



ORDINARY COUNCIL

13th DECEMBER 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Notices of Motion
REPORT OF:	Claire Mayhew – Joint Acting Up Director of People & Governance & Monitoring Officer

REPORT SUMMARY

Any one or more Members of the Council may, by notice received by the Monitoring Officer no later than 10.00 am eleven working days before the day of the Council meeting, require the Council to consider a motion about a matter relating to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Council's area. A notice of motion may be accompanied by a statement of not more than 200 words setting out the reason for the proposed motion.

The Monitoring Officer shall include all notices of motion and accompanying statements in the agenda for the next relevant meeting of Council in the order received.

Three Notices of Motion has been submitted in accordance with Rule 3 in Part 4.1 of the Constitution - Council Procedure Rules and are listed in order of the date received.

Motion 1 – Received 27th November 2023 @ 05:05

Mover: Cllr White

Seconder: Cllr Slade

TRANSPARENCY

Council workers deliver services to the public using tax payers' money, and as such the council expects these staff to exhibit exemplary standards of behaviour. They should behave with integrity and demonstrate an honest, open and transparent attitude to their work.

The Principles of Public Life apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the Civil Service, local government and a range of other public bodies and services.

A 2019 Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life 'Local Government Ethical Standards' "...identified a number of risks in the sector: the current rules

around conflicts of interest, gifts, and hospitality are inadequate; and the increased complexity of local government decision-making is putting governance under strain.”

This motion seeks to identify best practice in Local Government transparency, in particular for Senior staff with formal delegated decision-making powers, or those staff appointed as Directors of organisations on the Councils behalf – and requires the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to work with the administration and political groups to propose a suitable register of interests for senior staff.

This Council Notes:

1. The Principles of Public Life apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in local government;
2. Of these, the principal of Openness is that: Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing;
3. There is considerable variation in the codes of conduct of Local authorities;
4. Bodies such as the GLA have a registration of interests in a common format for Members and Senior Staff, which reflects the standard template used across the GLA Group;
5. The Local Authority’s constitution and its governance / financial framework vests a number of senior staff with delegated authority or roles where they ‘act as a director in a company that the Council owns or has shares in.

This Council Resolves:

1. That the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer work with the Chair of Audit and Scrutiny, and Leaders of each Political Group to review the Council’s codes of Ethics & Standards for staff and compare these to best practice in the UK.
2. That the review should consider any relevant advice, guidance and reports from: the LGA, the Committee on Standards in Public Life, obligations and statutory duties on local government officers, the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (the Green Book) and the Constitution Salaries Conditions of Service (Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities) and other sources as may be considered relevant.
3. The review include the development of an appropriate register of interests (e.g. all directorships for senior staff) for senior staff.
4. Officers should report back to the next full council on the development of updated staff codes and the register of interests.

Motion 2 – Received 27th November 2023 @ 08:24

Mover: Cllr Barber

Seconded: Cllr Wagland

Street Cleaning is a key council service and is much valued by Brentwood Residents.

This year large areas of roads, footpaths and bus-stops across our Borough have become covered in an unacceptable level of leaves and other mess. This build-up presents a real danger to pedestrians, particularly the elderly and vulnerable in the winter months when the leaves become wet and slippery at bus stops and road crossing places. This material also blocks the road gullies which leads to increased local flooding.

Many council vehicles already have GPS trackers fitted and making this information publicly available would provide greater transparency to our residents. At present they have no information about the routes and frequency of any sweepers that do go out across the Borough.

Motion:

This Council believes:

1. Brentwood residents and businesses are entitled to have roads and footpaths free from unacceptable levels of such leaf fall and other rubbish.
2. The current state of many roads, footpaths and bus-stops in the Borough is unacceptable and requires urgent addressing.
3. Brentwood residents are entitled to know how often their roads and footpaths are being cleaned. Such transparency and public scrutiny will lead to an improved service quality over time.

The Council therefore resolves:

To require council officers to bring back the following to the Clean & Green Committee:

1. An action plan to clear the current backlog and improve the quality of the street cleaning service going forward.
2. Costs and feasibility of providing a publicly available street sweeper tracking system via the council's website.

Motion 3 – Received 27th November 2023 @ 09:21

Mover: Cllr Russell

Seconded: Cllr White

This council firmly believes that immediate action is necessary to tackle the declining condition of street cleanliness in our Borough. This Council will resolve to deploy

resources and assume its responsibility to effectively address the prevalent problems of overflowing bins, litter and debris, fly tipping, and pavement parking that greatly affect our high streets and villages