

## COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2018

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 18 October 2018. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Ian Buckle, Head of Electoral and Democratic Services on:  
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#### 1. NOTICE OF MOTION: BREXIT

Notice of the above Motion was given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.

On 23 June 2016, over 59% of residents in Waltham Forest voted to remain in the European Union.

##### **The Council noted that:**

- The UK economy is now the slowest growing economy in Europe, reducing the prosperity of the UK and Borough residents – a report from the Centre for European Reform shows that the UK economy is already 2.5% smaller than it would have been had Remain won the referendum, equating to a £500million loss every week;
- The Government impact report confirms that leaving the European Union will harm growth and prosperity and reduce GDP by between 1.5% and 9.5%;
- Businesses within the UK are cutting or delaying investment in new production and new jobs while they await the Brexit deal. In Waltham Forest, the number of businesses dropped by 130 (- 1.2%) from last year, reversing the trend of strong business growth seen in previous years;
- Both private business and public-sector organisations such as the NHS are facing labour and supply shortages leading to the Government stockpiling goods;
- Inflation caused by Brexit-related depreciation of the pound is driving up living costs for the poorest residents in this Borough and further squeezing living standards;
- Austerity continues to reduce funding for the public sector, further restricting their capacity to respond to shocks to our

economy and limiting services for the most disadvantaged in our society;

- The long-term prospects for the City of London remaining the most significant finance centre in the world have been undermined – ONS figures show that the City of London has seen a drop in growth by -3.4% this year.

This Council also notes that the 'Chequers Deal' issued on 6 July 2018 (the closest indication yet of what a final deal might look like, and one that has already been rejected by the European Union), has managed to alienate both Remainers and Brexiters alike, and that results from a BBC poll in July 2018 said that 71% of people disapprove of how Brexit negotiations have been handled by the Government.

**The Council believes that:**

As Liam Fox has stated, it now seems unlikely that the Government will be able to negotiate a deal and that the UK will be exiting the European Union without any formal agreement on the type of relationship we will have with our closest trading partner and ally.

Leaving the European Union without reasonable arrangements having been made will cause serious long-term harm to the UK economy and to our borough – jeopardising jobs, incomes and opportunities. It will also put at risk many environmental protections and multi-agency cooperation, which require close international collaboration in order to be effective.

No one voted to be poorer. No one voted to put their job at risk. The British public were lied to by the Leave Campaign, who broke election law and peddled false ideologically-led promises without any alternative plan in place.

The referendum result is not a fixed, immovable thing that can never change irrespective of the facts that are brought to the public's attention. The British public should have the right to weigh their options when a deal has or has not been negotiated and determine whether or not exiting the European Union is in their best interest.

**Therefore, The Council resolved to call on the Government to:**

- Give the British people a vote on whatever deal is negotiated, which includes an option to remain in the European Union. The public should be given a final say on the most important decision to affect this country in decades, in full knowledge of the facts.

## **9. SCRUTINY FORWARD PLANS 2018-19**

### **The Council endorsed:**

- (a) the proposed 2018/19 work programme for each of the committees as set out in appendix 1.
- (b) the themed review scoping documents for the scrutiny committees as set out in appendix 2.
- (c) the Budget and Performance principles and process documents as set out in appendix 3.

## **10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW 2018-19**

### **The Council agreed:**

- (a) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid -Year Report 2018/19;
- (b) that the Strategic Director Finance and Governance may approve the pre-payment of employer and employee Local Government Pension Scheme contributions for a period of up to three years.

## **11. CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

### **The Council noted:**

- the annual report of the Corporate Parenting Board 2017-18.

## **12. APPOINTMENTS**

### **The Council agreed the following appointments:**

- **Walthamstow and Chingford Almshouse Charity Trustees**  
Jackie Kearns and Surinder MacNulty