

## Agenda Item No: 17



### **Notices of Motion for consideration by Council at the Annual Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 11 May 2016**

(a) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, Councillor Franklin has submitted the following Notice of Motion for consideration of the Council:

“To Amend Part 10 of the Constitution – Public Speaking at Planning Applications Committee - to include Tree Applications

That the scheme for Public Speaking at Planning Applications Committee be amended to include applications relating to works to Protected Trees to be included within its scope and that the Planning Applications Committee agree amendments to the Public Speaking Scheme to bring this into effect

The Scheme as set out at Part 10 of the Constitution specifically excludes interested parties in ‘Tree Matters’.

The Introduction to the Public Speaking Scheme at Part 10 states that “the Council considers this adds value to the planning process, offering increased involvement for the public and more informed decision-making by the Committees”

These arguments should apply equally to applications under the planning legislation relating to trees; it is just as important for ‘Tree Applications’ to be included within the scheme, as Public Speaking helps to ensure the Planning Application Committee is provided with full details of the issues concerned. This will also help avoid real or perceived unfairness in not extending public speaking provisions to members of the public affected by tree applications.

Other local councils including Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne Borough Council, Adur

District Council, Worthing Borough Council and the SDNPA – all make provision for public speaking on tree applications that fall to be determined by committee”.

(b) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, Councillor Murray has submitted the following Notice of Motion for consideration of the Council:

### **"Accountability and Transparency**

#### **The Council notes that:**

1. Across the country, many public services have been outsourced to private sector providers. Local government outsourcing doubled under the last parliament. (1)
2. Outsourcing has often failed to deliver the expected savings to the taxpayer, and failed to lead to better service provision. In-house provision can provide better value for money and more flexibility at a time of severe budget cuts. (2)
3. Research by the independent campaign group We Own It shows that the public have very little trust in outsourcing companies. They want to see more transparency and accountability over outsourcing contracts, and they want public ownership to be the default for running services. (3)

#### **The Council believes that:**

1. Transparency is needed in the provision of public services. Public service contracts and performance and financial data of providers should be made available. Freedom of Information legislation should apply to private companies running public services.
2. Accountability is needed in the provision of public services. The public must be consulted about what they want from their services, and before any outsourcing or privatisation. They should have a right to recall private providers of public services when they do a bad job.
3. People, not profit, need to be the priority in public service delivery. Public ownership should be the default, so a public interest case must be made for any outsourcing or privatisation. There should always be an in-house bid on the table if services are contracted out (or an explanation given why not). Social value must be a priority whenever contracts are awarded.

#### **The Council resolves to:**

1. Support the We Own It campaign 'Our Services Our Say'. (4)

2. Provide a brief statement explaining what the council is doing in practice to work towards the principles of transparency, accountability and people before profit. This information will be made available through the We Own It website. (See the local authority guidance for suggestions on how the principles above could be translated into public service provision and procurement policy).

## Notes

- 1) Financial Times [www.ft.com/content/244f0bd8-eccb-11e4-a81a-00144feab7de](http://www.ft.com/content/244f0bd8-eccb-11e4-a81a-00144feab7de)
- 2) Association for Public Service Excellence [www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2013/06/On-line-Catalogue201223.pdf](http://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2013/06/On-line-Catalogue201223.pdf)
- 3) Public opinion about outsourcing <http://weownit.org.uk/privatisation/outsourcing>
- 4) Our Services Our Say campaign <http://weownit.org.uk/public-solutions/our-services-our-say> "

(c) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, Councillor Murray has submitted the following Notice of Motion for consideration of the Council:

"Refugee motion

LDC notes:-

1. That a petition entitled REFUGEES WELCOME IN LEWES addressed to Lewes District Council and asking it to offer to home 10 refugee families in our town has now been signed by 1451 people (as of 25<sup>th</sup> April).
2. That there is already a strong group of at least 70 people from Lewes and the district who are actively involved in discussions about how to welcome refugees to the district and who are very much ready and willing to work with and assist the Council in making its preparations.
3. That Syrians arriving under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme enter the country already recognised as in need of humanitarian protection. On arrival they are entitled to housing, to benefits, and can work if they are able to. The government is giving grants to LAs for the five years on a sliding scale to meet the expense - <http://www.local.gov.uk/refugees>
4. That the experience across the country has been that joint working between the relevant statutory bodies, the voluntary sector, charities and faith groups etc. has proved the most effective way to provide valuable support and to facilitate integration. The link above recommends councils to work in

conjunction with both the voluntary sector and the local Regional Strategic Partnership on Migration (RSPM).

5. That LDC will be required to house 8 refugees from Syria as part of the government' official relocation policy

LDC therefore resolves to:

1. require the Director of Service Delivery to report on the Council's progress in preparing to receive refugees from the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, particularly in identifying suitable accommodation, including but not limited to the feasibility of using Saxonbury to provide initial accommodation. The report to be tabled at the next Housing Committee meeting and to the Cabinet.
2. to ask the relevant officers to meet with local refugee support groups, such as Lewes Group in Support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, to establish a multi-disciplinary approach to welcoming and settling refugees into the district."