

Barnet Council's Brexit Contingency Planning

14.5 – Opposition Amendment in the name of Cllr Barry Rawlings

Delete all and replace with (addition in bold):

Council notes that 62 per cent of Barnet residents that voted in the EU Referendum voted to remain in the EU, but the overall UK decision was to leave the EU.

Council celebrates Barnet's cultural and religious diversity, and its long history of welcoming refugees and migrants from all over the world, including the European Union.

Council notes that over 31,000 EU citizens live in Barnet and puts on record its appreciation of the contribution they make to the civic, economic and cultural life of the borough, and the role many play in delivering our public services.

Council notes that Barnet's Conservative councillors voted against ensuring that EU staff employed by LB Barnet have access to legal advice and financial support to understand and access their rights (including applying for settled and pre-settled status, obtaining permanent residency and/or citizenship). Council notes that LB Barnet has subsequently agreed to cover the cost of the settled status fee for Council employees despite that motion being defeated by the Conservatives.

Council expresses concern about the current Parliamentary deadlock on the Government's proposed Brexit deal, and the increased likelihood of a no-deal departure from the EU. Council believes both the Government deal and no-deal will have a negative impact on Barnet, its residents, economy and public services.

Council instructs Policy & Resources Committee to bring a report to its next meeting detailing LB Barnet's contingency plans in the event of each of these outcomes in order to ensure service continuity, provide reassurance and support for Council employees, residents and businesses at a time of national uncertainty.

Council also calls for a meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership to be held after the Parliamentary vote on 29 January to discuss the likely impact on partners of a no-deal Brexit so they can input into LB Barnet's contingency plans.

[Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted on at the meeting.]