarify and strengthen council policies frequently referred to when considering the acceptability of losing a tree or major shrub for development. Whereas currently, such a loss is allowed if 'it would allow for a substantially improved overall approach to the design and landscaping of the development that would outweigh the loss of any tree or hedgerow', the new supplementary planning document will clarify what would be lost and what would be necessary to outweigh that loss in the areas of biodiversity benefits, the cooling effects of trees, air quality and the part that specific trees play in biodiversity corridors.
- 3) provide, within a new supplementary planning document, an explanation of how to calculate the biomass of any tree or major shrub which is to be removed, and a requirement that the biomass should be replaced in full at the completion of the development. This may require considering on and off site provision;
- 4) ask officers to notify ward councillors whenever trees are required to be removed from council-owned land in their wards and for the officers to explain the reason for the removal before this is undertaken. This should be the case for any trees and significant hedge and shrub masses, not only for trees protected by a tree protection order;
- 5) strongly represent the need to preserve trees and the wildlife living on them, and where this is not possible to arrange a 100% biomass replacement at the completion of highway schemes for any highway projects in the city.

Motion to Council
26 January 2021
Subject Repair
Proposer Councillor Grahame
Seconded Councillor Osborn

Item
9(c)

The Mile Cross recycling centre is to be replaced with a new facility near Norwich Airport. Saleable goods will be sold, well-sorted recyclables will be recycled, but there will be some waste going to landfill due to the lack of a repair facility. Goods which have the potential to be repaired and re-used could end up in landfill. The making and disposal of goods creates greenhouse gas emissions which need to be reduced.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) ask group leaders to write to Norfolk County Council asking for the new recycling centre to include a facility for cleaning and repairing potentially reuseable goods and explore the training and employment opportunities of investing in such a facility; and
- 2) build on the work that is already being done to lead by example and minimise its own waste by finding re-use outlets for goods and materials no longer required, for example office furniture and IT hardware.

Motion to Council
26 January 2021
Subject Advertising
Proposer Councillor Schmierer
Seconded Councillor Osborn

Item
9(d)

Paid promotion of activities or products that are potentially harmful to mental or physical health or the environment, such as junk food, gambling, alcohol or the most polluting forms of transport, are very common on our television screens, radios, social media feeds and across a variety of out of home advertising media.

There is a strong precedent for precluding such forms of advertising. Most forms of tobacco advertising and sponsorship were banned from 2003 (e.g. on billboards and in printed publications): tobacco sponsorship of international sport was banned from 2005.

Other councils, including Bristol, have developed more ethical advertising policies.

This council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) ask cabinet to devise an advertising strategy for Norwich City Council which recognises the harmful effects that junk food, environmentally polluting products and activities, payday lenders, gambling and alcohol can have on local residents. This policy would then be used to ascertain which companies and products the council wishes to associate itself with and support, including local businesses, and ban harmful products, companies or services from being advertised in council owned premises, e.g. car parks, in our communications, or from sponsoring council organised events.
- 2) update the council's planning policy to ensure that new advertising hoardings cannot be installed within the proximity of schools.
- 3) Ask cabinet to work with partners to phase out all forms of advertising, especially via outdoor media across the city, that are potentially harmful to our communities, such as gambling, alcohol, junk food and environmentally damaging products.
- 4) Write to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, asking for a ban on such forms of unethical advertising nationally and asking to follow the lead of Italy, which in 2018 introduced a 'Dignity Decree' that banned all advertisements for gambling services across all channels in the country, meaning gambling advertisements were no longer allowed on television, radio, print media, the internet, or any other public forum in Italy.

