

The statement that I'm going to read relates to the last full Council Meeting on 13th February.

I wish to apologise for the Union Flag not being in the Chamber for this meeting.

The reason why it was not there was entirely my fault and due to my actions in querying whether it was needed at the Budget meeting. Given my position, and authority, this led to the flag being immediately removed before the meeting.

I wish also to apologise unreservedly for suggesting to Council that I did not know why it wasn't there. In doing so I, in effect, lied to Council. I accept that my conduct did not display the standards of leadership and openness required of my role and for that I am truly sorry.

I am under a lot of pressure at the moment, with care of my elderly mother, and I admit I just wasn't thinking straight. I was overly concerned that the Budget process should not be derailed at the start of the Meeting, and I feared a long discussion about the issue of the flag would ensue, and I wanted to defer that from happening and I gave the wrong call. I am happy to speak to anyone to give them more details about the circumstances, should you want that.

All I would like to add is that to me, and my family, the Union Flag has personal importance. My husband and brother both served in the armed forces and I hope Council accepts that I would never disrespect the Flag.

**Councillor Cherry Beath
Council Chairman 2017/18**