

Motion to Council
29 January 2019
Subject Declare a climate emergency
Proposer Councillor Carlo
Seconder Councillor Price

Item
8(a)

Humans have caused irreversible climate change. The world is set to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report describes the enormous harm that a 2° rise in temperature is likely to cause, saying that limiting temperate rise to 1.5° may still be possible with ambitious action.

In order to limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, humans must urgently reduce our carbon equivalent emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes.

Authorities around the world are declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
- (2) Pledge to make the city of Norwich carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- (3) Call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- (4) Work with other local authorities to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C;
- (5) Ask Cabinet to:
 - a) continue to work with partners across the city and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans; and
 - b) report to Council within six months with the actions the Cabinet will take to address this emergency.

Motion to Council
29 January 2019

Item

Subject Protecting tenants in the private rented sector

8(b)

Proposer Councillor Jones
Seconder Councillor Maguire

People in Norwich who are renting from a private landlord often have to put up with insecure tenancies, poor standards and rising costs.

Over the last 8 years we have seen a very significant increase in the private rented sector within Norwich, whereby at least one in five households now rent privately.

Recent media coverage of the appalling conditions experienced by tenants residing in St Faith's Lane demonstrate the ever serious need for radical housing reform to better protect and improve the private rented sector.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) Thank the officers in the private sector housing and home options teams for their hard work and dedication to supporting tenants within this city, but particularly those at St Faith's Lane.
- (2) Request the government provide the true funding required to cover the costs of effective enforcement within this city.
- (3) Ask the leader of Norwich City Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing demanding policy change so that tenants in the private rented sector have new protections including;
 - a) Giving security and peace of mind by legislating for 3-year tenancies giving renters a stable home and landlords the confidence to invest in their properties.
 - b) Ending excessive rent increases by putting a ceiling on rent increases during the new 3-year tenancies.
 - c) Banning rip-off letting agent fees for tenants by effectively legislating to stop letting agents charging tenants fees, rather than the watered down proposals of the Tenant Fees Bill.
 - d) Introducing a national register of landlords to drive up standards and ensure tough sanctions are in place for bad landlords.

- e) Creating a new benchmarking system for property standards.
- f) Bringing an end to cold homes and reduce fuel poverty by setting a new target to upgrade the energy efficiency of properties in the private rented sector.

Motion to Council
29 January 2019

Item

Subject Trams

8(c)

Proposer Councillor Raby
Seconder Councillor Carlo

Norwich's 2040 Vision sees the city as a 'connected' city 'having a clean, affordable, integrated transport system'. Plans for new homes and jobs in the city also require additional means of transportation for residents. Trams and Light Rail Transport (LRT) systems are efficient, clean, comfortable and reliable, and growing numbers of cities in the UK and beyond have or are considering tram or LRT systems. In Germany, France, the Netherlands and elsewhere several cities the size of Norwich or even smaller have such systems.

This Council therefore **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) ask the Greater Norwich Development Partnership to press for inclusion of a tram or LRT project as a high priority in the Greater Norwich Local Plan;
and
- (2) ask the Local Enterprise Partnership, the region's MPs and the Department of Transport to lend their support to such a project.

Motion to Council
29 January 2019
Subject Universal Credit
Proposer Councillor Davis
Seconder Councillor Smith

Item

8(d)

Despite knowing Universal Credit causes serious problems for claimants, the government is pressing ahead with the roll out which increased in Norwich last autumn.

In Norwich, like elsewhere in Britain, claimants are descending into debt, relying on food banks, getting into rent arrears and in some cases getting evicted from their homes because of in-built problems with Universal Credit.

Council **RESOLVES** to;

- (1) agree that this Council has no confidence in Universal Credit;
- (2) call on the Leader of the Council to make representations to the Rt Hon Amber Rudd, Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions to urge her to scrap Universal Credit and to replace it with a social security system that supports people and ensures that nobody is worse-off, rather than driving them into greater poverty; and
- (3) continue to commit appropriate resources from within the Council's budget to support residents affected by Universal Credit.

Motion to Council
29 January 2019
Subject Western Link
Proposer Councillor Carlo
Seconded Councillor Raby

Item

8(e)

Norfolk Wildlife Trust has said that the “Western Link road will lead to direct loss of habitat, the separation of remaining habitats into smaller fragments and impacts on floodplain hydrology as well as increased light, noise, road run-off and air pollution over a considerable distance each side of the road.”

Council **RESOLVES** to reverse the recent decision of cabinet and advise Norfolk County Council that the city council opposes the principle of the proposal to construct the Norwich Western Link.