

## Motions from Ordinary Council June 2023 – December 2023

No	Date	Motions	Mover	Seconder	RAG	Comments
1	21.6.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Chairs Reports and Questions’ at Ordinary Council should provide democratic accountability of its leadership.</li> <li>• Recently, Leaders have chaired PRED committees, allowing a very broad range of questions to be put to them. This may not be the case when a Leader chairs a Policy Committee with a more focused remit, or none at all.</li> <li>• This motion therefore calls for immediate amendment to Procedural Rule 7.2 that limits the scope of questions to (and omits specific inclusion of) the Council Leader.</li> </ul> <p>This council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Require the council’s leader to be fully involvement in chairs questions sessions across all areas of Council activity to promote public trust, encourage robust discussions, and enable greater scrutiny of actions and policies;</li> <li>2. Introduce with immediate effect changes to fully include the Council Leader in Ordinary Council’s ‘Chairs Report and Questions’ session (to be renamed Leaders and Chairs’ Report and Questions) to cover “all areas of</li> </ol>	Cllr White	Cllr Bridge		<p>Following a motion at Ordinary Council on 21 June 2023, a report by the CWG was taken to Ordinary Council on Sept 2023.</p> <p>Cllr Laplain <b>MOVED</b> and Cllr White <b>SECONDED</b> the recommendations in the report. A vote was taken and it was <b>RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY</b></p> <p>R1 To adopt the Leader’s Report under the chapter 4 paragraph 7, 1-3 to form part of the Chair’s Reports and Questions within the Constitution.</p> <p>R2 The Monitoring Officer to make the change required to the Constitution with immediate effect.</p>

		<p>Council responsibility within the council's area";</p> <p>3. Request the monitoring officer, in liaison with the Constitution Working Group, to bring forward to the next Ordinary Council the necessary changes Procedural Rule 7 (Chair Report and Questions) to give effect to this change.</p> <p>Cllr Mynott <b>MOVED</b> an <b>AMENDMENT</b> to move this motion to the Constitutional Working Group and <b>SECONDED</b> by Cllr Dr Barrett.</p> <p>The <b>AMENDED</b> motion was <b>CARRIED</b>. And should be noted that the report on this referral to the CWG will be brought back to the next meeting of Council as is appropriate constitutionally.</p>				
2	21.6.2023	<p>Essex County Council introduced a policy of residents having to book to use the Recycling Centres in the Borough of Brentwood and across Essex in March 2023. Since then, a continued escalation in fly-tipping has been observed. Many residents have been turned away from the Recycling Centres if they have not made an appointment. Residents have also not been able to book appointments on the same day, and there have been limited options for multiple trips.</p>	Cllr Kendall	Cllr Naylor		<p>Communication has been sent by the Leader of the Council, to the appropriate Cabinet Member of Essex County Council, Cllr Schwier, regarding the booking trial that is being undertaken at the Recycling Centres across Essex. The communication outlined the concerns of this council, its impact upon residents, and asked for the</p>

		<p>Brentwood Borough Council is financially responsible for clearing fly-tips on public land, and it is therefore impacting the Council's financial position. Whilst Essex County Council might be making savings, they come at a greater cost to Brentwood Council taxpayers, given that clean up costs are higher than the costs of legitimate waste disposal.</p> <p>Brentwood Borough Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Call upon the Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling at Essex County Council to reverse the decision that forces residents to book appointments when visiting Recycling Centres. The response to this request to be shared with Ordinary Council.</li><li>2. Call upon the officers to write to Essex County Council expressing this Council's opposition to the "booking" policy and asking for an urgent meeting between the Chair of the Clean &amp; Green Committee and the Cabinet Member to discuss our concerns. The outcome of this meeting to be reported back to Ordinary Council.</li><li>3. Ask the Audit &amp; Scrutiny Committee to open an investigation into this policy, it's impact on the number of fly-tips, the County Council's justification for this policy and the costs incurred to Brentwood taxpayers. The result of this investigation to be reported back to Ordinary Council.</li></ol>				<p>Cabinet Member to consider the reversal of the decision before the pilot scheme is finalised. Further, a request to the Cabinet Member to meet and discuss with the Leader was made. At the time of writing, a holding reply has been received from Cllr Schwier.</p> <p>A report is to be present to the Audit &amp; Scrutiny Committee, 20<sup>th</sup> March</p>
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		The motion was <b>CARRIED</b> .				
3	21.6.2023	<p>This council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brentwood operates a much valued weekly black bag service for residents' residual waste and this helps to maintain cleanliness and hygiene across our local community.</li> <li>• Weekly black bag collection ensures that residual waste is properly disposed of, reduces risk to health and environmental hazards from prolonged retention - including vermin and unpleasant odours.</li> <li>• Many residents lack the necessary physical space in their properties that would be required to store black bags securely for longer.</li> <li>• Any change to the frequency of residual waste collection has the potential to lead to increased instances of fly-tipping and vermin.</li> <li>• The council has a strong record of promoting and supporting recycling across the Borough to help reduce landfill.</li> </ul> <p>This council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reaffirm its commitment to providing a high-quality waste disposal service that meets the needs and expectations of residents;</li> <li>• not make any significant change to the expenditure on black bag collections and maintain the current weekly collection service for residual waste;</li> </ul>	Cllr Barber	Cllr Russell		<p>Council budget for 24/25 reaffirms no planned change to the black sack collection service.</p> <p>Current Waste Strategy Working Group are reviewing the waste &amp; recycling collection service.</p> <p>Report presented to Clean &amp; Green Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – outlining potential options to be modelled.</p> <p>Further Working Group scheduled for April, with a further report to follow to the next available Clean &amp; Green Committee.</p>

- request that officers investigate opportunities to encourage further waste reduction and promote recycling which do not compromise the frequency of black bag collections

Cllr Dr Barrett **MOVED** an **AMENDMENT** and Cllr Aspinell **SECONDED** it to the following:

*This council resolves to:*

- 1. Affirm the Administration's commitment to providing a high-quality waste disposal service that meets the needs and expectations of its residents;*
- 2. Commit to maintaining Brentwood's weekly black bag and food waste collection throughout the 2023/24 year and in the 2024/25 budget process;*
- 3. Request that officers investigate opportunities to encourage further waste reduction and promote recycling which do not compromise the frequency of black bag and food waste collections, and bring a report on this topic to a future meeting of the Clean and Green Committee.*

This amendment was accepted by the original mover Cllr Barber.

		The amended motion was <b>CARRIED</b> .				
4	27.9.2023	<p>Brentwood High Street was redeveloped into its current form over a decade ago, at a cost of over fourteen million pounds, and considerable negative impact on local businesses during the implementation of the works.</p> <p>Currently large areas of paving slabs on the High Street are broken, dislodged sunken or move. The Road condition also suffers from major dips and sunken sections.</p> <p>Brentwood Access Group has consistently raised concerns over the state of the High Street and its impact on local residents. Residents, businesses and Councillors have also raised numerous issues regarding the state of repair of the High Street both directly and indirectly with appropriate stakeholders.</p> <p>Motion: This Council believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brentwood residents and businesses deserve a High Street environment that is in good order and a beacon for the Borough.</li> <li>- The current state of Brentwood High Street is unacceptable and is causing a direct negative impact on both resident enjoyment</li> </ul>	Cllr Dr T Barrett	Cllr Apsinell		<p>The Leader has passed this matter to the Head of Highways at ECC for an Audit. Still waiting on a response from County on this matter.</p> <p>There have been some minor repairs to the pavement slabs and has also spoken to SEPP regarding implementation of Red Route.</p>

		<p>and economic development of our main retail area.</p> <p>The Council resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To demand Essex County Council, as the Highway Authority, acts on their responsibility to maintain Brentwood High Street to a good standard.</li><li>- That it will request Essex County Council completes a full audit of the high street and within three months produce a schedule of repairs to be made publicly available.</li><li>- That Brentwood Borough Council will provide all appropriate assistance necessary to deliver this audit and any repairs programme.</li><li>- That we will work with SEPP on any element that requires changes to parking, waiting areas or enforcement activity to assist in this programme of repairs.</li></ul> <p>An AMENDMENT to the motion was MOVED by Councillor White and SECONDED by Councillor Hirst:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To work with all relevant bodies such as Essex County Council, Brentwood Bid, SEPP, bus companies, retailers and our own</li></ul>				
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		<p>environment and enforcement teams to improve Brentwood High Street.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To work with Essex County Council, as the Highway Authority, to ensure it acts on its responsibility to maintain Brentwood High Street to a good standard.</li><li>- To complete a full audit of the high street and submit this to Essex CC within three months to assist it in production of a schedule of repairs to be made publicly available.</li><li>- That Brentwood Borough Council will provide all appropriate assistance necessary to deliver this audit and any repairs programme.</li><li>- That we will work with SEPP on any element that requires changes to parking, waiting areas or enforcement activity to assist in this programme of repairs.</li></ul> <p>The original mover and seconder did not accept the full amendment but did accept to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>To work with all relevant bodies such as Essex County Council, Brentwood Bid, SEPP, bus companies, retailers, Pubwatch and our own environment and enforcement teams to improve Brentwood High Street.</i></li></ul> <p>The mover and seconder of the amendment withdrew all other amendments.</p>				
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		<p>The substantive motion with an inclusion of:  - <i>To work with all relevant bodies such as Essex County Council, Brentwood Bid, SEPP, bus companies, retailers, Pubwatch and our own environment and enforcement teams to improve Brentwood High Street.</i>  was CARRIED.</p> <p><i>(Cllr Aspinell declared an interest as an Essex County Councillor)</i></p>				
5	27.9.2023	<p>The situation regarding pigeon droppings under the Shenfield Railway Bridge has deteriorated badly over the summer months and has become totally unacceptable. Such waste material contains harmful fungal spores which can lead to respiratory disease.</p> <p>Effective measures such as erecting wire and fencing, use of a falcon or deployment of sound devices can all help to provide a solution.</p> <p>It is the council's view that the health risks to members of the public from the current unhygienic situation cannot be allowed to persist.</p> <p>This Council resolves to :</p> <p>i) Deploy the necessary resources to treat the affected area to effect a deep clean and maintain a</p>	Cllr Heard	Cllr Barber		<p>Previously, the Route Engineer for Network Rail prepared a remit for repair works to the existing proofing over the footways, to mitigate the present issues with pigeon ingress within the proofing. Separately from this, Network Rail also issued an estimate to Essex County Council for Network Rail to proof over the carriageway at ECC's expense. Since both sets of works would involve a possession of the railway line (i.e. closure to rail traffic) and a road closure which Network Rail would seek to undertake simultaneously. The value of the estimate sent to Essex County Council</p>

		<p>regular cleaning regime until adequate measures are taken to deter the pigeons from the area.</p> <p>ii) Arrange an urgent meeting with Network Rail and the relevant Borough Council officers to secure delivery of the necessary work to both the Bridge and the Railway Station roof to deter pigeons from nesting.</p> <p>iii) Bring back a report to the Clean and Green Committee with the details of steps taken and progress made.</p> <p>An <b>AMENDMENT</b> was <b>MOVED</b> by Councillor Worsfold and <b>SECONDED</b> by Cllr N Cuthbert:</p> <p>In 1st line after “Shenfield Railway Bridges” (add an s) insert “and the two railways bridges that cross Alexander Lane”</p> <p>New third paragraph: “We are very disappointed that Network Rail has still not produced a plan or estimate for replacing the netting under the Hutton Road bridges a year after undertaking to do so. We are also frustrated at the lack of response from Greater Anglia about the need to deal with the pigeons nesting around the station</p>				<p>for extending proofing over the carriageway areas at Hutton Road is £178,692.44. This quote was sent to the previous Cabinet Member of Highways - Essex County Council, Cllr Lee Scott, however, a response was never received. A meeting with the current Cabinet Member, Cllr Cunningham, was arranged by the Leader to discuss a number of highways issues, including the matter of pigeon ingress.</p> <p>Further to the meeting, as requested by Cllr Cunningham, the email was forwarded by Network Rail to Cllr Cunningham outlining the costs. A further reminder has now been sent by the Council Officers. At the time of writing, a holding reply has been received from Cllr Cunningham.</p> <p>Once a reply has been received we will be in apposition to understand</p>
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		<p>building despite several approaches by ward councillors.”</p> <p>In point 1 i) amend “area” to “areas”</p> <p>Replace point 2 ii) with: “Arrange an urgent meeting with Network Rail, Greater Anglia, Essex County Council and the relevant Borough Council officers to secure delivery of the necessary work to all four bridges and the railway station roof to deter pigeons from nesting.”</p> <p>This amendment was accepted by the original mover and seconder subject to a change in:  Replace point 2 ii) with: “Arrange an urgent meeting with Network Rail, Greater Anglia, Essex County Council <del>and the relevant Borough Council officers</del> <i>and any other organisations</i> to secure delivery of the necessary work to all four bridges and the railway station roof to deter pigeons from nesting.”</p> <p>The amended motion was <b>CARRIED</b>.</p>				whether Essex can assist in its progression.
6	27.9.2023	This Council recognises the critical importance of a healthy natural environment to the overall wellbeing and quality of life of our residents, and the pressing need to protect nature.	Cllr White	Cllr Hirst		With regards to Biodiversity Net Gain any uplift from the statutory minimum of 10% will need to be evidenced including as to local need for

		<p>The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic lockdowns raised awareness of how human health and wellbeing is intrinsically linked to the health of the natural environment. Use of parks and public green space, such as woodland, increased as people sought solace, exercise and recreation in nature.</p> <p>Considering the responsibility this Council has for the management of local parks, local planning policies and land it owns, this Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a climate and nature advisory committee to guide Members and council officers.</li> <li>2. Include ecological impact assessments alongside climate and sustainability considerations in all committee and council reports.</li> <li>3. Work towards making nature recovery a top strategic priority in planning policies and design guidelines for new developments. This includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identifying suitable areas for habitat restoration, establishing 'green allocated sites' and embedding Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) in local plans and policies.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>				<p>a higher percentage, local opportunities for a higher percentage and any impacts on viability for development. If evidence does justify this there will also need to be consideration given to how the policy will be implemented e.g. Local Plan Review. This approach is prescribed within National Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>Establish a climate and nature advisory committee – This is become a standing agenda on the Climate Emergency Committee.</p> <p>Include ecological impact assessments alongside climate and sustainability considerations in all committee and council reports – this will form part of the could this be part of the current climate/environment impacts. A scoring system will be developed.</p> <p>With regards to requiring new developments to commit to a</p>
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		<p>b. Promoting Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), extending the minimum requirement from 10% to 20%.</p> <p>c. Minimising the impact of development on existing habitats.</p> <p>d. Enhancing access to nature-rich green spaces within a 10-minute radius for all residents.</p> <p>e. Requiring new developments to commit to a minimum of 30% tree canopy cover.</p> <p>f. Increasing tree canopy cover in existing housing estates where it is below the 16% urban average for England.</p> <p>4. Support initiatives, including community run tree nurseries, to increase the supply of local saplings.</p> <p>5. Prioritise the use of council land holdings, for habitat creation and restoration, by transitioning where appropriate from maintaining grass to planting trees. Finally, Council urges all stakeholders to come together to protect and restore our natural assets, recognising their intrinsic role in securing a sustainable future for our community.</p> <p>An <b>AMENDMENT</b> to the motion was <b>MOVED</b> by Councillor Aspinell and <b>SECONDED</b> by Councillor Worsfold:</p>				<p>minimum of 30% tree canopy coverage whilst this can be encouraged this will need to be established by appropriate evidence and through the adoption of policies as part of the Local Plan Review process before it could become a formal requirement in the determining of planning applications.</p> <p>For clause 5 any habitat enhancement and creation will need to be informed by the appropriate evidence (such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy) to ensure appropriate habitat types are provided across the borough. In some instances, grass habitats can be more ecologically valuable than trees/woodlands.</p>
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	<p>At end of first sentence add: “We also recognise the important contribution protecting nature and promoting biodiversity will make to achieving our ambitious Net Zero objectives.”</p> <p>In third paragraph add between “this Council” and “resolves”: “acknowledges the work of the Clean and Green Committee and its Working Groups (established this year by the Joint Administration) to address all the issues detailed below within its Constitution and”</p> <p>Add at end of clause 3(b): “which should be sustainable for at least 30 years.”</p> <p>Add at end of clause 3 (d): “including promoting the establishment of new footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes.”</p> <p><b>New clauses:</b></p> <p>6. Identify potential sites for new permanent and temporary allotments, especially in the parts of the borough currently poorly served by allotment provision.</p> <p>7. Ensure all of these issues are prioritised in the review of the Local Development Plan and communicated urgently to all developers looking at building on sites in the borough.</p>				
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The amendment was accepted by the original mover and seconder subject to change below:

In third paragraph add between “this Council” and “resolves”: “acknowledges the work of the Clean and Green Committee and its Working Groups (established this year by the Joint Administration) and those of the previous administration to address all the issues detailed below within its Constitution and”

The amended motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

*This Council recognises the critical importance of a healthy natural environment to the overall wellbeing and quality of life of our residents, and the pressing need to protect nature. We also recognise the important contribution protecting nature and promoting biodiversity will make to achieving our ambitious Net Zero objectives.*

*The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic lockdowns raised awareness of how human health and wellbeing is intrinsically linked to the health of the natural environment. Use of parks and public green space, such as woodland, increased as people sought solace, exercise and recreation in nature.*

	<p><i>Considering the responsibility this Council has for the management of local parks, local planning policies and land it owns, this Council acknowledges the work of the Clean and Green Committee and its Working Groups (established this year by the Joint Administration and those of the previous administration) to address all the issues detailed below within its Constitution resolves to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>1. Establish a climate and nature advisory committee to guide Members and council officers.</i></li><li><i>2. Include ecological impact assessments alongside climate and sustainability considerations in all committee and council reports.</i></li><li><i>3. Work towards making nature recovery a top strategic priority in planning policies and design guidelines for new developments. This includes:</i><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>a. Identifying suitable areas for habitat restoration, establishing 'green allocated sites' and embedding Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) in local plans and policies.</i></li><li><i>b. Promoting Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), extending the minimum requirement from</i></li></ol></li></ol>				
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	<p><i>10% to 20% which should be sustainable for at least 30 years.</i></p> <p><i>c. Minimising the impact of development on existing habitats.</i></p> <p><i>d. Enhancing access to nature-rich green spaces within a 10-minute radius for all residents including promoting the establishment of new footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes.</i></p> <p><i>e. Requiring new developments to commit to a minimum of 30% tree canopy cover.</i></p> <p><i>f. Increasing tree canopy cover in existing housing estates where it is below the 16% urban average for England.</i></p> <p><i>4. Support initiatives, including community run tree nurseries, to increase the supply of local saplings.</i></p> <p><i>5. Prioritise the use of council land holdings, for habitat creation and restoration, by transitioning where appropriate from maintaining grass to planting trees. Finally, Council urges all stakeholders to come together to protect and restore our natural assets, recognising their intrinsic role in securing a sustainable future for our community.</i></p> <p><i>6. Identify potential sites for new permanent and temporary allotments, especially in the</i></p>				
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		<p>parts of the borough currently poorly served by allotment provision.</p> <p>7. Ensure all of these issues are prioritised in the review of the Local Development Plan and communicated urgently to all developers looking at building on sites in the borough.</p> <p><i>Finally, Council urges all stakeholders to come together to protect and restore our natural assets, recognising their intrinsic role in securing a sustainable future for our community.</i></p>				
7	13.12.2023	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A 2019 Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life 'Local Government</p>	Cllr White	Cllr Slade		Motion to be added the Constitution Working Group Workplan.

		<p>Ethical Standards’ “...identified a number of risks in the sector: the current rules Page 79 Agenda Item 16 around conflicts of interest, gifts, and hospitality are inadequate; and the increased complexity of local government decision-making is putting governance under strain.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This Council Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Principles of Public Life apply to anyone who works as a public office[1]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;</li><li>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;</li></ol>				
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		<p>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.</p> <p>This Council Resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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 &amp; Standards for staff and compare these to best practice in the UK.</li><li>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.</li></ol>				
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		<p>3. The review include the development of an appropriate register of interests (e.g. all directorships for senior staff) for senior staff.</p> <p>4. Officers should report back to the next full council on the development of updated staff codes and the register of interests.</p> <p>An <b>AMENDMENT</b> was <b>MOVED</b> by Cllr Worsfold and <b>SECONDED</b> by Cllr Kendall:</p> <p>This Council Resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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 &amp; Standards for staff <i>and members</i> and compare these to best practice in the UK.</li><li>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</li></ol>				
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		<p>sources as may be considered relevant.</p> <p>3. The review include the development of an appropriate register of interests (e.g. all directorships for senior staff) for senior staff <i>and ensure the requirement for members are aligned with this.</i></p> <p>4. Officers should report back to the next full council on the development of updated staff codes and the register of interests.</p> <p>The <b>AMENDMENT</b> was <b>ACCEPTED</b> by the mover and seconder of the motion.</p> <p>The amended motion became the substantive motion and was discussed. Cllr Laplain <b>MOVED</b> and Cllr Mynott <b>SECONDED</b> that this should be referred to the Constitution Working Group. Members voted by a show of hands and this was <b>CARRIED</b>.</p>				
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