

COUNCIL
14 JANUARY 2016**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notices of Motion Received

1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reports that he has received the following five 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 Otherwise, unless postponed with the consent of the Council, it will be treated as withdrawn.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 – Spending on public footways

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, Prof. J W Raine, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr T A L Wells, Mr M E Jenkins and Mrs S Askin:

"Council requests that Cabinet gives careful consideration in its preparation of a draft Budget and Capital Programme to recommending that up to £2m of the proposed £12m 'Driving Home' highway infrastructure improvement programme be invested in maintaining and improving public footways across the county."

Notice of Motion 2 – Procurement Policy

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 P M McDonald, Mr R C Lunn, Mr L C R Mallett, Mr G J Vickery and Ms P Agar:

"This Council notes that the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax abuse by companies seeking to secure Government contracts for the supply of goods and services and has issued Policy Note 03/14: promoting tax compliance.

Subject to Worcestershire County Council officers reviewing the practical implementation issues, we request that the Cabinet Member with Responsibility considers incorporating Procurement Policy Note 03/14 into all procurement

procedures, including tenders, also this motion calls for the Cabinet Member with Responsibility to consider Council's procurement policies to be amended to ensure that all bidders for Council contracts self-certify that they are fully tax compliant in line with central Government practice."

Notice of Motion 3 – Fostering Costs

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 P M McDonald, Ms P A Hill, Mr R C Lunn, Mr L C R Mallett, Mr G J Vickery and Ms P Agar :

"Families who foster children whether for the public or private sector have to be applauded for their dedication as they offer young children the opportunity of a sense of belonging within their home environment.

However there is no doubt fostering for profit in the private sector is a scenario where the organisation treats the raising of a foster child solely as a business.

Alternatively, the County Council gives the foster parents money that is supposed to go towards taking care of the child and in our case that cost is an average of £430, whereas in the private sector that cost is £800. The cost to the Council is now over £8m and expected to be £10m next year.

With the cost increasing by nearly a million pounds each year the time has come to have this area scrutinised to ensure the extra £370 cost is going towards fostering and recruiting, not on luxury goods or high margins of profit.

Thus, the Council to ensure it is receiving value for money calls upon the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board to immediately investigate such expenditure."

Notice of Motion 4 – Bus Provision

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 R C Lunn, Mr G J Vickery Mr L C R Mallett, Mr C J Bloore and Ms P Agar :

"This Council is concerned about the quality and standard of bus provision provided by the Diamond Bus Company.

Council calls upon the Cabinet Member with Responsibility to consider opening discussions with the Transport Commissioners to achieve real improvements in the reliability, quality and customer satisfaction. If necessary to consider a revocation of their licence."

Notice of Motion 5 – Work of the Council

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 Mrs E B Tucker, Prof. J W Raine, Mrs S Askin, Mr M E Jenkins and Mrs F M Oborski:

"We are in times of rapid change. Significant financial and other challenges confront local government locally, as nationally, over the next few years. Being just one year out from the next County Council elections, this is a key time for us to review the role of councillors and the Council's constitution and their fitness for purpose in these difficult times.

Huge effort has been invested by our cabinet members and the senior officer team in the task of transforming our services and their management to respond to the unparalleled contraction in Government grant support. But a potential further resource for this Council, which has thus far largely escaped the pressures for change, is the contribution of the main body of elected councillors and the added value that they should represent, for example, when meeting together in full Council or in scrutiny and other committee settings and in addition through inputs and interactions with cabinet members and council officers on local issues, and through more engagement in training and development activities. It is time to review this contribution and how it can be optimised.

Accordingly Council resolves to form a cross-party working group to consider and report back to Council in the autumn on how better use might be made of the opportunities that full Council meetings represent, and how, through constructive challenge and scrutiny, each and every councillor can make a strong personal contribution for the benefit of their local residents and Worcestershire as a whole, particularly in the difficult years ahead."

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this report

John Higginbotham, Committee and Appellate Officer

Tel: 01905 766607

Email: jhigginbotham@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.