

COUNCIL, 1 FEBRUARY 2012

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A REVITALISING THE BOROUGH'S TOWN CENTRES

Motion on behalf the Residents' Group

Following the recent publication of the 'High Street Review' by Mary Portas, this Council agrees to examine the proposals in the context of the local economy in Havering and accordingly agrees:

- a) To establish a panel, made up of cross party members, representatives from the business community and members of the public to consider the recommendations of the 'High Street Review' and how, where appropriate, they can be applied to Havering
- b) That the panel report in due course to the Town & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which will set the detailed terms of reference of the panel and relevant timeframes and consider its recommendations
- c) To include all town centres in Havering as part of the review
- d) To request the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to report to the Cabinet in due course upon the findings and recommendations of the panel

Amendment on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Insert before the beginning of the motion:

This Council believes that the main reason High Streets became neglected was because of Mrs Thatcher's introduction of the biased grant funding and the removal of the business rates from local councils.

This meant business rates were replaced by 106 agreements as a vital source of income. This led councils to favour Mega-Stores and ignore the High Street.

Only by getting Justice for Havering and restoring business rates to local councils will this favouritism be reversed.

However there are still a range of remedial policies that can help revive our High Streets and

Then continue with the motion as proposed

Note: the motion would then read:

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This meant business rates were replaced by 106 agreements as a vital source of income. This led councils to favour Mega-Stores and ignore the High Street.

Only by getting Justice for Havering and restoring business rates to local councils will this favouritism be reversed.

However there are still a range of remedial policies that can help revive our High Streets and following the recent publication of the 'High Street Review' by Mary Portas, this Council agrees to examine the proposals in the context of the local economy in Havering and accordingly agrees:

- a) To establish a panel, made up of cross party members, representatives from the business community and members of the public to consider the recommendations of the 'High Street Review' and how, where appropriate, they can be applied to Havering
- b) That the panel report in due course to the Town & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which will set the detailed terms of reference of the panel and relevant timeframes and consider its recommendations
- c) To include all town centres in Havering as part of the review
- d) To request the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to report to the Cabinet in due course upon the findings and recommendations of the panel

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read:

Following the recent publication of the 'High Street Review' by Mary Portas, this Council agrees that its Sustainable Communities Strategy, Culture Strategy and Local Development Framework, among other policies and strategies, offer a humane and locally distinctive vision for all towns and villages in Havering, which will enable it to respond positively to the aspirations of local people and other interested bodies.

B PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Motion on behalf the Independent Residents' Group

This Council believes that the Administration's decision to exclude guests from the Council Chamber and public from the side gallery during Council meetings was made for petty political, rather than security reasons.

Therefore in the interests of democratic and accountable government, this decision must be reversed.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read:

This Council believes, in the interests of democratic and accountable government, that order needs to be maintained at Council meetings and that the balcony public gallery allows for that requirement to be expedited.

C THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Motion on behalf the Labour Group

That this Council review its constitutional arrangements to ensure that the commonly-held view that we have in the Borough an "elective dictatorship" is addressed and reversed.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read:

That this Council believes that its constitutional arrangements are democratic and effective.