

COUNCIL MEETING – 26 JUNE 2019
NOTICE OF MOTION

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 53-60

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
137	Councillor M Storey	Councillor Cooke	<p>Motion – “Lift the Ban” campaign- Right to Work</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • since 2002, people seeking asylum have only been able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government’s Shortage Occupation List; • asylum decisions are getting slower with over half (53%) of asylum decisions taking more than 6 months in 2017. This situation is getting worse: it was 41% at the end of 2016 and 20% at the end of 2015. • people seeking asylum are left to live on a government stipend of £5.39 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation; • the UK spends between £70 and £100 million per year housing and supporting asylum seekers who could be working, earning, and fending for themselves; <p>Middlesbrough Council further notes the work of the Lift to Ban Coalition, which includes more than 150 organisations from across the UK who have come together to call on the Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people seeking asylum who are unable to work are unable to properly integrate with their local area, can’t get to know their neighbours, and find it more difficult to learn English; • restrictions on the right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Middlesbrough and the UK; and

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are right to campaign for people seeking asylum to be given the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited 6 months for a decision on their initial asylum claim. <p>Middlesbrough council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> join the Lift to Ban Coalition; and call on the UK Government to support the Campaign to give people seeking asylum the ability to seek work under the conditions outlined above.
138	Councillor Rooney	Councillor Hellaoui	<p><u>Social Rights Motion-</u></p> <p>As a Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UK must take steps to the maximum of its available resources to achieve progressively the realisation of social rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · However, 14 million people, a fifth of the population, live in poverty - four million of them are more than 50% below the poverty line, and 1.5 million are destitute, unable to afford basic essentials. · The UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Philip Alston, visited the UK in November, including the North East. At the end of his mission, Professor Alston concluded: <i>“The costs of austerity have fallen disproportionately upon the poor, women, racial and ethnic minorities, children, single parents, and people with disabilities. The changes to taxes and benefits since 2010 have been highly regressive, and the policies have taken the highest toll on those least able to bear it. The experience of the United Kingdom, especially since 2010, underscores the conclusion that poverty is a political choice.”</i> <p>“It is the opinion of this council that successive governments could have done more to bring socio-economic duty to life.”</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council recognises that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Everyone is entitled to the right to education, adequate housing, healthcare, food, social security and a decent standard of living, and everyone has the right to hold the government and other public authorities to

			<p>account for the decisions that affect them.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· To express support for local campaigns and activities that defend and promote social rights.- That the Chair of the Council write to the Secretary of State/ Prime Minister to convey the feelings of the Full Council which met on 26 June 2019
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