

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL
DEMOCRACY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

16 JUNE 2022

Report Title	CARRIED MOTIONS ON NOTICE – PREDECESSOR COUNCILS
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List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report provides details of the carried motions on notice from the predecessor councils of the West Northamptonshire area for the previous six years that were considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate, Place or People at their respective Committee meetings in the autumn 2021.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 At the meeting of full Council held on 15 July 2021, the following motion on notice was carried:

“This council recognises:

The importance of motions passed within the previous four authorities in the West Northamptonshire catchment area.

That it is crucial to ensure any democratic decisions are retained and flow through into the present day thinking of WNC.

That adopting an exercise to preserve the above will not only efficiently capture all approved motions into one report, it also will reaffirm the importance of local democratic decision making.

This council resolves:

- *To instruct the Democracy & Standards Committee to collate any motions passed in the last six years within the previous authorities.*
- *That once collated, these motions will be forwarded to the relevant Scrutiny Committee to pass comment on.*
- *That once this process is completed, a report containing all legacy matters will be brought to the earliest possible full council, with the target of December 2021's meeting. The report will lay out all motions which should be voted on individually for acceptance or any minor modifications. Such changes must not seek to alter the fundamental principles previously passed."*

2.2 The collated carried motions on notice from the predecessor councils, Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council and South Northamptonshire Council were considered by this Committee at its meeting in September 2021.

The Committee resolved:

"that the Democracy and Standards Committee:

- a) Notes the carried motions from the previous six years from the predecessor councils: Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council and South Northamptonshire Council.
- b) Forwards the collated motions, as attached at Appendix A, to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees for comment.
- c) Recommends that the Council publishes motion updates annually on its website in future, to provide members of the public and councillors with the facility to access motions that have been passed at Council meetings, without having to go through the minutes of each meeting."

2.3 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the carried motions from the predecessor Councils in detail.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Democracy and Standards Committee:

- a) Considers a single approach to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in dealing with Motions on Notice.

- b) Recommends that the Council publishes motion updates annually on its website in future, to provide members of the public and councillors with the facility to access motions that have been passed at Council meetings, without having to go through the minutes of each meeting.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.2.1 The recommendations are a result of the carried motion on notice as detailed in paragraph 2.1.
- 3.2.2 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee has considered the Motions on Notice in detail but there they have each suggested different method of dealing with these as detailed within paragraph 4.4. Therefore, it would be useful for a single approach to be recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, for example, they can choose to undertake scrutiny activity on them or recommend to any Motions on Notice from the predecessor Councils that they feel should be re-adopted.
- 3.2.3 At its meeting in September 2021, the Committee resolved that it recommends that the Council publishes motion updates annually on its website in future, to provide members of the public and councillors with the facility to access motions that have been passed at Council meetings, without having to go through the minutes of each meeting.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 As detailed in paragraph 2.1 above, at the meeting of full Council held on 15 July 2021, the following notice of motion was carried:

“This council recognises:

The importance of motions passed within the previous four authorities in the West Northamptonshire catchment area.

That it is crucial to ensure any democratic decisions are retained and flow through into the present day thinking of WNC.

That adopting an exercise to preserve the above will not only efficiently capture all approved motions into one report, it also will reaffirm the importance of local democratic decision making.

This council resolves:

- *To instruct the Democracy & Standards Committee to collate any motions passed in the last six years within the previous authorities.*
- *That once collated, these motions will be forwarded to the relevant Scrutiny Committee to pass comment on.*
- *That once this process is completed, a report containing all legacy matters will be brought to the earliest possible full council, with the target of December 2021’s meeting. The report will lay out all motions which should be voted on individually for acceptance*

or any minor modifications. Such changes must not seek to alter the fundamental principles previously passed.”

- 4.2 Officers undertook an information gathering exercise to gather the carried motions since June 2015.
- 4.3 As reported to the Democracy and Standards Committee at its September 2021 meeting, other local authorities have published motion updates annually on their websites, which provide members of the public (and councillors) with the facility to access motions that have been passed at Council meetings, without having to go through the minutes of each meeting. The date of the Council meeting at which the motion was considered is recorded, along with the motion and the responsible officers, in addition to an anticipated timeframe for the motion to be completed.
- 4.4 At their meetings in November 2021 Corporate, Place and People Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered the Motions on Notice of the predecessor Councillors and each resolved:

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Resolved:

(1) That, having given due consideration, the carried motions relevant to the remit of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Resolved that: the condensed list of motions, taken from the ‘Carried Motions on Notice from the Predecessor Councils’, be incorporated in the work programme for West Northants Council’s (WNC) Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Resolved that: the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- a) Agreed that no further action is necessary on those motions within its remit where it has been identified that the matter is already closed, as indicated by notes included in the report.
- b) Agreed that the Committee is not in a position to identify that other motions within its remit are closed and therefore recommended that these motions should be considered for re-adoption by Full Council.

- 4.4 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended different approaches in dealing with the Motions on Notice and the Committee is asked to propose a single approach in dealing with these, such as the Overview and Scrutiny committees can choose to do a piece of work on them or recommend any to Council that it feels should be re-adopted

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. Members are asked to consider recommending a single approach for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in dealing with the Motions on Notice as suggested in paragraph 4.4.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from the proposals.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Council has a responsibility to debate and act upon carried motions on notice submitted to meetings of full Council.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 There are none specifically.

6.4 Consultation

- 6.4.1 Not applicable.

6.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 6.5.1 The Democracy and Standards Committee forwarded the carried motions on notice to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered these in the autumn 2021 and their recommendations are detailed in paragraph 4.4 above.

6.6 Climate Impact

- 6.6.1 There are no immediate climate implications arising from this report.

6.7 Community Impact

- 6.7.1 There are no immediate community implications arising from this report.

7 Background Papers

Full Council agenda and minutes - 15 July 2021

Democracy and Standards agenda and minutes 30 September 2021

Corporate, Place and People Overview and Scrutiny agendas and minutes - 1 November, 15 November, 16 November 2021