

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	<b>12 December 2014</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>Notices Of Motion Under Standing Orders</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Governance Manager</b>

## **Wards Affected**

County-wide

## **Purpose**

To consider Notices of Motion.

## **Introduction and Background**

- 1 The Constitution provides that Members of Council can submit written notice of motions for debate at Council. A motion must be signed by at least one Member and submitted not later than midday on the seventh working day before the date of the Meeting.
- 2 Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the area.
- 3 Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received, to a maximum of three, unless the Member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it. Motions exceeding three are not listed on the Agenda and will be held over for listing on the Agenda for the next meeting in the order they were received.
- 4 A maximum of 1 ½ hours will be allocated for dealing with notices of motion but that time may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman.
- 5 Where a critical local situation arises a motion signed by two Members may be permitted in addition to the maximum of three if accepted by the Chairman in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.
- 6 Three notices of motion have been received together with a fourth motion which has been accepted by the Chairman in consultation with the Monitoring Officer on the basis that it relates to a critical local situation. These are set out below.

## **NOTICE OF MOTION ONE –Support for City of Culture Bid**

(Submitted by Councillor NP Nenadich seconded by Councillor P Sinclair-Knipe)

**This council resolves to ask the executive to explore ways of supporting a bid by the courtyard theatre and its partners for Hereford to be made a city of culture.**

## **NOTICE OF MOTION TWO – Governance Arrangements**

(Submitted by Councillor TM James seconded by Councillor RI Mathews)

**We ask that this Council take note of the public disillusionment with the current arrangements of Herefordshire Council. Their arrangements failing to include the majority of elected Councillors in the decision making process and the highly secretive manner in which the Council operates.**

**We instruct the officers to produce a report on the alternative governance arrangement to include a streamlined committee system. We also ask for the setting up of an all party working group to oversee this alternative arrangement.**

## **NOTICE OF MOTION THREE – The Living Wage**

(Submitted by Councillor FM Norman seconded by Councillor JM Bartlett)

There is increasing evidence that countries such as Britain, with high levels of inequality, also have high levels of crime, illness, drugs, obesity, illiteracy and other social problems.

It is also clear that the cuts, unemployment and low wages are causing increasing social distress, as evidenced by growing demand on food banks, and households unable to pay increasing fuel bills. Herefordshire remains a low income county.

Taking the steps proposed in this motion would set a good example to the rest of the county's employers, and encourage them to follow our example.

### **Motion**

**This Council resolves that the chief executive, as head of paid services, be requested to report to the Employment Panel and Council how to achieve the following outcomes:**

- 1. Introduce the living wage (£7.85/hr) into our pay policy in place of the inadequate minimum wage.**
- 2. Establish a 1:10 differential between our highest (chief executive) and lowest paid employees.**
- 3. Once we are setting a good example to the rest of the county, encourage other employers to follow our example with these measures, especially those who are under contract to Herefordshire Council.**

## **NOTICE OF MOTION FOUR – Wellington Level Crossing, Haywood Lane, near Marden**

(Submitted by Councillor KS Guthrie seconded by Councillor ANBridges)

This Council recognises the very hazardous situation (currently potentially putting many lives at risk) of HGVs backing up over the Level Crossing at Wellington and vehicles breaking down on the Level Crossing frequently, when the road is flooded.

Road Closure signs are repeatedly being ignored and a constant stream of traffic attempts unsuccessfully to get through the floods.

This Council recognises the fact that £6000, equally divided between Network Rail and the Council, has already been invested on barriers to gate the road as the only solution to this serious problem.

Over a year ago, the barriers were installed in the wrong place and the wrong way round. Since then, a number of meetings have been held between Herefordshire Council Highways, Network Rail, Balfour Beatty, Parish Councils and local residents. Balfour Beatty has undertaken a comprehensive Report which concludes that gating the road by using the barriers and positioning them correctly is the ONLY way to resolve this serious safety concern.

All Parish Councils and affected parties agreed with the Report. Balfour Beatty advised the local communities (Marden and Wellington) that the works to reposition the barriers would commence and be finished before the flood season.

Contrary to the previous recommendations Balfour Beatty are now stating that the gates are not needed and want to remove them. (This is contrary to Network Rails understanding).

Until recently, Network Rail were under the impression that everything had been resolved and that the gates were being used, but this is not the case and the serious risk to the safe operation of the railway which they initially identified still remains unresolved today.

**To prevent a major incident with resultant loss of life at the Level Crossing and to ensure the safety of all road users, rail passengers and nearby residents, this Council resolves to request the executive to expedite the repositioning and locking of the gates as recommended in Balfour Beatty's report.**

## **Background Papers**

- None