Motions on Notice

COUNCIL 24 MARCH 2021

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned Motions:-

1. Vaccines for All

This Council notes that in order to address the coronavirus pandemic and strengthen public health efforts, the coronavirus vaccine must be safely accessible to everyone, regardless of immigration status, ID or proof of address.

The Government has stated that everyone is able to access the coronavirus vaccine, but in practice, people are being asked for ID, are unable to register with a GP, and are afraid to access services because of longstanding and entrenched barriers to healthcare.

Without further action, the pandemic will continue to have a disproportionate impact on all marginalised groups, including migrant communities, people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and BME communities.

This Council therefore agrees to sign up to the Vaccine for All campaign calling on the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure the vaccine programme works for everyone, and seeks to address the specific barriers faced by these communities

Councillor K. Chequer (Proposer) Councillor K. Johnston (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor P. Stewart Councillor L. Williams
Councillor D.E. Snowdon Councillor D. Waller
Councillor M. Butler Councillor C. Rowntree

2. Eliminating the use of pesticides - Notice of Motion

This council notes

- the increasing concerns raised by residents of this city over the use of pesticides such as glyphosate and the impact they have on human, animal and environmental health through their use on our streets, housing estates, parks and gardens.
- That these concerns are now increasingly supported by a growing body of scientific evidence that show potential links of glyphosate to cancer, liver disease, as well disruption to reproduction and fertility in the human population.

- That there is also increasing scientific evidence of a steep decline of a number of insect species, ranging from Bees through to Butterflies, caused by the use of glyphosate.
- That due to recent scientific evidence many towns and cities across the UK are considerably reducing, if not completely eradicating the use of such pesticides in urban spaces and switching to non-chemical methods of weed control.

This council therefore agrees to:

- Produce an action plan on the elimination of the use of all pesticides by the council, inclusive of glyphosate, within no more than 3 calendar years following the adoption of this motion by full Council.
- Support our key partners and anchor institutions to follow suit and develop their own strategy for ending the use of pesticides on land under their control.
- Encourage the general public to stop the use of pesticides in gardens, allotments and other areas.
- Develop a wider pollination strategy that will show how as a city we will
 encourage biodiversity and local ecosystems through regeneration and
 protection of local habitats. For example, through development of local
 community orchards/gardens, introduction of a wild flowering programme
 or simple re-wilding areas of the city.

Councillor L. Farthing (Proposer)
Councillor R. Atkinson (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor P. Stewart Councillor L. Williams

Councillor C. Rowntree

3. Scrutiny Review

This Council recognises the importance of robust scrutiny and believes that good scrutiny is vital to improving policy, transparency, and accountability.

To improve the effectiveness of scrutiny within the Council, we resolve to:

Instruct the Chief Executive to ask the LGA to recommend an appropriate
expert to conduct of a review of the Council's scrutiny process. This review
should hear representations from councillors of all parties represented on the
Council and to make recommendations to improve how scrutiny works.

 Agree to adopt the recommendations of the external expert report (unless it is impractical or impossible to do so), including if the report recommends that scrutiny should be led by opposition parties.

Councillor Dr A. Mullen (Proposer) Councillor J. Doyle (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor Dr A. Mullen

Councillor P. Wood

Councillor D. McDonough

Councillor M. Dixon

Councillor S. Leadbitter

4. Action on Fly Tipping

Fly-tipping incidents blight our community and cause undeserved stress and suffering for our residents. As well as making our streets, back lanes and green spaces untidier, fly-tipping also contributes to the city's rat problem.

We believe the Council's 'encouragement over punishment' approach to environmental enforcement should be replaced with a more proactive and punitive policy – as well as wishing to see more proactive enforcement relating to other environmental crimes, such as dog fouling.

This Council believes in punishing those who do wrong and rewarding those in the right. It therefore resolves to:

- Invest in new CCTV in fly-tipping hot spots across the city;
- Introduce harsher punishments for those caught fly-tipping, including increased fines:
- Establish a fly-tipping hardship fund, to reimburse residents who can
 demonstrate that they have paid to have fly-tipped rubbish removed from their
 neighbourhood or, where they can demonstrate they have removed it
 themselves, to reimburse their fuel costs.

Councillor D. McDonough (Proposer) Councillor J. McKeith (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor H. Greener Councillor A. Mullen
Councillor D. McDonough Councillor J. Doyle
Councillor M. Dixon Councillor S. Leadbitter
Councillor P. Wood