

## Somerset Council

Full Council  
18 December 2024



### MOTION C

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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 Lucy Trimnell and seconded by Councillor Faye Purbrick:

This council believes that Somerset's farmers are essential to our local economy, food security and our environment as well as maintaining our much-loved rural landscapes.

**To that end, this council agrees to:**

- 1) Recognise and note the significant contribution made to our local economy and food supplies by our hard-working farmers, particularly our meat and dairy producers who account for the majority of Somerset farming produce.
- 2) Strengthen our partnerships with arable, livestock, and dairy farmers to support and enhance Somerset's iconic countryside and will seek to oppose unnecessary additional pressures such as the hike in employers National Insurance contributions and Inheritance Tax on farmers.
- 3) Make a commitment to support local farmers, growers, and the food and drink sector by ensuring, where possible, that food and beverages served at council-organised events are sourced from local suppliers. This will include meat and dairy, alongside fruit, vegetable and cereal products, reflecting the full diversity of Somerset's agricultural output.
- 4) As part of Somerset Council's efforts to address environmental priorities, the Council will explore ways to encourage residents to shop locally whenever possible. This will include promoting home-grown, affordable, and nutritious produce to reduce food miles, boost the local economy, and support our farming community.

**Questions to be addressed:-**

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

Answer:

- 1) No additional resources necessary, assuming this is met through a statement at the meeting.
- 2) Minimal additional resources.
- 3) 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.

4) 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:

Resource implications identified above.

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	09/12/24 sent
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix / Maria Christofi	09/12/24 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	09/12/24 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	09/12/24 sent
Relevant Scrutiny Chair(s)	Relevant Chair – Cllr Martin Dimery	09/12/24 sent