

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

TO: CABINET - 12 November 2009

FROM: COUNCIL – 29 October 2009

MOTION REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE –

(A) Recession Busting Committee

1. At the meeting of Council held on 29 October 2009, and in accordance with the provisions of Rule 15.6, a Motion proposed by Councillor Bill Stephenson and seconded by Councillor Phillip O'Dell, was resolved to stand referred to the next meeting of the Executive as follows:

“This Council is reminded that the Labour Group at the Council in February 2009 proposed:

the setting up a cross-party working group with outside membership from the voluntary sector and the local business community such as Harrow in Business and Chambers of Commerce, with the aim of helping Harrow residents and businesses to cope with the economic downturn, and of seeking external and partnership funding both financial and in kind. This group to be allocated an annual contingency fund of £30K to pursue its important work.

Although this motion was not accepted, Council notes with pleasure that the current administration has set up just such a working group, initially called the ‘Economic Downturn Committee and now re-named the ‘Recession Busting Committee’. Council also welcomes the setting up of the Harrow Credit Union also a suggestion made by Labour Group members.

Council also welcomes the further measures agreed by Cabinet on October 22 to help small businesses and is of the view that similar measures should be introduced to help local residents. In particular, Council agrees that there should be a provision for non direct debit paying local residents to apply to pay their Council Tax in twelve instalments instead of ten if the person can demonstrate that they are facing financial difficulties with each case being assessed on its merits. Council further believes that other measures to help hard pressed- local residents should be investigated as a matter of urgency.

Any extra costs arising from these proposals to be met from the contingency fund”.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background documents:

1. Motion submitted to the Council meeting – 29 October 2009.

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