

COUNCIL

14 SEPTEMBER 2023

NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of Motion Received

1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance reports that she has received the following 3 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 Otherwise, unless postponed with the consent of the Council, it will be treated as withdrawn.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 – LTP5 member engagement

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 Cllrs Beverley Nielsen, Matt Jenkins, Natalie McVey, Malcolm Victory and Tom Wells:

“Agreement has already been reached with the Chair of the Environment O&S Scrutiny Panel that LTP5 will be on their workplan. However, it is important that members are actively involved in the preparation of Local Transport Plan 5, rather than merely scrutinising the final version.

Hence, GAIA Group members propose the following approach is taken:

1. Engagement with local members during the consultation process and the formulation of LTP5, providing transparency of the emerging document for members and to ensure their views can feed into this strategy during development and be actively considered during drafting.
2. Follow the examples of many other LTPs in setting clear modal shift targets so Worcestershire can actively promote walking and pedestrianisation, cycling and public transport to hit government activity mobility targets of 50% in our towns and cities by 2030, especially for shorter journeys as over 60% of 1-2 mile journeys are currently made by car.”

Notice of Motion 2 – Staffing at libraries

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 Cllrs Mel Allcott, Lynn Denham, Richard Udall, and Luke Mallett:

“Council welcomes the role out of Libraries Unlocked, which will allow residents to access libraries for extended hours. However, libraries will still need librarians. Council views with concern the proposals for libraries in the next phase, which will dramatically cut the number of staffed hours. Council calls upon the Cabinet Member with Responsibility to ensure all Libraries have a minimum of six staffed hours Monday to Saturday, which will allow the libraries to continue to remain as a community hub and as a staffed resource.”

Notice of Motion 3 – Rail ticket office closures

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 Cllrs Mel Allcott, Richard Udall, Dan Boatright-Greene and Lynn Denham:

“Council notes with concern recent reports that all ticket offices across the region could be closed, following discussions between the Department for Transport and the Rail Delivery Group and changes to the Government’s guidance relating to ticket office opening hours.

Council believes that ticket offices provide a vital service to residents in Worcestershire. Having a clearly sign-posted place in the station for people with ticket enquiries provides certainty and confidence for customers who may struggle to otherwise locate station staff.

Not all residents are able to use station ticket machines, or have the means to book a ticket in advance or pay other than in cash. Complicated journeys involving connections are likely to require.

human assistance to ensure customers purchase the most appropriate and cheapest tickets, and do not incur penalties from mis-booked tickets.

Council is concerned the closure of ticket offices will disproportionately affect elderly and disabled residents in Worcestershire, as well as those with poor literacy and IT skills. The unreliability of ticket machines and problematic applications will only further exacerbate and marginalise these groups. Council also notes the possible implications for current station staff and the concerns that have been raised over possible staff redundancies.

Council therefore resolves to:

Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, and the Government Railways Minister, expressing Council’s opposition to the possible closure of staffed rail ticket offices.”

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.