

Birmingham City Council

City Council

14 September 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 Peter Fowler and Darius Sandhu have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council believes that Local High Streets and independent businesses are the life blood of communities, supporting not only the local economy but also helping to address issues from crime and antisocial behaviour to social isolation. Long term decline from online and out of town competition has been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic and from a lack of investment in the suburbs by the City Council in favour of city centre developments.

The Christmas Period provides an ideal opportunity for the council to begin the redress this imbalance through a series of short term support measures, backed up by a longer term strategy to unleash the potential of our local businesses and high streets.

Council therefore calls on the executive, as a matter of urgency, to –

- Support local Christmas markets in local centres, showcasing the best of local businesses
- Fund Christmas light displays in local centres
- Lead a ‘Shop Local this Christmas’ campaign across the City
- Work with local Business Improvement Districts to support and promote initiatives in their areas
- Make council owned empty units available at discounted rates for pop up businesses
- Provide Free Parking in all council owned car parks near to high streets
- Provide additional street cleaning crews in all local high streets

In addition, Council therefore calls on the executive, as a matter of urgency, to bring forward a plan to -

- Rebalance spending commitments to ensure that suburban areas do not continue to lose out to the city centre
- Review Transport Plans to assess impact on all local businesses of any restrictions on travel imposed and any unintended consequences of those decisions
- Develop more Extra Care Villages in and around local high streets to support older generations to access these facilities
- Carry out a review of the Council's relationship with Business Improvement Districts, including looking at approaches taken elsewhere, to assess opportunities to strengthen these relationships and in particular areas in which different council departments can work more cohesively to be an enabler, rather than barrier to change
- Review Council assets located on high streets to ensure that are being maximised to their full potential, including where these could be used to create local 'hubs' for residents to access council and partner services and other key services such as banking"

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

"This Council notes that:

- The Birmingham Transport Plan makes reference to antisocial parking on pavements or across dropped kerbs causing a serious hazard to pedestrians, especially those with sight loss, parents with pushchairs, wheelchair users, young children, those with movement disorders and other disabled people.
- Most pavements are not designed to take the full weight of vehicles, whether stationary or moving.
- Over time the pavement surface degrades and can subside which causes further issues for pedestrians as well as incurring costly repairs that could take up to six months to complete.
- Action to tackle antisocial pavement parking in the City is problematic because of the current legislation which can be confusing with limited legal remedies available to tackle nuisance parking.
- A key part of the Council's green, post-Covid recovery is to encourage more residents to choose active travel, such as walking, so it is vital pavements remain accessible for everyone.
- In many neighbourhoods, there has been considerable disruption to pavement integrity with heavy HGV's driving on and off in order to deliver commercial skips.
- Skips that are placed on private drives do not incur the £30 charge levied for placing a skip on the highway, in spite of the risk of damage to the pavement.

This Council resolves to:

- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to arrange for a survey to be conducted amongst elected members of the Council asking them to identify streets within their ward where nuisance or antisocial parking occurs.
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to bring to a future meeting of Council, a report with the findings of this survey and details of the enforcement action this Council proposes to take, taking into account any new powers the Government promises to make available as a result of the national consultation on managing pavement parking.
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to undertake a review of procedures for granting approval for skips to be sited on the road and extend this to include payment for skips located on private drives, to also include photographic evidence of the pavement before the skip was delivered and after, with this evidence used to hold skip companies to account should the pavement integrity be damaged as a result.
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to take steps to ensure that if there are any instances of parking across dropped kerbs, Traffic Wardens are able to take appropriate enforcement actions.

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