

Motions to Council 22 March 2023

Chief Executive's accompanying notes

<p>Motion 913</p>	<p>Mandatory Voter ID</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Wendy Thomas Seconded by: Cllr John Bloxsom</p> <p>Council believes that voting at elections is the cornerstone of democracy at both local and national level and that participation in elections should be encouraged in all those who are qualified regardless of age, ethnicity, income or any protected characteristic.</p> <p>We note that the New Burdens Funding Allocations Grant for 2022/23 and 2023/24 that has been allocated to the six District Councils in Gloucestershire will total £180, 639. There are some serious questions about whether this funding will be adequate to cover each of these councils' costs and what the funding position would be if there were general election called.</p> <p>These measures will be an expensive distraction, adding costs onto election authorities, which are experiencing budget pressures and staff shortages, and create barriers to voting, in particular for already disadvantaged groups, rather than promoting voter registration and actual voting.</p> <p>The published list of acceptable ID required to vote is limited and Council is concerned that this measure could have a negative impact on voter turnout.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves that the Leader should write to Minister for the Cabinet Office to call for adequate funding for the organisation of local elections, staff recruitment and training and for public awareness raising, in order to minimise the risk of voter disenfranchisement due to unawareness of, and lack of preparedness, with the new requirements.</p> <p>Council believes that it is important that voting remains accessible for all and that the application process for a free voter card should be easy and accessible and therefore further resolves to actively co-operate with the district councils to support the promotion of public awareness, the making of applications for Voter Cards and their timely issuing.</p>
<p>Climate change implications</p>	<p>No implications directly arising from this motion</p>
<p>Resource implications</p>	<p>Assumption is that any communications / publicity activity will be funded from existing resources.</p>

Human rights implications	No implications directly arising from this motion
Other implications relating to Council's policy framework	No implications directly arising from this motion

<p>Motion 914</p>	<p>National Bus Fare Cap Grant Scheme</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Cate Cody Seconded by: Cllr Beki Hoyland</p> <p>Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bus Fare Cap Grant scheme is a Government funded scheme introduced on most single (including Child and Student) bus journeys across England from 1st January 2023 until 31st March 2023. • This is a positive intervention to help with the cost of living, taking many return journeys on the bus around the county from £7:50 to £4, nearly halving the cost per day. • A comparable journey of a 40 mile round trip in the car will cost approximately £10 • Making the bus affordable means that more people, particularly in this largely rural County, could be encouraged to start using the bus rather than private cars for regular journeys. • Elsewhere in Europe, governments are taking great steps to promote and sustain public transport, eg Germany with its new €49 monthly pass, valid across the country https://www.politico.eu/article/german-government-approves-nationwide-49-euro-public-transport-ticket/amp/ • Encouraging more bus journeys and therefore fewer car journeys is one way that this council can take effective action in line with the climate emergency declaration of 2019. <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to the Department for Transport and our six MPs to let them know how much we have appreciated this scheme and that we judge it would be beneficial to Gloucestershire to extend the duration of the scheme indefinitely.
<p>Climate change implications</p>	<p>No implications directly arising from this motion, though a modal shift from car to bus journeys would lead to a reduction in carbon emissions.</p>
<p>Resource implications</p>	<p>No implications directly arising from this motion. The £2 fare scheme is funded by the Department for Transport.</p>
<p>Human rights implications</p>	<p>No implications directly arising from this motion</p>
<p>Other implications relating to Council's policy framework</p>	<p>The aim of the £2 fare scheme is to promote bus use and grow passenger numbers. The scheme is in line with GCC policies such as Climate Change, the National Bus Strategy, and the Local Transport</p>

	Plan, which all aim to increase the numbers of people using bus services.
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Motion 915

Supporting a Carers Minimum Wage

Proposed by: Cllr. Jeremy Hilton

Seconded by: Cllr. Ben Evans

This Council notes:

- That senior Westminster politicians are calling for an uplift in the national minimum wage to those working in the social care sector, by adding an additional £2 per hour to the standard rate
- That there are chronic staff shortages in social care, which in turn is putting pressure on the NHS who can't place people and free up beds
- There are currently 165,000 vacancies across England in social care, up 55,000 from a year ago; Gloucestershire currently has 1744 vacancies in social care. This is a vacancy rate is 9.4%
- Workforce data shows people leaving social care for jobs in retail related roles that are better paid
- According to the Resolution Foundation, over half of the 1.7 million roles in Adult Social Care would see their pay increase under this plan
- There are around 16,500 people working in social care in Gloucestershire, so based on the national averages between 8,000 and 9,000 people locally would benefit directly from the policy
- Around 1 in 3 care workers are paid minimum wage (Source: [Skills for Care - Pay in the adult social care sector](#))
- The Resolution Foundation 'Who Cares?' report estimates the cost of the policy nationally to be £890M (This cost would be funded by doubling remote gaming duty from 21% to 42% (raising another £970M, assuming no behaviour change). Public Health England estimate the cost each year of gambling related harm in the UK is £1.3 Billion a year through ill-health, family and employment breakdown and crime, so would be also discouraging gambling through the tax and so any behaviour change would have associated cost benefits.)

This Council believes that:

- Care workers are a vital part of the workforce and have, for far too long, been undervalued in terms of their pay
- That a Carers Minimum Wage should be introduced, which would see people in social care paid at least £2 an hour more than the national minimum wage at the time
- This would bring their minimum pay up to £11.50 p/h today and £12.42 p/h from April

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Mr Steve Barclay MP, asking him to review pay in social care and to commit to a Carers Minimum Wage
- Seek the support of the Local Government Association for the introduction of a Carers Minimum Wage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge our support as a Council for seeing a Carers Minimum Wage introduced
Climate change implications	No implications directly arising from this motion
Resource implications	<p>No implications directly arising from this motion</p> <p>If not funded by central government this would have a significant financial impact of the Council and those organisations that provide social care on behalf of the Council.</p>
Human rights implications	No implications directly arising from this motion
Other implications relating to Council's policy framework	No implications directly arising from this motion