

## **COUNCIL**

### **12 JANUARY 2023**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

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### **Notices of Motion Received**

1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance reports that he has received the following 3 Notices of Motion. The Constitution provides that any submitted motion must be moved and seconded at the meeting. Otherwise, unless postponed with the consent of the Council, it will be treated as withdrawn.
2. If a motion is in relation to the exercise of an executive function it will be referred to the Cabinet for decision (if applicable this will be indicated below). Otherwise the Council may decide itself to determine the Motion, or refer it to the Cabinet or another appropriate Committee for advice before determining it at the next available meeting.

### **Notice of Motion 1 – Amendment to the Constitution – Removal of Time Limit for Notices of Motion**

**3. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function but in accordance with Procedural Standing Order no. 29.3, once moved and seconded will stand referred to the meeting of Council on 16 February pending a report by the Monitoring Officer.**

4. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Andy Fry, Cllr Jack Satterthwaite, Cllr Luke Mallett, Cllr Lynn Denham, and Cllr Richard Udall:

"The First Principle of Public Life, Selflessness.

The seven principles of public life include selflessness, holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

In 2018 an amendment to the constitution was approved part based on a Councillor survey in 2016 which indicated many felt meetings were too long. Restrictions on democratic debate were introduced including:

- A 90 minute total time limit for all discussions on Notices of Motion;
- A 30 minute maximum time limit permitted for questions and answers on Cabinet Member with Responsibility (CMR) reports.
- A pre-existing restriction providing 30 minutes to be set aside for dealing with formal written questions submitted by councillors was not amended.

By limiting Council debate on Notices of Motions, CMR reports and questions, councillors are allowing the first principle of public life, selflessness, to be ignored.

The constitution to be amended to no time limit on discussions on Notice of Motions, no time limit for permitted questions and answers on CMR reports plus no time limit for formal questions.”

### **Notice of Motion 2 – BBC**

**5. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.**

6. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Cllr Richard Udall, Cllr Dan Boatright, Cllr Luke Mallett, Cllr Lynn Denham, and Cllr Mel Allcott:

“Council recognises and values the contribution to Worcestershire life and society made by BBC local radio stations, such as BBC Hereford and Worcester. Council views with deep concern the possible impact of the government decision to freeze and then abolish the TV License Fee and the consequences it could have on future funding for local radio. The use of BBC local radio is an important and vital part of the council’s ability to communicate with local residents at times of emergency or natural disaster. Council calls upon the Secretary of State to secure future funding for BBC local radio in Worcestershire which would prevent any proposed cuts in programming, scheduling, reporting or broadcast quality”.

### **Notice of Motion 3 – Amendment to the Constitution – Submission of Amendments to Notices of Motion**

**7. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function but in accordance with Procedural Standing Order no. 29.3, once moved and seconded will stand referred to the meeting of Council on 16 February pending a report by the Monitoring Officer.**

8. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Cllr Matt Jenkins, Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Cllr Natalie McVey, Cllr Tom Wells, and Cllr Martin Allen:

“We understand that during the debate of a notice of motion a minor amendment to a motion may be made. However, in all other cases, to ensure that an amendment is acceptable and does not negate the motion, it needs to be checked by the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance or their nominee prior to the full council meeting.

We propose an amendment is made to the constitution such that any written amendment to a notice of motion must be approved by the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance or their nominee as acceptable three days prior to the full council. Any amendments should be submitted by noon on Monday prior to the full council meeting on Thursday. The amendment should then be made available to group leaders and the proposer and seconder of the original notice of motion.”

## **Contact Points**

### **Contact Points for this report**

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**Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.