

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Motions to Council – Assessment Form

On receipt of a Motion from a Councillor, the Governance Team will carry out an assessment as to its contents to establish whether there are likely to be significant consequences to the Council should the Motion be carried at the subsequent Full Council meeting.

The first question to be addressed will be:-

“Can the Motion, if approved, be implemented without the need for any resource (financial and otherwise) to be identified outside existing budgets or staffing capacity?”

If the answer is ‘yes’, then the Motion can proceed towards discussion and resolution.

An example of a Motion which would fall into the above category would be where the Council is being asked to lobby the Government, Somerset County Council or other body on a particular issue. If the motion is carried, the action required will usually involve no more than a letter being prepared and sent to the intended recipient.

However, as in the case of the recent Motion on ‘Climate Change’, the answer to the above question would clearly be ‘no’.

In such circumstances, detailed analysis of the wording of the Motion will be required to identify what will be needed if the Motion – when it comes before Full Council – is carried.

Such analysis will include:-

- What additional resource would be required to ensure the Motion (if approved) could be implemented?
- What needs to be done to identify the level of resource necessary both in financial and staff terms?
- Are any approvals needed to provide these resources?
- Will this require reports to be submitted through Scrutiny and the Executive? If a Supplementary Estimate is required, Full Council approval will be required too.

If such analysis is required, the Governance Team will arrange for the attached pro-forma to be completed and this will accompany the relevant Motion onto the agenda of the Full Council meeting so all Members are aware that further investigation will be required before the Motion – even if it is carried – can be implemented.

Motions to Council – Assessment Proforma

(To be used in circumstances where it appears the wording of a proposed Motion will commit the Council to providing further financial or staffing resources which cannot be met from existing budgets)

Brief Details of the Motion -

Motion on Fireworks

This Council resolves:

1. To strongly recommend and advise that all public firework displays within this local authority boundaries be advertised effectively at least 7 days in advance of the event, to allow our residents particularly those living in the vicinity to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
2. To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare, vulnerable people and our environment - including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate those risks.
3. To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks sold to the public for private displays in order to protect and safeguard animals and vulnerable people.
4. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display.

Questions to be addressed

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What additional resource would be required to ensure the Motion (if approved) could be implemented?</i> |
|---|

Answer –

1, 2 and 4. – No additional resource save for officer time in the Environmental Health and Licensing team in drafting the relevant advice for our website and liaising with Customer enquiries if received. There would also be an additional spend of officer time on the Communications team to promote the public awareness campaign.

3. No additional resource save for Office time in drafting and sending the letter to the relevant Government Dept./Minister.

- ***What needs to be done to identify the level of resource necessary both in financial and staff terms?***

Answer –

1, 2 and 4. It would be expected that Officers in the Environmental Health and Licensing team would if these were supported take the Council's resolutions and identify how within their service area this advice could be implemented. Further work with the Communications team would also be required to identify the exact nature of the campaign requirement.

3. No work required save for an officer identified to draft the letter and send it.

- ***Are any approvals needed to provide these resources?***

Answer – No.

- ***Will this require reports to be submitted through Scrutiny and the Executive? If a Supplementary Estimate is required, Full Council approval will be required too.***

Answer – No, The setting off of fireworks does not constitute a 'licensable activity' under the Licensing Act 2003, nor any other Act that Somerset West and Taunton is authorised to enforce. Therefore any minimum period of advertisement for displays would be a recommendation/advice only. It is suggested that this is made part of the public awareness campaign; so some communications targeted at businesses/premises would be required.

Likely timescale involved –

3. Immediately if the motion is supported.

1, 2 and 4 require liaison between the Communications Team and the Environmental Health and Licensing team to put in place but expected to be enacted fairly swiftly if Council decision to support, however, targeted communications with businesses/premises may take longer.