

## **COUNCIL, 23 January 2019**

### **MOTIONS**

#### **A. USE OF BUS LANES BY MOTOR CYCLES**

##### **Motion on behalf of the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Associations Group**

While motorcyclists make up 1% of traffic volume across London, they account for 27% of all killed and seriously injured casualties, with 33 fatalities over the last year. Permitted use of bus lanes across London is inconsistent with some councils allowing motorcyclists to use the lanes, some not (Havering do not), and some partially.

Allowing motorcyclists to use bus lanes would not only improve the safety of motorcyclists and other road users but would add clarity over the potential to receive a £160 fine for entering a bus lane which may change from one borough to the next.

While this would ideally be a London wide aspiration, this Council calls upon the Executive to undertake measures, including the necessary consultations, to allow motorcyclists to use bus lanes in Havering.

##### **Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group**

Amend motion to read:

This Council recognises the different approaches across London and calls upon the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee to investigate the matter and report back to the Cabinet in due course. In readiness for that report, Council also calls upon the Mayor of London to bring forward guidance on the use of bus lanes by non-bus traffic as to create a consistent approach across the capital.

#### **B. SIZE OF PLANNING COMMITTEES**

##### **Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group**

The March 7th Governance meeting and subsequent March 21st Council approved a Governance report proposing changes to the council's planning regime. The report included a recommendation to create two planning committees, a Strategic Planning committee with 7 members and a Planning committee with 11 members, but did say

## **Council, 23 January 2019**

the actual size of the committees (and all committees) would be a matter for Annual Council on May 23rd.

At Annual Council it was proposed to create two size 8 planning committees as part of item 9 on the Council agenda. Item 9 was approved without debate following a procedural motion to go vote only. Following the meeting the Monitoring Officer advised the creation of size 8 committees was to “assist with proportionality”, except it doesn’t and neither does the Planning Advisory Service provide specific advice on size of committees.

Due to the quasi-judicial importance of planning committees, the overall creation of two new planning committee positions is welcome, however this motion calls upon Council to agree to change the size of the two planning committees from size 8 to size 7 (strategic) and 11 (planning) as recommended in the approved March 7th Governance Committee report, subsequently approved at March 21st Council.

Council is further asked to agree to increase the total number of seats on committee to 136 (from 134), and to ensure political balance rules are adhered to, agrees to the allocation of seats as set out in the appendix to this motion.

### **Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group**

This Council notes the decision taken by full council on 23<sup>rd</sup> May this year to establish the committees of the authority having regard to political balance.

## **C. SEXUAL HARRASSMENT**

### **Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents’ Group**

Senior councillors and officers recently held the LGBT flag in front of the Town Hall, albeit up-side down, to mark LGBT month. The Council Leader attended this worthy event, but Council now calls on the Executive to show support for the female and wider community by condemning sexual harassment, bullying and misogyny?

### **Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group**

Delete the motion and insert the following in its place:

This Council condemn all forms of sexual harassment, bullying and misogyny and reaffirms its commitment to upholding the Equality Acts and those protected by its provisions.

### **Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group**

This Council welcomes the steps taken by the administration in spreading inclusion through the adoption of the first community cohesion strategy of Havering Council and looks forward to the official launch of the community cohesion strategy and engagement forum. Furthermore, this Council notes that the LGBT flag will be flown

## Council, 23 January 2019

at the Town Hall to mark the start of LGBT month.

### **D. PARKING MACHINES**

#### **Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group**

Parking meters cost money to remove, buy and install. A few years ago the council removed the old 'flag' meters and replaced them with 215 digital machines costing between £4000 > £5000 each. **The council's new parking strategy proposals include** removing, at a cost, of £70,000 154 machines valued @ between £616,000 > £770,000 and converting the remaining 61 to cashless card/phone machines at a cost of £244,000!

As this reduces maintenance costs it's forecast, by reducing staff, to make an annual revenue saving of £244,000 which means it will take over 4 years of revenue saving to recoup the £1m capital cost of removing and converting the parking meters.

However going cashless will deter many people from parking and these upgraded machines will still be subject to vandalism and so could result in a big drop in income! And staff reductions could mean no enforcement of parking restrictions in the areas where machines have been removed, to the detriment of local shops.

Council calls on the Executive to drop these proposals as a false economy as going cashless will reduce income and result in deserted shopping centres and parades outside Romford.

#### **Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group**

Delete the motion and insert the following in its place:

The Council recognises the benefits of cashless card/phone parking machines and calls on the Executive to incorporate within its new parking proposals the replacement of exiting machines with the gradual introduction of cashless machines.

#### **Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group**

This Council welcomes the proposed upgrading of parking park and display machines across the borough as part of the new parking strategy; and welcomes the addition of contactless payment to reduce running costs and to provide greater ease for users.