



COUNCIL

19:30 to 10:20

23 July 2019

Present: Councillor Thomas (Va) (Lord Mayor), Bogelein, Brociek-Coulton Button, Carlo, Davis, Fulton-McAlister (E), Fulton-McAlister (M), Grahame, Harris, Huntley, Jones, Kendrick, Lubbock, Maguire, Maxwell, McCartney-Gray, Neale, Oliver, Osborn, Packer, Peek, Price, Ryan, Sands (M), Sarmezey, Schmierer, Stonard, Stutely, Thomas (Vi), Utton, Waters and Youssef

Apologies: Councillors Ackroyd, Driver, Giles, Manning, Sands (S) and Wright

1. Lord Mayor's Announcements

The Lord Mayor announced that the council's housing development at Goldsmith Street had won the Good Neighbour Award at the Housing Design Awards. It had been shortlisted for the Stirling Prize, one of only six schemes nationally and the first time social housing had been shortlisted.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Waters to say a few words about Dave Moorcroft the director of regeneration and development who was due to retire before the next meeting of council. Councillor Waters expressed his thanks to Dave for his hard work over the past four years working at the city council. He had been integral to the development and extension of the council's commercial acquisitions strategy.

The Lord Mayor had attended a number of events or visits in the past month, including: Roy Blower's memorial service, the civic association AGM, the Mile Cross festival and a number of summer fetes. He had enjoyed attending the Norwich University of the Arts graduations shows and been particularly inspired by a Celebration of Achievement event at the Virtual School for looked after children.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bogelein, Price, Sands (M), Sarmezey, Schmierer, Thomas (Vi) and the Lord Mayor declared pecuniary interests and Councillors Huntley and Stonard declared other interests in relation to item 8 (b) (below), Motion: School funding cuts.

3. Public Questions/Petitions

No public questions or petitions had been received.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings held on 25 June 2019 subject to the following amendment to the ordinary council meeting:

The following correction to be made by Councillor Neale to his supplementary question in the minutes at Appendix A, Question 6, supplementary question as follows: by deleting the phrase after “£millions” and replacing it with, the following:

“it should therefore be like London where the aim was for 50 per cent of affordable housing”

The complete sentence should therefore read:

“Councillor Neale by way of a supplementary question said that the council had only received 10 per cent of affordable housing and was therefore missing out on £millions: it should therefore be like London, where the aim was for 50 per cent of affordable housing.”

5. Questions to Cabinet Members/Committee Chairs

The Lord Mayor said that 18 questions had been received from members of the council to cabinet members/committee chairs for which notice had been given in accordance with the provisions of appendix 1 of the council's constitution.

The questions are summarised as follows:

Question 1	Councillor Bogelein to the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment for an update on the Biodiversity Action Plan.
Question 2	Councillor Neale to the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment asked about fixed penalty notices.
Question 3	Councillor Osborn to the cabinet member for health and wellbeing about single use plastic.
Question 4	Councillor Utton to the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth about the loss of green spaces due to developments.
Question 5	Councillor Carlo to the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth about the council's support for the Western Link.
Question 6	Councillor Price to the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment on the council's contract with Biffa.
Question 7	Councillor Grahame to the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment about water fountains.
Question 8	Councillor Youssef to the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment about support for school strikers.
Question 9	Councillor Lubbock to the deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing regarding assessing elderly tenants with dementia.
Question 10	Councillor Wright to the leader of the council regarding an update on a motion to the Pensions Committee of the Norfolk Pension Fund.
Question 11	Councillor Manning to the leader of the council regarding the Lord Mayor's procession.
Question 12	Councillor Button to the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city

	environment about Roar Power.
Question 13	Councillor Maxwell to the cabinet member for social inclusion about the Norwich Pride event.
Question 14	Councillor Peek to the deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing about Goldsmith Street housing.
Question 15	Councillor Stutely to the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment about the feed your caddy campaign.
Question 16	Councillor Fulton-McAlister (M) to the cabinet member for safer, stronger neighbourhoods about applying for 'Get Started' grants.
Question 17	Councillor Ryan to the deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing about the 'Norwich Standard'.
Question 18	Councillor Huntley to the cabinet member for social inclusion on the Home Energy Conservation Act report.

(Details of the questions and responses were circulated at the meeting, and are attached to these minutes at Appendix A, together with a minute of any supplementary questions and responses.)

6. Annual audit committee report 2018-19

The Lord Mayor noted an amendment to the report on agenda page 54, paragraph 3 of the report as the year should read 2018-19 and not 2019-20.

Councillor Price moved the recommendations as set out in the report, seconded by Councillor Stutely.

Following debate, it was **RESOLVED**, unanimously to receive the annual committee report 2018-19.

7. Annual scrutiny committee review 2018-19

Councillor Ryan moved the recommendations as set out in the report, seconded by Councillor Sarmezey.

Following debate, it was **RESOLVED**, unanimously, to receive the annual scrutiny report 2018-19.

8. Motions to Council Motions

Notice of the following motions 8(a) to 8(f) as set out on the agenda had been received in accordance with Appendix 1 of the council's constitution.

8(a) Motion – Dying to work

Councillor Fulton-McAlister (M) moved and Councillor Waters seconded the motion.

Following debate, it was **RESOLVED**, unanimously, that:

Norwich City Council recognises and applauds the hard work, dedication and commitment to public service achieved by its staff, particularly during times of acute austerity facing local government. Recognising the continued importance of creating

and maintaining a valued, respected and supported workforce to enable the policies of this council to be successfully implemented in our city we applaud and support the Trade Union Congress new 'Dying to Work' campaign.

Council **RESOLVES** to

- (1) Support a charter which sets out an agreed way in which our employees will be supported, protected and guided throughout their employment, following a terminal diagnosis
- (2) recognise that terminal illness requires support and understanding and not additional and avoidable stress and worry
- (3) Acknowledge that terminally ill workers will be secure in the knowledge that we will support them following their diagnosis and we recognise that, safe and reasonable work can help maintain dignity, offer a valuable distraction and be therapeutic in itself.
- (4) We will provide our employees with the security of work, peace of mind and the right to choose the best course of action for themselves and their families which helps them through this challenging period with dignity and without undue financial loss.
- (5) We support the TUC's Dying to Work campaign so that all employees battling terminal illness have adequate employment protection and have their death in services protected for the loved ones they leave behind.
- (6) Call on employers in this city to support the TUC's Dying to Work campaign so as to raise the wider general quality of terms and conditions of employment needed in large areas of our local economy.
- (7) Delegate responsibility to the cabinet member with responsibility for HR to review and champion Norwich City Council employment policies and support the council's compliance with the spirit of the Charter.

8(b) Motion – School funding cuts

The Lord Mayor asked for nominations for a chair as he had a pecuniary interest in the following item and would not be able to take part in the debate or vote.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Maxwell as chair for the following item.

(Councillors Bogelein, Price, Sands (M), Sarmezey, Schmierer, Thomas (Vi) and the Lord Mayor having declared a pecuniary interest left the meeting at this point).

(Councillor Maxwell in the chair)

The chair announced that in the absence of Councillor Wright, Councillor Lubbock would be moving the motion. There had been a clerical amendment to the motion which had been circulated at the meeting, adding the word Norwich to the second paragraph after the words "In total", so that it read, "In total, Norwich school budgets".

A further amendment to the motion had been received from Councillor Fulton-McAlister which had been circulated to members at the meeting. The amendment was at resolution (2b) to remove “at least in line” and replace this with “above” and insert “and make up for the lost income after a decade of pay cuts.” after “leaving the profession.”

Councillor Wright had indicated that he was willing to accept the amendment and with no other objections from any other member, it became part of the substantive motion.

Councillor Lubbock moved and Councillor Utton seconded the motion as amended.

Following debate it was **RESOLVED**, unanimously, that:

Schools in Norwich are facing a bleak financial outlook due to a combination of inadequate government funding and increasing cost pressures.

In total, Norwich school budgets are £6.9m lower this year than they were in 2015/16.

Already we have seen local schools cut staff to the detriment of the pupils' education.

Across the country, many schools report having to ask for donations from parents, cutting back teaching hours, reducing staff numbers, reducing mental health support and reducing mentoring for vulnerable pupils.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

(1) note with dismay;

- a) the Government's failure to properly fund schools is jeopardising the education, and future opportunities, of young people in Norwich and is particularly letting down more vulnerable children, such as those with special educational needs and disabilities, and those who need mental health support
- b) that years of real-terms pay cuts for teachers, coupled with the pressure caused by funding cuts in schools and excessive workload, have led to a crisis in retention and recruitment in the teaching profession. This is driving thousands of dedicated professionals out of the jobs they love, and further undermining the quality of education in our schools.

(2) ask group leaders to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling for them to:

- a) reverse, in full, the real-terms cuts to per-pupil school budgets since 2015 – meaning schools in Norwich would receive £6.9m additional funding in 2020.
- b) guarantee all Norwich teachers a pay rise which is above inflation next year, in order to reduce the number of talented teachers leaving the profession and make up for the lost income after a decade of pay cuts.

- c) provide additional funding to Norfolk County Council and others across the country, to give more support to children with special educational needs and disabilities

- (3) Recognise the importance of Free School Meals to school funding, and therefore ask cabinet, as a matter of urgency, to use all mechanisms under the control of this council to promote Free School Meals and encourage parents to apply.

(The Lord Mayor, Councillors Bogelein, Price, Sands (M), Sarmezey, Schmierer, Thomas (Vi) were readmitted to the meeting at this point.)

(The Lord Mayor took the chair)

8(c) Motion – Plastic free July

The Lord Mayor announced that the motion on Plastic free July was received before the motion on fairer taxation and therefore would be taken first. Amendments to the motion had been received from Councillor Maguire which had been circulated to members at the meeting. The amendments were as follows:

Inserting “including through One Planet Norwich” after “and thereafter” in resolution (1)

Inserting “continue working with responsible partner” at the beginning of resolution (1b) and replacing “set SMART targets” with “investigate the setting of appropriate SMART targets”

Replacing “carry out” with “continue” in resolution (2)

Inserting “within the restriction of the Landlord and Tenant Act” after “street traders” in resolution (3)

Inserting “continue to” after “ask cabinet to” in resolution (5)

Inserting “continue to” at the beginning of resolution (6)

Inserting “through the City Vision agenda” after “can be supported” in resolution (7)

Inserting “consider” at the beginning of resolution (8), amending “establish” to “establishing”, replacing “or” with “and continue to” and inserting “through ongoing assistance by our community enabling team” at the end of resolution (8)

Councillor Osborn had indicated that he was willing to accept the amendments and with no other objections from any other member, it became part of the substantive motion.

Councillor Osborn moved and Councillor Grahame seconded the motion as amended.

Following debate it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

The world's annual consumption of plastic materials has increased from around 5 million tonnes in the 1950s to nearly 100 million tonnes today.

In 2016, this council committed to become a 'single-use-plastic-free' authority by the end of 2017. Since then, the dangers of plastic pollution have been shown to be even more harmful than previously known.

The impact of plastic waste is a burden on the city; flytipping and litter affect our communities.

Norwich now has two zero-waste shops, and Plastic-Free July offers an opportunity to join a growing movement of forward-thinking councils and organisations avoiding plastic.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) support Plastic-Free July in 2020 and thereafter, including through One Planet Norwich by actively promoting the initiative to discourage plastic use, including with the business community and partners, including:
 - a) holding workshops and events; and
 - b) continue working with responsible partners engaging the public and business communities in bin audits before, during and after Plastic-Free July to identify how much and which types of plastic are currently being used, raise awareness, and investigate the setting of appropriate SMART targets to reduce this waste
- (2) continue bin audits in council buildings to identify how much and which types of plastic are currently being used, and set SMART targets to reduce the waste of these items ahead of Plastic-Free July 2020;
- (3) support market and street traders, within the restrictions of the Landlord and Tenant Act to end the supply of disposable plastics, and ask the cabinet to investigate the potential to introduce a Norwich equivalent of the "Freiburg Cup", a reusable cup that can be returned for a small deposit to any participating business, to support market traders and other businesses in the transition away from single-use plastics, and to promote Norwich Market as a plastic-free market;
- (4) ask cabinet to investigate establishing a "Plastic-Free Zone" programme that businesses can sign up to, to show that they avoid plastic where possible;
- (5) ask cabinet to continue to assess what more can be done to phase out plastics in procurement for Norwich City Council;
- (6) continue to work with partners to end plastic waste in events in Norwich, such as the Lord Mayor's Parade and Run Norwich;

- (7) ask cabinet to investigate how businesses that actively seek to reduce plastic waste can be supported, through the City Vision agenda, and work with partners including the New Anglia LEP and Norfolk Chambers of Commerce to achieve this; and
- (8) consider establishing regular repair cafés; and continue to support community groups to do so, through ongoing assistance by our community enabling team.

8(d) Motion – A fairer form of local taxation

Councillor Schmierer moved and Councillor Neale seconded the motion.

Following debate it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

The Institute for Fiscal Studies recently reported that the current council tax system hits the poorest residents much harder than it does the wealthiest.

This new analysis of the impact of tax and benefits on income inequality revealed that the poorest tenth of the population pay 8% of their income in council tax. This is more than double what the richest 40% pay (2-3%).

A band D property in Westminster currently pays £753.85 a year (2019-20), compared to £1,879.45 a year for a similar property in Norwich.

Council therefore **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) note with concern the regressive nature of the current council tax system and also how the cuts to local government from national government have forced councils to raise council tax year after year well above inflation to cover the shortfall;
- (2) ask cabinet to investigate fairer and more progressive forms of local taxation, including a land value tax, and the impact it would have on the residents of Norwich, in particular the poorest in society;
- (3) ask the leader of the council to write to the secretary of state calling on the government to implement such a fairer form of local government taxation and suggest it is tested in Norwich before being rolled out across the rest of England; and
- (4) welcome Norwich City Council's decision to maintain 100% council tax reduction for the city's poorest residents thus far.

(Members agreed to take agenda items 8(e) and the item on the supplementary agenda as unopposed business. Councillor Bogelein opposed motion 8 (f) and the item was therefore debated).

8(e) Motion – Motion to rescind decision

(This item was taken as unopposed business)

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Maguire seconded the motion.

RESOLVED unanimously that:

In accordance with section 83 of appendix 1 of the council's constitution, the following motion to rescind the decision made at the meeting of council on 26 February 2019 in respect of the item on the Corporate Plan 2019-2022 has been received:

"That the decision to include the words 'and will establish a climate and environment scrutiny committee to oversee this work' in the Corporate Plan 2019 - 2022 be rescinded."

The motion has received the required ten signatures and was signed by councillors Waters, Harris, Maguire, Davis, Stonard, Maxwell, Giles, Peek, Stutely and Driver.

Council **RESOLVES** that the decision taken at the meeting of council on 26 July to include the words 'and will establish a climate and environment scrutiny committee to oversee this work' in the Corporate Plan 2019 - 2022 be rescinded.

8(f) Motion – Formation of a climate change executive panel

The Lord Mayor announced that an amendment to the motion had been received from Councillor Bogelein which had been circulated to members at the meeting. The amendment was to insert the words "and Environment" after "Emergency" to resolution (1). Councillor Maguire had indicated that he was willing to accept the amendment and with no other member objecting it became part of the substantive motion.

Further amendments to the motion had been received from Councillor Bogelein which had been circulated to members at the meeting. The amendments were as follows:

Amending resolution (1ai) by replacing the words "as soon as possible" with "by 2030 or earlier"

Amending resolution (1av) by replacing the words "framed by the 2040 City Vision" with the words "with reference to Jackson, T. 2019: Zero Carbon Sooner—The case for an early zero carbon target for the UK. CUSP Working Paper No 18. Guildford: University of Surrey"

Councillor Maguire had indicated that he was not willing to accept the amendment. These would therefore be dealt with in the usual way after the substantive motion had been moved and seconded.

Councillor Maguire moved and Councillor Waters seconded the motion.

Councillor Bogelein moved and Councillor Schmierer seconded the amendment to the motion.

Following debate it was **RESOLVED** with 9 members voting in favour, 23 members voting against and 1 member abstaining that the amendment to the motion was lost.

Following debate it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

On 30 January 2019, Council acknowledged the climate emergency that exists pointing out that it is inextricably linked to social and economic emergencies. On 26 February 2019, Council resolved to amend the corporate plan to ensure council services mitigate climate change, reduce carbon emissions, and are planned with an awareness of the latest UK climate impact projections.

If we are to have a sustainable future, we must marshal our efforts based on the best advice and expertise available.

In order to address climate change, council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) set up a Climate Emergency and Environment Executive Panel which will:
 - a) consider climate change and sustainability including social and economic issues in both the short and the long term in order to gather information and generate reports to advise cabinet on:
 - i. their work to make the city of Norwich carbon neutral as soon as possible, considering both production and consumption emissions
 - ii. the continuation and expansion of its work of building climate-change resilient social housing
 - iii. their continued promotion of climate-change resilient planning and building
 - iv. working with other local authorities to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C;
 - v. continuing and expanding their work with partners across the city and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans, framed by the 2040 City Vision.
 - b) be drawn from all parties in a politically balanced manner and composed of 7 members
 - c) consider:
 - i. what the council is doing now
 - ii. what it plans to do
 - iii. what it might do
 - iv. what other partners could do and
 - v. which other partners or agencies could help us

- vi. actions needed to be facilitated by or legislated for Government to enhance local action and lobby government to give these effect.
- vii. report directly to and advise cabinet including judgements on deliverability and prioritisation; and
- viii. have the power to ask for reports from officers and other outside experts in order to help with their recommendations to cabinet.

***9. Exclusion of the Public**

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item *10 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***10. Redundancy costs**

(This item was taken as unopposed business)

RESOLVED unanimously to approve the exit costs relating to a redundancy.

LORD MAYOR