

Agenda Item 16g

AGENDA ITEM 16(g) - Black Lives Matter

Amendment

To add at the end of the motion:

This should include:

- 1) The cabinet be asked to work with local groups to ensure BAME voices are heard locally in decision making and to feed into inquiries on the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic
- 2) The Cabinet be asked to Review to improve engagement with BAME community groups by the council to see what lessons can be learnt to strengthen cohesion, engagement and closer partnership working to root out all forms of racism and injustice
- 3) That Officers through the Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review to improve existing learning and development for all Members of the City Council to ensure that as community leaders councillors are aware of their responsibilities and obligations in law

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Judith Smyth

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Stephen Morgan

To therefore read as follows:

Council condemns the senseless torture and murder of George Floyd.

Council notes that the death of George Floyd in the USA has attracted significant international attention and peaceful protest, as yet another tragic example of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities being treated as if their lives matter less.

From our Government's deportation of the Windrush generation who came to rebuild this country after WWII, to the persecution of Yazidi Christians in the Middle East and Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, to the killing in Charlottesville, the dream that all lives matter rings hollow for many.

Council believes that black lives matter, and resolves to send a message of solidarity and support to those who have attended Portsmouth's home grown Black Lives Matter peaceful protests, in recognition of the importance of peaceful protest against racial injustice, racist violence, and abuse of power, and in recognition that in Portsmouth, the right to life, liberty, and justice of every citizen is precious, and that we all have a role in upholding and defending these rights.

In particular Council condemns the actions of President Trump in deploying violence against peaceful protests against police brutality in numerous US cities.

Council resolves to support calls for the Department for International Trade to suspend exporting of CS and tear gas, rubber bullets, and similar riot control equipment to the US pending investigation of whether any UK-supplied equipment has been misused by US authorities against peaceful protestors.

Council resolves to seek a revisit the findings of the Government's Race Disparity Audit (2017), the Lammy Review (2017), and the McGregor-Smith Review (2017), among others, and their recommendations for developing effective strategies to reduce disparities between ethnic groups in our city.

Council resolves to welcome the EHRC's announcement of an inquiry into long-standing structural race inequalities in the UK in relation to Covid-19 deaths, and commits to working to address structural inequalities in the city through engagement with communities in Portsmouth to assess the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable.

Council asks Cabinet to appoint cross-party Equalities Champion to oversee the Council's work on equalities, diversity and inclusion

Council requests that the Cabinet brings forward a report on the actions it will take to address structural inequalities in the city and how these actions will be delivered and monitored. The report should address the resourcing of BAME groups to ensure they have stronger voices and influence both within our communities and among our workforce, and a commitment to developing an anti-racism strategy for the city in conjunction with communities and partners such as the police and NHS.

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After the end of the first sentence, ending “George Floyd” delete the remainder of the text and replace with:

“The harrowing footage of the murder of George Floyd has quite rightly shaken the world. Tragically this is not a one-off event. It is symptomatic of a deep-set racism in society. While the Black Lives Matter movement is on the frontier of the battle for civil rights and the peaceful resilience of the black community is an inspiration, there are things that we can do here in Portsmouth to stamp out all forms of racism and injustice.

The Black Lives Matter movement has reminded us that there remains considerable violence, prejudice and inequality against BAME communities happening across the UK and here in Portsmouth, whilst Covid-19 has shone a spotlight on this inequality and there is significant actions required locally and nationally. Public Health England (PHE) has confirmed in a report published on 16 June 2020, that people from a BAME background are twice as likely to die from Covid-19 than those who are White British background because of structural and racial inequalities. Those living in a deprived community have higher levels of diagnosis and death rates.

Thousands of people and organisations have made it clear that urgent, collaborative and decisive action is needed. Hundreds have demonstrated in Portsmouth. The Government cannot make the same mistakes if there is a second wave of coronavirus, nor can we in Portsmouth.

Council notes:

- The decision to light Spinnaker Tower purple in commemoration of the tragic and wholly unnecessary death of George Floyd.
- The commitment to engage BAME council staff to assist with the local authority’s response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Council resolves:

- 1) To stand in complete solidarity with BAME communities in America, in Britain, and around the world, by affirming that black lives matter and recognising the work of the Black Lives Matter movement here in Portsmouth.
- 2) To lobby for immediate government action to address the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic people.
- 3) To specifically call on the government to:
 - make urgent changes to Government policy and guidance to protect BAME communities as the recent PHE report requested; and;
 - implement the action plan as requested by the Chair of the BMA (British Medical Association) to reduce the risk to BAME employees and to address the underlying issues.
- 4) The Cabinet be asked to work with local groups to ensure BAME voices are heard locally in decision making and to feed into inquiries on the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5) The Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review on improving communication with BAME community groups by the council to strengthen cohesion, engagement and closer partnership while working to root out all forms of racism and injustice.
- 6) That Officers through the Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review to improve existing learning and development for all Members of the City Council to ensure that as community leaders councillors are aware of the opportunities available to them to actively engage with BAME communities in Portsmouth as well as their responsibilities and obligations in law.”

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Matthew Atkins

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Luke Stubbs

To therefore read as follows:

Council condemns the senseless torture and murder of George Floyd.

The harrowing footage of the murder of George Floyd has quite rightly shaken the world. Tragically this is not a one-off event. It is symptomatic of a deep-set racism in society. While the Black Lives Matter movement is on the frontier of the battle for civil rights and the peaceful resilience of the black community is an inspiration, there are things that we can do here in Portsmouth to stamp out all forms of racism and injustice.

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2) To lobby for immediate government action to address the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic people.

3) To specifically call on the government to:

- make urgent changes to Government policy and guidance to protect BAME communities as the recent PHE report requested; and;
- implement the action plan as requested by the Chair of the BMA (British Medical Association) to reduce the risk to BAME employees and to address the underlying issues.

4) The Cabinet be asked to work with local groups to ensure BAME voices are heard locally in decision making and to feed into inquiries on the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

5) The Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review on improving communication with BAME community groups by the council to strengthen cohesion, engagement and closer partnership while working to root out all forms of racism and injustice.

6) That Officers through the Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review to improve existing learning and development for all Members of the City Council to ensure that as community leaders councillors are aware of the opportunities available to them to actively engage with BAME communities in Portsmouth as well as their responsibilities and obligations in law."

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