

**MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(A)

**A. Councillors Robert Alden and Ken Wood have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

“The Council notes the latest findings of the Birmingham Independent Improvement Panel, in particular that there was ‘insufficient understanding and ownership of the Council’s 16/17 budget and a lack of comprehensive and robust delivery plans for the budget reduction measures that were required.’ This is despite the Improvement Panel issuing warnings to the Council’s leadership in late 2015 and early 2016, before the budget was agreed.

The overspend that will result from this will, according to the Council’s own report to the panel, leave a further £78m of savings required to balance the 2017/18 budget and means the Improvement Panel will have to maintain its role in overseeing the Council.

Chapter 8, of part 2 of the 2016/17 budget sets out a number of key organisational short and medium term priorities from the Leader of the Council, one of these states that -

“Setting a realistic budget and planning framework for the next four years. This is essential to give us the security to move forward with confidence and the credibility to deliver in improvement.”

And goes onto claim that -

“This plan sets out the vision, strategic approach and financial plans that will give us this security”

We now know that this is not the case. As such, this Council has no confidence in the Leadership of the Council and its ability to restore independence and pride to our municipal governance.”

**B. Councillors Zaker Choudry and Jon Hunt have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

“Council notes serious concerns amongst residents of Kashmiri heritage about widely reported recent human rights abuses and their recent escalation in Jammu Kashmir and the many public demonstrations of those concerned.

Council further notes our region's extensive trade links with South Asia and welcomes recent UK Government attempts to extend those links.

Council further expresses concern about national immigration policy that may restrict access to good quality higher education in our city for students from the Commonwealth countries of South Asia.

Council believes that Birmingham, with its diverse citizenry and strong manufacturing economy, has a key role to play in maintaining good links with these countries.

However, this should not be at the expense of overlooking abuse of human rights. Indeed, respect for human rights should have a key role in ensuring economic development is for the benefit of the many, rather than the few.

Council further notes concern amongst its Kashmiri citizens that the region is subject to the Indian Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1990 and that a 1948 UN resolution called for a plebiscite of its inhabitants over its future. A resolution that to date remains unfulfilled and is the major cause of tension in the Region.

Council, therefore, would ask the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality to set up a meeting with the Indian High Commissioner and other relevant stakeholders (including representatives of the opposition parties) to discuss:

- Trade in Birmingham
- Support for students in Birmingham
- Birmingham's concern about human rights abuses in Jammu Kashmir - offering lessons that could be learnt from the Northern Ireland peace process"