



NORWICH City Council

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, 29 November 2005

7.30 p.m. (follows immediately after the Special Council)

AGENDA

1. **Lord Mayor's Announcements**
2. **Presentation of Long Service Awards**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Questions from the Public**
5. **Petitions**
6. **Minutes**
 - (1) to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Council held on 25 October 2005;
 - (2) to receive the minutes of all Executive and Committee meetings held between –
 - (a) 13 October to 24 October 2005 (already forwarded);
 - (b) 25 October to 9 November 2005 (attached).
7. **Questions to Executive Members/Committee Chairs**

(A printed copy of the questions and replies will be available at the meeting.)
8. **Statutory Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2005**

(Report of the Executive)

Purpose - To formally adopt the Statutory Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005.

9. Motion – Council Tax

Councillor Couzens to move:-

'This Council:-

- (1) notes with concern the prediction issued by the Local Government Association that local government faces a £2.2 billion funding gap in next year's funding settlement which would lead to an average 10% Council Tax increase in England next financial year;
- 2) calls on the Acting Director of Finance to inform members of the impact of such a settlement in Norwich and to prepare a statement for discussion with the wider community;
- 3) notes with regret the shelving of the Lyons report on the reform of local government funding; and,
- 4) urges the adoption of a system of local taxation based on people's ability to pay'.

10. Motion – Contraction and Convergence

Councillor Read to move:-

'Council notes:

- a) that carbon emissions (using Government figures) have risen by 2.5% in the first half of 2005 to 162.4 Megatonnes per annum, and that the UK is now in very real danger of missing its target under the Kyoto Protocol, which requires emissions to be 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2012;
- b) that the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change has warned that climate change could have potentially catastrophic effects worldwide - including in the UK - and that the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor has described climate change as 'a greater threat than global terrorism';
- c) that Norwich City Council is committed, through its support for the CRed (Carbon Reduction) initiative, to taking and supporting action to reduce carbon emissions in Norwich, and hence to reduce climate change.

Council believes:

- a) that climate change is a very serious threat, both globally and to the Norwich community, as demonstrated by the risk of flooding in Norwich and other parts of Norfolk. Under current conditions, according to environment agency data, flooding can be 'expected' more than once a century in some houses in Mancroft, Thorpe Hamlet, Lakenham and Wensum Wards as

well as Carrow Road football ground. There is also a flood risk in Mile Cross, Eaton, University and Bowthorpe. This risk, according to most climate scientists, has potential to increase dramatically;

- b) that the Government must commit itself to a method which allows the international community to reduce carbon emissions in a socially just way;
- c) that the Contraction and Convergence Framework, promoted by the Global Commons Institute and supported by many MPs from across the Party spectrum, the all-party House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee and some local councils such as Oxford and Camden, is the best way of doing this.

Council therefore resolves:-

- 1) to call on Norwich's MPs to support the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill, that has just been introduced into the House of Commons by Colin Challen MP, as the best overall framework and vehicle available for achieving the CRed targets that Norwich City Council has committed itself.
- 2) to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment to ask the Government to commit the UK to supporting Contraction and Convergence and to write to the Global Commons Institute, declaring that Norwich City Council supports Contraction and Convergence.

11. Motion – Community Wardens Scheme

Councillor Morphew to move:-

'Council notes the Executive's decision to establish four areas for an extended wardens scheme.

Council believes:-

- a) the Wardens' greatest success comes from their working within communities as strong, accountable area teams that liaise regularly with local residents;
- b) using wardens for 'hot spotting' prevents them from forging such strong community links.
- c) the scheme in its proposed form will give inadequate coverage to many areas and will not fulfil the potential of more locally based wardens who have been so successful in areas such as Lakenham and Mile Cross;
- d) the decision of the Executive to fund a new post of 'Antisocial Behaviour Manager' exclusively from the Community Wardens' budget is contrary to the wishes of Council in the budget set in

March 2005 and has meant that less money is available for increasing the number of wardens patrolling the streets.

Council therefore calls on the Executive to:-

- 1) include sufficient funding in the budget proposals for 2006 to ensure that the number of wardens increases to teams of six for each of the four areas;
- 2) ring-fence this funding so that it is used exclusively for the provision of patrolling community wardens and cannot be used for any reasons other than those agreed by the Council;
- 3) consult with Ward Councillors and community organisations to decide how best to involve communities in making wardens responsive to local needs.'

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE
CONTACT -**

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21 November 2005