

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 Alex Yip and John Alden have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

‘The Council notes the Tax Justice campaign led by Christian Aid.

The Council notes that

- Corporate tax evasion is having a damaging impact on the world’s poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid;
- this is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year; and that
- this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately.

Council further notes that the UK Government has:

- taken steps to tackle the issue of tax evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14, applying to all central government contracts worth more than £5m;
- hosted the world’s first international anti-corruption summit to build a consensus on the exchange and publishing of information;
- Closed loopholes with 40 tax changes and are legislating to close a further 25, raising an additional £28 billion;
- made clear its support for forcing multinationals to publish country-specific breakdown of the profits they make and the taxes they pay;
- Introduced the Social Value Act 2013 making provisions for ensuring the public procurement has wider public benefit; and
- Introduced the International Development Act 2015, putting onto a statutory footing the commitment to the UN target for Foreign Aid and a requirement for the Secretary of State to report on the effectiveness of this Aid.

Birmingham City Council currently requires companies to have ethical and social policies as expressed in the Business Charter for Social Responsibility which includes a requirement for companies to pay their ‘fair share of tax.’

Council believes that it should also require bidders for Council contracts to account for their past tax record, using the higher standards used by central government in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations that relate only to the disclosure of breaches of tax law. This should also include explicit reference to business rates which will become increasingly important for the funding of local services.

Council asks Officers to investigate whether and how this policy could be effectively included in the Council's Procurement Procedures at a threshold which does not detrimentally impact on SMEs and Third Sector Organisations or otherwise impact on wider social value considerations including the drive to 'buy local'. The Government threshold is for contracts worth over £5m, this level should be considered.

Furthermore, the Council resolves to use its position of influence to encourage other local authorities and public sector organisations with which it works in partnership to adopt similar practices in their procurement policies.'

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

'Council notes with concern the implications for Birmingham of the referendum vote to leave the EU.

It notes EU funded projects that are at risk, including the 254 million Euros currently committed to the Birmingham and Solihull LEP for up to seven years, making a significant contribution to programmes such as:

- The Birmingham and Solihull Youth Promise (£50m – two thirds from the European Social Fund);
- The Midlands Engine Investment Fund of £250 million;
- The Birmingham Business Support Programme (£20 million with £10 million from the EU).

It also notes that our universities attract significant research funding from Europe, currently worth more than 300 million Euros across the West Midlands.

Council condemns the use by some campaigners of dog whistle slogans, such as "Take our country back." These have caused confusion, stirred up racism and legitimised an upsurge in racist assaults.

It calls for:

The government to commit to replace EU structural and investment funding currently available to the Birmingham area;

Brexit negotiations to ensure that the city can retain as close ties as possible with Europe.

Council resolves:

to lead and support partnership working in the city aimed at supporting and restoring community cohesion, involving a wide range of partners including business and faith groups;

that an all-party delegation should meet the relevant Westminster cabinet ministers, as soon as a new cabinet is appointed, to press the city's concerns.'

C. Councillors Waseem Zaffar and Lisa Trickett have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

'Following the EU referendum, Birmingham community networks are reporting a perceived rise in hate attacks and reports of inflammatory articles and words on social media; an EDL demonstration outside a Birmingham Mosque; and anti-Islam leaflets being delivered in the Aston and Perry Barr areas of the city.

This Council notes the prompt action taken to address this through calling an urgent meeting of the Birmingham Hate Crime Partnership with the Cabinet Member for Openness, Transparency and Equality, to consider issues emerging post the referendum, and various community led campaigns across Birmingham including "Love your Neighbour".

Given the perceived rise in reported hate incidents post the EU referendum, this Council urges West Midlands Police to raise visibility of policing to ensure confidence within communities.

Council also acknowledge that the language of anti-Semitism, racism and Islamophobia all change on the basis of news issues and national and international incidents. This fluidity and changing nature of language should be understood on a continuing basis.

Council notes that yesterday, 11th July, Srebrenica Memorial Day was commemorated in accordance with the European Parliament's 2009 Resolution calling on all Member states to commemorate this day and learn the lessons of Srebrenica and tackling hatred and intolerance.

Council resolves to mark Srebrenica Memorial Day each year during remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week in July and bring all communities together to raise awareness and learn about the consequences of hatred and intolerance.

Council resolves to continue to work closely with partners and communities to tackle hate crime in all its forms, and in particular online hate incidents.

Council calls upon key social media providers such as Facebook, Twitter and search engine aggregators like Google, to meet with hate crime officers from local authorities and West Midlands Police on a regional basis every six months.'

It further requests that local hate crime officers within the West Midlands Police force are provided with ongoing training on social media platforms; and reinvigorates support to hate crime centres in the city, ensuring they are capable of dealing with spikes in reporting that follow national and international events.