

Council – 4 April 2016 – Agenda Item 15.2

Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Alon Or-bach – EU Referendum

Amendment in the name of Cllr Paul Edwards:

Add after first paragraph:

Council welcomes the 71 years of virtually unbroken peace in Europe following the end of the Second World War, and the central role that the European Union has played to ensure that peace is sustained.

Council also welcomes the drawing up of the European Convention on Human Rights by the Council for Europe in 1950, ratified by the UK in 1951, as a dignified response to the Holocaust and as a precursor to the establishment of the European Union.

Council agrees with the founding values of the EU to respect human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of minorities, and the requirement for Member States to respect these values.

Council notes that:

- over 3 million UK jobs are linked to our exports to the EU - one in every ten UK jobs,
- for every £1 we put into the EU we get almost £10 back through increased trade, investment, jobs, growth and lower prices,
- 200,000 UK businesses trade with the EU, helping them create jobs here in the UK,
- the UK gets £66 million of investment every day from EU countries, creating more jobs and opportunities in your area,
- and we are safer thanks to the European Arrest Warrant, which means we can arrest criminals across the EU.

Council notes the position of the Home Secretary, Theresa May, that for reasons of security, trade with Europe and access to markets around the world, the national interest is to remain in the EU.

Council also notes the statement of the Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan, that "if Britain leaves Europe it will be young people who suffer the most," and that "at a time when people are rightly concerned about inter-generational fairness, the most unfair decision that the older generation could make would be to take Britain out of Europe and damage the ability of young people to get on in life."

Council further notes that Barnet has benefited from European Union funds and has most recently applied for £500k of EU funding for our proposed Small Business Hub, which is just one of the things locally that will be put at risk should the UK leave the EU.

Council recognises that the EU requires reform but believes that the EU is good for Barnet, London and the UK in terms of jobs, growth, security, justice and peace.

Council therefore supports the position of the Prime Minister, David Cameron, the Government and the Labour Party that the UK should remain in the EU.

Substantive motion to read:

Council welcomes the forthcoming EU Referendum on 23 June and the opportunity it gives to the residents of Barnet to have their say on whether the UK remains in or leaves the EU.

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Council notes that there are many EU citizens, including many communities and families that have lived in Barnet most of their lives, that help make our borough the diverse place it is, and stresses the importance of European co-operation whatever the outcome of the Referendum.

Council asks that Policy & Resources Committee discuss the impact of the two possible outcomes of the EU Referendum on Barnet at its next meeting on the 17th May.