

COUNCIL, 25 January 2017

A 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 and their powers to overrule local planning decisions. Indeed how is it possible for one person elected on about 20% of the registered vote 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 (Leader) of London should be abolished and replaced with the Cabinet system, in which the Elected Assembly elects the Leader as we do in Havering and calls on the Council Leader to seek support for this change from other London councils.

B 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 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.

Amendment by the Independent Residents' Group

Many residents have no inclination to support a wind or solar farm as they are viewed as an environmental blight on the landscape and because they're promoted on the back of a fraud called "man made climate change", but council plans for a solar farm in Dagnam Park, Harold Hill and on land off Gerpins Lane, nr Rainham are proposed to raise money to provide council services, but are they financially viable following cuts in government subsidies for ground based solar farms?

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Thus this Council calls on the Executive to investigate the full environmental and amenity costs and financial viability before progressing any plans for solar farms in Havering.

Amendment by the Labour Group

This Council opposes the Executive proposal to introduce a Solar Park at Dagnam Park.

C TERMS AND CONDITIONS REVIEW

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

This Council agrees the way to deliver the budget strategy agreed by Council to cut the wage bill by £500,000 is by for example reducing wages by 1% across the board starting at the top and then down until the target is met. No one likes a wage cut but if unavoidable due to further cuts in government funding that is the straight forward we're all in it together and fair way to do it and vital to maintaining staff morale and jobs, whereas robbing Peter to pay Paul is simply bad politics in the present difficult circumstances.

Also Council agrees the review of terms and conditions costing £512,000 so far to conduct is a separate and secondary matter entirely as an honest review could result in an increase in the wage bill. But because it's being conducted to reduce the wage bill, it means experienced and qualified staff are failing "the interview" with many feeling a great sense of injustice, demoralised and taking redundancy (another cost) as a result. And many lower paid staff are suffering disproportionately due to changes in allowances. Changes in terms and conditions should be oiled with a pay rise, not imposed unfairly to deliver a pay cut.

And therefore Council calls on the Executive not to conflate the review of terms and conditions with the budget strategy to deliver a £500,000 cut in the wage bill.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

This Council notes that the two fundamental objectives of the review of employee terms & conditions of employment (T&Cs) are to: modernise our approach to working arrangements, pay structures and job evaluation, replacing existing T&Cs that are inconsistent, outdated or do not assist the delivery of services; and to create annual savings of at least £500,000 on the Council's non-schools corporate pay bill, as previously agreed as part of the Council's budget strategy. Whilst an across the board % reduction in salaries could achieve the savings target, it would not modernise our working arrangements and in particular would leave in place a range of inconsistent T&Cs that our staff and trade unions have previously identified as in need of modernisation. It is also essential that those working arrangements are modernised in order to ensure that we meet our obligations with regard to equalities and equal value.

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This Council values the contribution and commitment made by all staff to the delivery of good quality public services. Whilst change proposals of this order will unfortunately lead to some staff experiencing a reduction in pay, this Council notes that the contractual impact of the Council's proposals means that more than two out of every three staff will either be unaffected or will be slightly better off. This Council also notes that a significant period of pay protection will be applied to those staff who experience a reduction in pay to help support them through the transformation

In noting these matters this Council reaffirms the decision agreed at the Full Council meeting on 30th March 2016 that authority is delegated to the Governance Committee to approve proposals which were likely to arise from the review of T&Cs, noting the amendment to the terms of reference of the Governance Committee within the Constitution as set out at paragraph 97 on page 180C of the minutes of that meeting.

D OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES PRECEPT

Motion on behalf of the Joint Administration

Under an agreement between the GLA and the government of the time, from 2006/07 Council Tax payers across London were required to contribute £625m towards the cost of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This was equivalent to an annual charge of £20 per household (Band D) which was collected by the GLA via an Olympic Precept included in council tax bills. In 2016/17 the final instalment of the £625m was paid and Council Tax payers saw the £20 precept reduce to £8 accordingly.

As the full £625m had been paid off, the expectation was that the remaining £8 would be returned to Council Tax payers in 2017/18. However, the draft 2017/18 GLA budget does not propose to return this sum.

Furthermore, while the Games were a great success and enjoyed by many, the precept meant that Havering Council Tax payers contributed some £16m towards the Games with little or no quantifiable benefit to our residents.

Our council faces significant financial pressures, such as Social Care, demographic growth and Housing which is made even more challenging when set against substantial reductions in local government funding.

As such, this Council calls upon the Mayor of London to honour the original agreement which ring-fenced the £20 precept for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and as the financial obligation has been met, the remaining £8 should be returned to Council Tax payers in 2017/18 to help fund council services to our residents.'

Amendment by the Independent Residents' Group

(Proposed amended wording shown in bold for clarity).

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Our council faces significant financial pressures, such as Social Care, demographic growth and Housing which is made even more challenging when set against substantial reductions in local government funding.

As such, **this Council calls on the Executive to ascertain whether withholding the return of this overpayment is lawful and if not instruct the legal department to seek the return of said monies** and calls on the Mayor of London to honour the original agreement which ring-fenced the £20 precept for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and as the financial obligation has been met, the remaining £8 should be returned to Council Tax payers in 2017/18 to help fund council services to our residents.'