

Somerset Council – meeting on 23 April 2024

Proposed alteration to agenda item 9 – Motions

Alteration by the proposer (Cllr Brian Smedley) with the support of the seconder (Cllr Shane Collins)

Motion B – Motion relating to a Council Property Investment

Full Council notes, that in the light of calls for an end of UK Arms sales to Israel, Somerset Council has been reviewing its interest in the Aztec West property in its commercial portfolio with a view to immediately disposing of the property or securing a means to legally evict the tenant Elbit UK, a major UK based provider of weapons to the Israeli Defence Forces, used in the current Gaza catastrophe.

Somerset Council resolves:

- to explore all ways of legally evicting Elbit UK or otherwise, to dispose of the property;
- to ensure that moral and ethical considerations assume equal weight to financial advantage in any future commercial property investments for yield.

Supplemental Note on 26 April 2024:

On 23 April 2024, Somerset Council voted on a motion in respect of a commercial investment property it owns at 600 Aztec West. That motion included a statement that “*the tenant Elbit UK [is] a major UK based provider of weapons to the Israeli Defence Forces, used in the current Gaza catastrophe*”.

Elbit Systems UK Limited have contacted us to say this is factually incorrect and they do not supply weapons or military equipment to the Israeli Defence Forces or the Israeli Ministry of Defence.

The Council would like to apologise and withdraw the statement that Elbit Systems UK Limited supplies military equipment to the Israeli Defence Forces or the Israeli Ministry of Defence.