

## **COUNCIL, 20 March 2019**

### **MOTIONS**

#### **A. 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 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, subject to approval at 20th March 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.

#### **B. IMPACT OF PARKING CHARGES ON TOWN CENTRES**

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

In light of the Administration's decision to negatively affect the health of our Town Centres by the large jump in parking charges, removal of free parking including evenings, overnight and on Sundays, this council calls for there to be an immediate

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assessment on the likely impact this will have on the vibrancy of our valued Town Centres, together with ways that this can be mitigated.

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

This Council notes that vibrancy of town centres is determined by a range of factors, including external environmental improvements, and welcomes the commitment of the Administration to bring forward plans to support our town centres as a destination of choice.

## **C. OFSTED INSPECTON – IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

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

Seven months after the recent inspection by Ofsted that rated our Children Service as Good, this Council welcomes the improvement programme launched by the Administration to embed that progress and its aspiration to reach Good with outstanding features

## **D. KNIFE CRIME AND SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE**

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

This Council urges the Executive to urgently review its provision of Youth Services as part of a multifaceted approach with its strategic partners to address and reduce the level of knife crime and serious youth violence in the Borough including the adoption of a public health model in the medium and long term

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

This Council agrees an emergency multi-agency summit meeting be held, composing senior councillors, officers and representatives from various outside bodies including Police, Youth Services, Voluntary Services and others, similar to the debrief meeting held following the raid on Travellers sites in Noak Hill, to address the violent street crime menace by identifying the reasons why this is happening and to propose local solutions as appropriate.

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

This Council notes the progress made in driving improvements within children's services as well as the Administration's firm proposals to offer an enhanced youth provision aimed at further education, employment and training for our younger residents.