

COUNCIL
16 JANUARY 2020**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notices of Motion Received

1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance reports that he has received the following 5 Notices of Motion. The Constitution provides that any submitted motion must be moved and seconded at the meeting. Otherwise, unless postponed with the consent of the Council, it will be treated as withdrawn.
2. If a motion is in relation to the exercise of an executive function it will be referred to the Cabinet for decision (if applicable this will be indicated below). Otherwise the Council may decide itself to determine the Motion, or refer it to the Cabinet or another appropriate Committee for advice before determining it at the next available meeting.

Notice of Motion 1 – Proposals for Voter ID

3. **This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.**
4. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Mr M E Jenkins, Mr T A L Wells Mrs F M Oborski and Prof J W Raine:

“Council recognises that the low voter turnout is a major concern at both local and national elections which could affect public confidence in the discharge of our statutory duties to the public and undermine the democratic mandate of our Worcestershire county councillors.

Council therefore regrets that the proposals for Voter ID as unveiled in the Queen’s Speech are likely to further depress voter turnout amongst the poorest and most vulnerable in society who are least likely to have Passports or Photo Driving Licences.

Council is concerned that this will further reduce the broad democratic mandate for its 57 councillors.

Council therefore requests our Worcestershire MPs to press government to reconsider the side effects of this proposed new policy.”

Notice of Motion 2 – Employment agencies

5. **This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.**

6. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr R C Lunn, Mr P McDonald, Ms P Agar, Mr A Fry and Mr L C R Mallett:

“Council is concerned about a recent disclosure that it paid £823.00 per day since July 2017 for one agency worker. To secure value for money and to protect Worcestershire from poor reputational risk, Council requests the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board to establish an urgent review into the use of employment agencies by the County Council. To uncover total spend, assess value for money and to recommend any new methods of engagement”.

Notice of Motion 3 – Royal Mail and Post Office Services

7. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.

8. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr R C Lunn, Mr L C R Mallett, Mr P M McDonald, Mr A Fry and Ms P Agar:

“Council has the power to act as champion of the consumer by investigating the Post Office and the Royal Mail and by scrutinising the provision of their services within the county. Council is concerned by the number of recent Post Office closures in the county and asks the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board to consider a scrutiny exercise into the services provided by both the Royal Mail and the Post Office”.

Notice of Motion 4 – Maintenance of hedgerows and trees that overhang or obstruct pathways

9. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.

10. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr A D Kent, Mrs E A Eyre and Mr R C Adams:

“Many residents in Worcestershire believe that it is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council to maintain the hedgerows and trees that overhang or obstruct pathways and roads, and impact visibility causing safety issues. However, on many occasions these hedges and trees are not owned by WCC.

Within the Highways Act of 1980 wherever a hedge, tree or shrub overhangs a highway or any other road or footpath to which the public has access so as to endanger or obstruct the passage of vehicles or pedestrians, or obstructs or interferes with the view of drivers of vehicles or the light from a public lamp, we may, by notice either to the owner of the hedge, tree or shrub or to the occupier of the land on which it is growing, require him within 14 days from the date of service of the notice so to lop or cut it as to remove the cause of the danger, obstruction or interference.

Enforcement and subsequent billing by the County Council is not the ideal solution. These issues affect many people daily on a local basis and the

assistance of a local Parish Council, Town Council or District Councils could be extremely helpful and improve timing and outcomes.

After maintenance on the hedges and trees is complete often the footways previously obstructed require maintenance such as siding out - removing the grass and weeds encroaching on the pavement/footways.

The footways are County assets, arising from considerable investment.

- They are major conduits between hamlets and settlements,
- Nationally public health is encouraging walking for health and wellbeing reasons - both physical and mental.
- These routes are often the first step into countryside, leading from people's homes.
- These routes should be fit to accommodate people walking, mothers and babies in buggies, motorized wheelchairs even perhaps trampers - for the disabled.
- The width and surfaces need to be maintained in particularly on those routes that will most likely encourage more activity.

This motion therefore calls on the Cabinet Member with Responsibility to bring a report to Cabinet that details the required steps, system and paperwork that would enable a local Parish or Town councils who wish to, to serve and enforce the required notices on land owners on the County Council's behalf; then subsequently to be empowered to side out and maintain the said footways if practicable.”

Notice of Motion 5 – Marked Bays for Car Club Vehicles

11. This motion is in relation to the exercise of an executive function and will therefore be referred to Cabinet for a decision.

12. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Prof J W Raine, Mr M E Jenkins, Mrs F M Oborski and Mr T A L Wells:

“As a further expression of Worcestershire County Council’s strong commitment to environmental sustainability, and particularly with regard to the pursuit of reduced carbon emissions and improved air quality in the transport sector, we call upon this Council to provide more support for the car clubs within our area, by providing white-line marked bays reserved for car club vehicles at suitable locations on the kerbside as recommended by the clubs.

Car clubs are a fast-growing component of the changing environment with regard to transportation and accessibility, especially at a time when bus services are in sad decline. Sharing vehicles via car clubs that oversee the organising and maintenance of a fleet of vehicles, and which are available to local people to use when they need, rather than each maintaining their own makes absolute sense, especially for those who need to drive only occasionally, and particularly in urban areas where both off-street and kerbside space is limited.

But to operate effectively, it is vital that club vehicles are parked in precise locations, known to all their users (and which can be identified via a special Car Club App). To this end, various local authorities, including Westminster, Bristol and Nottingham, are now working with their local car clubs and are providing white line-marked bays at suitable locations, reserved specifically for the club vehicles.

This Motion calls on Worcestershire County Council to follow suit by working with the county's local car clubs, and also with the district councils, in identifying suitable locations where there is local need/demand for a car club vehicle, and accordingly designating/providing white-lined bays for that purpose."

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.