

Item 7 - Notice of Motions

To consider the following motions, which have been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1:

a) Fixed Integral Sprinkler System. Councillor T Williams to propose.

With this Council's ambitions and intentions to build more new homes in Blackpool over the coming years this Council should be taking a more responsible approach to the safety of these new homes especially in regard to fire and fatalities.

In 2018, 334 people died in fires throughout the UK. In the past two decades, Blackpool and its neighbouring areas have also seen some devastating losses through house fires. As well as these tragic incidents there have been many other incidents where the excellent work of the Lancashire Fire and Rescue service has prevented many more casualties and fatalities. Blackpool has the largest number of accidental dwelling fires in the county and it also has a far higher accidental dwelling fires per 1,000 people count of 2.94 against its peer group members.

Data produced nationally and locally shows that where sprinkler systems have been installed in residential dwellings the containment of the fire has been much more effective isolating it in many cases to just one room and thereby saving many lives and reducing serious injuries.

A report has been produced, which provides a detailed analysis of data on fires in premises in the UK in which sprinkler systems were fitted over the period 2011 to 2016. Data was provided by 47 Fire and Rescue Services. The cases analysed amounted to 2,294 incidents of which 1,725 (75%) were in non-residential buildings and 414 (18%) in dwellings. The aim of the analysis was to provide an authoritative assessment of the reliability and effectiveness of sprinkler systems in controlling and extinguishing fires and in preventing damage. In brief, this extensive data analysis shows that sprinklers are highly reliable and effective. They work as intended in 94% of cases and control or extinguish fires in 99% of cases.

Another study shows a person is 22% less likely to require hospital treatment if they are in a fire which is controlled by a sprinkler system. They are also 18% more likely to receive a precautionary check at the scene of the incident. A precautionary check is the lowest recordable level of support for a casualty by attending crews. This data shows that the incidence of harm experienced by those in a fire where a sprinkler has operated is significantly less than when sprinklers are not present.

The cost to the builder of fitting a fixed sprinkler system to a new build average size home can be less than £1,000, which can be recuperated by increasing the price of the property and reflecting the safety of having a fire safe home. When sprinklers are installed there may be significant benefits in respect of compliance with Approved Document B of the Building Regulations 2006 (as amended). For example, the installation of sprinklers can allow

buildings to be built closer together (half the spacing is required) to adjoining premises. This is a major benefit where site space is limited.

Other requirements in Approved Document B regarding travel distances for escape may also be able to be extended and certain requirements in respect of access for the fire service may be relaxed. There may also be the possibility for savings in construction and building cost by relaxation of certain passive fire protection measures and the freedom to allow 'open plan' design in three-storey dwellings and apartments.

Council is therefore asked to instruct the Head of Planning and Quality Control to insist that every new residential build application in the Blackpool Borough from 1 September 2019 or as soon as practicable thereafter must include the provision of a fixed integral sprinkler system. This is the Council's opportunity to help to both prevent the spread of fires and also to reduce casualties and more importantly fatalities.

b) Free Personal Care for the Elderly. Councillor Mitchell to propose.

The Council notes that over a million older people in England are struggling with unmet care needs and believes that in light of an ageing population bold changes are needed to deliver a long term funding solution for social care.

The Council believes that it is fundamentally unfair that to access basic care many older people face catastrophic costs that can run into hundreds of thousands of pounds, wipe out a lifetime of savings and force families to sell their homes.

The Council also believes that England's care system needs major reform to provide a long-term sustainable funding solution and to make care free at the point of use.

The Council therefore calls for the introduction of free personal care for all older people in England, alongside a new social care contribution to fund fully the policy on a sustainable basis.

The Council calls on the Government to take the necessary steps to implement such a policy as swiftly as possible to end the care crisis and properly support older people in Blackpool. The Chief Executive is instructed to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care accordingly.

c) Members Code of Conduct. Councillor G Coleman to propose.

At present there is no Council policy relating to what actions should be taken by the Monitoring Officer in respect of a councillor who is the subject of an initial assessment/ investigation into a breach of the Members Code of Conduct when the councillor is ill or has a medical note signed by a doctor.

Currently a councillor may find themselves in a position where they are unable to continue to defend themselves or continue with the process as a result of ill health. This can result in

the councillor having to make a life changing decision when they are not in a fit and proper state to do so.

The Council feels that this is not a satisfactory practice and calls on the Standards Committee/ Monitoring Officer to introduce a policy that provides adequate assurance that an unwell councillor is not discriminated against when they are subject to an initial assessment/ investigation.

d) **Free TV Licences.** Councillor Hunter to propose.

This Council calls on the Conservative led Government to stand by their 2017 Election manifesto promise and protect the free TV licences for the over 75s. Scrapping the free TV licences for the over 75s will hit approximately 6,620 households across Blackpool. This will leave many over 75s of modest means more than £150 worse off and will risk them being cut off from the outside world if they lose their access to the TV. People living on their own, particularly those with severe mobility issues or housebound, will be the ones most penalised by the decision to scrap the free TV licence to the over 75s. The Conservative led Government has drastically cut the funding for the BBC since 2010 and have disgracefully shifted the responsibility and costs of the licence concessions to the BBC. This is in stark comparison to the last Labour Government who properly funded the BBC and ensured all TV licences for the over 75s were free.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport with the above concerns and asking the Government to take steps to protect the future of the free TV licences for the over 75s."

e) **Declaring a Climate Emergency.** Councillor Blackburn to propose.

The Council notes:

- That that the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.
- That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits; and
- That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

The Council therefore commits to:

- Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action;
- Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030;
- Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030;
- Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030;
- Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;
- Ensure that all Council led leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
- Request that Council Scrutiny Committees consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;
- Work with, influence and inspire partners across Blackpool, Lancashire and the North West to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
- Request that the Council and partners - not least the Council's wholly owned companies, take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
- Request that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change convene a Citizens' Assembly before the end of the calendar year, in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop its own role, identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
- Set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. Over the following four years, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
- Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;
- Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/ 2021 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency;
- Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;
- Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings,

in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;

- Furthermore, this Council makes clear its fundamental opposition to the practice of fracking. The Council will not allow its land to be used for fracking; and
- Finally, via the Local Government Association, the Council will invite in a group of experts to advise on what steps can be taken quickly to have the greatest possible impact on air quality, modal shift away from private cars, increased take up on public transport, and ensure that every aspect of the Councils activities are sighted on the need to preserve Blackpool's ecological and environmental heritage.

f) **Removal of Free TV Licence to those over age of 75.** Councillor T Williams to propose.

This Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Director General of the BBC asking (him) to reverse the corporation's decision to remove the free TV licence offer to those over the age of 75.

The decision to take away this privilege will bring further hardship to those already living on limited funds and will also affect the health and wellbeing of those unable to afford to pay this fee by causing more social deprivation and isolation.