

TITLE	Council Motions
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 20 September 2021
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Graham Ebers, Deputy Chief Executive

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Motions debated at full Council meetings are an important part of the democratic process. It is important that agreed Motions are fully implemented and that residents and Members are appraised of any outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) scrutinise the current process for implementing and reporting back on Motions agreed by full Council;
- 2) consider an annual feedback report giving details of Motions agreed by Council in the preceding year together with any outcomes and any issues arising;
- 3) consider any further ideas to improve the current process for implementing and reporting back on Council Motions.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Members are entitled to submit Motions to Council meetings in line with Section 4 of the Constitution. Motions on Notice must relate to matters for which the Council has responsibility or which affect the Borough. Members are also able to move Motions without Notice at the meeting on procedural issues.

Motions agreed by the Council are submitted to the relevant department for implementation. At present there is no “feedback loop” process whereby Members and residents are appraised of the implementation of Motions and any outcomes for the Borough.

The report considers potential mechanisms to ensure that this feedback loop is in place and that Members and residents are provided with appropriate feedback.

Appended to the report (Annex A) is a list of Motions approved by the Council over the past three years. Members are invited to highlight specific Motions for further investigation and feedback on implementation and outcomes for the Borough.

Background

Members are entitled to submit Motions to Council meetings and to raise procedural Motions at the meetings in line with Section 4 of the Constitution.

Motions with Notice – a Member may submit a Motion (a formal proposal suggesting a particular course of action) providing it is submitted seven working days before the meeting. These Motions are listed on the Council Agenda in the order they are received. Once a Motion is moved and seconded at the meeting it may be the subject of amendment. If an amendment is carried, the substantive Motion is then put to the vote.

Motions agreed by the Council are submitted to the relevant department for implementation. At present there is no “feedback loop” process whereby Members and residents are appraised of the implementation of Motions and any outcomes for the Council and the Borough.

Appended to the report (Annex A) is a list of Motions approved by the Council over the past three years. Members may wish to highlight specific Motions on the list for further investigation and feedback on implementation and outcomes.

Looking forwards, the Committee may wish to consider an annual report on Motions as part of its work programme, setting out the Motions agreed by Council in the previous year together with details of implementation by officers and any issues arising.

Members may have other ideas for consideration in relation to developing the feedback loop referred to in the report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the Covid-19 crisis. It is, therefore, imperative that Council resources are focussed on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	0	NA	NA
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	0	NA	NA
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	0	NA	NA

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications

Effective Overview and Scrutiny helps to drive service improvement, policy development and the achievement of value for money for the Borough's residents. Implementation of agreed Motions is an important aspect of the decision-making process.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Due regard has been given to Council's Public Sector Equality Duty. A number of the submitted Motions aimed to achieve better/fairer outcomes and increased value for money for residents.

Climate Emergency – The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030

A number of the approved Motions had positive implications for carbon reduction and improved health outcomes for residents.

List of Background Papers

None

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MOTIONS AGREED BY COUNCIL 2018/21

Date	Submitted by	Subject of Motion
20.09.18	Pauline Jorgensen	Successful operation of a public transport system in our area requires co-ordination between neighbouring authorities
22.11.18	Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey	Sprinklers in schools
22.11.18	Gary Cowan	Council to evaluate existing policies on trees to ensure that they are fully open and transparent
22.11.18	Rachel Burgess	Post Office franchise to WH Smith
18.07.19	Sarah Kerr	Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010
18.07.19	John Halsall	Declaration of a Climate Emergency
18.07.19	Wayne Smith	Housing Needs
18.07.19	Keith Baker	Anti-semitic sentiments
19.09.19	Paul Fishwick	Introduction of Low Emissions Transport Strategy
23.07.20	Clive Jones	Political leadership to challenge Government targets for increased housing in the Borough
23.07.20	Gregor Murray	Single use plastics to be eliminated from all Council operations
23.07.20	Sarah Kerr	Measures to reduce air pollution
17.09.20	Rachel Burgess	Adoption of the Council Tax Protocol agreed by Citizens Advice and the LGA during 2020/21
17.09.20	Rachel Bishop-Firth	Publish a review of Council plans to mitigate the effects of Brexit on local EU National residents
17.09.20	Pauline Helliar-Symons	Extension of existing sprinkler policy centred on WBC schools