

THE ASSEMBLY

8 DECEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Title: Motions	For Decision
<p>The following motions have been received in accordance with paragraph 14 of Article 2, Part B of the Council's Constitution:</p> <p>1. Increased tuition fees in adult and further education</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Carpenter:</p> <p>“This Council condemns the Tory/Lib Dem Government’s proposals to increase tuition fees in adult and further education. For example, the Tory/Lib Dem Government is removing the entitlement to free training for over 25s wanting to get a basic Level 2 qualification (equivalent to 5 GCSEs). Adults studying for a level 3 qualification (equivalent to A level) will be asked to pay fees. In addition, there are proposals to increase tuition fees to recoup 80% of the cost of education and training for adults. These fee increases will be massive. Many of our hard-working residents on low incomes will not be able to afford to improve their qualifications, and their prospects for employment. These measures are harsh: many of our residents will be locked into unemployment or imprisoned in low paid unskilled jobs.</p> <p>We, therefore, call upon the Council and our MPs to lobby the Tory/Lib Dem Government vigorously about the impact on the residents of Barking and Dagenham of their proposals to increase significantly tuition fees in adult and further education.”</p> <p>2. Congratulations to Adult and Community Services</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Burgon:</p> <p>“This Council would like to congratulate our Adult and Community Services team for the fantastic news that the Care Quality Commission have announced that we are performing well in safeguarding vulnerable adults and also improving the health and wellbeing of people with learning disabilities. Moreover, they have stated in this year’s review that our future improvement in these areas is looking promising.</p> <p>We would also like to congratulate them as our Adult Social Care Area Performance Assessment for 2010 has been deemed as excellent. Out of the 152 Councils who work within this area, 37 were judged as ‘excellent’, which means that as a Council we are in the top 24%. In London, only 10 of the 33 councils were given this rating and our score places us approximately 8th in London.</p> <p>This is testament to the hard work and dedication shown throughout the directorate from top to bottom, in what is one of the most challenging service areas, and will be increasingly vital over the next few years.”</p> <p>3. Delivery of Good Quality Social Housing</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Twomey:</p>	

“This Council recognises the huge impact that the lack of affordable social housing has had on its residents over the last decade. To this end the Lead Members for housing and regeneration and the council officers involved have worked tirelessly, particularly over the last two years, to position us at the forefront of council house building projects. However, for all this hard work, the net result is plans to build only 141 council properties across the borough.

Further cuts to national housing investment by the current government, mean that there will be thousands of fewer affordable homes built this year, and the end of the council house building programme.

There are also many more barriers to building council housing than ever before. The national economic conditions are hampering our ability to attract development partners in an already challenging local housing market and with increasing uncertainty around infrastructure investment in the borough, regeneration of new housing has slowed considerably.

It is unrealistic that we can serve the housing needs of our residents/tenants by funding house building projects ourselves, as current estimates show the need to raise over £38 million to bridge the gap between our current level of estate renewal and the completion of the project.

As noted by the Living and Working Select Committee, we are currently drafting our new housing strategy document due for 2011/2012, which gives the Council an excellent opportunity to develop a substantial and robust vision for the future.

Although it is right to continue to lobby central government in pursuit of Council house building finance, I would move to the Assembly that we as a Council need to have as broad approach as possible, enabling us to explore the whole range of housing delivery options, such as with Registered Social Landlords, so that we can deliver good quality social housing that will facilitate our residents to have better homes, better health, better togetherness and a better future.”

The deadline for amendments to these motions is noon on Friday 3 December 2010.

For information, attached at Appendix A is the relevant extract from the Council’s Constitution relating to the procedure for dealing with Motions.

Recommendation

The Assembly is asked to debate and vote on the above motions and any amendments.

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**Extract from the Council Constitution
Part B, Article 2 - The Assembly**

14. Motions on issues directly affecting the Borough

- 14.1 Written notice of any motions must be received by the Chief Executive by no later than 4.00 pm on the Wednesday two weeks before the meeting. *The following provisions exclude a motion moving a vote of no confidence in the Leader of the Council (see paragraph 10 for details)*
- 14.2 The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, of the Assembly may decide not to place on the agenda any motions that he/she considers are of a vexatious or derogatory nature, or contrary to any provision of any code, protocol, legal requirement or rule of the Council; or that do not relate to the business of the Council or are otherwise considered improper or inappropriate.
- 14.3 The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, of the Assembly may decide not to place on the agenda any motions the content of which he/she feels forms the basis of a motion already considered at the Assembly within the previous twelve months.
- 14.4 In the event that the Member who submitted the motion is not present at the Assembly meeting, the motion will be withdrawn.
- 14.5 Any motions withdrawn as indicated above, or withdrawn at the request of the Member who submitted the motion, either before or during the meeting, may not be resubmitted to the Assembly within a period of six months. This condition will be waived where the Member, or a colleague on their behalf, has notified the Chief Executive by 5 pm on the day of the meeting of their inability to attend due to their ill health or family bereavement.
- 14.6 Motions will be listed on the agenda in the order in which they are received.
- 14.7 Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which directly affect the borough.
- 14.8 Written notice of any amendments to motions must be received by the Chief Executive by no later than 12 noon on the Friday before the meeting. The same criteria and actions as described in paragraphs 14.3, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6 will apply in relation to any amendments received.
- 14.9 Any amendments proposed after the time specified in paragraph 14.8 will only be considered for exceptional reasons such as a change in circumstances appertaining to the original motion, in which case the consent of the Chair will be required.
- 14.10 Order/rules of debate:
1. Except with the Chair's consent, the debate on each motion shall last no longer than 10 minutes and no individual speech shall exceed two minutes.

2. The mover will move the motion and explain its purpose.
3. The Chair will invite another Member to second the motion
4. If any amendment(s) has been accepted in accordance with paragraphs 12.8 or 12.9, the Chair will invite the relevant Member to move the amendment(s) and explain its (their) purpose.
5. The Chair will invite another Member(s) to second the amendment(s).
6. The Chair will then invite Members to speak on the motion and any amendments.
7. Once all Members who wish to speak have done so, or the time limit has elapsed, the Chair will allow the mover(s) of the amendment(s) a right of reply followed by the mover of the original motion.
8. At the end of the debate, any amendments will be voted on in the order in which they were proposed.
9. If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved and voted upon.
10. After an amendment has been carried, the Chair will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.
11. If all amendments are lost, a vote will be taken on the original motion.

15. Closure Motions

- 15.1 A member may move, without comment, the following motions at the end of a speech of another Member:
 - (i) to proceed to the next business;
 - (ii) that the question/motion be now put;
 - (iii) to adjourn a debate; or
 - (iv) to adjourn a meeting.
- 15.2 If a motion to proceed to next business is seconded the Chair will put this to a vote without further discussion on the original motion or item
- 15.3 If a motion that the question/motion be now put is seconded the Chair will call the vote on the original motion or question.
- 15.4 If a motion to adjourn the debate or to adjourn the meeting is seconded and the Chair thinks the item has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be so discussed on that occasion, they will put the procedural motion to the vote without giving the mover of the original motion the right of reply.