

Motions to Council Request Form

Title of Motion	Motion 1
Proposer	Cllr Julie Morris
Seconder	Cllr Alison Kelly
Motion Set out motion in full	<p>This council believes that maintaining public trust in the democratic process is essential. A key part of this is ensuring that decisions are made openly and are subject to public scrutiny. Council recognises the concern that there is about the degree to which council, committee, briefing and working group discussions and decisions are being conducted in restricted session.</p> <p>To help maintain public trust and ensure that residents can be fully informed about how decisions that affect them have been reached, this council is committed to a policy of 'transparency by default' by which all meetings and documentation will be placed in the public domain as standard, with information or discussions only being redacted or restricted very specifically in relation to those issues which fall within the exemptions in the Local Government Act.</p> <p>To that end, committee reports will, in addition to identifying the relevant exemption in the Local Government Act, also set out a rationale as to why information or discussions are to be restricted, when this is the case. Officers will also bring forward guidelines in relation to all council, committee, briefing and working group discussions and decisions which will enable this approach, to ensure maximum transparency while adhering to legislative requirements, ultimately making this organisation an exemplar public body in terms of transparency and openness.</p>
Relevant Committee(s) Motion would relate to	Standards and Constitution Committee
Name of the Chairman of such Committee	Cllr Liz Frost