

## Somerset Council

Full Council  
18 December 2024



### MOTION A

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On receipt of a Motion from a Councillor, the Monitoring Officer/Democratic Services 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 or any 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 Democratic Services 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)

Details of the Motion:

The following motion will be proposed by Councillor David Woan and seconded by Councillor Oliver Patrick:

- 1. Somerset Council is committed** to supporting Somerset's farmers, along with Somerset-based food and drink producers; whether by engaging and working in partnership together, or being sympathetic to diversification opportunities, to help our farmers thrive, and adapt to market forces, new technologies, and the challenges of modern-day farming.
- 2. Somerset Council also pledges** vocal opposition to any unfair and excessive interference from central government which in the view of Somerset Council, would diminish the role played by farmers in Somerset.
- 3. Somerset Council recognises**, in line with our environmental commitments, the benefits of locally-produced food and drink, which has lower food miles than imported food and drink and is produced to some of the highest environmental and welfare standards in the world.
- 4. Somerset Council is committed to procuring food as locally as possible**, in line with our 2023 Local Food Procurement in the South West declaration.
- 5. Somerset Council will promote** the presence and availability of local suppliers, including farm shops, to encourage people to buy local produce.

**Questions to be addressed:-**

**What additional resource would be required to ensure the Motion (if approved) could be implemented?**

Answer:

- 1) No identifiable resource issues
- 2) No identifiable resource issues
- 3) No identifiable resource issues
- 4) Minimal resources required, noting that the council does not routinely provide refreshments for meetings or events. Will need to review the current purchasing practice for tea / coffee / milk.
- 5) Some resources through a communications campaign if that is requested.

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

Answer:

There may be some financial implications when reprocurring tea / coffee / milk suppliers.

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

Answer:

A temporary re-prioritisation of the communications team 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.**

Answer:

No further reports would appear necessary.

	Officer Name	Date Completed
Legal & Governance Implications	Jill Byron and Scott Wooldridge	25/11/24 sent
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix / Maria Christofi	25/11/24 sent
Workforce (*)	Dawn Bettridge	N/a
Asset Management (*)	Simon Lewis	N/a
Executive Director	Relevant Executive Director – Chris Hall	09/12/24
Executive Lead Member	Relevant Lead Member – Cllr Mike Rigby/Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts	25/11/24 sent
<b>Consulted:</b>	Councillor Name	
Local Division Members	List local members	N/a
Opposition Spokesperson(s)	Relevant Opposition Spokesperson – Cllr Sue Osborne/Cllr Suria Aujla	25/11/24 sent
Relevant Scrutiny Chair(s)	Relevant Chair – Cllr Martin Dimery	25/11/24 sent