



Council
20 July 2021
Agenda Item 12

WORTHING BOROUGH C O U N C I L

Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice

Report by the Interim Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Sean McDonald.
- 1.2. Council is asked to deal with the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (under part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Council is asked to determine the motion as set out in Annex A to this report.

3. Context

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Sean McDonald, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which affects the Borough.
- 3.3 There is nothing substantive within the motion that would cause its rejection under the terms of the Constitution.
- 3.4 The motion before Council is declaratory in nature, as defined in para 14.4.4 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it may be considered and debated by the Full Council without being automatically referred to a future meeting of Full Council, as defined in para 14.4.5 of the Council's Procedure Rules, or, being referred to the Executive or Committee without debate, as defined in paragraphs 14.4.1, 14.4.2 and 14.4.3 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules and are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council procedure rules and the Council is asked to debate the motion under these rules accordingly.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The motion is declaratory in nature and therefore there are no direct financial implications.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 As the motion is declaratory in nature, there are no direct legal implications arising from it.

Background Papers

None.

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Annex A

Motion to Council

"In recent weeks and months local residents and council taxpayers in Worthing and across Sussex have been inconvenienced by a number of unauthorised encampments on public land. Such incursions have resulted in considerable and unjustifiable expense for clearing up sites and making repairs to public property. Worthing Borough Council and Sussex Police have reacted quickly in each case and are to be applauded for their efforts. However their legal powers to deal with these cases in a more timely manner are currently limited.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill that is being taken through Parliament by the Home Secretary includes changes to the law that will make such acts of trespass a criminal offence and give police powers to seize vehicles for example to help pay for the damage and mess caused, which otherwise fall on the law-abiding local taxpayers who are fed up of this abuse.

Residents can be assured that this council will continue to play its part in seeking to deter these types of unauthorised encampments and by supporting communities where this disruption does occur.

This council fully supports this new Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and applauds The Home Secretary for bringing the Bill forward."

Proposed by Cllr Sean McDonald