

COUNCIL, 23 November 2016

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW AND COUNCIL POLICIES

Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group

Many residents complain about the lack of enforcement in Havering, so this council calls upon the Administration to set out a strategy backed up with clear procedures and the necessary resources to ensure that there is effective enforcement of the law and council policies in Havering.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

In recognising residents' complaints about lack of enforcement THIS COUNCIL NOTES that a review with stakeholders has been undertaken with a main purpose of identifying a common approach to enforcement across the Borough optimising the use of resources and balancing the focus of key priorities. Following a restructure there is now in place a management platform to carry forward further reorganisation designed to concentrate on tackling effectively those matters that cause most harm within our community within available resources.

(Note: Motion and amendment carried over from previous meeting of Council).

B TRADE UNION ACT 2016

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our workplaces. This Council values the constructive relationship that we have with our trade unions and we recognise their commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of good quality public services.

This Council notes with concern the Trade Union Act 2016 which will negatively affect this Council's relationship with our trade unions and our workforce as a whole.

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It is noted that the Act will incur administrative costs in forcing the Council to monitor and publish information about how many employees carry out union duties. This Council does not think that this excessive monitoring of recognised trade unions is an appropriate use of the Council's money and resources.

This Council is clear that facility time, negotiated and agreed by us and our trade unions to suit our own specific needs, has a valuable role to play in the creation of good quality and responsive local services. The Council also recognises the contribution that our trade unions have made in using facility time to speed up the terms and conditions review, and restructures, used to deliver savings across the Council. Moreover, the Council recognises that restricting facility time will only delay disciplinary, sickness and grievance procedures, at which employees have a statutory right to be represented by their union. This would make escalation and additional costs to the Council incurred from tribunal fees, more likely.

This Council is happy with the arrangements we currently have in place for facility time. We see this as an important part of our positive industrial relations and an inexpensive and easy way to administer a system that supports our staff by reducing dismissal rates, voluntary exits, workplace illnesses, and recruitment costs and improves staff retention and productivity.

This Council recognises the valuable work carried out by Health and Safety reps in maintaining safe workplaces and preventing workplace injuries, and which is an economical way of promoting health and safety for the Council.

This Council further resolves to seek to continue its own locally agreed industrial relations strategy and will take every measure possible to maintain its autonomy with regard to facility time and other arrangements.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members can make in our workplaces. This Council values the constructive relationship that we have with our trade unions and we recognise their commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of good quality public services.

This Council notes that the Trade Union Act 2016 received the Royal Assent on 4th May 2016 and that those provisions of the Act that are implemented and are applicable to the Council will be observed in a responsible and sensitive manner.

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Amendment by the Independent Residents' Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council welcomes the Prime Minister's comments about leading a Government on behalf of the many not the few and the interests of working people including the working class. And in the same spirit Council welcomes the constructive role played by our democratic trade unions and staff associations in the management of council affairs.

The number may be reviewed, but Council rejects any moves to end the ability of paid employees who are also designated union/staff association officials to meet their responsibilities during the working day, because removing this cost would not be a saving and would result in a less disciplined and demoralised workforce which in turn would undermine the efficient running of the Council.

C MAYOR OF LONDON

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

When the Greater London Authority (GLA) was set-up it had more limited powers. It is presided over by an Elected Mayor. In recent years the GLA has acquired more powers including over housing prompting concerns about the democratic status of the Elected Mayor. Indeed how is it possible for one person to be held accountable on the many issues that matter in a city the size of London?

Thus this Council agrees the post of Elected Mayor of London should be abolished with the Mayor's powers transferred to the Elected Assembly who then elect the Mayor/Leader as we do in Havering and calls on the Council Leader to seek support for this change from other London councils.

(No amendments received).

D SOLAR PARKS

Motion on behalf of the United Kingdom Independence Party Group

This Council recommends that the Executive conducts a poll before deciding whether or not to introduce Solar Parks at both Dagnam Park and Gerpins Lane.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

This Council notes that the Executive will consider carefully all responses to consultation before deciding whether or not to introduce Solar Parks at both land

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adjacent to Dagnam Park and land at Gerpins Lane and that if the solar farm project contained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy agreed by the Council does not proceed further substantial savings will be required.

E ORCHARD VILLAGE

Motion on behalf of the United Kingdom Independence Party Group

Orchard village has had significant problems and some residents have reported experiencing major faults with the condition of the building. Despite numerous attempts to correct some of the problems residents face there has been no improvement in their living conditions. This situation has been picked up by the main stream media.

Therefore this council recommends that the Executive agrees to consider the exercise of its powers under the Building Act 1984 where legally possible to ensure rectification of the building work undertaken there and to take steps to recover any costs incurred arising from this from the companies involved.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council recommends that the Executive agrees to consider the exercise of its powers under the Building Act 1984 where legally possible to ensure rectification where appropriate of building work and to take steps where possible to recover any costs incurred arising from this from the companies involved.