

COUNCIL, 26 NOVEMBER 2014

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A CITY AIRPORT FLIGHTPATHS

Motion on behalf of the East Havering Residents' Group

Given the need to assess in detail any potential impact of the proposed changes to flight paths from City Airport as part of the London Airspace Management Programme, this Council calls upon:

a) the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to extend the consultation period in respect of the proposed London Airspace Management Programme to 31st January 2015 in order to inform opinion and give Havering residents a greater opportunity to engage in the consultation process.

b) City Airport operators to provide greater detail to local stakeholders in terms of flight numbers, noise levels and Co2 emissions as a result of the legal mandate which requires all aircraft to be equipped with Area Navigation technology and to operate in revised airspace by 2020.

(No amendments received).

B CARE ACT

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

Under the Care Act's 'Ordinary Residence' rules, people who move into one of Havering's many residential homes as 'self-funders', and then require social care support, automatically become the financial responsibility of Havering Council. This Council calls upon the Government to review the rules associated with this system so that the costs don't overwhelm Havering Council or other local authorities that support a large care sector.

(No amendments received).

C REFERENDUM ON COUNCIL TAX INCREASE

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Many groups in the borough are protesting against the cuts to protect local services. They rightly say that EU-austerity [to protect the Euro] has gone on for far too long and it's now time to promote rather than cut local services.

The Government claim they are cutting local government funding because 'the money has run out', but if so why are they imposing damaging sanctions on Russia and promoting war in the Middle-East?

For the last few years the Council has made efficiency savings and cuts and frozen council tax and this is why the merger with Newham happened because most councillors believed this was the way to make savings and avoid a council tax increase. But now we are faced with having to make a further forecast £45 million of cuts that will wreck local services and our lean but mostly well run council.

The only alternative is to hold a legally required referendum and LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE if they want to raise council tax to save local services and keep our borough green, pleasant and secure! A majority of councillors will need to agree before a referendum is held, but we need to consult residents about a possible council tax rise and not just about what services to cut.

Thus this Council agrees to hold a referendum on whether to increase council tax by 2% or more to ameliorate the need for cuts and to balance the books. The figure to be agreed by those voting for the motion in consultation with the Finance Officer and the referendum to be held prior to the budget meeting in February to ensure a robust budget is delivered on time.

(No amendments received).