

Agenda Item 10a

AGENDA ITEM 10(a) ANIMAL WELFARE

After 'Food Standards' in the final paragraph, delete the rest of the paragraph and replace with:

And places on record our thanks to the government for the recent decision to end the 'live exports' of animals from the UK. In fact England and Wales are the first European countries to ban the export of live animals. The council notes this is a significant improvement which the British government has been able to deliver (in England and Wales), now the UK is no longer an EU member state and regrets the EU do not put the same importance on animal welfare standards. Examples are the EU's continuation of allowing 'foie gras' to be produced, a practice of intentionally fattening and enlarging a birds liver by unethical force-feeding through a corn tube, often to ducks and geese, so that when humans consume it, they are effectively eating the diseased liver of a bird.

Furthermore, the council notes the UK government is a world leader on Animal Welfare standards. Portsmouth City Council also notes Penny Mordaunt MP recently voted against a Labour Party and Lib Dem House of Lords amendment to the October (2020) Agriculture Bill on this issue, put forward in the House of Lords and rejected by MPs, as it was intended to frustrate Brexit negotiations, dressed up as a legal guarantee (when the Government had already committed to upholding our high animal welfare standards in pursuit of international trade deals). The council places on record its thanks to the British Government for improving the welfare of animals.

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Robert New

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Terry Norton

Motion to therefore read:

Over the last 40 years Britain has spearheaded efforts to improve animal welfare in the farming industry across Europe. Leadership from Britain has seen the abolition of cruel animal practices such as veal pens and battery cages for chickens. This has benefited animals across Europe.

Now that Britain has left the European Union we again have a chance to push better animal welfare in countries where we may import food from. We can do that by insisting that if countries want to export animal products to Britain that their standards of animal welfare are as high as those in this country. British consumers need to be protected from hormone filled beef and chlorine washed chicken.

High animal welfare standards in countries wishing to sell food to Britain will also mean that British farmers are not commercially disadvantaged by cheap, low animal welfare, imports of food from countries that do not have our animal welfare standards. Global Britain has a chance to influence the world for the better.

To support animal welfare the City Council therefore publicly supports the National Farmers Union petition on Food Standards. And places on record our thanks to the government for the recent decision to end the 'live exports' of animals from the UK. In fact England and Wales are the first European countries to ban the export of live animals. The council notes this is a significant improvement which the British government has been able to deliver (in England and Wales), now the UK is no longer an EU member state and regrets the EU do not put the same importance on animal welfare standards. Examples are the EU's continuation of allowing 'foie gras' to be produced, a practice of intentionally fattening and enlarging a birds liver by unethical force-feeding through a corn tube, often to ducks and geese, so that when humans consume it, they are effectively eating the diseased liver of a bird.

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