
Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

To: All Members of the Council

Bath and North East Somerset Councillors: Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Neil Butters, Vic Clarke, Sue Craig, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Chris Dando, Jess David, Tom Davies, Sally Davis, Douglas Deacon, Winston Duguid, Mark Elliott, Michael Evans, Andrew Furse, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Dr Eleanor Jackson, Grant Johnson, Dr Kumar, Matt McCabe, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Sarah Moore (Vice-Chair), Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Michelle O'Doherty, Lisa O'Brien, Bharat Pankhania, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Bruce Shearn, Brian Simmons, Alastair Singleton, Shaun Stephenson-McGall (Chair), Karen Walker, Sarah Warren, Karen Warrington, Andy Wait, Chris Watt, Ryan Wills, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Co-opted Voting Members:

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers
Press and Public

Dear Member

Council: Thursday, 17th November, 2022

Please find attached a **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA DESPATCH** of late papers which were not available at the time the agenda was published. Please treat these papers as part of the agenda.

Papers have been included for the following items:

LIB DEM AMENDMENT - MOTION ON PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

LABOUR FINAL MOTION - ADDITIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY WARM SPACES

Yours sincerely

Jo Morrison

for Chief Executive

If you need to access this agenda or any of the supporting reports in an alternative accessible format please contact Democratic Services or the relevant report author whose details are listed at the end of each report.

This Agenda and all accompanying reports are printed on recycled paper

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting 17 November 2022

Liberal Democrat Group amendment to Motion on Making Votes Count with Proportional Representation

To be proposed by Cllr Ruth Malloy

Council notes:

- Within Europe, only the United Kingdom and authoritarian Belarus still use the archaic First Past the Post (FPTP) system for General and Local Elections. Whilst internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries.
- The UK's First Past the Post voting system curtails voter choice, making millions of votes ineffective, and leaving millions feeling unrepresented and unheard.
- **Elected under a form of Proportional Representation**, MPs, **regional mayors and councillors** and other elected representatives would better reflect their communities, leading to improved decision-making, wider **citizen** participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.
- PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Council believes that:

- The FPTP system has contributed to dangerous levels of distrust and disillusionment with our democratic processes and politicians.
- It is essential that faith is restored in our democratic system and that the public see Parliament as fairly reflecting their views.
- Our First Past the Post voting system is a significant barrier to restoring this faith and all but guarantees that the balance of opinion among the electorate is not reflected in Parliament.
- A system of Proportional Representation in which seats match votes and all votes count equally would help to rebuild public trust by ensuring that all political views are represented in Parliament **and Local Government** in proportion to their level of public support.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

Council therefore resolves:

1. To write to his Majesty's Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general and local authority elections; and
2. **To thank Bath's MP Wera Hobhouse for her longstanding commitment to electoral reform, as evidenced by her role in the APPG for Electoral Reform and to call upon her to continue campaigning with Make Votes Matter and the Electoral Reform Society for a change to electoral law, leading to the introduction of a PR voting system for general elections and all other elections in the UK that do not yet use it, namely England.**
3. To call upon Bath and North East Somerset's two MPs to push for a change to electoral law to permit Proportional Representation and to promote the matter for debate within Parliament.

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Labour Motion on Additional Council Support for Community Warm Spaces

To be proposed by Cllr Moss. Seconded by Cllr Romero.

Council:

1. Welcomes the creation of its Warm Welcome package which focus on the 3 council run libraries, and community places as warm spaces.
2. Thanks all those organisations and businesses who have already come forward to offer warm spaces.
3. Thanks all those community organisations, parish and town councils are already working to support residents with the cost of living crisis.
4. Welcomes the creation of the on-line map which is regularly updated with new warm places
5. Welcomes the focus in the standards charter on respect and dignity, as well as warmth, and that all potential warm spaces must comply with this charter.
6. Welcomes the £250 grant available for registered warm spaces or for activities within the space.
7. Believes that more can be done to encourage more places to become warm spaces, and for more places to offer more hours for community use.
8. Notes that energy prices are more than double their autumn 2021 levels, inflation is now over 10% and threats of Covid and 'flu cause great concern.
9. Is aware that time is of the essence when it comes to reassuring the public that B&NES Council and local communities will keep them safe and warm this winter.
10. Recognises that Council must work smartly within its budgets.
11. Understands that smart working on immediate needs is an investment that will save both financial and human costs later.

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12. recognises that significant experience has been gained in the council and communities' response to the pandemic, and from housing refugees.

13. recognises the value of partner working, which is exemplified in creation of the Community Wellbeing Hub, comprising of private business, the third sector and the council.

Council therefore resolves to continue to

14. Work with partners to ensure that vulnerable residents have the shortest possible journey to a warm space.

15. Help residents access community transport that enables access and safe travel home.

16. Wherever possible, place other useful facilities e.g. food banks, on-site

17. to signpost residents to help and support as necessary.

18. Build community organisations' capabilities and capacity: e.g. help with volunteer training / DBS checks; refreshment facilities; insurance; secure fuel storage, risk assessments and more.

Council further:

19. Will retain oversight of this network with timely 2way communication.

20. Appreciates the scale of the task at hand but also recognises its moral duty to do all it can to protect all vulnerable residents in our community by continuing to work with partners and our communities

21. Agrees to continue to work collaboratively cross-partnership and crossparty, and in so doing, to help save lives this winter.

22. Will continue to look at what additional support including funding could be made available to ensure warm spaces are available across our region and across a range of days and times.

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