

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 9 JULY 2018

NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 50

To consider the following notice of motion submitted under Procedure Rule 50:-

1. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Jill Weston and will be seconded by Councillor Margaret Birleson:-

“This Council notes that:

- The Council's action in removing all four community benches at Woodhall Shopping Parade and replacing them with single wooden blocks is causing distress to many elderly and disabled people.

This Council believes that:

- The community benches are needed by members of the local community to rest, socialise and enjoy the street environment.
- A better solution to the antisocial behaviour of some young people would be to engage in dialogue with them and set up activities they can take part in.

This Council resolves to:

- Re-install the seats immediately.
- Review youth activities in the areas where young people are causing a nuisance and present recommendations to the relevant committee.”

2. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Max Holloway and will be seconded by Councillor John Fitzpatrick:-

“This Council notes that following the introduction of Universal Credit to Welwyn Hatfield, we have residents that have seen payments delayed and as a consequence struggle to get by.

According to the National Audit Office, the cost of implementing and administrating Universal Credit is ballooning, while judges have declared the scheme unlawfully discriminative against the disabled.

This Council supports calls to pause the rollout of Universal Credit in Welwyn Hatfield, and resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Work and pensions expressing that will.”

3. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Malcolm Cowan and will be seconded by Councillor Helen Quenet

“The council to note: that under the Localism Act 2011, councils may operate different models of Governance arrangements and that a number of authorities have moved back to a so called “modern committee system” model of governance. Such changes must commence from a council’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the decision to change must be made in advance of the AGM in order for it to be implemented from that date. The Council notes that these authorities report advantages with a committee system of governance including

- enhanced backbencher member engagement;
- improved transparency and accountability of decision making; scrutiny at the point of decision making;
- enhanced opportunities in public engagement;
- more consensual approaches to decision making with the opportunity to bring opposition members into the decision making process;
- greater opportunities to demonstrate whole council support for issues which have cross party support;
- and the ability to disengage from structures which are unproductive for scrutiny.

This council therefore requests the Chief Executive, Corporate Director (Public Protection, Planning & Governance) and Monitoring Officer, in conjunction with the Constitution Review Group fully research, prepare and thereafter present to the Council meeting on 19th November 2018 a detailed report setting out the implications, process, practicalities and potential timetable to move from the current Executive (Leader and Cabinet) model of governance to a Committee system of governance as permitted by the Localism Act 2011.”

4. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Paul Zukowskyj and will be seconded by Councillor Siobhan Elam

“This Council reaffirms its view that the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service should remain under the control and democratic accountability of Hertfordshire County Council and fully supports the view previously taken by this Council and the County Council in this regard.

This council also has serious concerns over the PCC's proposed changes to the network of fire stations in Welwyn Hatfield and the very serious adverse impact on response times this would lead to. The consequent increase in risk is, in this council's view, unacceptable.

This council requests its officers to forward this view to all bodies associated with making decisions on this issue.”

5. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Malcolm Cowan and will be seconded by Councillor Tamsin Jackson-Mynott

“This council believes that anti-social behaviour is better dealt with by providing diversionary activities than by removing seats and replacing them by stump blocks which are unusable by many members of our community who value the chance to sit down during a shopping trip. This council regrets that local ward councillors were not brought into the discussion process, rather than being faced with a fait accompli.

Council therefore resolves to provide seats that meet the needs of all members of the community at the earliest possible date, set up activities that will help to engage those who are disrupting the peace and quiet of various parts of our borough and in future engage with local councillors before such decisions are made.”