

COUNCIL

11 NOVEMBER 2021

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 Otherwise, unless postponed with the consent of the Council, it will be treated as withdrawn.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 – Automated external defibrillators

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 Cllr Emma Stokes, Marcus Hart, Cllr Ian Hardiman, Cllr Bob Brookes, Cllr Emma Marshall, Cllr Alan Amos, Cllr Adrian Hardman, Cllr Kyle Daisley, Cllr Simon Geraghty, Cllr David Chambers, Cllr Scott Richardson Brown and Cllr Richard Morris:

“This Council notes that across Worcestershire, sadly far too many people still lose their lives as a result of cardiac arrest.

This Council resolves to call upon the relevant Cabinet Member(s) with Responsibility to work with all relevant agencies and partners and our own officers to raise the profile and locations of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) across Worcestershire to ensure residents from across the County know the importance and location of them.

This Council requests the relevant Cabinet Member(s) with Responsibility update members following the conclusion of this work.”

Notice of Motion 2 – Not every disability is visible

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 Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Richard Udall, Cllr Dan Boatright, Cllr Lynn Denham, Cllr Josh Robinson, and Cllr Luke Mallett:

"This Council notes that:

In the UK 1 in 5 people have a disability. 80% of these disabilities are invisible. The charity Crohn's and Colitis UK is encouraging venues providing accessible public toilets to install new signage. This is to help stop stigma and discrimination towards people with 'invisible illnesses' such as Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis.

There have been instances nationally where such individuals using an accessible toilet have been accused by staff members of being ineligible to use them, including those with temporary impairments, such as having knee surgery or a broken bone. This has caused considerable distress to individuals and unnecessary conflict.

The Government has decided recently that large accessible toilets for severely disabled people - known as Changing Places - will be made compulsory for large new buildings, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, sports and arts venues, in England from 2021. The signs produced by the charity Crohn's and Colitis UK have two standing figures and a wheelchair user with the words Accessible Toilet and the logo 'Not every disability is visible'.

Council resolves to ask the Cabinet member to put in place arrangements for the Council to:

1. Ensure that accessible toilets on Council premises bear these signs, including library facilities in shared spaces or rented from other organisations (such as the Hive or Pershore Library);
2. Work with contractors, service providers and companies renting county council owned premises to do likewise with their accessible public toilets;
3. Seek advice from the charity Crohn's and Colitis UK on the information and training we should provide to Council employees. This is to ensure they understand these illnesses and to prevent potential embarrassment for those who suffer with them;
4. Work with schools and libraries to promote inclusive attitudes to disabilities to prevent potential embarrassment;
5. Ensure that any Changing Places toilets in county buildings are properly signposted for visitors; and
6. Ensure that the requirement to provide new Changing Place toilets is included within the Council's future plans for new public buildings in the County."

Notice of Motion 3 – Health impacts of pandemic

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 Cllr Matt Jenkins, Cllr Natalie McVey, Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Cllr Tom Wells, and Cllr Martin Allen:

“The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on all our lives. In particular, it has highlighted and exacerbated the existing health inequalities that exist within our society.

There are various areas where these effects are felt, often cutting across the council departments of health, adult care and children’s services.

Examples of the concerns are:

- The impact on children born during the pandemic
- School readiness of children on free school meals
- Worsening educational outcomes and risk for the most disadvantaged
- Impact on mental health
- Black, Asian and other ethnic groups carry a disproportionate toll due to the pandemic.

This motion calls for the creation of a scrutiny task group or member advisory group that can undertake a cross-departmental investigation of the impact of the pandemic on health inequalities and find solutions that reverse these impacts.”

Notice of Motion 4 – Shortage of seasonal workers

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 Cllr Matt Jenkins, Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Cllr Natalie McVey, Cllr Martin Allen, and Cllr Tom Wells

“There is a crisis amongst local horticulturalists resulting from the shortage of seasonal workers, leading to thousands of tonnes of fruit and produce rotting in our fields.

We need to urgently support this industry, which is core to our county and reputation. It is suffering for its third year running under the allocations of the pilot Seasonal Workers Scheme, which has not been made permanent as a piece of legislation, making it almost impossible for these businesses to plan ahead for the next year.

These businesses pay good salaries, National Living Wage as a minimum, offer good conditions and the sector is world renowned for innovation, investing around 5% annually in R&D – more than twice the government’s national R&D target.

With the black pear as the symbol of our county and our fruit growers in jeopardy, we urge active engagement by our Cabinet with this vital sector on behalf of our county.

This Notice of Motion:

1. Calls on Worcestershire County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economy & Skills to have emergency discussions with local farmer and fruit grower representatives from the NFU in our county; and

2. Calls on the Cabinet as a whole to set up a crisis management response team to help support these businesses.”

Notice of Motion 5 – Declare a Biodiversity Emergency

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

12. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Richard Udall, Cllr Dan Boatright, and Cllr Lynn Denham:

“Council declares a Biodiversity Emergency and commits to doing the following:

- Produce a biodiversity strategy to support sustainable land management, which is sympathetic to wildlife and the prevention of wildlife habitats being unnecessarily destroyed and to seek ways to create and care for wildlife-rich spaces across Worcestershire
- Work with partners to review and update all existing relevant strategies
- Establish a Member Advisory Group to assist with the future revision of a biodiversity strategy and report annually on actions taken.”

Contact Points

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.