

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 30 MARCH 2021

REPORT OF: COUNTY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: REFERRAL OF COUNTY COUNCIL MOTION (16 MARCH 2021)



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SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

At the County Council meeting on 16 March 2021, Mr Chris Botten moved a motion under Standing Order 11.

Under Standing Order 12.3 the Leader of the Council, Mr Tim Oliver, moved a proposal that the motion be referred to the Cabinet for more detailed consideration. Mr Chris Botten agreed to the referral of the motion.

The proposal to refer the motion was put to the vote and received unanimous support.

RESOLVED:

That the motion be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

MOTION DETAIL:

This Council notes that:

The economy of Surrey relies significantly on workers from the European Union (EU) in the care and health sectors, in construction and hospitality and other areas vital to our communities.

EU nationals from the 27 EU member states are part of our shared communities alongside United Kingdom (UK) citizens. They are our husbands, wives, partners, parents, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

This Council further notes that:

Since 2016 EU nationals have been promised again and again that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and [they...] will be treated no less favourably than they are at present".

Home Office figures (as of Dec 2020) reveal that 4,800 people in Surrey are still waiting for a decision on their Settled Status application.

27,320 people in Surrey have only been granted temporary 'Pre-Settled Status'. That means a total of 32,120 applicants in Surrey have still not been given the permanent right to stay.

The Council resolves to:

- I. Recognise the valuable contribution EU citizens make to Surrey, acknowledging that they are an integral part of our community and without them the Council would struggle to deliver its services.
- II. Write to the Home Office and Surrey's Members of Parliament urging them to grant EU citizens living locally the automatic right to stay in the UK.

NEXT STEPS:

Mr Chris Botten will be invited to present his motion at the 30 March Cabinet meeting.

Contact Officer:

Huma Younis, Committee Manager, huma.younis@surreycc.gov.uk
