

# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

13 July 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 Ian Ward and Paulette Hamilton have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

**COVID-19 PUBLIC INQUIRY TO BEGIN IN 2021**

“This council notes that the United Kingdom has recorded:

- The seventh highest Covid death toll in the world (128,140 as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021), with around 42,000 deaths registered by care homes.
- One of the highest Covid mortality rates per 100,000 population.
- The second highest Covid death toll of the G7 nations
- The second highest Covid mortality rate per 100,000 population of the G7 nations.
- Almost 3,000 deaths have been recorded in Birmingham with COVID-19 on the death certificate.

In light of these sobering statistics, this council believes the Government decision to delay launching a public inquiry until spring 2022 represents a betrayal of the victims and their families – delaying the opportunity to learn vital lessons and prolonging grief and uncertainty.

A spring 2022 start means that calls from bereaved families for a swift inquiry into the handling of the pandemic have been ignored and it is likely that little progress will be made until autumn 2022, with conclusions delayed until 2023 at the earliest.

This delay simply cannot be justified.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Support the call from bereaved families for a fully-independent public inquiry into the Covid-19 pandemic to begin in 2021.
- Write to the Prime Minister urging him to set out an expedited timetable for a wide-ranging and independent inquiry that will give bereaved families the answers they need.
  - The inquiry must involve bereaved families from the start, they must have a say in the selection of a chair and in determining the terms of reference.
  - And it must ensure that the UK is better prepared for future pandemics.”

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

**Motion calling on Birmingham City Council to establish a cross party taskforce to seek ways to protect and grow key industries, including car manufacturing and their supply chains in the wake of the impact of the COVID Pandemic.**

“This Council is concerned about the long term impact of COVID on vital local industries such as car manufacturing and the resultant loss of jobs that could result from any collapse in the supply chain, especially given the huge number of people in this city who work in this industry or connected to it.

This Council therefore resolves to establish a cross party task force including each of the group leaders and key external stakeholders to seek ways to protect and grow vital industries such as the car industry and secure a long term future for those industries that includes taking advantage of new opportunities within global Britain and for green growth to open up new markets in order to protect and grow jobs and wages going forward as well as meet challenges around climate change.”