

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 4 in the name of Councillor Stephen Penfold to be seconded by Councillor Octavia Holland	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: October 3 2018

People's Vote

This Council notes that:

It is now two years since the Brexit vote and the Government still has no satisfactory Brexit plan. The Government seems paralysed between the position of the EU, "Remain" MP's and "Hard Brexit" MP's. Since the June 2016 Referendum ("the Referendum") we have gone from the top of the G7 for economic growth to the bottom.

The Labour Party in Lewisham, and our current mayor, campaigned extensively for Remain locally during the Referendum campaign.

Whilst the UK narrowly voted to leave the EU in the Referendum, approximately 70% of voters in the London Borough of Lewisham voted to remain.

This Council believes:

If the UK leaves the European Union, our country will be permanently poorer, have diminished influence in the world and the greatest burden will fall on the poorest and youngest in society.

For communities up and down the country, jobs and businesses are under threat and it is absolutely right for local authorities to be making a stand on their behalf

Any form of Brexit will damage the NHS; the Nuffield Trust projects the economic impact will translate into an annual £2.4bn shortfall in funding, but the economic impact is not the only area on which we need to be focusing.

Since the referendum there has been a marked increase in hostile behaviour towards immigrants and an unpleasant and dangerous increase in nationalism and xenophobic attitudes in this country.

That Councils already struggling as a result of the "austerity" policies of this government and the constituents they represent, will be hit hardest by the detrimental economic effects of Brexit.

The terms of Brexit were not clear in the 2016 referendum, and we have seen no meaningful progress.

Further, the only way for the current impasse in which the government finds itself to be resolved is by a referendum.

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Government urging it to put the terms of any Brexit deal to the people of the UK by way of a referendum with an option to remain full members of the EU.

The Council notes that Lewisham Labour Group will:

- In the event of a referendum being called it will campaign for a “Remain” vote and will write to the Labour Party NEC asking that the Labour Party nationally campaign for a “Remain” vote.