

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
1st DECEMBER 2010

MOTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER D1(1)

<p>Notice of motion submitted by Councillor Martin</p>	<p>Council recalls that one of the major reasons for moving to new offices is the repeated promise by the Administration that running cost savings in excess of £500k per annum would be achieved as a direct result of the move. Indeed, a recent report submitted to the Transformation Board put “assumed” and “estimated” savings at £688k.</p> <p>Council is asked to note the contents of the previously circulated Labour report, in response to those “estimated and assumed” figures, which suggests that the actual savings achieved (at current rates of interest) will total under £100k pa.</p> <p>Council agrees, therefore, that the minimal financial benefits estimated to result from the expenditure of £10.5m do not justify the use of public money in this way at a time of massive economic instability, government requests for councils to be prudent in spending, service cuts, council job losses and serious local concern.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is accepted that the project “risks” have not been sufficiently highlighted or taken into consideration in reaching a decision to proceed. These financial risks include -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a The uncertain period over which assets will be sold;b the ability to actually find buyers in view of the slow take up of New Street and Coventry Street properties;c the affect both a & b will have on the interest rate charged on bridging loans and the pay back period; andd The fact that 30% of project funding comes from such assets and is not yet in place.
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	<p>The exposure to Council finances through these uncertainties means the decision to proceed is based on flawed evidence and shows both bad judgement by the Administration and is irresponsible in the current economic climate.</p> <p>Council therefore agrees that the progress of this project be suspended and put on hold to allow a full scrutiny exercise to take place into the funding and financial risks evident and highlighted by the Labour paper. There has never been an opportunity throughout the process so far for this level of Member involvement into the financial details of the scheme and Members should be offered that chance.</p>
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<p>Notice of motion submitted by Councillor John-Paul Campion</p>	<p>Further to the Coalition Government's proposals to establish "local enterprise partnerships" (LEP's), Council resolves to confirm that it believes the District's future economic prosperity will be best served by an LEP serving the geographic County of Worcestershire.</p> <p>Furthermore Council resolves to continue discussions to consider joining other proposals for LEPs within the West Midlands where this reflects the views of business and would be in the best interests of Wyre Forest.</p> <p>Council resolves to request the Chief Executive to continue to engage the Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest, Mr Mark Garnier MP, other Worcestershire Councils and all relevant partners to further the Council's objectives outlined in this motion.</p>
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