

TITLE	Council Motions
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 17 March 2022
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 progress and outcomes for residents.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) scrutinise progress against the Council Motions agreed over the past three years, as set out in Annex A;
- 2) note that an annual feedback report on Motions will be submitted to the Committee in November each year;
- 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. Until now, there has been no “feedback loop” process whereby Members and residents are appraised of the implementation of Motions and any outcomes for the Borough.

Appended to the report (Annex A) is a list of Motions approved by the Council over the past three years (2019-22). Annex B sets out the full wording of each of the approved Motions.

Members are invited to consider progress against the Motions and to consider any ideas for improving the process for reporting to Members and residents.

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. Until now, there has been 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 for discussion and comment. Annex B sets out the full wording for each of the Motions.

Looking forwards, an annual update report on Motions will be submitted to the November meeting of the Committee each year, 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.

Discussions are ongoing about including details of approved Motions on the Council's website.

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.
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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.
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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

Report to O&S Management Committee – September 2021

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