

**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 Kath Scott and Kate Booth have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

"This Council notes that:

- Government changes to the Schools national funding formula are having a detrimental impact on the education of Birmingham children - in particular those with additional needs.
- The changes to the national funding formula are having a negative impact on our high needs block of funding as, prior to April 2018, local authorities were able to move funding between the four education funding blocks to meet the needs of our children with additional needs.
- Schools are struggling to meet the needs of children with additional needs with the inflexibility and limits on the first allocation of SEND funding; which means many schools that could have supported children with additional needs are no longer able to comprehensively provide their education.
- Our schools are having to make undesirable efficiencies to their budgets, leading to damaging outcomes for our City's SEND children. Kings Heath Primary School is currently consulting on closing their SEND Support services early on a Friday; and that will not be the end of the cuts.

The Council further notes that the key priority for our schools should be to focus on improving the outcomes for our children's education and providing our children with a good and outstanding education. Sadly schools and governing bodies spend an increasing amount of time making budget savings and trying to generate income.

Council believes that there is only one way to meet the Department for Education's criteria, "to support schools to manage their budgets effectively and ensure their financial health, whilst maintaining or improving pupil outcomes". And that is to provide the changes Birmingham City leaders are asking for: flexibility in budgets, and fairer, adequate funding for our children.

The Council supports the families involved in the current Judicial Review which has been brought by IM Irwin Mitchel Solicitors on behalf of East Sussex, Yorkshire and Birmingham parents, against the Chancellor of the Exchequer & The Secretary of State for Education. This action is challenging the “wholly inadequate funding being allocated by central government for the provision of services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by local authorities and schools.”

The Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Children’s Wellbeing write to the Secretary of State for Education Damian Hind MP and the Chancellor of the Exchequer Phillip Hammond MP, urging them to ensure that our City’s education budget is sufficient to cover increasing Special Educational Needs demands to call for the Notional Funding Formulae be adjusted so that allocations can be determined by the City Council; to ensure that this Council is able to allocate funds (above the limited 0.5%) from other Schools funding blocks.

The Council also calls on the Leader and Cabinet Member for Children’s Wellbeing to continue lobbying against the Government’s ongoing cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for education, ensuring that all our City’s Children have the funding provision sufficient to meet their needs."

**B. Councillors Alex Yip and Robert Alden have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

"This Council expresses its very serious concern at the rise in knife crime in the city. Every violent incident, every injury, every life lost is a tragedy that has devastating consequences for all involved.

The Council notes some welcome action taken by the Government, including:

- Announcement of £100m additional funding to be made available immediately to police forces, ring-fenced for knife crime
- A commitment to use the comprehensive spending review to ensure long term sustainable funding
- Agreeing to requests from the police to amend the Offensive Weapons Bill to include the introduction of Knife Crime Prevention Orders
- A new prosecution fund to support Trading Standards teams to secure the prosecution of retailers who repeatedly sell knives to Under 18s.
- Consultation on new legal duty to underpin a ‘public health’ approach to tackling serious violence
- A new £200 million Youth Endowment Fund which will build the evidence base for early intervention
- An independent review of drug misuse to ensure law enforcement agencies and policy are targeting and preventing the drug-related causes of violent crime effectively.
- The launch of the #knifefree campaign aimed at young people which looks to inspire them to pursue positive alternatives.
- The Supporting Families Against Youth Crime fund from which Birmingham will receive £485,845 to provide specialised training for frontline staff within Birmingham Children’s Trust, help educate more than 1,000 pupils in primary schools across the city on how to stay

safe, and support earlier interventions to turn young people away from gangs and crime.

However, the Council believes that more needs to be done both in the short and longer term to get knives and violence off our city's streets. This includes more powers to restrict knife sales, more sustainable funding solutions to enable an increase in police numbers and better joined up collaborative working at a neighbourhood, city and regional level.

This Council therefore calls on the Executive to

- Write to the Government to request a review into licensing and other powers available to councils to restrict knife sales, particularly assault and combat knives designed to inflict the most serious damage
- Call on government to carrying out a sentencing review to ensure tougher sentences for repeat offences
- Urge the Government to keep to its commitment to use the forthcoming comprehensive spending review to ensure sufficient local public sector funding and to ensure that this takes into account relative needs and resources so that Birmingham and the West Midlands gets the money it needs to increase the police presence on our streets and invest in early intervention
- Give greater priority within future Council budget proposals to funding for the commissioning of youth service providers, particularly following any increase in resources that may come out of the comprehensive spending review
- Call on the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner – and after 2020 the West Midlands Mayor, to prioritise funding on frontline police over back office functions and consultants
- Redouble efforts with partners to find more collaborative ways to tackle the knife carrying culture by building on the work led by the Children's Trust on gang violence. This gangs taskforce, as well as the police and the Trust should have representation from all Council departments, the Metro Mayor, local NHS organisations, schools, and the voluntary and community sector.
- Work with partners, youth groups and local media organisations to promote the national #goknifefree campaign in Birmingham, adapting and targeting the message where necessary."

**C. Councillors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

"In light of recent events at schools and mosques in Birmingham, this Council condemns hateful behaviour of all kinds."