



**NORWICH**  
City Council

**NORWICH CITY COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, 27 January 2009**

**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 25 November 2008.

**6. Questions to Executive Members/Committee Chairs**

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

**7. Calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2009/2010**

(Report of the Head of Finance)

**Purpose** – To ask the Council to approve the calculation of the council tax base for 2009/2010.

**8. Motion – Campus Norwich**

Councillor Sands to move –

'The proposal for another academy in Norwich highlights the growing diversity of governance arrangements for schools and further and higher educational institutions serving the city.

The City Council recognises the importance of driving up educational achievement, but also recognises that there is an important need to coordinate

standards, develop plans to meet the needs of the children and the skills and knowledge needed for a prosperous city.

The Council also believes that there should be a set of principles established for the way standards are set and achieved in the city, for consultation around major changes such as establishing academies or trust schools, and a body in place to help oversee those principles, moderate and act to ensure full consultation with parents and stakeholders when changes are proposed to the governance of educational institutions.

The Council therefore resolves to:-

Welcome the proposal being explored by the Executive to establish a 'Campus Norwich' partnership involving all Norwich schools and educational institutions and inclusive of families and communities to serve such a purpose and notes the intention to develop such a proposal for discussion within this Council and for wider public consultation during the next few months.'

## **9. Motion – Independent Inquiry into Greyhound Opening**

Councillor Watkins to move –

'This Council notes:

- the ongoing calls from members of the public, residents' groups, local MPs and politicians, and the press for a full independent inquiry into the Greyhound Opening controversy;
- the unanswered questions from the Council's internal investigation and in particular the apparent lack of executive scrutiny of officers' work;
- that the dismissal of one officer does not explain the systemic failure that allowed her to exceed her authority and abuse her position;
- that the Watson Report is only an external review of the Council's internal investigation and not a full, independent investigation;
- that only through a full independent investigation can the Council ensure that:
  - the public's trust in the Council is properly restored;
  - all pertinent issues are resolved;
  - sufficient safeguards are put in place to ensure that this embarrassing failure never happens again.

Council resolves:-

To ask the Executive and Chief Executive to sanction a full, independent investigation into the Greyhound Opening issue.'

## **10. Motion – Protecting Gardens from Development**

Councillor Ramsay to move:

‘Council notes:

- housing growth targets mean that all potentially available land in Norwich, including gardens, is coming under increasing pressure for potential development;
- gardens are currently classified as brownfield sites under national planning guidelines but some MPs are already pressing for this to be changed.

This Council believes gardens are crucial to quality of life, biodiversity and a healthy environment in the city and should have a greater level of protection from development.

This Council resolves to:

- (1) write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting that gardens be reclassified as greenfield sites.
- (2) ask the Local Development Framework Working Party to consider how the Council's planning policies can be strengthened under existing legislation to help protect gardens from development.’

## **11. Motion – National Express: Job Losses and Service Cuts**

Councillor Jeraj to move:

‘This Council notes:

- that National Express announced in November 2008 that it would cut its staff in Norwich by 314;
- that National Express recently announced a 9% rise in profits with pre-tax profits of £90 million.

This Council believes:

- that a high quality rail service in Norfolk is vital to the County and cutting jobs will reduce this quality;
- the loss of local jobs in the railways will add to the level of financial hardship locally, at a time of an economic downturn;
- that the best long-term future for railways in Norfolk, and the country as a whole, is for them to be brought into public ownership.

The Council resolves to write to:

- (1) National Express to state its opposition to the local job cuts because of the affect it will have on the level of service to Norwich;

- (2) the Transport Salaried Staff's Association (TSSA) in support of its campaign to bring the railways back into public ownership because it is the best option for the long term future for Norwich.

## **12. Motion – Royal Mail Privatisation**

Councillor Read to move:

'This Council notes:

- the announced intention by the Business Secretary, Peter Mandelson, to part-privatise Royal Mail;
- that this proposal has attracted strong opposition;
- that a group of non-government organisations, trade unions and MPs is proposing that the Royal Mail be kept in public ownership and used to form the basis of a national people's bank.

This Council believes that:

- part-privatisation of Royal Mail risks tens of thousands of jobs, including some in Norwich;
- an added risk to local jobs in Norwich is especially worrying in the current economic downturn;
- the Royal Mail is best kept in public ownership to ensure the best possible service in Norwich.

This Council resolves:-

- (1) to write to the MPs for Norwich to ask them to support their fellow MPs in keeping the Royal Mail in public ownership and sign Early Day Motion 364 because this is the best way to ensure that Norwich receives the postal service it needs and deserves;
- (2) for the same reason to write:-
  - (a) to the Business Secretary, Peter Mandelson, to express opposition to the plans to part-privatise Royal Mail;
  - (b) to the Communications Workers Union (CWU), Compass and John Grogan, MP, to express the support of Norwich City Council for a publicly-owned postal service and the proposed national people's bank.'

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