

Council: 26 July 2016

Opposition Motion in the name of Cllr Ross Houston

Parliamentary debate on Brexit - getting the best outcome for Barnet

Council notes the 'Brexit' outcome of the EU Referendum.

Council also notes that the majority of residents in Barnet - 62 per cent - voted to 'Remain' in the EU.

Council respects the overall decision of the country, but notes the uncertainty this has caused, and the affect it has already had on the pound and the economy.

Council believes that, while a complete picture of the impact on Barnet is not yet clear, the Council should be doing all it can to ensure the best possible outcome for the Borough, including identifying risks and opportunities, and preparing for them.

Council believes that putting a plan together in this way helps to protect Barnet and its residents - and this is the Council's responsibility.

Council also believes it is the responsibility of Parliament to protect its people, and therefore the invoking of Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty cannot just be left to the PM and her Cabinet.

Council notes the Early Day Motion 269 - sponsored by Green MP Caroline Lucas and signed by MPs cross-party - that calls for the outcome of the EU Referendum to be subject to proper parliamentary scrutiny, and that the Government should not submit its declaration to the European Council invoking Article 50 unless and until the full proposals it intends to submit to the Commission to activate the process of withdrawal from the EU are debated in full and voted on by Parliament.

Council calls on Barnet's 3 MPs to support this EDM, and also asks the Policy & Resources Committee to properly consider the probable impact of Brexit on Barnet so that this can be communicated to Barnet's MPs in order that they can raise these issues in this parliamentary debate and fight for the best outcome for the Borough.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.