



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

COUNCIL, 29 JANUARY 2014

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

We the Councillors for London Borough of Havering will reduce the number of Councillor posts which receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) within this Council by 50%. To take effect from the 1st March 2014.

It is unfair that the Council Tax Payers for London Borough of Havering and various departments within this Council should bear the full brunt of these cuts and by reducing the number of Councillor post which receive an SRA, we the Councillors for London Borough of Havering are demonstrating that we too are prepared to deal with the hard times ahead, in order those in need are always put first.

A1: Amendment by the Residents' Group

We the councillors for the London Borough of Havering recognise that the Residents' Association group, for each of the past seven years, has presented a budget amendment to full Council to reduce the number and level of Special Responsibility Allowances, delivering an average annual saving of some £150,000. In order to resolve this important matter satisfactorily, this Council agrees to:

- a) form a cross-party working group to review the number of SRA positions along with the associated allowances and, subject to independent scrutiny, make recommendations to full Council for adoption.
- b) agree that this work commences as soon as practical following the local elections in May 2014.
- c) agree that this proviso is included as part of the budget setting full Council meeting in February 2014 where Members' Allowances are usually considered.

A2: Amendment by the Labour Group

Delete the words of the motion and insert the following in place thereof:-

This Council accepts the recommendations of the London Council appointed Independent Panel in respect of the number of Councillors Special Responsibility Allowances per each Council and with a view to implementing those recommendations in full agrees to review its Cabinet and Committee structures as soon as is possible.

A3: Amendment by the Administration

This Council notes that savings in budgets for the Councillors' allowances scheme for 2014/2015 have been included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and will be considered and decisions taken in February 2014 as part of the budget process for that year.

B RETENTION OF CASH FARES ON LONDON BUSES

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

TfL's 'London buses going cashless' consultation document says it will save £24 million a year in operating costs by 2020.

And the same document says 60,000 passengers pay the extra £1 fare every day - although TfL's Annual report says 85,000 passengers are paying the cash fare!

However if we settle for a figure of 70,000 this generates an income of £25.5 million a year and means the cash fare is already generating £1.5 million more income than the forecast saving in 7 years' time!

In addition over £30 million in credit remains on the Oyster cards every year! So even if the costs of handling cash fares did rise above income, a small part of the credit on the Oyster cards could pay the difference!

In other words 'London buses going cashless' will lose TfL money and result in a poorer bus service, particularly for vulnerable people and in outer-London where cash fares remain high.

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Therefore the Council calls on the GLA Mayor to honour his election promise to support outer-London by retaining cash fares on London Buses.

B1: Amendment by the Labour Group

Delete the words of the Motion and insert the following in place thereof:-

This Council acknowledges the benefits of Bus fares being paid by cashless means, calls upon the Mayor of London and TFL to continue to accept bus fares being paid by cash whilst encouraging greater use of Oyster cards and at the same time ensuring maximum security for Bus Company employees who handle cash.

(No Administration amendment)

C SPARE ROOM SUBSIDY

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council recognises the adverse impact on many of its tenants caused by the introduction of the 'spare room subsidy' also known as the 'bedroom tax' and calls on the Government to repeal the legislation that introduced it.

C1: Amendment by the Administration

This Council recognises the positive effects of the various legislations enacted to enable a fairer use of Council property, ensuring movement to maximise the use of a scarce and valued commodity.

D NUCLEAR TEST VETERANS

Motion on behalf of the Administration and the Residents' Group

That the Council:

1. Notes that its commitment to the Armed Forces Community Covenant ensures the needs of those residents of Havering who serve, or have served, the country are recognised and supported at a local level.
2. Further notes that many other residents have, through a range of professions, served the country in equally significant measure such as in national security and defence including those who participated in the testing of Britain's nuclear weapons in the 1950s and 1960s.
3. Welcomes that, following a Ministry of Defence commissioned Health Needs Analysis in 2011 of British nuclear test veterans, the NHS have introduced a number of practical measures to support them.
4. Believes that other parts of the public and voluntary sector should seek to introduce similar measures to support nuclear test veterans – and that the Council should lead this at a local level by extending the provisions of the Armed Forces Community Covenant to those veterans who live in Havering.
5. Urges the Government to support the campaign of the British Nuclear Tests Veteran Association by:
 - Officially recognising the unique service of these veterans and acknowledge the nation's continuing debt to them; and
 - Supporting the intention to establish a Benevolent Fund of £25 million to provide assistance for those veterans and their descendants in need.
6. Agrees to ask our Members of Parliament to back this campaign and join the Council in urging the Government to support the requests outlined in (5) above.

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E LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Note: the Mayor has agreed that this motion be accepted as an urgent motion in accordance with section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Urgent motion on behalf of the Administration

That Councillor Steven Kelly be elected to the office of Leader of the Council for the remainder of the municipal year.