

Subject: Motion

Report to: London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 25 May 2016

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Assembly is asked to consider the motion set out which has been submitted by an Assembly Member.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Assembly considers the motion submitted by an Assembly Member as set out below.**

3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **David Kurten AM** and will be seconded by Peter Whittle AM:

"This Assembly supports the United Kingdom leaving the European Union and re-establishing itself as an independent sovereign nation.

This Assembly notes the advantages of leaving the European Union in the following areas:

Sovereignty: EU citizens and businesses are required to obey more than 1,800 directives, 11,500 regulations and 62,000 standardsⁱ over which there is no democratic control. Leaving the EU will free British citizens from the power of the European Commission and the Council of Ministers who have no democratic mandate from the people of London or the United Kingdom.

Cost: The net amount the UK pays to be a member of the EU fluctuates from year to year but the trend is increasing. In 2015, the net payment was £8,500,000,000 per yearⁱⁱ.

Regulations: The top 100 EU regulations are estimated to cost business in the UK over £33,000,000,000 per yearⁱⁱⁱ. London based sugar manufacturer Tate and Lyle is an example of a London based company which has been forced to cut production and jobs due to EU tariffs^{iv}. Leaving the EU will free London based businesses from EU regulations and tariffs and better allow them to prosper.

Trade: Leaving the European Union will allow the UK to negotiate its own bespoke trade deals with the booming countries of Asia, the Commonwealth and elsewhere, directly benefitting London businesses, while the percentage of UK trade with the EU as a percentage of GDP declines year on year^v.

Security: Controlling Britain's borders and the ability to refuse entry to European nationals with a criminal record will increase security and reduce crime in London and the United Kingdom.

Public services: The automatic right of EU nationals to work in the UK is leading to unprecedented and unsustainable pressure on housing, transport, schools and health services in London. The population of London is growing by over 100,000 people per year. At least 50,000 homes per year are needed in London to cope with this rise, but it is unlikely that this will be achieved in the near or medium term future. Leaving the EU will reduce immigration which will reduce the pressure on housing and public services.

Wages: Membership of the EU and the free movement of labour suppresses and compresses wages. This particularly hurts the lowest paid British workers the hardest. Leaving the EU will reduce immigration, which will in turn reduce the pressure of wage compression on Londoners. The governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, has stated that wage growth has been subdued in recent years due to the increased size of the workforce^{vi} and Stuart Rose, the leader of the campaign to stay in the EU, has stated that if the UK leaves the EU then wages would increase^{vii}.

List of appendices to this report: None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: None.

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ⁱ <http://en.euabc.com/word/2152>

ⁱⁱ <https://fullfact.org/europe/our-eu-membership-fee-55-million/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://openeurope.org.uk/intelligence/britain-and-the-eu/top-100-eu-rules-cost-britain-33-3bn/>

^{iv} <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/retailandconsumer/11654668/Tate-and-Lyle-Sugars-Wed-be-better-off-outside-the-EU-unless-Cameron-secures-major-reforms.html>

^v <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3439693/Britain-s-trade-EU-slumps-Major-boost-Leave-campaign-exports-outside-Europe-continue-soar.html>

^{vi} <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3079786/Gloomy-Bank-England-downgrades-growth-forecast-Carney-signals-rates-rise-year.html>

^{vii} <http://www.cityam.com/235892/eu-referendum-wages-would-rise-in-the-event-of-a-brexite-lord-rose-admits-during-heated-exchange-with-andrew-tyries-treasury-select-committee>