

14 November 2018

Ordinary Council

Notices of Motion

Report of: Philip Ruck – Chief Executive

Wards Affected: All

This report is: Public

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Five Notices of Motion have been submitted in accordance with Rule 3 in Part 4.1 of the Constitution - Council Procedure Rules and are listed in order of the date received.

1.2 Cllr Barrett submitted the following Notice of Motion:

This council notes that:

- 1. Last year 1,230 young people (aged 16 or over) left the care of their Essex County Council and began the difficult transition out of care and into adulthood.*
- 2. A 2016 report by The Children's Society found that when care leavers move into independent accommodation they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. The report showed that care leavers can find this extremely challenging and with no family to support them and insufficient financial education, are falling into debt and financial difficulty.*
- 3. Research from The Centre for Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.*
- 4. There are statutory corporate parenting responsibilities towards young people who have left care up until the age of 25.*
- 5. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places corporate parenting responsibilities on district councils for the first time, requiring them to have regard to children in care and care leavers when carrying out their functions.*

This council believes that:

- 1. To ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, they should be exempt from paying council tax until they are 25.*
- 2. Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt.*

This council, therefore, resolves:

- 1. To exempt care leavers in the Borough of Brentwood from council tax at the earliest opportunity through an appropriate Budget mechanism.*
- 2. To write to the county council's Leader and Director of Children's Services to urge them to use their convening powers and expertise in corporate parenting to work with all council tax collecting authorities within the county area to exempt all care leavers in the county from council tax up to the age of 25, sharing any arising costs proportionately.'*

1.3 Cllr Parker submitted the following Notice of Motion:

'Brentwood Borough Council honours those who fought in the first World War and on the 100th anniversary, pays special recognition to Sergeant William Merrifield VC.

Born in Brentwood 9th October 1890, Sgt. Merrifield emigrated to Canada to find work. On the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force winning the Military Medal at Passchendaele In November 1917.

Sergeant Merrifield was awarded the Victoria Cross for his leadership at Abancourt in France on 1 October 1918 whilst serving with the 4th Infantry Battalion.

His citation states:

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the attack near Abancourt on the 1st October 1918. When his men were held up by an intense fire from two machine-gun emplacements . He attacked them both Single handed . Dashing from shell hole to shell hole he killed the occupants of the first post, and thou wounded, Continued to attack the second post and with a bomb killed the occupants .he refused to be evacuated and led His platoon until again severely wounded . Sergeant Merrifield has served with exceptional distinction On many former occasions and throughout the action of the 1st October showed the highest qualities of valour And leadership."

Merrifield died in Toronto in 1943. A school is named after him in the province of Ontario, Canada.

In recognition of the exceptional bravery shown by Brentwood born Sgt. Merrifield, this Council resolves to erect a plaque in his memory in the newly renovated Town Hall, once it has re-opened."

1.4 Cllr Kendall submitted the following Notice of Motion:

"The members of Brentwood Borough Council call upon the Government to legislate for a "Peoples Vote" on the final brexit deal and to include the option of remaining in the EU on the ballot paper"

1.5 Cllr Mrs Davies submitted the following Notice of Motion:

'This council ensures all members are DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checked following the mandatory safeguarding members training. The DBS chief executive states the importance of safeguarding linked to DBS to keep the public safe. In the course of councillors duties we visit and assist elderly and vulnerable residents in their homes hence we need to be giving the public the reassurance of the councils high standards and good practice'.

1.6 Cllr Aspinell submitted the following notice of motion:

'This Council resolves to urge Essex County Council to access Government Infrastructure funding (probably SELEP monies) for the purpose of creating a subway footpath underneath the A12 from the Brentwood Centre car park and acquiring the necessary land to construct a new footpath from the subway to a point in Sawyers Hall Lane. This facility would provide a much needed drop off/collection point for coaches and other vehicles transporting parents, guardians and students to/from the schools in Sawyers Hall Lane.'

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