

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 Gary Sambrook and Meirion Jenkins have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

"This Council believes that public open space and parkland is vital to the physical and mental health of residents, to protecting the environment and to improving air quality. This Council notes its concern with the loss of public open space and parkland across the City in recent years and the threat of further such loss through decisions such as recent proposals for Burford Road Playing Fields in Kingstanding and Dugdale Crescent in Mere Green.

This Council also notes concerns raised by residents that they feel that consultations over such proposals are too often something that is done to them rather than with them and that their views ultimately have little impact on the decision.

This Council calls on the Executive to ensure that not one blade of grass of designated public open space or parkland in Birmingham is sold off or developed further, until all brownfield sites have been exhausted and only then with support from local residents and users of the space.

This Council also calls on the Executive to listen to the residents and users of Burford Road Playing Fields and Dugdale Crescent and abandon plans to build on these important community assets."

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

"This Council regrets the return of disruptive industrial action in the waste collection services and the detrimental impact on the residents of the city.

Council believes that the service in its present form has proved to be unmanageable and continues to pose significant risks to the Council's reputation and finances.

Council further notes:

- The long delay in implementing the agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) reached after the 2017 strike;
- The significant evidence from autumn 2018 that the MOU working arrangements were unable to deliver a service that is both efficient and of good quality;
- The latest industrial action.

Council notes that since 2012 the Executive has twice failed to implement promises to market-test outsourcing the use of external partners to run waste collection services.

Council notes that the 2014 Kerslake Report reported receiving evidence, supplied by the Council itself, of the potential for significant savings from outsourcing.

Council therefore calls on the Executive to proceed with "hard" market-testing of the outsourcing of service provision and the use of external partners to deliver services. Recognising that Birmingham is significantly larger than any other Authority that delivers these services, Council further proposes that this be done by dividing the service into three geographical areas based on existing depots, noting the success of this kind of sector tendering for other Council services. The areas would be based on Perry Barr, Lifford Lane and Redfern Depots with Montague Street included in one of the three."

C. Councillors Kate Booth and Brigid Jones have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This council welcomes Ofsted’s recognition of the improvements to children’s social care services in Birmingham and commends the outstanding efforts of staff and all who contributed to bringing about this positive news.

Further, this council is committed to working with Birmingham Children’s Trust to build on the progress to date and deliver children’s services that are rated as 'consistently good'. There will be no let-up in our collective efforts to improve outcomes for vulnerable children in the city.

However, with the Local Government Association (LGA) warning that local authorities face a £3bn funding gap by 2025 just to maintain the current levels of service in children’s social care, it is clear that across the country the Government is failing to adequately fund services to protect vulnerable children and young people.

The LGA reports that 133 out of 152 English councils responsible for children’s services overspent in 2017-18 - with a total overspend of £807m. At a time of continued austerity, this means cuts to services elsewhere or use of dwindling reserves.

This council therefore joins the LGA in calling upon the Government to provide new and long-term significant funding for children’s services and recommends that the Council:

- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging the Government to address the funding crisis facing children’s services in next year’s Spending Review, by delivering a long-term sustainable funding solution that enables councils to protect children at immediate risk of harm while also supporting early intervention to prevent problems escalating in the first place.”