

Full Council 31 January 2017

Emergency motion in the name of Cllr Barry Rawlings Ban on people from Muslim-majority countries entering the US

Under Council Procedure Rule 7.1 and 7.2 Cllr Barry Rawlings seeks to move the Suspension of Full Council Procedure Rules 2.1 and 23.1, asking Council to agree to take a motion in his name as a matter of urgency.

Council notes the recent Executive Order from the President of the United States introducing a temporary ban on people entering the US who are citizens of or who were born in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Libya and Somalia.

Council believes this policy targets people of the Muslim faith, an act that is immoral, illegitimate, may be unconstitutional and will have the perverse effect of increasing hostility towards the United States and the West.

Council therefore welcomes the statements from the UK Government and the Leader of the Opposition opposing this ban.

Council also welcomes the more recent news that this ban will not affect UK citizens travelling from one of the seven affected countries to the US even if they were born in one of those countries.

However, Council notes that the ban will affect UK citizens who have dual nationality with one of the seven countries and who are travelling from one of those countries to the US.

Council notes that according to the 2015 GLA population figures there are approximately 15,000 Barnet residents who directly originate from one of these seven countries: 8,000 from Iran, 4,000 from Somalia, up to 1,000 from Iraq, up to 1,000 from Sudan and up to 1,000 from Yemen.

Council asks officers to investigate how many Barnet residents are actually affected by this ban in practice, including those who may already have plans to travel to the US to visit family and friends, to conduct business or to work, or those just going there on holiday.

Council also asks LB Barnet to offer whatever assistance is appropriate to residents affected, including by liaising with Barnet's three MPs and sign-posting people to advice from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Council further asks that an update on how this ban affects Barnet's residents is reported to the Policy & Resources Committee as soon as possible.

Finally, Council calls on the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to jointly write a letter of protest to the US Ambassador setting out Council's opposition to this ban and the impact it could have on significant numbers of people living in Barnet.