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AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL

Date: Wednesday, 13 October 2021

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Item 8 (b) LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT of the Motion Submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group

Hongkongers in Trafford

As a result of the Chinese government's imposition of new 'national security' laws and the British government's policy shift on British National (Overseas) [BN(O)] visas, many people are choosing to emigrate to the UK from Hong Kong. The Home Office predicts that as many as 300,000 Hongkongers may choose to relocate to Britain with many choosing to settle in Trafford and elsewhere across Greater Manchester. This Council recognises and welcomes the enormous contribution that immigrants of all nationalities and backgrounds have made to British life. **We are proud that Trafford has seen a particularly high number of Hongkongers move in to the borough in recent months, and formally welcome them here and express our delight that they have chosen to make Trafford their home.**

The historical, political and economic factors currently surrounding democratic freedoms in Hong Kong make the decision to emigrate particularly stressful for many Hongkongers. There are several considerations and measures that local authorities can take to extend the warmest possible welcome to everyone who decides to make the journey to the UK.

This Council notes:

- That the Home Office figure of 300,000 migrants from Hong Kong is an estimation for the next 5 years and that – with around 70% of the population of Hong Kong being eligible for BN(O) status – that number may rise considerably.
- The 'Coming for Hope' report published by 'Hongkongers in Britain', which indicates the following:
 - That the mean age of applicants is 37 and that 71% of applicants hold a university degree.
 - That 16% of those surveyed say they cannot afford the cost of living for the first 6 months after arriving in the UK.
 - That, of those surveyed, 73% expect to have difficulty finding accommodation, 57% are concerned about living costs and 48% are anxious about finding employment.
 - That 96% of respondents felt that Hong Kong was no longer a 'safe and free home'.
 - That Home Office estimates suggest a net benefit to government finances of between £2.4 and £2.9 billion over five years as a result of the arrival of highly skilled migrants from Hong Kong.

This Council also notes the advice and guidance that is available through the governments 'Hong Kong UK Welcome Programme'.

This Council welcomes:

- The provision of up to £2,720 per BN(O) household for destitution support.

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- The government's commitment to set up 12 new 'Welcome Hubs' across the UK, to support the settlement of BN(O) holders.

Following a recent meeting between the Leader of the Council, the Acting Chief Executive, and representatives of Trafford Hongkongers, Council further acknowledges:

- That there have unfortunately been a small number of hate crime incidents experienced by Hongkongers in recent months.
- That many Hongkongers are experiencing delays in receiving National Insurance numbers from the DWP, impacting on their ability to find work.
- That Trafford's Skills Coordinator and ESOL Coordinator are fully engaged with Trafford's growing Hong Kong community, and are actively signposting Hongkongers to training, employment opportunities and conversation groups.

This Council resolves to:

- Stand against any and all hate crime in Trafford as a borough that values tolerance and inclusion and is proud of our diversity.
- Monitor the intake of Hong Kong children and other children for whom English is a second language into Trafford's schools and allocate additional resources for 'English as a Second Language' and Personal, Social, Health and Economic education to aid with integration in accordance with need.
- ~~Assist parents of children with special educational needs by providing information on the 'SEN Local Offer' and Educational Health Care Plans in Cantonese through the council website.~~ Work with the Trafford Hongkongers Group to ensure that relevant information can be cascaded in Cantonese to those residents who require it, noting that this dissemination has already commenced.
- Write to the ~~Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government~~ Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to express Trafford's interest in contributing to and forming part of the UK's new Hong Kong 'Welcome Hubs' subject to the necessary funding to make this a success being made available by government.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to ask that more is done to swiftly expedite the allocation of National Insurance numbers for Hongkongers, recognising that they do not have recourse to public funds.
- Ensure progress on the resolutions of this motion are regularly reported back to this Council and ~~are incorporated into the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships brief~~ that relevant Executive Members subsume these actions into their duties as appropriate at the instruction of the Council Leader.

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Item 8 (c) LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT of the Motion Submitted by the Green Party Group

Empowering Trafford to take Climate Action

This Council acknowledges that in order to tackle the climate crisis we must empower **and enable** residents and council officers to take action. In order to **enable everyone** to act with sufficient urgency, the Council's procedures ~~must~~ **should** be better aligned with its priorities **in this area**.

~~The Council has also learned about dealing with crises from the pandemic and lessons learnt from Covid can give examples of how council systems can treat the climate emergency as an emergency.~~

This Council resolves to:

- ~~- Emphasise urgency in the language we use around the climate. Where possible the Council, its Councillors and officers should choose the language of 'climate crisis' or 'climate emergency' – not the more passive 'climate change' or 'global warming'.~~
- ~~- Carry out a case study on the way that the community hubs were created, in a nimble and effective way at a crucial stage in the pandemic. See what lessons can be learnt for the climate crisis response in terms of how the Council can act quickly and with impact. Report back on what lessons can be learnt in terms of creating an urgent and nimble response to a crisis.~~
- Events and buildings: ensure that alongside accessibility information, council building and events highlight how to access them by walking / cycling / using public transport. Currently the Town Hall part of the website only talks about parking options, despite being on National Cycle Network route 55, and extremely near to Old Trafford tram and several bus stops.
- ~~Highlight the Council's climate emergency web pages on the front page of the Council's website~~ **Ensure that information on the Council's progress on addressing the climate emergency can be easily accessed from the home page of the Council's Website as part of the overhaul of the website content planned as part of the Trafford Digital Strategy 2020-2023.** This will enable residents to easily find information on what the Council is doing. It will also raise awareness **of** the urgency of the crisis by highlighting it to everyone who comes to the Council's home page.
- To review our HR policy in respect of dress codes **in line with professional advice from officers to** ~~These need to explicitly~~ support staff and officers who chose to commute or travel for work by active or public transport **whilst ensuring the Council maintains a professional appearance in its customer facing work.** Too often spoken or unspoken assumptions about what looks professional stop people using active or public transport when they would

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otherwise like to. To also ensure that information is available on the council intranet about the cycling and changing facilities available to staff.

- ~~In advance of COP26 to add our voice to calls for a joint local and national government task force on reaching 'net zero' emissions. This partnership could set regulations, benchmarks and targets and create long term funding mechanisms to enable local communities to decarbonise whilst remaining resilient and sustainable.~~
- ~~Write to Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26, the Prime Minister and the Leadership Board of the LGA informing them of our support for a joint Local/National Government Climate Change Partnership Taskforce and asking for one to be established as soon as possible.~~
- As there is still no formal relationship between local and national government on climate action, write to Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26, to request the establishment of a formal Local and National Government Climate Crisis Taskforce to collaboratively work together towards net zero emissions, as advocated by the Local Government Association and other bodies.