

6 Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)

(1) EU Citizens and Brexit (Councillor Mike Bell)

“This Council recognises the invaluable contribution of European Union citizens who live and work in North Somerset, many of whom work in jobs that provide vital community services including with the council and our health and emergency services.

Council notes that an estimated 7,000 people from EU countries live in North Somerset and have faced uncertainty as Britain leaves the European Union. Council also notes that some British citizens ordinarily resident in North Somerset currently live or work elsewhere in the EU.

This Council therefore:

1. Pledges to provide relevant support to EU citizens who live or work in North Somerset, during and after the Brexit process;
2. Confirms that it believes that all EU citizens who live in the District should retain their right to vote in and be candidates in local elections;
3. Requests that the Executive explore ways in which the council can best assist EU citizens in North Somerset apply for settled status and British citizenship, as appropriate, particularly in the case of children and young people, families and those in receipt of council care support services;
4. Also requests that the Executive explore ways in which North Somerset residents living or working overseas can be equally supported, as required, through the Brexit process.”

(2) Government Proposals on Non-Hydraulic Fracking as Permitted Development (Councillor Tom Leimdorfer)

“The government has been carrying out consultation on whether to make non-hydraulic fracking (exploratory drilling for fracking) a permitted development and hence not subject to the normal planning process. This has been considered by cross-party bodies such as the Parliamentary Select Committee and the Local Government Association, as well as by a range of non-governmental organisations. The matter is of particular relevance to North Somerset Council, given the Oil and Gas Licensing Blocks ST35 and ST36 include coastal areas from Clevedon to Brean as well as areas along the edges of the AONB (which itself would be excluded from permitted development).

The Motion proposed:

(1) This Council is in agreement with the conclusions of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Communities and Local Government (July 2018) that ‘Shale gas development of any type should not be classed as a permitted development. Given the contentious nature of fracking, local communities should be able to have a say in whether this type of development takes place, particularly as concerns about the construction, locations and cumulative impact of drill pads are yet to be assuaged by the Government’.

(2) The Council is also in agreement with the Local Government Association statement of May 2018: *“We oppose any proposal for shale exploration to be allowed to bypass the locally democratic planning system through permitted development or national planning inspectors. We are clear that it should be up to local communities to decide whether or not to host fracking operations in their areas.”*

(3) This Council affirms that local councils should have a meaningful say in whether projects go ahead, where these could result in significant local impacts such as increased traffic, fields and open spaces being converted to drilling sites. Local councils should retain the right to represent their communities’ needs and wishes. We ask our Chief Executive to convey these views to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.”