

**MOTION TO WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

One of the truest statements made by any Prime Minister is ‘there is no such thing as public money, only taxpayer’s money’. The members of Worthing Borough Council believe in the fullest possible transparency in all uses of taxpayer’s money. It is morally unethical, poor practice and indefensible to allow “gagging orders” or confidentiality clauses to be used to conceal facts or restrict transparency when any public body is settling legal disputes with third party contractors that involve public or taxpayer monies. In such circumstances, we believe that the people who are paying the bills have every right to know how much they have to pay and the reason they have to pay it.

The Council moves that in any future legal dispute with a third party contractor, involving taxpayers’ money, the acceptance of any “gagging orders” or confidentiality clauses will not be tolerated and all members and officers involved with the dispute are instructed that this council will not accept a “gagging order” as part of any such settlement.

Proposed by Councillor Tom Wye MBE

Seconded by Councillor Daniel Humphreys