

Birmingham City Council

City Council

14 September 2021



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 Roger Harmer and Morriam Jan have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“Council notes that it is over five years since a pilot scheme of average speed camera enforcement (ASE) was installed in 5 locations in Birmingham including the Hagley Road and Coventry Road. This pilot scheme successfully demonstrated that ASE has a positive impact on speed compliance and speed reduction, with consequent benefits in reducing the number and severity of road traffic collisions.

Council notes that other West Midlands authorities, such as Coventry, have continued programmes of installation of ASE.

Council notes the lack of progress in rolling out this successful pilot to other locations in Birmingham, in spite of clear and growing hazards on several main roads across the City, for example, the A34 Walsall Road and Fox Hollies Road.

Council notes the widespread concern in the city about the high volume of speeding traffic on our roads.

Council therefore calls on the executive, as a matter of urgency, to:

- Complete the current review which is assessing the expansion of ASE.
- Take a leading role, as a member of the Birmingham Road Safety Partnership, in bringing forward a comprehensive road safety plan, making use of ASE and local initiatives, as appropriate, to tackle areas with high accident rates.

- Work closely in partnership with West Midlands Police to tackle street racing.”

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

“The Council notes that the Covid pandemic has exacerbated and highlighted the issue of food insecurity in the UK, resulting in a crisis of food poverty with approximately 10 million people experiencing food insecurity. This crisis is born out of the political choices and systemic failings created by a decade of austerity and policies that have torn gaping holes in the social security safety net. As a result, many in our communities have reached a crisis point.

The use of food banks was increasing well before the Covid-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, food bank use has effectively doubled and all indications are that this situation will continue to get worse. The Trussell Trust reported the number of food parcels given to children rose by 52 per cent during the pandemic. These figures are devastating for one of the richest nations in the world and highlight the sheer scale of inequality in the UK.

As a city with high levels of disadvantage, and a growing number of children living in poverty, we see the profound and devastating consequences of food insecurity on the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of citizens in our communities.

The Council further notes that during the pandemic, Birmingham City Council stepped up to ensure that Free School Meal provision was extended over the summer holidays, ensuring that no child went hungry whilst out of school. Whilst the Council is proud to have provided this support, the Government must be compelled to act in such circumstances and not be shamed into doing so by Premier League footballers.

The National Food Strategy, Independent Review, published earlier this year, is the first independent review of England’s entire food system for 75 years. Its purpose is to set out a vision for the kind of food system we should be building for the future, and a plan for how to achieve that vision.

The Council agrees that:

- Our society should be taking progressive steps towards the eradication of hunger, and towards the development of fair and balanced system for sustainable farming and fishing that works for both food producers and consumers alike
- The government must take a lead on making this happen, for everyone’s benefit, by upholding our Right to Food
- The Government has a duty to ensure nobody in our communities goes hungry and that the “Right to Food” should be enshrined in UK law in order to make clear this obligation and

- Free School Meal provision should be extended in line with a recommendation of the National Food Strategy, Independent review, as the current threshold means that families must be extremely poor to qualify.

The Council also notes that the Government recognises the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the “*fundamental right to be free from hunger*” (Article 11:2)

Therefore the Council resolves to call upon the Government to:

1. Include the ‘Right To Food’ in the ‘National Food Strategy’.
2. Extend Free School Meals provision throughout school holidays.
3. Retain the £20 uplift to Universal Credit.
4. Scrap the five week waiting period for Universal Credit.

Taken together, these measures would help to alleviate some of the worst food insecurity in our country and ensure that the Right to Food is properly recognised in law.”