

## **Notice of Motion – The Windrush Families**

Councillor Alasia has submitted the following motion:

“Barking and Dagenham’s migrant communities contribute a huge amount to the borough and are the heart of the borough’s cultural identity.

Approximately 21% of the borough’s population is of African or Caribbean heritage and although the Council does not have precise figures, it is believed the borough is home to hundreds if not thousands, of the Windrush generation and many more come from other Commonwealth countries across the globe.

Barking and Dagenham Council expresses dismay at the ‘hostile environment’ initiated by Theresa May when she was Home Secretary and at the financial and emotional impact this has had on the Windrush generation and their families, including children and grandchildren.

This Council welcomes:

- the contribution that Eastside Heritage have undertaken over many years to capture the history and legacy of the Windrush Generation, particularly those that worked in the NHS
- the work of organisations the JCWI, BME Lawyers 4 Justice, the Runnymede Trust, MPs and the All Parliamentary Group on Race who have been campaigning on these issues, and
- the role the Caribbean High Commissions have played in lobbying the Government.

In response, Barking and Dagenham Council resolves to:

- call on the Government to implement a fair compensation scheme for the emotional, financial and physical trauma the Windrush generation suffered whilst their immigration status was undefined
- Celebrating Windrush Day in Barking and Dagenham on the 22 June each year with an annual celebration to recognise and honour the enormous contribution of those who arrived between 1948 and 1971
- press the Prime Minister to call for an independent public enquiry into the Windrush scandal,
- demand the Government fully supports advice agencies in their work to achieve justice (and compensation for all losses, injury and damages to date where necessary) for all Barking and Dagenham residents of the Windrush generation,
- review our own policies and procedures to ensure we support those affected,
- support the call for fees for naturalisation to be waived for all those who have been affected, and
- oppose the criminalisation of Windrush families.”