

Motion to: Council

30 November 2021

Subject: Veterans

Proposer: Councillor Mike Sands

Seconder: Councillor Davis

"This council supports our Armed Forces, forces families and veterans living in city. We are proud that British Forces are respected worldwide for their professionalism and excellence. Over the last year our Armed Forces have shown just how indispensable they are to the Nation's security, from recently airlifting British nationals out of Afghanistan to driving NHS ambulances and delivering vital fuel. Just as our Armed Forces work to keep us all safe and our country secure, so we must do all we can to support them both in our city and beyond.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) note that;
 - a) The Armed Forces Bill, which will soon return to the Commons from the Lords, provides an important opportunity to tangibly improve the lives of our service personnel, veterans, and their families. The current Armed Forces Covenant is not currently enshrined in law allowing for wide variations in its interpretation at local level. When this is combined with years of government austerity it results in many local authorities being forced to concentrate ever more on their basic, statutory services.
 - b) That following their service, commonwealth veterans can be left with steep financial costs to remain in the UK. Whilst their applications are ongoing, commonwealth veterans are unable to seek employment or claim social security, with many facing NHS bills of tens of thousands of pounds for life saving treatment following service that placed their own lives at risk for the benefit of us all.
- 2) ask the Leader to write to: -
 - a) The Minister of State for Immigration, The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence People and Veterans, and our two local MPs to pledge support for the incredible service of men and women from the Commonwealth and Nepal who have served and do serve in the UK Armed Forces, and the unconscionable way so many of them and their families are being treated. In particular we agree with veterans who believe their right to stay in the UK should be awarded automatically on account of their service and note that the recent government public consultation was insufficient in scope; with the only

proposal being to offer a visa fee waiver after 12 years' service – an unduly high threshold that will alleviate costs for only a fraction of service personnel. Council believes that only meaningful reform will deliver justice, and that means introducing a free and equitable route to citizenship that incorporates families, and – as we as nation do not know how many have been affected by this injustice – believe that the government should establish a dedicated unit to assist veterans, similar to the Windrush Taskforce.

- b) The minister of state for immigration and minister for veterans to pledge our support for all commonwealth veterans who have served a minimum of 4 years to be granted automatic and free of charge right to remain in the UK and that any veteran who completes 12 years of service to be automatically given British Citizenship without charge.
 - c) The defence secretary to request that a £35m fund to support British veterans and Afghan interpreters is delivered (through funding recovered from cancelled MoD interpreter contracts) for grants to charities and Local Authorities in England to provide mental health support services for veterans and support for those Afghan nationals who have relocated to the UK through the ARAP scheme.
- 3) develop, working with the veteran's champion and cabinet member for social inclusion an enhanced Norwich Armed Forces Community Covenant, to complement the Armed Forces Covenant. “

Motion to: Council

30 November 2021

Subject: Local energy business campaign

Proposer: Councillor Hampton

Seconder: Councillor Stutely

Norwich City Council **RESOLVES** to; -

- 1) Acknowledge the efforts that this Council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy including such programmes as ROAR power, COSY City, Solar Together and Big Switch and Save in recent years.
- 2) Further recognise:
 - a) that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,
 - b) that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for local companies and community groups to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses, and organisations, if they wished, and
 - c) that revenues received by such local companies or community groups that chose to become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions;
 - d) Notes that the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, as a result of its 2021 Technological Innovations and Climate Change inquiry, recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this;
 - e) Accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 266 MPs and which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company; and
- 3) Further resolves to
 - a) inform the local media of this decision,

- b) write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and
- c) write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at Camden Collective, 5-7 Buck Street, London NW1 8NJ or info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support.

Motion to: Council

30 November 2021

Subject: Fireworks

Proposer: Councillor Davis

Seconder: Councillor Stonard

This Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) call on the relevant licensing authorities to require all public firework displays within the city boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
- 2) actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- 3) write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays; and
- 4) encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.

Motion to: Council

30 November 2021

Subject: Anti-Social Behaviour and Residents' Feelings of Safety

Proposer: Councillor Bogelein

Seconder: Councillor Osborn

"The level of anti-social behaviour recorded in Norwich varies greatly in different parts of the city. The percentage of residents who feel safe in their communities also varies and it is largely the case that council tenants feel less safe than residents in other forms of housing.

1) Council notes:

- a) Residents' feelings of safety and anti-social behaviour can be linked to the state of cleanliness and upkeep of an area.
- a) Anti-social behaviour is the one category that has been marked as red on the council's risk register since the introduction of the new risk register.
- b) The council has recently changed its approach to responding to anti-social behaviour in order to improve the experience of those who report anti-social behaviour to the council.

2) Council resolves to ask cabinet to consider:

- a) continuing to lobby for and implementing measures which address the structural drivers behind anti-social behaviour;
- b) introducing a separate theme in the covid recovery plan to look at actions that reduce anti-social behaviour and increase feelings of safety;
- c) bringing forward the underspend of the estate aesthetics programme in the coming financial year to address issues of cleanliness and upkeep on council estates, which can influence anti-social behaviour and feelings of safety;
- d) looking at opportunities to increase CCTV coverage, where the evidence indicates a demand and to increase the monitoring of CCTV in line with requests from the public, councillors and the police;
- e) using partial premises closure orders for public spaces such as staircases which suffer from frequent use of drug dealing and drug use;
- f) providing the budget to increase the number of safer neighbourhood coordinators;

- g) increasing resident engagement around anti-social behaviour through regular resident audits together with officers;
- h) communicating with residents the option of a community trigger as a way to escalate situations around anti-social behaviour, where action by the council and partner agencies has not resulted in any improvement;
- i) producing a strategy for designing out crime in council-owned parks and public spaces.”

Motion to: Council

30 November 2021

Subject: Housing safety compliance

Proposer: Councillor Lubbock

Seconder: Councillor Ackroyd

"In October 2021 the council wrote to 17,000 tenants and leaseholders to inform them of its failure to carry out legal safety checks on properties that it has responsibility for.

The verdict of the Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) is that 'Norwich City Council has failed to meet statutory health and safety requirements in relation to fire, electrical and water safety....and as a consequence there was the potential for serious detriment to tenants.'

New governance arrangements, comprehensive plans and proposals are being developed to return NCC homes to full compliance, including the creating of a Health and Safety Compliance Board to oversee the process of implementing a 'Compliance Improvement Plan'.

Council **RESOLVES** to increase the membership of the Health and Safety Compliance Board to include members who are external to the administration in order to improve scrutiny, openness and transparency. This increase will include representatives of tenants and leaseholders - the voice of those who receive the services - and members of the opposition parties, for at least 2 years or the duration of the Health and Safety Compliance Board.

Motion to: Council

30 November 2021

Subject: Drink spiking

Proposer: Councillor Jones

Seconder: Councillor Stutely

"In recent months there has been concern in this city about rising reports of spiking incidents, largely targeting women. We have seen the nationwide 'Girls Night In' campaign gaining traction, with Norwich based protests taking place on 26th October. Worryingly, in this same evening, 5 people were spiked by injection. To the 8 November, 49 reports have been received by Norfolk Police – 34 drink spiking and 15 by injection. In response, the Police have engaged extensively with licensees, working with venues on new and extended measures to help keep our young and vulnerable people safe in the city's late-night economy.

Council RESOLVES to:

- 1) Welcome the introduction of more routine searches including the use of detector devices; initiatives such as dedicated welfare officers; safe zones for people that are vulnerable or become unwell; caps for open drink containers, sign-in systems, and improved staff training will all contribute to a safer environment.
- 2) Thank Norfolk Constabulary for continuing to expand their excellent work in this area and increasing resources for further engagement with venues and additional plain clothed patrols in spiking hot spots.
- 3) Call on the Government to increase police funding for the purpose of tackling this character and type of offending which includes spiking in drinks and by injection, sexual assaults in night-time venues and all forms of harassment and discrimination
- 4) Continue working closely with Norfolk Police, Licensees (directly and through business groups such as the Licensing Forum), to support the introduction of new measures that will improve safety in the city's late-night economy
- 5) Continue to support the work of volunteer organisations such as SOS Bus and Street Presence pastors
- 6) Work closely with partners, including Norwich BID, to raise awareness among all late-night license holders and encourage the widespread adoption of new measures

- 7) Work with relevant partners to incorporate strategies that tackle these new forms of offending behaviour including the potential to develop a night-time safety charter that seeks to eliminate spiking in drinks and by injection, sexual assaults, all forms of harassment and discrimination in our city, and to ensure all visitors and staff get home safely and promote the charter across the city.
- 8) Continue to enforce all four licensing objectives wherever there is confirmed evidence of breaches.