

Motion to Council
24 November 2020

Item

9(a)

Subject
Declaring a poverty emergency

Proposer Councillor Davis
Seconded Councillor Huntley

There is a large and growing body of evidence that highlights the disproportionate impact on low income and no income people as a result of recent global recessions and the COVID-19 pandemic. It is becoming clear that poverty is the key defining factor in how people experience the social, economic and environmental impacts of this pandemic in their lives, yet those struggling on the lowest incomes have the least influence in shaping and influencing our approach to recovery. In declaring a poverty emergency, we re-affirm our practical commitment to help build a recovery in which wealth, power and opportunity are extended throughout our community.

Council **RESOLVES** to; -

- 1) Acknowledge that:
 - a) We have an opportunity in how we plan our recovery, firstly to give true recognition to those low-income and no income people who have kept our country running while many of us were in lockdown or isolating at home, but also to create a lasting legacy of change, where poverty is not inevitable in our society and where fairer, greener and stronger communities can emerge.
 - b) In declaring a Poverty Emergency, this council recognises that this is the time for that change, and by aligning this work with our Climate Emergency declaration in 2019, this council commits to a people and planet approach to recovery and renewal which affirms; -
 - i. The harnessing and prioritisation of the appropriate resources of the council to deliver our agreed Recovery Plan, capitalise and implement the future work and opportunities of the Good Economy Commission, 2040 Vision, financial inclusion strategy, together with our partnerships including the Financial Inclusion Consortium, to reduce poverty in the city as we assertively rebuild our post pandemic economy and ensuring this poverty emergency work stream is embedded within the council's ongoing recovery planning.
 - ii. The recognition that once again socio-economic deprivation as an equalities issue and acknowledges that the experience of poverty and

being in crisis has a detrimental impact on health, including mental health and wellbeing, achievement, life chances, participation, resilience, and social cohesion.

- iii. The need to prioritise our people and planet approach in identifying where the environmental, social and poverty agendas overlap in order to tackle common issues of inequality, health and wellbeing through our recovery work and community development within the city.
 - iv. The need to call on government to address the drivers of poverty to include the scrapping of the bedroom tax and for rents to be capped at local Housing Allowance, ending of bogus self-employment and creation of a single status of worker for everyone apart from those genuinely self-employed in business on their own account so that employers cannot evade workers' rights, the ending of disability discrimination and the updating of the Equality Act to introduce new specific duties including disability leave, paid and recorded separately from sick leave, delivery of gender equality by making the state responsible for enforcing equal pay legislation for the first time, and for a new Workers Protection Agency working with HMRC to ensure that employers take equal pay seriously and take positive action to close the gender pay gap, meaning that women will no longer be left to take enforcement action by themselves through the courts; remove discriminatory rules that require landlords to check people's immigration status or that allow them to exclude people on social security; implement a real Living Wage, repeal the Trade Union Act 2016 and give support to sectoral collective bargaining to improve wages and conditions for workers.
- 2) Call on other councils to join with us in declaring a Poverty Emergency as a vehicle for systemic change in our society;and
 - 3) To share through networks like the LGA, our model for declaring a Poverty Emergency alongside a climate and social emergency as best practice in recovery and renewal.

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Item

9(b)

Subject Transitioning to a more sustainable Norwich economy

Proposer Councillor Osborn
Seconder Councillor Youssef

While Norwich City Council has reduced its own operational emissions, at current emissions levels, the city of Norwich will use its entire carbon budget within seven years according to the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. In January 2019, Norwich City Council acknowledged that climate and social emergencies are inextricably linked. We now also face the challenge of coronavirus which has been called 'a public health crisis, an economic crisis and a social crisis'. Kate Raworth has said 'Humanity's 21st century challenge is to meet the needs of all within the means of the planet.'

This council **RESOLVES**:

- 1) to work together with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and other local partners including the Good Economy Commission and Norfolk County Council to produce a plan for transitioning the Norwich city economy away from carbon to meet the 12.8% year-on-year minimum emissions reduction target stipulated by the Tyndall Centre and address the biodiversity crisis while also protecting against poverty and improving social inclusion, including by:
 - a) Supporting access to training for employees and prospective employees in industries which are at risk of shrinking due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate emergency, such as the aviation industry in Norwich, encouraging access to alternative employment and the chance to retrain for work in renewable energy engineering or other sectors needed for a zero-carbon economy;
 - b) Working with chemicals manufacturers to evaluate the impact of chemicals produced in Norwich on biodiversity and on local health outcomes and taking steps as needed to reduce or eliminate their environmental impact;

- c) Working with Norfolk County Council and local groups including residents' associations, the Norwich Access Group and campaign groups to continue to improve public transport, walking and cycling links in the city and reduce carbon emissions from transport;
 - d) Working with the local financial services industry to stimulate investment in local highly-skilled low-carbon jobs;
 - e) Supporting the development of high-quality modular building in Norwich to accelerate the delivery of low-carbon, high-quality homes;
 - f) Funding a programme of retrofitting of existing housing stock to reduce energy waste and fuel poverty, including working with local education providers to train the necessary workforce to meet the skills gap in the retrofitting sector;
 - g) Working to support local production of renewable energy, including by supporting infrastructure for a decentralised grid and peer-to-peer trading;
 - h) Supporting the localisation of food production, including by working with community groups and developers to increase access to urban-grown local produce;
 - i) Supporting the reversal of species loss by working with landowners and property owners to provide space for nature, including through green roofs and living walls;
 - j) Continuing to work to encourage businesses to reduce and eliminate material, water and energy waste, and continuing to support the development of a circular economy.
- 2) to ask the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, recognising that the transition to a zero-carbon economy will involve changes to jobs and working patterns, to ensure that the working people and communities of Norwich are represented in the LEP's decision making processes, and that their priorities are supported, including by:
- a) ensuring trades unions are represented on the NALEP board, sub-boards and committees;
 - b) working with community organisations and the voluntary sector to ensure that community interests are represented at the earliest stage of development for any decarbonisation plans;
 - c) providing additional funding as needed for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations in recognition of the vital role they play in building community wellbeing.

- 3) to ask the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, recognising that a great deal of the economic activity and associated environmental impacts of the city of Norwich are linked with those of the wider East Anglian region, to fund an independent citizens' assembly that would be demographically representative of the East Anglian region to design a framework for climate and economic action post Covid-19.

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Item

Subject Advocating a 20mph speed restriction on most roads inside the Outer Ring Road

9(c)

Proposer Councillor Price
Seconder Councillor Carlo

In 2012, Norwich City Council made advocacy for 20mph speed restrictions in residential areas a corporate priority. In 2015 Norwich Highways Agency Committee (NHAC) approved a 20mph limit within the historic city centre. In 2017 NHAC resolved that 20mph should be considered the default speed restriction for all residential roads. Main roads passing through densely built-up areas and providing important walking or cycling routes to essential places were not considered for 20mph limits. A 20mph limit creates a safer environment for encouraging walking and cycling, leading to better health and air quality, greater social equity and lower carbon emissions.

This council resolves to ask Norfolk County Council's Transforming Cities Fund Joint Committee to:

- 1) include the principle of 20mph as the default speed limit on most roads inside the Outer Ring Road as part of the public consultation into the Transport for Norwich Strategy review;
- 2) to develop and adopt a plan showing a 20mph speed limit on most roads within the Outer Ring Road which, if approved, the Joint Committee would implement in stages;
- 3) develop and implement a strategy for a 20mph speed limit within the Outer Ring Road, if the principle and an accompanying plan are approved.

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Item

9(d)

Subject Food poverty

Proposer Councillor Wright
Seconder Councillor Ackroyd

Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford has successfully campaigned on school holiday hunger and has recently formed a taskforce with some of the UK's leading food retailers and charities to help reduce child food poverty.

This taskforce has called upon the government to fund three policy recommendations from the National Food Strategy, an independent review of UK food policy, as soon as possible:

- the expansion of free school meals to every child from a household on Universal Credit or equivalent, reaching an additional 1.5m children aged seven to 16
- the expansion of holiday food and activities to support all children on free school meals, reaching an additional 1.1m children
- increasing the value of the Healthy Start vouchers from £3.10 to £4.25 per week and expanding it to all those on Universal Credit or equivalent, reaching an additional 290,000 children under the age of four and pregnant women

The taskforce has said that implementing these three recommendations would mark a 'unifying step to identifying a long-term solution to child poverty in the UK'.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) Support the conclusion of the taskforce in calling upon the government to immediately fund these recommendations.
- 2) Support the sentiment that if the Prime Minister wishes to be believed when he talks of 'building (Britain) back better' then he must address child food poverty as a top priority; for how can Britain be better when our nation's children continue to go hungry?

- 3) Express thanks and appreciation on behalf of the citizens of Norwich to those businesses and community groups who provided food for children during the recent school holidays; plugging the gap left by central government.
- 4) Endorse the cabinet decision to award £10,000 to help fund meals during the October half term break.
- 5) Ask group leaders to write to;
 - a. Marcus Rashford commending him for his initiative and offering this Council's support for his work and that of the taskforce.
 - b. Henry Dimbleby, who led the National Food Strategy, commending the work of the review panel and offering this Council's support for their recommendations.
 - c. The Chancellor of the Exchequer calling upon him to fund these three top recommendations as a matter of great urgency.
 - d. Our local MPs asking them to also make urgent representations to the Chancellor on this issue.