

Birmingham City Council

City Council

1 November 2022



Subject: Motions for Debate from Individual Members
Report of: Janie Berry, City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)
Report author: Ben Patel- Sadler, Interim Senior Committee Manager
07395 883 886
Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk

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 :

1 Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4 G of the Constitution).

2 Notices of Motion

A. Councillors Sharon Thompson and Raqeeb Aziz have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council notes that:

- Some landlords and registered providers are taking advantage of loopholes in planning law to run poor quality Supported Exempt Accommodation, profiting from housing benefit payments, failing vulnerable tenants and blighting our communities.
- Work is continuing across the city to improve the standard of exempt accommodation thanks to the continuing pilot scheme, our Charter of Rights, Quality Standards Framework and by following the recommendations outlined in O&S Exempt Accommodation Inquiry Report.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the campaign led by the homelessness charity Crisis to 'Regulate the Rogues', which calls on the Government to urgently introduce new laws in England to strengthen the regulation of Supported Exempt Accommodation.
- Continue to lobby the Government for greater powers to control provision and growth based on the city's needs assessment.
- Launch an independent public inquiry into the growth of Exempt Accommodation in the city, helping to strengthen the case for nationwide legislative reform.

In addition, the Council calls on the Standards Committee to update the Council Code of Conduct so that:

- Any elected member, or their spouse or partner, save for their primary residence, shall declare the use of all other properties they own and/or have an interest in. If the usage is commercially sensitive, or has potential safeguarding implications, the details shall be provided to the Monitoring Officer and held on a confidential basis as part of the Register of Interest."

B. Councillors Simon Morrall and Debbie Clancy have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

"This Council believes that every child, regardless of race or background, should be given the opportunity and encouragement to thrive in educational attainment.

Council notes and supports the findings of the cross-party Education Select Committee report in November 2021 "The Forgotten: how White working-class pupils have been let down, and how to change it" which found that White Working Class pupils, eligible for free school meals, in particular working class boys, persistently underperform compared with peers in other ethnic groups in the UK.

Council notes that, in Birmingham there are some ethnic groups who also experience similar outcomes to white working-class pupils, such as Black-Caribbean.

Council believes that the educational attainment gap for these groups remains too large and that national and local strategies should focus on understanding and acting against the barriers to attainment for all groups, ensuring that no-one is forgotten or ignored.

Council acknowledges the Government's response to the Select Committee report and its recommendations, and welcomes actions already taken but calls for further action to address all the 5 proposed solutions from the report, including:

1. Funding needs to be tailor-made at a local level to level up opportunity.
2. Support parental engagement and tackle multi-generational disadvantage.
3. Ensure the value of vocational training, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship options while boosting access to higher education.
4. Attract good teachers to challenging and disadvantaged areas.
5. Find better and less divisive ways to talk about racial disparities.

Council believes that local action is imperative, regardless of any national changes and that the findings of the select committee report should be incorporated into work already happening in Birmingham to address issues with educational attainment.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Call on the Government to adopt the solutions proposed by the cross-party Education Select Committee report and continue to review its findings.
2. Call on the City Council Executive to ensure that the report's findings and solutions are incorporated into existing and developing strategies including 'Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business' and it's emerging Inclusion Strategy.
3. Call on Overview and Scrutiny to incorporate the findings into their work programmes to track outcomes and monitor actions taken to address issues.
4. Work with employers to ensure opportunity is spread equally, by creating career pathways for the most disadvantaged and deprived areas of the city.
5. Adopt more modern communication and social media strategies to target the many young and disenfranchised pupils, in particular NEETS, who do not normally engage with standard and legacy forms of Council communication.
6. Promote vocational training, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship in schools."