

Agenda Item 6

Amendments to Motions

| No. | Document | |
|-----|--|------------------------|
| 1. | Motion 2 Councillor Crooks – 9 January 2025 Lunar New Year | Councillor Muzammil |
| 2. | Motion 3 Councillor Muzammil – 9 January 2025 English Devolution | Councillor Geary |

Notes

Changes to, or withdrawal of amendments must be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 20 January 2025.

Enquiries

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1. Motion 2 – Lunar New Year

Councillor Crooks (9 January 2025)

Councillor Muzammil moves the following amendment:

- “1. This Council - mindful of the Lunar New Year which falls on 29 January - welcomes all our residents who have come to Milton Keynes from Hong Kong, in recent years and salutes the contribution they are already making to our community.
2. We welcome too our residents of Vietnamese, **Taiwanese, Mongolian, Singaporean**, Japanese heritage, ~~and~~ from mainland China **and other East Asian communities** , who will also be celebrating the Lunar New Year. The presence of so many different cultures in Milton Keynes is one of the features that makes our city so exciting and enriching a place to live in.
3. **In recognition of the diverse culture of our City**, we call on this Council to use the appropriate communications channels to honour the Lunar New Year and **celebrate all significant cultural and religious celebrations of our residents.”** ~~and raise awareness of the celebration.”~~

2. Motion 3 – English Devolution

Councillor Muzammil (9 January 2025)

Councillor Geary moves the following amendment:

1. That this Council notes
 - a) The Government white paper on English devolution was published on 16th December 2024
 - b) That the Leader of the Council has been in discussions with members of the South Midlands Authorities Board (Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton Borough, West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire) about forming a Mayoral Strategic Authority.
 - c) That the Government has invited the proposed South Midlands area to join the Devolution Priority Programme with the intention to establish a Mayoral Strategic Authority with a Mayoral election in 2026.
 - d) That all South Midlands authorities, including this Council, were required to notify the Government by the 10th of January if they are minded to agree to establishing a Mayoral Strategic Authority.
 - e) That the Labour Government's proposed scale for Mayoral Strategic Authorities requires a combined population of 1.5 million or more, whereas the BLMK proposal only accounts for a combined population of 0.991 million.
 - f) That, unlike many of our neighbouring authorities in the proposed area, this Council did not consider holding a special meeting to discuss the proposal.
 - g) That the Leader of the Council's decision to exclude the West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire authorities from forming a combined authority with BLMK has caused lasting damage to relationships with these neighbouring authorities.
2. That this Council agrees:
 - a) With the principle of Devolution and the benefits of bringing decision making to a local forum.
 - b) That an elected Mayor is the most appropriate governance of this proposed authority
 - c) the only criteria for deciding the makeup of any proposed authority should be what would be in the best interests of Milton Keynes, not what would be in the best interests of any one political party or any individual.

3. That this Council acknowledges:
 - a) That failing to meet the population threshold mandated by the Labour Government for Mayoral Strategic Authorities fundamentally risks this region's participation in the Devolution Priority Programme, thereby endangering access to significant potential investment and opportunities for economic growth.

4. That this Council requests:
 - a) The Leader to bring any further decisions and updates on the progress of the proposed Mayoral Strategic Authority to Full Council.
 - b) The Leader to confirm that this Council would not support and would actively challenge any proposals that do not include a directly elected Mayor.