

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

17 OCTOBER 2012

NOTICES OF MOTION

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The following Notices of Motion have been received:-

1. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority

"This Council welcomes the campaign of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (GMFRA), in partnership with the other Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities, against the unfairness applied to the Government's Formula for the distribution of Grant.

The distribution of government funding, through the Formula, now favours "Shire Fire & Rescue Authorities" (Combined Fire Authorities) and protects London, at the expense of the urban/regional cities.

Between 2011 and 2013, GMFRA, West Midlands, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Tyne & Wear Metropolitan Authorities will shoulder around 80% of the cuts compared to the rest of the Fire Services across the Country, Shires, Combined Authorities and London between them will shoulder just short of 20%. Indeed, six of these Fire Authorities have - perversely - seen grant increases in the last two years.

GMFRA are certain that, if the Formula Grant is not re-adjusted to ensure greater fairness, Greater Manchester will be faced with further damaging cuts, further significant reduction of Firefighters, further significant fewer fire appliances, and potentially closures of Fire Stations.

This level of cuts will also have serious consequences for the delivery of Fire & Rescue Services for the people of Greater Manchester and impact on the resilience of the infrastructure of Greater Manchester.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to ensure everyone 'shares the pain of austerity' and introduces a fairer Grant Formula model for GMFRA and other Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities elsewhere."

In the names of Councillors A Audin, K Audin, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, J Black, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, J Columbine, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald L Fitzwalter, J Frith, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, J S Lewis, A K Matthews, N A Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq and S Walmsley.

2. Streaming of Council Meetings

"This Council notes the seating capacity of the public gallery and the relatively low numbers of the public who are able to view or participate in full council meetings as compared to the population of this Borough. This Council also notes that with recent advances in technology and the spread of I.T into most people's homes and lives, there are now opportunities for more people to become engaged with their local Council remotely. "Tweeting" is one example of what this Council has recently implemented in order to broaden the audience of Council meetings. However, this Council notes the problems that this type of media has created (i.e. Councillor's concentrating more on Twitter rather than the Council meeting and constituents being given "One Sided" views of how the meeting is progressing).

Many councils up and down the country have started to stream Council meetings live on their web-sites to allow those people who cannot attend meetings to view their local Councillors in action in the Council chamber. Therefore, In the pursuit of making this Council as "Open" and "Transparent" as possible and as a better alternative to using "Twitter", this Council resolves to instruct the Council's ICT department to attach live streaming of Council meetings to the Bury Council Website with effect from the next full Council meeting on the 12th December 2012. This will allow viewers the opportunity to make up their own minds about how the council meeting is progressing.

Should this prove to be a success then this Council also resolves to expand live streaming across all Scrutiny, Planning, Standards, Audit, Licensing, and Township Forum meetings."

In the names of Councillors R A Caserta, I B Gartside, D L Gunther, M Hankey, K Hussain, B Vincent, R E Walker, J F Walton, M J Wiseman and Y Wright.