

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4 (i)

A. Councillors Paul Tilsley and Mike Ward have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

"This Council recognises that it is now over 25 years since the protocol regarding officers' responses and replies to members' enquiries was established.

Since then the communications world has radically changed, the majority of complaints and enquiries to Councillors are via email.

This Council therefore agrees to establish a task and finish working party that would create a new protocol for responses to members' enquiries.

This protocol should guarantee:-

1. the prompt provision of acknowledgements to Councillors' enquiries by officers; and
2. the provision of a substantive response to the enquiry within a fixed and agreed timescale, based on the issue raised; and
3. A system of chasing up Councillor enquiries that are not responded to within the target period."

B. Councillors John Cotton and Nicky Brennan have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

"The Council notes that:

- In Birmingham there are 1,557 people seeking asylum in receipt of Section 95 support;
- Since 2002, people seeking asylum have only been able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List;
- People seeking asylum are left to live on just £5.39 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, and leaving them vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation;

- Millions of pounds of economic gain for the UK economy via increased taxable income and reduced payments of accommodation/subsistence support is forgone as a result of the current policy. Across the country, the UK spends between £70 million and £100 million per year housing and supporting asylum seekers who could be working, earning, and fending for themselves;
- A significant proportion of asylum seekers are waiting for more than six months for an initial decision about their claim for asylum. At a national level there are currently 13,994 cases, 43% of all claims awaiting an initial decision, which is the largest backlog recorded in the UK;
- 71% of people polled agreed with the statement: “when people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process”;
- More than 150 organisations from across the UK have joined the Lift The Ban coalition, coming together to call on the Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work. This includes a number of other Local Authorities across the UK.

The Council recognises that:

- i. people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, provide for themselves and their families, as well as make a positive contribution to the city’s economy;
- ii. restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Birmingham and the UK;
- iii. allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in Birmingham and for the local and national economy;

The Council resolves to:

- Join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim;
- Call on the government to make changes to national policy and legislation to restore the right of asylum seekers to work;
- And use its role in the city to promote education, training, volunteering and pathways into paid employment for asylum seekers and refugees.”

C. Councillors Deirdre Alden and Alex Yip have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council notes and agrees with the statement of the Deputy Leader, Councillor Brigid Jones (Lab, Bournbrook and Selly Park) on 14 June 2019 that Birmingham “is the statutory waste collection authority and that there is no excuse for not sorting it.”

This Council also notes that far too often this statutory service is not delivered to a satisfactory level and that residents are left without collections, sometimes for weeks.

This Council also notes that the Executive has repeatedly ruled out any sort of refund on council tax for this service failure but believes that residents are entitled to some form of compensation for the poor level of service they continue to experience, especially if they have incurred extra costs themselves as a result for a service they have already paid for through both their council tax and general taxation.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Executive to develop a system whereby, if any household experiences 2 or more consecutive missed collections, the Council will reimburse them for any costs they have incurred associated with clearing the waste and/or recycling which has been carried out by a properly licensed private company.”