

CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

ITEM 12(1) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP

“The rise in energy costs for the coming winter will put many people in Gloucester in a position where they will be unable to effectively heat their homes. It is predicted that many families will experience fuel poverty. There is serious concern for the impact this will have not just on vulnerable people and those already experiencing disadvantage but also on working families who are struggling to make ends meet due to the cost of living crisis.

Councils across the country are seriously concerned about the impact the increased energy costs will have and despite the price rises being beyond their control, councils are considering what they can do to help people in their areas.

A number of councils are taking a lead and setting up a ‘Warm Places Scheme’ where people can attend public buildings during the daytime to stay warm. **We believe that this council can develop its own Gloucester “Warm Places Scheme” to aid information sharing of buildings within the city and its wards which are available to support residents during the winter months.** ~~The scheme would welcome those who cannot afford to heat their homes and venues could include council owned premises and community buildings as well as churches and places of religious worship.~~ By visiting such places people would not only be able to stay warm but also **they may also be able to** access services who could help and support them with other energy related matters **at certain key locations.**

In order to establish a **“Gloucester Warm Places scheme”** this council resolves to:

- Take the lead ~~and act to~~ urgently and establish a **“Gloucester Warm Places”** initiative across the city, **ensuring that dedicated website information is generated sharing locations involved in the scheme and signposting residents to the support available from government and other bodies.**
- **Undertake a social and mainstream media campaign to promote the support available to Gloucester residents.**
- ~~Utilise its own premises and liaise with the~~ **Work with partner agencies including the County Council to make public venues available determine which public buildings can be made available for use in the scheme.** This could include places such as libraries, museums and other appropriate council **publicly** owned buildings, **after due consideration of staffing and HSE requirements.**
- **Enlist the support of the business community who can provide support to the residents of Gloucester, with nominal or no financial outlay needed for residents.**
- Enlist the support of community and voluntary sector organisations to include community centres and neighbourhood buildings.
- Contact churches and other religious organisations to include them in the scheme.
- ~~Establish a Warm Places grant scheme to offer financial support costs to organisations prepared to get involved~~ **Encourage Members to contribute part of their grant allowance to assist VCS organisations with their costs.”**

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ITEM 12(2) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP

“Relocating the office accommodation of this council to The Eastgate Centre is to be welcomed as a positive and progressive move. It places the Council in the heart of the city centre where its presence and services can be easily identified and accessed.

To complement the office relocation the council should ~~also move~~ **undertake a review of the provision of Customer Service and Housing Support, currently managed from The Gateway Customer Services Reception to The Eastgate Centre to determine the best options for Gloucester residents in the short, medium and long term.**

Prior to Covid, The Gateway was providing face to face services to the public from its Westgate Street base, near to the council offices in Shire Hall. However, once the council moves to Eastgate The Gateway will become remote from the rest of the Council, being located in a different part of the city. This has the potential to cause confusion among the public in identifying exactly where council services are located and accessed.

~~The office space formerly occupied by the UK DRIC on the first floor is currently unused and this location or somewhere close by would make an ideal location for The Gateway.~~

As the impact of Covid ~~improves~~ **and the council's cyber incident reduces, and services begin to return to normal steps should be taken to restore opening times and return The Gateway to a full face to face should resume it's appointment service for residents to aid the review for next steps for the service.**

Having all city council services at The Eastgate Centre, in a central location ~~will~~ **could** be a positive move and make them more easily identifiable and accessible to all council customers, **however all council owned locations should be considered if relocation were to take place.**

This council therefore resolves to:

- ~~• Relocate The Gateway into The Eastgate Centre~~
- ~~• Utilise the former offices of the UK DRIC or somewhere nearby for this purpose~~
- ~~• Widely publicise and promote this new location to the public~~
- ~~• Return The Gateway to its pre Covid operating model with full face to face public access.~~
- Complete a review of the face to face Customer Service & Housing Support provided to Gloucester residents from The Gateway to determine the best options for the future of the service**
- Should relocation be determined as the appropriate action, all council owned buildings should be considered**
- Publicise and promote any future changes to the provision widely.”**