

MOTIONS AGREED AT CITY COUNCIL – 6 NOVEMBER, 2018

BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

RESOLVED:-

That the City Council:

- notes the draft Birmingham and Solihull Transformation Partnership Plan;
- welcomes the opportunity to shape the plan and the wider engagement within our communities; and
- notes that a final document reflecting feedback will be submitted for approval to the STP Board in April 2019.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

FIRST MOTION

RESOLVED:-

This Council welcomes the Government announcement of a new campaign to tackle Mental Health – Every Mind Matters – which will be piloted first in the West Midlands, alongside new funding for the Samaritan's Helpline, the appointment of the first UK Minister for Suicide Prevention and plans for an annual 'State of the Nation' report on young people's mental wellbeing.

This Council notes that

- In England one person dies every two hours as a result of suicide
- Despite some significant reductions over the last 35 years, suicide still claimed 5,688 lives in 2016. In Birmingham around 70 people take their own life each year
- Suicide is currently the biggest killer of men under the age of 50 and men are three times more likely than women to be a victim of suicide with this gender gap growing over the last 35 years
- Men working in the lowest skilled occupations have a 44% higher risk of suicide than men as a whole
- Carers, both men and women, have a higher risk of suicide than average
- For a coroner to conclude that a suicide has taken place, a strict standard of proof – “beyond reasonable doubt” – must be met. This means that statistics on suicide are likely to be significantly underreported.

The Council also notes that the government's third progress report on its cross-departmental strategy 'Preventing Suicide in England' required every local area to put in place a multi-agency suicide prevention plan by the end

of 2017. In Birmingham, an action plan led by the Birmingham and Solihull CCG is in place but the Council believes that given the importance of the matter, this should be reviewed and formally adopted by Full Council to give it greater visibility as well as parity with other partnership led strategies and plans.

This Council therefore calls on the Executive to:

- Update local plans to reflect new opportunities arising from recent Government policy announcements
- Bring the area action plan back to full Council for formal adoption and debate
- Once adopted, ask Scrutiny to track progress against the Action Plan, reporting back to Full Council if the committee believes it necessary to update.

SECOND MOTION

RESOLVED:-

Council notes with concern the continuing and growing confusion surrounding the Brexit talks and their impact on business, training and research in the West Midlands.

Council reiterates its statement, agreed in Council, from July 2016 that it wishes to retain “as close ties as possible” with our friends, colleagues, cities and regions across Europe and continue to gain mutual benefit from sharing knowledge and expertise with each other.

It also believes it is timely to celebrate the continued peace, democratic strength and relative prosperity of our city alongside other cities of the European Union following the devastating wars of the last century.

It also continues to celebrate the huge contribution of citizens of other European countries to our city, including in the provision of social and health care.

Council recognises the concerns and hopes expressed by citizens who voted both ways in 2016 and notes that there is now a great deal more information about the options available and the risks to Birmingham of the UK leaving the EU than there was during the 2016 referendum.

It notes with particular alarm the evidence of dis-investment and delayed investment in major industries within our region as a result of uncertainty and the threat of restrictions on trade and movement of labour arising from some of the Brexit options.

Council recognises that the citizens of Birmingham voted narrowly to leave the EU in 2016 but notes they were not given any choice about or much

information on the range of options involved in departing the EU and the impact of these options on the development of the city and its ability to provide services.

It, therefore, calls on the executive to press the government to ensure that the present electorate is satisfied with whatever arrangements are proposed for the UK's future relationship with the EU and the impact on Birmingham.

Should parliament vote down the Government's Brexit deal or the talks end in no deal, this Council believes this would constitute a loss of confidence in the Government. In these circumstances, the best outcome for the country is an immediate General Election.

If there is no immediate General Election, Council supports all options remaining on the table, including campaigning for a public vote that includes the option to remain.

If the Government is confident in negotiating a deal that working people, our economy and communities in Birmingham will benefit from, they should not be afraid to put that deal to the public.

Council reaffirms its policy that those eligible and aged 16 or above should be entitled to vote.

Council further, therefore, re-affirms its desire to continue to be a member of Eurocities to maintain our city's links and influence with our European neighbours.

The Council resolves that the Leader of the Council will write within seven days to all the Members of Parliament in the City, the Members of the European Parliament for this region and to the Mayor of the West Midlands to make the Council's position clear.

Council further notes the specific benefits the city and the City Council have received from the EU, including a billion pounds over 25 years, together with £240 million worth of research grants to local universities.

Noting the economic benefits the city has enjoyed from EU membership and unfettered trade with EU countries, Council believes the success of any proposed deal should be measured against the benefits of remaining in the EU.

THIRD MOTION

RESOLVED:-

The Council notes the UK Government's commitment to the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 17 SDGs have substantial cross-party support and the council commits to supporting the delivery of the SDGs in partnership with the UK

Government, ensuring the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022 is used as a further opportunity to promote the goals through the universality and global appeal of sport. This Council also recognises that the use of technology has a clear role to play in helping to deliver sustainable development, cleaning the air we breathe and eliminating poverty.

Further this Council believes that the surest way of achieving genuine sustainable development within and across nations is through a commitment to the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect. As such it calls upon the Council to commit to these as 'British values' as for example defined in the 27 November 2014 Guidance on promoting British values in schools and to promoting them locally alongside the sustainable development goals.

Overview of UN Sustainable Development Goals

The SDGs recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The goals are:

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development..

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