

## **Notices of Motion submitted under Standing Order B36**

### **By County Councillor Dowding (Adjourned from the meeting on 23 May 2019)**

Retain the Current Safety Thresholds for Seismic Activity for Shale Gas Operations

**Lancashire County Council welcomes** the fact that to date the Government has confirmed it has no plans to change the Traffic Light System of seismic thresholds for the fracking industry.

**Lancashire County Council resolves** to write to the Energy Minister and the Prime Minister welcoming the Government's resolve not to change the thresholds and asks them to continue to prioritise public health and safety; and to write to Lancashire's MPs about the Council's position.

#### **1. By County Councillor Collinge**

This council believes that the transitional increase of the state pension age for women born in the 1950s (also known as WASPI women - Women Against State Pension Injustice) has been poorly managed, with many women given little to no notice of the increase in pensionable age, particularly of the acceleration of equalisation made in the Pensions Act 2011. Many women have suffered severe financial difficulties as a result.

This council notes that the WASPI Campaign 2018 does not seek to reverse the equalisation of pension ages but seeks better transitional arrangements, recognition of the injustice, and aid for women affected.

In recognition of the injustice and the hardship endured by the WASPI women, this council instructs officers to explore reworking the concessionary travel scheme to include some women affected by the changes to pension age. This exploration is to include the costs of any scheme and the impact of equalities legislation.

This council notes that Greater Manchester Combined Authority have given access to off-peak bus passes to some WASPI women and have provided details of their scheme.

Further, this council also instructs the Chief Executive and Director of Resources to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to make clear the council's view that better transitional arrangements must be made for WASPI women. Council notes that there is currently an ongoing judicial review on this issue and instructs officers to wait to send the letter until the judicial review is complete.

#### **2. By County Councillor Foxcroft**

Recent work in other areas of the country has seen grass verges and dual carriageway centres transformed into vast wildflower corridors. This has multiple benefits for the areas that have been created – enhancing the support for wildlife, delivering bio-diversity, increasing the natural beauty and appeal of an area, attracting new visitors who come to see

the colourful arrays created, as well as reducing the maintenance costs due to the low maintenance of such areas.

This council requests officers to assess the feasibility of establishing 'wildflower corridor' schemes across the County. Officers should also work with Parish and District Councils on this matter. A report highlighting potential locations and areas suitable should be presented to Cabinet for information in the Autumn prior to beginning in Spring 2020.

### **3. By County Councillor Fillis**

#### Free Personal Care for Older People

Lancashire County Council recognises that older people in Lancashire are struggling with unmet care needs and believes that in light of an ageing population we need bold changes to deliver a long term funding solution for social care.

The Council believes that it is fundamentally unfair that to access basic care many older people face catastrophic costs that can run into hundreds of thousands of pounds, wiping out a lifetime of savings, and forcing families to sell their homes. The Council also believes that Lancashire's care system needs major reform to provide a long-term sustainable funding solution and to make care free at the point of use.

The Council therefore supports "Independent Age's" call for the introduction of free personal care for all older people in England. Lancashire County Council calls on the Government to take the necessary steps to implement this policy as swiftly as possible to end the care crisis and properly support older people in Lancashire.

The Council also asks the Chief Executive and Director of Resources to write to our Lancashire MPs to support the campaign for free personal care, and speak up in favour of the policy in the House of Commons, with the responses of the MPs to be reported back to Council.

### **4. By County Councillor Pattison**

Council notes with concern the proposed closure of the Outdoor Education Department at Morecambe Bay Academy and the detrimental impact this may have on children across Morecambe and Lancaster. Being able to access outdoor education locally is extremely important to the health and wellbeing of children, and gives them opportunities to develop vital life skills including leadership skills. This is especially important for children who struggle in a classroom setting.

Council believes that retaining the Outdoor Education Department at Morecambe Bay Academy would be beneficial to the pupils there and the many children from other schools who also access outdoor education through the department. This view supports our strategic Vision for Lancashire that '*We will support people and families to keep themselves healthy and well by choosing healthy lifestyles.*

Council instructs the Chief Executive and Director of Resources to write to the Chair of the Bay Academy Trust setting out the Council's position.