

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 19 NOVEMBER 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 Tamsin Jackson-Mynott and will be seconded by Councillor Malcolm Cowan:-

“In view of the threat of funding to maintained nursery schools finishing in 2020, this Council will write to Grant Shapps MP requesting that he support the efforts of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Nursery Schools by lobbying the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister for Education, to secure funding for maintained nursery schools beyond 2020.”

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

“This Council notes that many Council budgets are now at Breaking Point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries and children’s centre.

This Council notes that the Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss – stated on BBC Newsnight on 1 October 2018 that the government is ‘not making cuts to local authorities’.

This Council notes that our funding from Government has been cut by over 50% since 2010. This Council further notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has claimed that ‘austerity is over’ despite a further cuts to council budgets appearing within the recent budget.

Given that these examples at the highest level of government show a complete lack of understanding of the effect of austerity to Councils’ like Welwyn Hatfield. This Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by our local Council and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government”.

3. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Kieran Thorpe and will be seconded by Councillor Glyn Hayes:-

“This Council notes that it has previously debated and passed motions opposing the merger of Police and Fire services within Hertfordshire and moreover, cuts to our emergency services.

This Council wrote to the Leader of Hertfordshire County Council raising these concerns and made clear our opposition to a reduction in our Fire and Rescue Service.

This Council notes the reply received from the Leader of Hertfordshire County Council mentioned performance standards remaining as they are, but did not address future reductions in resources with Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

This Council is disappointed to note that only days later, the County Council produced a draft integrated risk management plan (IRMP) setting out a draft of proposals for the next five years such as reducing the size of fire crews and removing and replacing fire engines with smaller vans that carry less equipment and people.

This Council notes with concern that the Fire Brigade Union calculate this would lead to the loss of 50 Firefighters in Hertfordshire, on top of the 150 Firefighters already lost in the last round of cutbacks.

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has experienced a 5% increase in call numbers in the last year alone. The number of injuries sustained as a result of fire have nearly doubled in five years and, most tragically of all, three times as many Hertfordshire residents died this past year when compared to the previous year:

This represents the highest number of deaths from fire in Hertfordshire for five years.

This Council resolves to again object in the strongest possible terms these proposals to further cut Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service as outlined in this draft plan.”