



WORTHING BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Council
13 December 2022

Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice

Report by the Director for Communities

Officer Contact Details:-

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Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Kevin Jenkins which has been seconded by Councillor Russ Cochran.
- 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 Kevin Jenkins, (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 specifically affects the Borough.
- 3.3 There is nothing substantive within the motion that would cause its rejection under the terms of the Constitution.

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. The Council is asked to debate and determine the motion under these rules accordingly.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The financial impact of the motion will depend on the outcome of the review. If, as a result of any change, an additional meeting is required then this will result in minor additional costs such as members expenses and refreshments. However, these costs are likely to be minor and can be absorbed within the current budget for meetings.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Rules concerning motions are set out in the Council's Constitution under paragraph 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

Background Papers

None.

Motion on Notice

Full Council meetings are an integral part of the public's right of access to its council and provide an open and transparent process whereby the council, its officers and elected councillors can be held accountable for its decisions.

This council has recently introduced a new constitution, one of the inadvertent effects of that introduction is that it now requires that the Full Council meeting in February 2023 and for any Budget meeting thereafter, is set aside solely for the purposes of Council Budget setting.

Under the budget setting procedure rules it states:

7.3 The agenda for the Budget Setting Council Meeting will be limited to the following substantive items:

- (a) Consideration of the Leader's recommendations for the Budget, Capital Programme, Borrowing Policy, Council Tax, and the limits defining key financial decisions
- (b) Other items the Chair agrees be taken as urgent.

This means that no public or members questions can be asked of the council at this meeting and this means that the Leader of the Council or Cabinet members of the administration cannot be asked questions or held accountable for their decision making.

This has the effect of this council being unaccountable between its meeting in December 2022 until April 2023, a period of 4 months or one third of the municipal year.

Democracy, transparency, scrutiny and holding elected members to account should not be sacrificed on the basis of procedural expediency.

This group calls on all elected members of Worthing Borough Council to support and pass a motion today requesting that the proposed Schedule of Meetings for 2023/2024 onwards, to be approved at Full Council, takes into account the new Budget Procedure Rules and provides that Council meetings are scheduled in such a way so as to avoid a gap in the Schedule between December and April.

**Proposer Councillor Kevin Jenkins - Leader of the Conservative group
Secunder - Cllr Russ Cochran**