

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the City Council 17 July 2019
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Report title	Motions on Notice
Referring body/person	Councillor Jonathan Yardley Councillor John Reynolds
Wards affected	All Wards
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	N/A
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Deputy Managing Director
Originating service	Democratic Services
Accountable employee(s)	Jaswinder Kaur Democratic Services Manager Tel 01902 550320 Email Jaswinder.Kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for decision

The Council is recommended to:

Consider the motions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Council to consider the motions received:

a. Civic Halls Refurbishment Project

Councillor Jonathan Yardley will move the following motion:

The collapse of Shaylor Group, and the sad loss of 200 jobs, throws the entire Civic Halls refurbishment project into question. The £38 million budget will undoubtedly rise, and the opening date will be pushed back, as the Council is forced to find another contractor to finish the job. Despite other businesses expressing concerns about Shaylor's financial situation months ago, we note that as recently as May, the previous Cabinet Member for City Economy decided to approve a variation order with Shaylor's instead of re-tendering the contract for Phase Two of the works. This Council therefore calls for an independent review into the whole project, further to the internal 'lessons learned' report in 2018.

b. Declaring a Climate Emergency

Councillor John Reynolds will move the following motion:

That the Council notes:

- That the impacts of climate change 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.

Therefore, in order to address this emergency, the Council commits to:

- Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action;
- Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2028;
- Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning and regulatory decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2028;
- Support and work with all partners in the City towards making the city zero carbon within the same timescale;
- Ensure that all Council 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;
- The Council's Scrutiny Panels considering the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;
- Work with, influence and inspire partners across the city, Black Country, Combined Authority and wider region, to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- Develop "Future Generations: Climate Change and Energy Strategy" and present this for agreement at Full Council in January 2020;
- Proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they are involved in the co-production and co-design of the Future Generations Strategy and have a voice in shaping the future of the City;
- Welcome the appointment of a Councillor Champion for Climate Change, and request the Sustainability Advisory Group to develop its role to provide oversight of the Future Generations Strategy;
- Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that the West Midlands pension fund has, and request a review of the investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;
- Ensure that all reports in preparation for forthcoming budget cycles 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.