

London Borough of Enfield

Council – 18 November 2020

Amendment to Motion 11 in the name of Councillor Maguire

The motion currently reads:

This Council notes the huge financial impact of the cost of dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic and statements from Government ministers that they would reimburse councils for those additional costs. Additional expenditure, loss of income and the impact on the savings programme is forecast to cost us a total of £64.3m. Funding received from the Government so far does not meet those additional costs. We are now facing the further financial uncertainty of a second national lockdown.

This Council further notes that in the 10 years since 2010, funding from the Government has been cut by 60%, while demand for services has been increasing. Despite that, Enfield council had set a budget in February that was resilient and sustainable. The Council and Enfield residents should not be expected to shoulder the burden of the extra costs of dealing with Covid. A large number of our residents and businesses have been adversely affected by the lockdown and it will take them a long time to recover.

In this period of economic uncertainty, what we need is the certainty of funding from the Government on a long-term, sustainable basis so that we can plan and budget with confidence. It is alarming, therefore, to hear rumours that the comprehensive spending review later this year will just cover one year. That will only add to the uncertainty. We call on the Government, therefore, to commit to funding the costs of Covid and to delivering long-term funding stability for this and other councils.

Amendment:

Councillor Hockney proposes to replace with the following wording:

This Council notes the huge financial impact of the cost of dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic and statements from Government ministers that they would reimburse councils for those additional costs.

The Council and Enfield residents should not be expected to shoulder the burden of the extra costs of dealing with Covid. A large number of our residents and businesses have been adversely affected by the lockdown and it will take them a long time to recover.

The Council recognises that 1 in 3 jobs that have been protected by the Government Furlough scheme. Ensuring families have been able to pay the bills and put food on the table. Furthermore, the many Government measures to support business, (which includes grants, loans, rates relief) have helped many businesses in this challenging time.

We are pleased to receive the £9 million pounds of funding for homelessness, which is the largest amount of funding provided to any Council in England. In addition to the £1.1m pounds to support vulnerable families through winter, the extra £9.62m allocated to Covid costs and the additional funds to support businesses.

We recognise that in a period of uncertainty that the Government will have to tailor spending year to year as it is difficult to project needs going forward. We welcome the £40m pounds of funding for the costs of Covid, the £9m for homelessness, the £1.1million pounds for vulnerable families through the Winter, Furlough protecting 1 in 3 jobs in the Borough and the different funding packages to support business.