



NORWICH
City Council

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, 25 January 2011

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 November 2010.

6. Questions to cabinet members/committee chairs

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

7. Calculation of the council tax 2011/2012

(Report of the head of finance)

Purpose -To ask the Council to approve the calculation of the council tax base for 2011/2012

8. Motion – Coalition government plans for housing

To be moved by Councillor Arthur:-

"In the light of the changes that the coalition government is proposing to make in relation to housing, this council **RESOLVES** to –

- (1) oppose the coalition government's proposals in its draft consultation "Fair and Flexible: draft statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England" because they will result in

reduced access to social housing for the Norwich people who most need decent affordable homes.

- (2) support the cabinet's aspiration to resume building council houses as well as working in partnership with other registered providers and through the agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency.
- (3) oppose any measures proposed by the coalition government that would reduce the rights or capacity of Norwich residents to remain in their homes as secure tenants."

9. Motion – Financial settlement

To be moved by Councillor Waters

"In December the coalition government announced a provisional Formula Grant Settlement for Norwich City Council that will significantly reduce the level of resources available to deliver services. This will have consequences for Norwich City Council through:

- the introduction without consultation of 'Revenue Spending Power' as an expenditure measure for local government.
- the negative impact of the damping arrangements and the Transition Grant not sufficiently mitigating the impact of the reduction in formula grant to protect current service levels.
- the 'frontloading' of budget cuts announced as part of the settlement.

The Portfolio holder for resources, performance and shared services has already made the strongest representations for a fair deal for Norwich as part of the consultation on the provisional settlement.

Council therefore **RESOLVES** to:-

- (1) condemn as inadequate the provisional financial settlement for Norwich City Council announced by the Government.
- (2) call upon the City's two MPs Chloe Smith and Simon Wright to support the representations made by the Portfolio holder for resources, performance and shared services to get a final settlement which more accurately reflects the requirements of the city council to meet the needs of Norwich."

10. Motion - Facilitation of peaceful demonstrations

To be moved by Councillor Jeraj

"In December during a demonstration in London against the tripling of student fees attended by Norwich students from the University of East Anglia, Norwich University College of the Arts, Norwich City College and sixth formers, some students and police officers were injured.

Council **RESOLVES** to ask the cabinet to work with the Norfolk Police Authority and campaigners to help facilitate demonstrations in Norwich in a

peaceful fashion, avoiding such confrontation as was recently evident in London."

11. Motion – Northern distributor road funding

To be moved by Councillor Ramsay

"Major capital funding has not yet been secured to build a northern distributor road (NDR) around Norwich yet Norfolk County Council proposes a budget of £750,000 on modelling work on the NDR in 2011/12 with a further £750,000 in 2012/13, as well as up to £600,000 on the creation of the Postwick hub next year. At the same time, the county council is making cuts to road safety measures in Norwich and other transport capital expenditure.

Council **RESOLVES** to ask the cabinet to write to Norfolk County Council, asking it to refrain from spending large sums of money on preparing for a road scheme which might never be completed while it is also making cuts."

12. Motion – Community rail partnership funding

To be moved by Councillor Read

"Council **RESOLVES** to ask the Cabinet to write to Norfolk County Council:

- (1) asking it not to cut its financial support to the Community Rail Partnerships supporting the Bittern Line and the Wherry Line.
- (2) pointing out the benefits to Norwich and the surrounding area of these rural rail lines, and the ongoing support being given by the city council."

13. Motion – Support for tenants to set up businesses in their homes

To be moved by Councillor Wright (James)

"Of the 200,000 small businesses operating from home in the UK only 22,000 of these are in council or housing association properties. The Chartered Institute of Housing has published guidance to help more social housing tenants to take up business ventures and the Housing minister Grant Shapps MP has urged councils and housing associations to help unlock their tenants' entrepreneurial talents and allow them to set up businesses from their homes.

Council **RESOLVES** to ask cabinet to :-

- (1) provide support and encouragement to those Norwich tenants who wish to become small business owners,
- (2) promote the work of organisations such as Outset Norfolk who provide vital mentoring in growing these sustainable local businesses and help to realise their full potential.

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17 January 2011



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