



NORWICH
City Council

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, 24 June 2008

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 meetings held on 20 May and 3 June 2008.

6. Questions to Executive Members/Committee Chairs

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

7. The Council's Corporate Plan

(Report of the Chief Executive)

Purpose - To consider the proposed Corporate Plan

8. Motion – Cycle Provision in Norwich

Councillor Jeraj to move:

"Council notes:

- the strong demand for cycling in Norwich
- the relatively fragmented and piecemeal nature of the present cycling network
- the existence of plans for a full 'Norwich Cycling Network'

Council believes:

- that Norwich deserves coherent and high quality conditions for cycling.
- that this can be achieved through the production and implementation of an 'improvement plan' which identifies key improvements to cycling infrastructure and completes the Norwich Cycling Network
- opportunities for implementing this plan will become available through the County Council Local Transport Plan; S106 agreements; as part of regeneration schemes such as the Northern City Centre Area Action Plan; and works programmes in addition to any external funding sought for the specific development of cycling in Norwich.

Council resolves:

- to mandate Officers to produce a plan for systematic improvements to the Norwich cycling network including junction treatments and new links
- to consult partners and community groups such as TRAs and Norwich Cycling Campaign in the designing of both the plan and of the specific proposals when opportunities arise.
- to submit this document to the Norwich Highways Agency Committee requesting that the plan is incorporated into the Norwich Area Transportation Strategy (NATS) to inform the detailed implementation of the relevant NATS policies and to input into the Local Development Framework"

9. Motion – Post Office Services

Councillor Lubbock to move:

Council notes:

Post office network income from government services fell by £168m in 2005/06

The government has withdrawn key services from the Post Office including pensions, TV licences and passports

The contract for the Post Office Card Account (POCA), worth £1billion to the post office network between 2003 and 2010, will undergo a competitive tender process with the result expected this summer

Of the 24 million visits made to post offices every week, 6.5 million are made by POCA customers

Our post offices provide a lifeline to many in Norwich and this social value must be taken into account by the government

Failure to address the decline of the post office network and the loss of POCA could lead to further branch closures on top of those already proposed in Norwich

The second contract for POCA is necessary, but not sufficient, to safeguard the future of the post office network

There is a possibility of delivering council services through the post office network

Council resolves:

To ask the Scrutiny Committee to consider which council services may be delivered or made available through local post offices and for the council to enter into negotiation with Post Office Ltd

To write to the Prime Minister and demand: -

- A review across government departments of services offered through post offices with a view to providing additional services at branches
- That the importance of the post office network is taken fully into account when the second POCA contract is awarded
- A commitment that the post office network will not be allowed to shrink below the 11,500 that will remain when the current network change programme is complete.

10. Motion – Polyclinics

Councillor George to move:

Council notes that: -

- NHS Norfolk is currently engaged in a consultation over plans to close the Thorpe St Andrew Walk in Centre and introduce a new “Polyclinic” in Norwich.
- the consultation ends on 4th July.
- campaigners have raised a 3,400 name petition against the closure of Thorpe St Andrew Walk in Centre.
- the Thorpe St Andrew Walk in Centre serves people across the City.
- the Thorpe St Andrew Walk in Centre currently serves 5000 people per month.
- the opening hours of any new centre will be shorter than the current Walk in Centre hours: 8am - 8pm, not 7am - 10pm.
- this reorganisation has come about because of a national government decision.

This Council believes that: -

- there is a lot of confusion surrounding the consultation process.

- the Thorpe St Andrew Walk in Centre has good transport links and is well used by City residents.
- GPs in Norwich are not short of capacity - as stated by GPs at consultation meeting 04/06/08 and agreed by PCT at same meeting.
- as a principle, GP services ought to be retained, invested in and supported at the hub of our communities.
- as a principle, patients have a right to see their regular doctor wherever possible.
- GPs in Norwich are strongly against the proposal because they feel it is unnecessary and will adversely affect their practices.
- any change will be expensive and disruptive.
- shorter opening hours are against the aim of widening access.
- far from offering a more personalised service, Polyclinics will create a wider gap between patient and professional and may lead to a deterioration in care.

This Council resolves to: -

- congratulate all those who have campaigned to save the Thorpe St Andrew Walk in Centre and the petition organisers.
- write to the Secretary of State for Health and NHS Norfolk to express concern that a consultation is happening which contains no location details of any alternative to the Thorpe St. Andrew Walk in Centre.
- write to the Secretary of State for Health and NHS Norfolk to support the concept of maintaining a system of local GP surgeries and oppose the centralisation of NHS services in "polyclinics".
- write to the Secretary of State for Health and NHS Norfolk to support the idea of keeping Thorpe St Andrew Walk in Centre open and put the money set aside for investment and/or reorganisation into providing better GP services in the City.

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