



**Council**

**14:00 to 14:10**

**29 September 2021**

Present: Councillors Maguire (Lord Mayor), Ackroyd, Bogelein, Davis, Harris, Kendrick, Maxwell, Oliver, Stonard, Thomas (Va), Thomas (Vi) and Waters

Apologies: Councillors Button, Brociek-Coulton, Champion, Carlo, Driver, Everett, Fulton-McAlister (M) , Fulton-McAlister (E), Galvin, Giles, Grahame, Hampton, Haynes, Huntley, Jones, Lubbock, Manning, Packer, Peek, Price, Sands (M), Sands (S), Schmierer, Stutely, Wright and Youssef.

**1. Lord Mayor's Announcement**

The Lord Mayor explained the procedures for this formal meeting of the council, convened to confirm the votes cast at the informal meeting of the council on 28 September 2021; and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

**2. Public questions / petitions**

Public questions and petitions had been heard at the informal meeting on 29 September 2021.

**3. Declarations of interests**

Councillor Bogelein declared a pecuniary interest in item 6a (below) – Motion – COP26 – and would leave the meeting for the discussion and vote on the item.

**4. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 and 21 July 2021.

**5. Treasury management full year review 2021-22**

**RESOLVED**, unanimously, to note the report and the treasury activity for the year to 31 March 2021

## 6. Motions

(Notice of the following motions, 6(a) to 6(d), below, as set out on the agenda, had been received in accordance with the council's constitution.)

### 6 (a) Motion: COP26

(Councillor Bogelein left the meeting for the duration of this item having declared a pecuniary interest).

The following amendment was received from Councillor Osborn:-

Inserting the words "**and improve upon**" after "**continue to review**" in resolution (2).

Councillor Hampton had indicated that she was willing to accept the amendment and as no other member objected, the amendment became part of the substantive motion.

**RESOLVED**, unanimously, that:

"This summer we have seen more evidence of the immediate impact of climate change, including rampant wildfires in America, hundreds of people killed by extreme floods in Germany and China and the Met Office issuing its first ever extreme heat warning in the UK. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Report, published in August 2021, found that the global surface temperature will continue to rise until at least the middle of this century. Global warming of 1.5C and 2C will be exceeded this century unless deep cuts to carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions are made over the coming decades.

This council **RESOLVES** to:-

(1) Note; -

- a) The UK Government is the host of COP26, being held in Glasgow in November 2021. This is an opportunity for the UK Government to radically shape global action on climate change, and to use the opportunity to shape how climate change is tackled in the UK.
- b) Norwich City Council has declared a Climate Emergency and recognised that this is inextricably linked with social and economic emergencies which affect ordinary people globally and locally.
- c) Norwich City Council has already taken a number of actions to tackle climate change locally, including setting up a renewable energy company for Norwich and Norfolk, delivering award-winning Passivhaus developments, being the first authority to run public auctions for domestic solar panels and the first city in the UK to run a collective switching programme.

- d) Local government has the ability, knowledge and tools to make an impact at a local level. However, councils have seen their funding from government cut by over 60p in every £1 since 2010, which has had a crippling effect on services and will severely impact the ability of councils to reach their full potential in tackling the causes of climate change.
- e) Ask the Leader to write to Alok Sharma MP, President of COP26, Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to:
- i. Make the case for local government having a stronger role in tackling climate change and to share examples of the work already done by Norwich City Council;
  - ii. Call for the UK Government to provide councils with the resource and powers necessary to take even more ambitious action to tackle climate change;
  - iii. State our support for substantial public investment in a green recovery that tackles the Climate Emergency, creates climate jobs and is underpinned by a fair deal for workers.

(2) continue to review and improve upon the progress made by Norwich City Council in meeting the goals and objectives set out in Norwich City Council's Climate Emergency declaration.

(3) continue to work with employers in the city, including businesses, the third sector, charities and the public sector through the LEP, BID and Good Economy Commission, Norwich 2040 Partnership and Norwich Climate Commission to encourage them to take steps to reduce their carbon emissions and operate in a more sustainable way, and learn from any best practice that they've already put in place."

(Councillor Bogelein was readmitted to the meeting).

### **6(b) Motion: Climate change adaptation**

The following amendment was received from Councillor Hampton:-

Inserting the words "**Continue to**" at the start of resolution (1) and (2)

Councillor Carlo indicated that she was willing to accept the amendment and as no other member objected, the amendment became part of the substantive motion.

**RESOLVED**, unanimously, that:

"The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides a stark warning. The world must drastically cut greenhouse gases this decade if we are to stay within 1.5 degrees C or else face dire consequences. Extreme weather is becoming the norm under 1.1 C and yet we are headed towards 3C. The poorest communities are least responsible for these crises and are invariably the worst affected. The Climate Change Committee has repeatedly warned of the need for adaptation to climate change, saying the risks to all aspects of life in the UK have

increased over the last five years. We must now adapt to the effects of future climate change, not merely the current consequences.”

Council **RESOLVES** to ask cabinet to:

- (1) Continue to work with partners to share and implement climate change adaptation strategies to increase the climate resilience of the city and its citizens.
- (2) Continue to develop and implement a climate change adaptation strategy which covers all areas of the City Council’s work, including work carried out by wholly-owned companies and contractors.
- (3) Continue working with partners such as the LGA to make the case to government for additional resources for local authorities for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

(The following items had been taken as unopposed business.)

**6(c) Motion: Glasgow food and climate declaration**

(Proposer Councillor Davis, seconder Councillor Osborn. Unopposed business)

**RESOLVED** that:

“Over the last decade food poverty in Norwich has significantly increased, a symptom of the increasing effects of wider climate change on aspects of our food system and society. Earlier this year Norwich City Council signed the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, joining other local authorities in speaking with a unified voice to renew their commitments to develop sustainable food policies, promote mechanisms for joined-up action and call on national governments to put sustainable food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency.

Council **RESOLVES** :

- 1) To note;
  - a) Its concern that the COVID-19 crisis has exposed the fragility of our food systems, the vulnerabilities of large parts of urban and rural populations and the critical need for preparedness and resilience in the face of shocks;
  - b) that food systems currently account for 21-37% of total greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), and are at the heart of many of the world’s major challenges today including biodiversity loss, enduring hunger and malnutrition, and an escalating public health crisis;
  - c) that unsustainable dynamics pervade the whole food chain, primarily stemming from industrial food and farming systems which exploit all

aspects of agriculture to maximise profits; this should be addressed through the involvement of all food system stakeholders in decision-making for a sustainable and just transition – including food and farm workers, civil society groups, researchers, indigenous communities, women, and especially youth whose future are the most at risk from the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss;

- d) systemic inequality is pervasive throughout the food system, and disproportionately affects communities ranging from people living in poverty, people experiencing racism, people displaced due to climate change or conflict, people with precarious legal status, and many others; and many of these same groups are exploited for their labour globally;
  - e) that only Sustainable Development Goals can identify effective intervention points to accelerate climate action while delivering many complementary benefits, including the promotion of biodiversity, ecosystem regeneration and resilience, circularity, equity, access to healthy and sustainable diets for all, and the creation of resilient livelihoods for farm and food workers;
  - f) that cities and regions are leading the way in pioneering integrated food policies and strategies at the local level to reduce their environmental footprint, drive sustainable food system development and ensure greater resilience to shocks;
  - g) the number of commitments on sustainable urban and regional food policies already made by cities, local and regional governments over the last two decades, in particular the 2014 World Urban Forum Medellin, the 2015 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP), the 2015 Seoul Declaration, the 2016 New Urban Agenda, and the 2019 C40 Good Food Cities Declaration;
  - h) that actions must be aligned horizontally (across policy areas) and vertically (between different levels of governance) to accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems;
  - i) that cross-sectoral, multi-level, and multi-actor governance of food systems is required in order for sustainable and just food systems to take root, and that this requires national governments to take a proactive and enabling role;
  - j) that without accompanying regulatory and legislative reforms at the national level, the impact of such partnerships and policies will be limited;
- 2) That we, the undersigned elected leaders of subnational governments, in anticipation of the 26th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC in Glasgow, commit to accelerate climate action by building and facilitating sustainable food systems transformation, by:

- a) Continuing the work with appropriate partners within existing budgets to develop and implement, where relevant, integrated food policies and strategies as key tools in the fight against climate change; and ensuring that these instruments adopt a food systems approach that involves actors across all parts of the food chain; continue to support local food producers especially community gardens and allotments; include metrics to assess GHG emissions reduction targets from food systems, as well as opportunities for cooperation and best practice sharing between subnational governments.
- b) Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from urban and regional food systems in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals and building sustainable food systems that are able to rebuild ecosystems and deliver safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, and sustainable diets for all.
- c) Calling on government to establish supportive and enabling policy frameworks and multi-level and multi-actor governance mechanisms, allowing coordinated decision-making on food systems. These mechanisms will support the drafting of inclusive national food policies to be included into the revisions of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)."

**6(d) Motion: Lift the ban coalition**

(Proposer Councillor Ackroyd, seconder Councillor Wright. Unopposed business)

**RESOLVED** that:

"As of the end of June 2021, in Norwich, there are 117 people seeking asylum in receipt of Section 95 support, and global events over the summer may well see this figure increase.

Since 2002, people seeking asylum have only able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List but currently people seeking asylum are left to live on £5.66 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation.

71% of people polled agreed with the statement: "when people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process".

The potential foregone economic gain for the UK economy of allowing people to work is estimated to be £42.4million via increased taxable income and reduced payments of accommodation/subsistence support.

Council **RESOLVES** to

- 1) Recognise that:

- a. people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, and provide for themselves and their families.
  - b. restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Norwich and the UK.
  - c. allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in Norwich and for the local and national economy.
- 2) Applaud the efforts of several MPs (Christine Jardine – Lib Dem, Carol Monaghan – SNP and Chris Stephens – SNP) who have introduced Private Members' Bills to grant asylum seekers the right to work.
  - 3) Join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim; and
  - 4) Ask group leaders to write to the appropriate minister calling on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission.”

LORD MAYOR