

Birmingham City Council

City Council

5 November 2019



Subject: Motions for Debate from Individual Members

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4 G of the Constitution).

A. Councillors Paulette Hamilton and Nicky Brennan have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“The Council notes:

- That although the Equality Act 2010 has specifically clarified that it is unlawful to discriminate against a woman because she is breastfeeding a child, there is some way to go until this is accepted as the norm on all premises.
- That the medical evidence supports breastfeeding as the preferred option for both mother and baby, and that this view is endorsed by the British Medical Association and the World Health Organisation.
- That breastfeeding can protect babies from infections including sickness and diarrhoea, ear infections and chest infections, and help prevent juvenile onset diabetes and obesity.
- That evidence demonstrates that breastfeeding also leads to health benefits for mothers, including a reduction in the risk of developing breast cancer.
- That breastfeeding can counteract health inequalities; leaves no ecological footprint and saves money.
- That ultimately the decision whether or not to breastfeed must lie with the mother, and no action should be taken which may make mothers feel guilty if they are unable or choose not to breastfeed.

The Council believes that:

- Birmingham should be seen as a 'Breastfeeding Friendly' city and that it should be made clear to all mothers that breastfeeding is welcomed in all public areas.
- All women should be supported to feel confident and comfortable in breastfeeding their babies in line with WHO recommendations, to help babies (and mothers) to receive the benefits of breastfeeding.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Continue to promote and support breastfeeding in the City through the BCC commissioned 'Birmingham Forward Steps' Early Years Service and the Birmingham and Solihull United Maternity and Newborn Partnership (BUMP), in line with the UK Unicef and WHO 'Baby Friendly Initiative'.
- Ensure that all Council premises are aware of their duty under the Equality Act 2010 not to discriminate against breastfeeding mothers and display signage to indicate that breastfeeding is welcome.
- Encourage businesses, third sector organisations, schools, colleges and educational establishments to display signage to indicate that breastfeeding is welcome."

B. Councillors Robert Alden and Ewan Mackey have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

"This Council gives its full support to West Midlands's Mayor Andy Street's bid to build a 'Gigafactory' in the West Midlands metropolitan region."