

TABLED ITEM 13

FULL COUNCIL – 24 MARCH 2014

Motion D – Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Proposed: Katherine Reece

Seconded: Richard Wilson

(Delete struck-through words and insert underlined words)

This Council notes that local residents will be concerned to read news stories published by the Haringey Independent and the Morning Star that suggest Labour Councillor Alan Strickland led a Council delegation earlier this month to Cannes in the south of France to meet property developers on board a luxury yacht, and that this trip cost £16,000.

This Council ~~calls on the Chief Financial Officer and the Monitoring Officer to urgently investigate the costs and propriety of making such a trip, to establish:~~

- ~~– which councillors and officers took part in this trip, and how and when the decision to travel to Cannes was made;~~
- ~~– who was aware of this decision and why most councillors only discovered this trip had been made through the news media;~~
- ~~– what were the itemised expenses and total cost of the trip;~~
- ~~– whether the trip was sponsored by private companies who might profit from redevelopment plans, and whether this could result in potential conflicts of interest amongst councillors and officers who took part; and~~
- ~~– the names of the individuals and companies which the delegation met~~

~~This Council further calls on the Chief Council Officer and the Monitoring Officer to publish the findings of their investigation within 1 month of this full council meeting and send copies of their report to all councillors~~

notes the results of the Deputy Monitoring Officer's investigation which was sent to all councillors on 21st March, and which reveals:

- that the cost of the trip was £22,000 rather than the £16,000 claimed in the Council's press release of 12th March;
- that over £3,000 was spent on accommodation and travel for Cllr Strickland and the Director of Regeneration;
- according to Haringey's constitution the decision to spend money on this trip should have been made public and reported at a cabinet meeting, but this did not happen;
- and
- sponsorship was received from five private companies with a commercial interest in Haringey's redevelopment plans, without any particular consideration for potential conflicts of interest

This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to:

- publish the Deputy Monitoring Officer's report on the Council's website;
- ensure all future delegated decisions are properly reported at cabinet according to the constitution, particularly those involving foreign trips;

- increase transparency about the Council's relationship with developers and consultants and other private firms that stand to benefit from regeneration projects, and avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest; and
- commit to ensuring the regeneration of Tottenham benefits ordinary residents rather than just developers and consultants.

Amended motion to read as follows:

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