

Motions recorded at Northamptonshire County Council

14 May 2015

None passed

18 June 2015

None passed

24 September 2015

“Significant service improvements and cost savings can be achieved by closer integration of the "blue light" emergency services. Council therefore welcomes the progress already made in the county towards closer working between the Police and Fire Services.

Council should continue to promote closer working and co-operation between the Police and Fire Services and opportunities should be sought over time to include the county's Ambulance Service in this process”

26 November 2015

Motion 1

“This Council notes that increasing numbers of people who require equipment, aids and adaptations made to their homes have to wait long periods of time before such changes happen. In certain cases it is believed that elderly people have passed away prior to receiving these essential services.

This Council recognises that simple changes (like grab rails, ramps and installing stair lifts) can make a real difference between living independently and requiring carers or more intensive social care support. Providing these services in a timely fashion is essential to ensuring quality of life for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and enables them to live in their own homes, which we know the majority of people prefer.

We therefore ask Full Council to refer this matter to relevant scrutiny committee for them to conduct review (seeing input from colleagues in the Borough/District Councils) with a view to improving the overall length of waiting times experienced for adaptation services in Northamptonshire”.

Motion 2

“This Council asks the Children, Learning & Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider asking those schools which currently do not have to provide school breakfast clubs for their pupils. In particular, it is asked to consider the impact this would have on raising attainment, improving absence rates and lateness and to investigate how sponsorship, alongside the Pupil Premium, might fund the breakfasts. This information should then be provided to all schools in the county”.

Motion 3 (as amended)

“This Council recognises the fundamental role that education provides in underpinning a strong, competitive and growing economy both locally and nationally. This Council further notes that accessible education provides one of the last meaningful methods of social mobility, ensuring that people are able to contribute to society to the reach of their ability, irrelevant of their social and economic background. It is for this reason this Council and this administration has fostered investment and growth in post-16 education across the County and acknowledges the unfairness of the current funding formula which severely disadvantages Northamptonshire’s schools.

This Council therefore notes that an unfair funding formula combined with reductions in the education budget will unduly challenge our efforts to raise education outcomes for our County’s Children.

This Council resolves to continue to campaign with the F40 group, our MP’s and other relevant parties to redress the current unfair funding formula on behalf of Northamptonshire’s schools and write to the Minister in charge and the Prime Minister to seek assurances that no post 16 education establishments in Northamptonshire will close as a result of any reduction in funding.”

29 February 2016

None passed.

17 March 2016

Councils in Northamptonshire are under unprecedented and increasing financial pressures. There is also confusion amongst the public as to which Council is responsible for which service, and this damages democratic accountability for service delivery.

This Council therefore agrees to commission, an independent study into the scope, benefits and costs of the various options for introducing unitary local government in Northamptonshire.

The independent study shall not be limited to the consideration of unitary government alone but will also take account of the wider aspects of public service reform, including integration with Health, Regional Transport Planning, Blue Light services, LGSS and wider shared service opportunities, and other possible devolved powers.

All the District and Borough Councils in Northamptonshire shall be invited to take part in, and contribute to, the study to ensure a full and open approach to the issue.

Council further agrees to report the outcome of the study to the public and ensure that their opinions are fully taken into account whilst retaining local democracy.

12 May 2016

None passed.

16 June 2016

None passed.

06 October 2016

That this Council through the Health and Wellbeing Board requests central government to develop and initiate a national integrated health and care strategy, as a matter of urgency, removing the obstacles in the path of those moving from the NHS to community-based care through putting in place an effective and equitable funding regime.

The Council understands the financial pressure place on Northamptonshire. The county has a proportion of elderly people in its population above the national average of 18.1% and this ageing population will continue to rise. Yet the county is not funded accordingly.

Doing nothing is not an option, the county council must act now, leading by example and by working with partners, forge an integrated health and social care economy.

24 November 2016

Motion 1 (as amended)

The Northamptonshire County Council recognises the value of community pharmacies as an important primary healthcare service and the role they play in our local community. Our local pharmacies offer a range of services not only dispensing prescriptions but promoting health and well-being providing advice such as on smoking cessation, flu vaccination and sexual health.

Pharmacies provide help and advice from pre-natal care to support for and advice services to elderly care homes.

Given the direction for remodelling community pharmacy services that have now been communicated by Government, this Council resolves to explore the potential implications in our county through the appropriate scrutiny committee. Then consider the appropriate action including any communication with Northamptonshire MPs.

Motion 2

This Council accepts that the mental health of our children is an important issue. Children and Young People need to be able to access support for their mental health as they need it. The work done by our young leaders demonstrated that young people need access to up to date and quality information about services that are available in their area. They also need to be able to self- refer where appropriate in addition to being referred by other agencies. Organisations such as Lowdown provide easy access for Children and Young People. They provide highly engaging services of excellent quality.

This Council will work with voluntary sector organisations like the Lowdown to ensure their services are sustainable and that there is capacity in the County to meet the mental health needs of our children.”

23 February 2017

None passed.

16 March 2017

Motion 1

Setting aside the issue of the sale, purchase or ownership of land in Buckton fields which has already been debated by this Council, this Council recognizes the current serious traffic issues in Kingsthorpe, which make building the North West Relief road and the Northern Orbital road an urgent matter. Building the North West Relief road significantly earlier than the Northern Orbital road would further worsen the current traffic problems in Kingsthorpe, by funnelling heavy traffic into the area.

Therefore this council agrees that the aim should be to have as small a delay as possible between the openings of these two roads.

Motion 2

This Council notes that many new schools being built in the county do not have sufficient arrangements to provide safe areas for parents to drop off and pick up their children. Although walking to school is a preferred course of action, nevertheless some parents will always drop off and collect their children by car.

Many older schools in the county have major traffic issues every morning and afternoon, and these are very difficult to resolve because of the layout of the streets and houses immediately around these schools.

This Council resolves to work closely with developers, academies and trusts to make sure, where possible, schools that are being built in the county don't build in the traffic problems that are such a feature of many existing schools. Also Council will promote some of the excellent best practice examples already established in many schools across the county to help alleviate issues around drop off time in both existing and new schools.

16 May 2017

None passed.

15 June 2017

None passed.

21 September 2017

None passed.

23 November 2017

This Council resolves to explore options that would allow it to reinstate the Northamptonshire Young Leaders Forum.

This successful programme previously gave the Council the opportunity

- To hear directly from young people.
- To consult them on issues affecting them and
- To support them in developing their own work streams, as they did so effectively on the Mental Health Charter.

This Council recognises the very valuable work previously undertaken by the Northamptonshire Young Leaders forum on the Mental Health Charter. This Council resolves to continue to work with representative groups of young people including the Shooting Stars Group, the Children in Care Council, Care Leaves forum and the various youth forums in the county to promote democracy and important issues like mental health. Mental health is a priority of the Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board and an integral part of the Northamptonshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

22 February 2018

None passed.

28 February 2018

None passed.

22 March 2018

(as amended)

All Councillors are committed to make sure the current challenges the County Council are experiencing should not prevent the Council from ensuring that educational provision is planned effectively within Northamptonshire.

Moreover, Council is aware that 76.5% of children are given a place at their parents' first preference secondary school, which is a reduction from 82% in 2017. However, 93.6% of applicants have still been allocated one of their preferred schools which is down slightly from 96% in 2017. This still represents a significant achievement given the demand on school places in the county."

We call upon Council:

- To publish an up-to-date School Places Strategy which seeks to improve meeting parental preferences for schools and ensures that there is a place for every child within reasonable travelling distance of their home;

- Similarly to publish a School Improvement Strategy, explaining the actions which are required and will be taken to improve both educational aspirations and attainment within the County; and
- To provide quarterly progress reports, demonstrating the extent of progress in delivering these strategies and achieving their associated desired outcomes.”

12 April 2018

None passed.

17 May 2018

None passed.

21 June 2018

Council notes that:

Stage 2 of the process of expressing an interest in managing a library independently has a deadline which has been extended from 31st May to 25th June 2018.

Applicants regarding all 21 Libraries threatened with closure have progressed to stage 2.

Concerns have been raised that communications from the county council regarding this process are not signed by a named person.

Two Judicial Reviews regarding Libraries are set to be heard at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on 19th and 20th June, with no ruling expected until sometime during the following month.

Council expresses its concerns that:

The council originally told applicants that “we will not take any further questions regarding this process after Thursday 17th May 2018” but notes that this date has been extended to 20th June 2018.

Applicants have been told in Heads of Terms documents “Please note that the terms proposed above are to be confidential between the parties and should not be shared with any third parties without the prior authority of Northamptonshire County Council.”

It has been reported that Northamptonshire County Council is attempting to sell back to a parish council a 100-year-old Carnegie library that it acquired from it without payment more than 50 years ago for £195,000.

And that it has also been reported that the future of Higham Ferrers Library is in the balance after town councillors voted against buying the town’s library building....The town council held their emergency meeting to decide whether they would purchase

the building, the former parish rooms in Midland Road, for £367,500 or lease it for £33,000pa.

In extending the deadline for stage 2 to 25th June the council asked applicants to provide further information which had not previously been requested and are now being asked to provide detailed information regarding their application under 40 separate headings.

Council believes that given the Judicial Reviews currently under way and the uncertainty around the status of Carnegie Libraries more time should be allowed for this process. The budget scrutiny process concluded that a much longer period for this process than that currently proposed was required. For example, when Leicestershire established Community managed Libraries it allowed two years for the process.

Council believes that in the light of changing circumstances it is right to review the position the council has taken on a particular matter and to make appropriate adjustments.

Council asks officers to explore the disposal of libraries with community organisations where there is an intention and the will to form an independent Library. Efforts should be made to streamline this process to allow this to happen as soon as possible. Furthermore, Council recommends that the Director of Public Health does not proceed with the permanent closure of the remaining libraries until the outcome of the Judicial Review hearing, to be heard on July 26th and 27th, is known.

19 July 2018

None passed.

01 August 2018

None passed.

09 August 2018

None passed.

28 August 2018

None passed.

20 September 2018

Motion 1

“This Council notes that:

In the UK today, there are significant numbers of children who do not currently have British citizenship but have rights to register as British citizens. Many of these

children were born in the UK, and others have lived here from a young age, been raised here, educated here, and have never known any other home.

Without access to their citizenship rights, children may find themselves denied opportunities extended to their peers, such as the chance to participate in a school trip or to be eligible for funding so they can undertake higher education.

There are a number of barriers to children registering their citizenship. Registration can be a complex process of prohibitive cost.

Children are charged £1,012 for a process whose administrative cost is published at £372, meaning government is making a profit of £640 from every child who claims their rights.

This Council asserts that:

No child should be denied their citizenship rights by reason of a fee. There is no substitute for citizenship, which is vital to future security and sense of belonging.

This Council therefore recognises:

- That the profit-making element of the fee to register citizenship discourages the best outcomes for many of the UK's children
- Because of their duties as corporate parents, the fee for children to register will fall on Councils in the many cases where looked after children qualify for citizenship
- The fee puts Councils in the unacceptable position of having to weigh the benefits of citizenship to a child in their care against the cost to the Council of assisting a child in claiming that right.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To write to the Minister of State for Immigration demanding that the fee for children to register as British citizens is reduced to the administrative cost and demanding that looked after children are exempted from the fee in its entirety
- To identify children in their care who are entitled to citizenship and make sure they are aware of their rights and supported to claim them.

Motion 2

This council expresses alarm at the rise in anti-Semitism in recent years across the UK including incidents when criticism of Israel has been expressed using anti-Semitic tropes. Criticism of Israel can be legitimate, but not if it employs the tropes and imagery of anti-Semitism.

This Council therefore resolves to do the following:

- Acknowledge the importance of tackling anti-Semitism in all its forms, to support the growing Jewish community in our County.
- Challenge bigoted stereotypes about Jewish people, and those who hold these views in order to foster a culture of understanding and mutual respect.
- Welcome cross-party support within the Council for combating anti-Semitism in all its manifestations

- Adopt the below definition of anti-Semitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and pledge to combat this pernicious form of racism:

“Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

22 November 2018

None passed.

21 February 2019

None passed.

28 February 2019

None passed.

21 March 2019

Motion 1

This council is concerned that there is a widening gap in performance, as judged by OFSTED assessment, in Northamptonshire secondary schools and academies.

The council recognizes that, whilst there are exceptions, too many of our secondary schools and academies are inadequate or require improvement and that there should be a concerted effort to improve the quality of educational provision for all children and young people in Northamptonshire.

Whilst the council has limited influence over academies, there remains a duty to ensure pupils make good and sustainable progress in their education.

The Council asks the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Children to take action to:

- Narrow the gap in achievement, making it a council priority;
- Improve educational progress, attainment and skills at all key stages;
- Intervene to ensure a trust acts more swiftly when it identifies that an academy is at risk of underachieving;
- To write to the Regional Schools Commissioner, Martin Post, to request his intervention, as a matter of urgency, when a school requires improvement or is inadequate.

Motion 2

This Council recognises the importance of making our community a better place to live for everyone.

While Government policy requires the need for more housing and new homes to be built, it is also important to understand that Northamptonshire residents should receive value for money services. Quite often residents are penalised and paying a second tax in newly built areas through developers establishing and allocating Managed Agencies on new developments.

It is important to recognise the issue of Managed Agencies allocated by developers at a national level and the need for them to be regulated. Northampton Borough Council (NBC), have passed a motion expressing residents' views and concerns and are actively looking at ways to regulate Managed Agencies locally, including encouraging developers to consider all the alternatives available. This issue affects all seven Districts and Boroughs across Northamptonshire.

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), as the local authority responsible for adoptions, therefore, resolves to make it clear that there are significant concerns regarding the establishment of Managed Agencies.

Furthermore, this Council urges our MPs raise this matter with the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government to work towards regulating Managed Agencies.”

23 May 2019

None passed.

20 June 2019

This Council recognises the strength of public opinion recently expressed in London and Northamptonshire on the issue of climate change and the need to address carbon reduction to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations. This council also notes that the UK parliament has declared a Climate Emergency.

This Council believes that all levels of government have a duty to limit the impacts of Climate Breakdown.

This Council therefore declares a Climate Emergency in Northamptonshire and commits to a target of making Northamptonshire carbon neutral by 2030. This Council further commits to work with partners to deliver that goal.

This Council calls upon its successor councils to continue this work once they come into existence.

Where appropriate, this Council will place climate change on the agenda of meetings with partners and will encourage joint working across all sectors of local governance.

This Council requests a report to be submitted to a meeting of full council before the end of March 2020 detailing the actions that have been taken to address and action this resolution. This Council also requests an updated report to a meeting of full council not more than 12 months thereafter setting out the further actions that have

been taken and detailing how progressing this target has been communicated to and integrated within the start up plans of its successor councils.

19 September 2019

Motion 1

This Council notes that the Equality Act provides protections against discriminatory treatment based on the concept of "Protected Characteristics.

Currently workers with a terminal illness are not classified as having a protected characteristic and therefore have very limited legal protection against employers dismissing them due to illness.

This Council notes that employers are therefore free to dismiss terminally ill workers once they have made "reasonable adjustments" to the employee's job to assist with the illness.

Council agrees that the last thing a terminally ill worker would need is the distress at the same time as facing up to a terminal illness is to have to fight for the right to continue working and not face the indignity of being sacked.

In addition, Council notes that the loss of death in service benefits to terminally ill workers sacked before death is a further distress at a time when security for a family for the future should be protected.

Therefore, Council agrees to support the TUC's "Dying to work Campaign" currently being developed in the Midlands and to support the lobbying of MPs to establish new legislation, currently being drawn up by the society of Labour Lawyers which;

- Seeks to get terminally ill workers covered by Protective Rights at Work in line with those covered by Pregnancy/Maternity Rights.
- Seeks to protect death in service benefits.
- Seeks to allow workers with terminal illnesses to die in dignity.

Motion 2

Northamptonshire County Council notes the outstanding work of the "Save our Street Trees" Group in Far Cotton and the work they have done in bringing both Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council together with the Woodland Trust to look at an experimental project for re-instating street trees in Northamptonshire.

Northamptonshire County Council also notes the work of the former Mayor of London Boris Johnson recently newly elected as our Prime Minister in re-instating 20,000 street trees to our Capital during his tenure as the Mayor of London. Not only has this transformed streets in and around the capital, but it has also brought about huge benefits to the wider environment in efforts to combat climate change.

He also delivered on his pledge to create 100 rejuvenated spaces as part of a pocket parks program in 26 London boroughs, with more than 25 hectares of community land across the capital being transformed into new enhanced green areas.

Northamptonshire County Council calls for a transformation of underused urban spaces across our county, to be planted with new trees to help the future generations enjoy what many of us have taken for granted.

Trees deliver huge benefits such as cleansing the air and storing carbon and generally enhancing the wellbeing of our communities.

To ensure future generations receive these benefits and Northamptonshire grows sustainably, we all need to protect existing trees as well as embarking upon a bold program of planting new trees. Therefore, this Council requests the initial work to form a joint plan for wider scale reinstatement of street trees as part of the move to Unitary.”

21 November 2019

This council recognises:

1. The value of Northamptonshire’s Voluntary and Community sector and the contribution it has made to support county council services.
2. The immense preventative work undertaken across the county that have a direct impact on the not only county council service users but county council services and their stated outcomes.

The council notes:

1. The current 3 year social wellbeing contract to eleven voluntary and community organisations working under the Commsortia contract is set to complete on 31 March 2020.
2. The proposals for transition funding in 2020/21 and the procurement of a new contract for 2021/2022. The organisations are across the County.
3. The ability of the organisations involved to lever in substantial other funding and support, from volunteer time to other voluntary and charitable donations in cash and in kind to the services.
4. The money the organisations receive from the county council ensures that they can provide these services viably and can raise the match funding required to continue with their services.
5. The organisations that currently benefit are located across the County and include Northamptonshire Age UK, The Autumn Centre, Catch 22, Dostiyo, Glamis Hall, Marlow House Welcomes, Mayday Trust, Midland Heart, NAASH, Serve and ACA.

This council resolves to continue to work with the Director of Public health, Commsortia and the providers to deliver value for money, specific outcomes relevant to the priorities for public health spending and meet the public health criteria of the spending of public health funds.

20 February 2020

None passed.

19 March 2020

None passed.

17 September 2020

Motion 1

That this COUNCIL recognises the invaluable contribution made by the voluntary sector across the county and further recognises that like other sectors, the voluntary sector is not immune to the impact of an economic downturn.

We recognise that many of the services offered by voluntary organisations are often called upon in times of an economic downturn and especially during these difficult times with Covid19 still impacting many of our residents.

There are huge pressures on our Voluntary sector to meet an increased demand for their services and support and we recognise further the ability of voluntary organisations to successfully engage with the most disadvantaged in times of crisis and need; I am sure we all believe that voluntary organisations are absolutely crucial to the delivery of social policy and our plans such as ending child poverty and supporting hard working families and Supporting the elderly, particularly during this period of Covid19 and economic downturn.

We all recognise that many voluntary organisations countywide are making adjustments to reflect the current environment in which they work.

This motion calls on the council to introduce the necessary measures to help voluntary organisations, both small and large, cope with the challenges they face. We further believe that local government has a crucial role to play and calls on Northamptonshire county council to increase its efforts and do everything possible to support the work of voluntary organisations in their area.

This Council, mindful of the need to maintain financial probity, therefore requires the Cabinet to evaluate options to lengthen the period of grants to the voluntary sector and to do so by examining possible savings from the existing budgets of each directorate, assessing the likely impacts, while at no time depleting the Council's reserves. The Cabinet should report back to the next meeting of Full Council with its findings and recommendations.

Motion 2

This council recognises that well-resourced youth work in Northamptonshire will deliver many benefits. It will:

- provide meaningful and enriching activities for young people
- provide jobs and career pathways for youth workers • deflect young people from gangs and criminal activity
- support the mental health and well-being of our youth

- enable young people to develop a voice and contribute to our future prosperity

In our work on transitions and transformation we need to also have a focus on youth, to develop our understanding of what young people need, to work with them to identify gaps in provision, to work in partnership with the voluntary sector, to make sure those needs are met.

To this end we agree to support the campaigns for more youth services across the county, a Youth Centre for Northampton, and youth forums for each of the two new unitary councils.

18 February 2021

Motion 1

This Council notes:

1. the release of the Government report, Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 in BAME Groups (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-understanding-the-impact-on-bame-communities>) which details:
 - the disproportionate number of deaths amongst BAME communities;
 - barriers to healthcare experienced by BAME communities;
 - increased discrimination experienced by BAME communities
2. on the rise of Black Lives Matter (BLM) in response to police brutality, sparked by the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota, USA;
3. the passion of people locally and their involvement in BLM protests in Corby, Kettering, Northampton, Wellingborough, Daventry and Higham Ferrers;
4. the work of council staff in continuing to deliver services to all local communities;
5. the work of the voluntary community sector and local mutual aid groups in supporting local people in self isolating and shielding where necessary;

This Council resolves:

1. to call for improved access, experiences and outcomes of local government and integrated care services by BAME communities;
2. to call for the accelerated development of culturally-competent occupational risk assessment tools that can be employed in a variety of occupational settings to identify and reduce the risk of exposure to and acquisition of COVID19, especially for keyworkers working with a large cross-section of the general public or in contact with those infected with COVID-19.
3. to promote racial equality and encourage successor councils to combat racial prejudice, racism - including islamophobia and anti-Semitism, and white supremacist ideologies and behaviours;
4. to encourage successor councils to adopt new policies to advance racial equality – with SMART action plans to address any racial inequalities which exist across all service areas and to incorporate strategic funding and support to promote Black, Asian, Jewish and minority ethnic history, arts and culture;'

Motion 2

This Council believes that the last few years whilst being very tough have also shown us that the way we operate is crucial to bettering the outcomes for all our communities and their people. We look forward to the people of Northamptonshire receiving the best services from open transparent Unitary Councils. We wish our successor Councils all the best in their future endeavours.

Motion 3

Members of this Council wish to recognise the outstanding commitment, hard work, dedication, loyalty and resilience of the staff of Northamptonshire County Council in dealing with the immense challenges the Council has faced over recent years. Staff of the Council have been central in recovering the financial situation, delivering the Northamptonshire children's trust, improving and transforming services, working on disaggregating the Council services and the creation of two new local authorities, and leading the response to the Covid pandemic. All while delivering the day job, which has been a truly monumental task. All members of this Council would like to thank every member of staff for their service and wish them well for the future.

Motion 4

'This Council would like to all the key workers and volunteers of Northamptonshire who have selflessly put the interests of serving the public and supporting our communities above themselves, in the responding to this unprecedented pandemic. There have been countless reports of individuals, organisations and community groups stepping up across Northamptonshire, whether providing a vital service or job, or by joining or forming groups to offer help and support to a local area. You have made us all proud to be a part of the Northamptonshire community and we offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for this great work.'