

COUNCIL – 13 OCTOBER 2022

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Executive Summary

The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 6 October 2022. This supplementary report sets out the extracts from the draft minutes of the Executive.

THE EXECUTIVE – 6 OCTOBER 2022

8A. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR W FORSTER – PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

At its meeting on 21 July 2022, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor W P Forster

“The Council notes that Belarus and the United Kingdom are the only European countries that use First Past the Post for their national elections.

This Council believes that Proportional Representation ensures all votes count, have equal value, and those seats won match votes cast. Under Proportional Representation, Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation. Members of Parliament better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

Proportional Representation would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a Government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. Proportional Representation also prevents ‘wrong winner’ elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

Proportional Representation is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, but not for Westminster elections.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Prime Minister and Woking’s Member of Parliament calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for future General Elections.”

Councillor Forster spoke in support of the Motion. The Executive was in agreement with the Motion which called for the Council to support Proportional Representation in elections, and to express its preference for Proportional Representation to the Government. It was noted that Proportional Representation had been raised as a doorstep issue by residents.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Motion be supported.

8B. ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Barker, introduced the report which recommended to Council the revised Animal Welfare Responsibilities Guidance document following public consultation. The Executive heard that the document provided guidance on animal welfare to residents and signposted to the organisations responsible for each aspect of animal welfare and licensing. Subject to Council agreeing the document, the Leader confirmed that the Guidance document would be published on the Council's website for easy accessibility.

Concerns raised by residents regarding giving pets as prizes and the distress caused to animals due to firework displays was discussed. The Executive was advised that it was illegal to give pets as prizes to children aged 16 and under. Regarding fireworks, the Executive noted that Councillor Barker had raised the issue previously and that information on firework displays taking place in the Borough would be published on the Council's website. A letter had previously been sent to Government concerning the banning of loud fireworks and it was suggested that this could be reiterated.

The Executive thanked both the previous administration for initiating the public consultation, and Officers for compiling such comprehensive Guidance for residents.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Council's revised Animal Welfare Responsibilities Guidance document be agreed.

Reason: To promote Animal Welfare in the Borough.

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

Background Papers: None.

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