

COUNCIL – 20 OCTOBER 2021

NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted to Council in Accordance with paragraph 1.30 to 1.34 of the Council Procedural Rules

1 Protect the Right of Communities to Object to Individual Planning Applications

Proposed by Councillor B Puddicombe and Seconded by Councillor C Bulman

This Council believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes; and therefore, calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications.

2 ‘Fire and Re-Hire’

Proposed by Councillor L Smith and Seconded by Councillor C Naismith

This Council notes;

- 1 1 in 10 workers have experienced ‘fire and rehire’ - told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay, terms and conditions or face the sack, with BME workers facing this at twice the rate of white workers, since March 2020 (TUC research, January 2021). A quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions – including a cut in their pay - since the pandemic began.
- 2 That while the prime minister has called the practice “unacceptable” he has continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice, raising concerns that he will not intervene in this race to the bottom as an escalating number of employers across all sectors using our weak employment protections employers as they force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, leaving many having to work longer hours and for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- 3 Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers – 3.8 million people – were already ‘insecure’, meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will; including those on zero-hour contracts and agency workers.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Seek to ensure local residents are protected against such employers and agrees to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister demanding he outlaw fire and rehire and act now to keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions.
- Not use fire and rehire itself as an employer and to prevent its use by council contractors, and to ensure the Council has a procurement

practice that ensures we are working with contractors that have good employment, trade union, equality and environmental records.

- Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees' standard of living and their wellbeing, work with our anchor institutions and key partners to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment and to work with recognised trade unions on this.
- Support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'.

3 Headquarters for Great British Railways

Proposed by Councillor J Clowes and Seconded by Councillor M Sewart

This Council engages directly with the Transport Secretary Grant Schapps and prioritises the submission of a competitive bid for Crewe to host the new headquarters for Great British Railways.

Cheshire East Council engages proactively with Crewe & Nantwich MP Dr Kieran Mullan, together with our regional and subregional transport partners, to enhance and strengthen this unique and iconic bid.

Background

- 1 *Great British Railways (GBR) was first commissioned in May 2021 as part of the Grant Schapps **Plan for Rail**, focused on delivering sweeping reforms that put customers (both passengers and freight) first.*
- 2 *On 4th October 2021 it was announced that a competition will be run to identify the headquarters for Great British Railways (GBR), the single, accountable public body responsible for running Britain's railways.*
- 3 *As part of major reforms designed to ensure decisions about the railway are brought closer to the passengers and communities they serve, GBR will require a new national headquarters alongside regional facilities.*
- 4 *The government will welcome expressions of interest with a commitment that the National Headquarters will be based outside London – ensuring skilled jobs, investment and economic benefits are focused outside the capital.*

The Cheshire East / Crewe Offer

- 5 *This invitation for competitive bids offers a unique opportunity for Cheshire East Council, as this government competition wants to specifically recognise towns and cities, with a rich railway history, that are strongly linked to the network and that will thus ensure the first headquarters will take pride of place at the heart of a new era for Britain's Railways.*
- 6 *Crewe with its iconic railway history, strategic location as "Gateway to the North" and its valuable 'hub and spoke' network links to the north, west and north midlands, as well as London, is well-placed to host the GBR Headquarters.*

- 7 *It is important to also recognise that the GBR Transition Team will be adopting a whole industry approach to tackling cost, promoting efficiency and establishing a strategic freight unit to boost the sector.*
- 8 *With HS2a already scheduled to arrive in Crewe, (initial groundworks and ecological mitigation works are already underway in the Borough) and the Hub station complex together with its extended freight capacity south of the current station, Crewe is once again well-placed to adhere to the Transition Team's operational brief.*

Harmonisation of Council and Government Core Goals

- 9 *GBR is defined by core goals that have important synergies with those of Cheshire East Council.*
- *"thinking like our customers, (both passengers and freight) and putting them first".*
 - *"Growing the network and getting more people travelling"*
 - *"Making the railways easier to use"*
 - *"Simplifying the sector to do things quicker, driving down costs and being more accountable"*
 - *"Having a can-do, not a can't do culture"*
 - *"Harnessing the best of the private sector"*
 - *"Playing a critical role in the national shift to net zero"*
- 10 *In the wider context of 'Levelling Up', HS2a, developing the Crewe Hub Station and the regeneration of Crewe, this provides an extraordinary opportunity for Cheshire East Council to bid to accommodate the GBR headquarters that offers significant benefits for both Government and Cheshire East alike – an opportunity we must not miss.*

References:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-competition-to-find-first-hq-of-great-british-railways>

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/search-on-for-great-british-railways-headquarters-05-10-2021/?tkn=1>

4 Starter Units

Proposed by Councillor A Kolker and Seconded by Councillor P Groves

This Council, in order to support the Borough's post-pandemic recovery, commits to providing a wide range of affordable rental units for small and micro business start-ups.

Background

Throughout Cheshire East, thousands of tiny businesses are operated from home.

In spare bedrooms, garages and garden sheds, small and micro businesses provide a living for our residents throughout the Borough – a phenomenon that has expanded during the pandemic.

Many of these businesses have ambitions to grow; to employ new staff and to provide a valuable contribution to the post-Covid economy. If these dreams are to be realised, it is essential that they have access to suitable accommodation.

Modern 'easy in / easy out' offices, workshops and meeting rooms, with fast broadband connections and adequate parking, as evidenced in other local authority areas such as Nottingham and Bristol, will create a community of innovation for the fledgling entrepreneur to flourish. If Cheshire East is to continue to prosper then we must explore, embrace and invest in this sector of the economy and provide good quality micro business accommodation.

References:

<https://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/starting-up/planning-your-business/finding-premises-for-your-start-up/>

<https://smallbusiness.co.uk/how-business-incubators-help-boost-growth-and-innovation-2471907/>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/how-well-do-you-know-your-microbusinesses#supporting-microbusinesses>

5 UK100 Pledge

Proposed by Councillor Q Abel and Seconded by Councillor R Fletcher

This Council makes the UK100 pledge and asks the relevant committee to determine whether Cheshire East Council should join the UK100 Network.

Membership Pledge

The people who live in the cities, towns and villages we serve deserve warm homes, secure and affordable energy, clean air and water, and local and seasonal food. They deserve access to thriving nature and healthy landscapes, and to live in a place they can be proud of.

As local leaders across the UK, we see the challenges our communities face. We recognise our responsibility to tackle the climate emergency and protect our environment to secure the future for them and for people around the world.

In 2019, the UK Parliament passed legislation to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050. This was to keep in line with international commitment in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. But science tells us we need to start now and make rapid reductions much sooner.

We will do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We will bring our council emissions to Net Zero by 2030 and we will work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities' emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible (and by 2045* at the latest).*

We will continue to lead the UK's response to Net Zero, going ahead of the government goal and taking the first steps with urgency. We will make substantial progress within the next decade to deliver Net Zero. With greater powers, we would go further, faster. We will be bold and brave, carrying out

strong climate action now and building prosperous, secure and more resilient communities that are healthier, cleaner and safer, in ways that follow the science and are practical and achievable.

We pledge to assess our largest impacts on climate change, prioritise where action needs to be taken and measure and monitor progress towards targets. We will reduce our emissions at source and limit the use of carbon offsets as part of the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

As local leaders, we are uniquely placed to help tackle the climate emergency. We are closer to the people who live and work in our communities, so we have a better understanding of their needs. This means we can collaborate with them to build consensus for the solutions we need to transition to a Net Zero society that delivers multiple benefits and is fair, just and works for everyone.

We have come together from local authorities across the UK to share knowledge and collaborate with each other, with businesses and our residents to deliver action now. And we will also use our experience of our ability and achievements to advocate to the UK government in order to accelerate the transition to a Net Zero society.

As a nation, we have demonstrated throughout our history that we are able and willing to lead on finding solutions to the challenges the world faces. The success and prosperity of our nation has largely rested on our ability to harness the power of dirty fossil fuels. It is now our shared responsibility to turn this ingenuity to solving the climate emergency in a way that has a positive impact on our communities. We need to ensure our future is better than our past.

[UK100's new, more ambitious Net Zero pledge | UK100](#)