

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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

A. Councillors Brigid Jones and Martin Straker Welds have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“In April 2016, the Council became one of the first nationwide to pass a motion expressing concerns about the first phase of the consultation on the Schools National Funding Formula, which was then underway.

The motion:

- expressed concern that Birmingham schools were likely to see a significant funding reduction
- called on government to increase the national funding pot to meet need rather than cutting funding from millions of pupils by redistributing existing funds.

The Council notes:

Birmingham schools are delivering strong progress for some of the country's most deprived children and the outcome of this phase of consultation threatens this. The formula proposed in December 2016 following the first phase of consultation:

- Would, if it had been implemented in 2016/17, have resulted in funding reductions to Birmingham schools of £10.6m in the year of transitional protection, and £20.1m once this is removed
- Is projected to cut funding to 379 of 386 primary, secondary and all through schools in Birmingham.

The Council further notes:

- The outcome of the Early Years Funding Formula announced in December 2016, which sees Birmingham children receive an hourly rate funding reduction of 5%
- That despite being the sixth most deprived local authority, the reduction to Birmingham is the biggest in the country.

The Council still believes that the total pot of school funding needs to increase in order to not disadvantage any pupils, and for the English education system to deliver a good or outstanding education for every child.

This Council further believes that the reductions to hourly funding rates in early years threaten the quality of provision we can make to our youngest citizens.

This Council calls on the Executive to make the strongest possible representations to the Government to this effect.”

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

“The Council welcomes the recently published report of the Libraries Taskforce “Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021”.

In particular the Council notes the importance of libraries highlighted in this report to delivering the following outcomes:

- Increased reading and literacy
- Helping everyone achieve their full potential
- Greater Prosperity
- Stronger, more resilient communities
- Healthier and happier lives
- Improved digital access and literacy
- Cultural and creative enrichment

Therefore Libraries help deliver a City where every child matters and help enable inclusive growth.

The Council commits to taking up the offer of support from DCMS, outlined in this report, to establishing a Mutual model for the community library service and to adequately fund this organisation so as to secure a long term sustainable future for the community library service in Birmingham. For example this will include a library service in the centre of Sutton Coldfield as well as the retention and enhancement of all other existing community libraries across Birmingham threatened with closure or downgrade such as West Heath in Northfield.

This Library Network will -

- Meet both the spirit and letter of the law as set out in the Public Libraries & Museums Act 1964;
- Be owned and managed by those best placed to deliver the service - the staff and communities;
- Work with the Council, not for the Council, in the best interests of the people of Birmingham;
- Remain located in local communities;
- Be accessible to everyone;
- Support wider improved outcomes for the people of Birmingham; and
- Be affordable and provide good value to the tax payer.

Every library will provide –

- Free access to information, including digital.

- Opening hours suited to meet local need.
- A range of stock and services that reflect local needs and interests.
- A collection of books and other resources specifically aimed at children & young people of all ages and abilities.
- Professional expertise and support.
- Wider services that benefit the community, designed flexibly around local need with no one size fits all.

Every Library will supply a range of diverse services to augment those on offer and generate much needed additional income streams to help secure the future of the service.

This would enable the council to continue and improve Birmingham City Council's Library Service.”