

**COUNCIL
15 APRIL 2021**

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION ON HYBRID MEETINGS

In accordance with the Constitution, Standing Order 4.8.14 (g) (i), there has been a proposed amendment to the motion on Hybrid Meetings.

ORIGINAL MOTION

‘This Council is astonished and disappointed that the Government could not find time to amend legislation allowing Councils to continue to carry out meetings using virtual technology where and when they see fit to do so.

It notes that the experience of holding meetings remotely has improved engagement with residents, improving inclusion, diversity and accountability as well as contributing to our response to the climate emergency and reducing the need for officers and members to travel to meetings.

It further notes the request by the Minister for evidence as to why remote or hybrid meeting should be permitted and instructs officers to respond to the government questionnaire, assembling evidence from our recent experience of the benefits of such meetings, including quantitative data relating to increased engagement and cost savings, within the requested timescale.’

AMENDMENT

To be added as a final clause

‘This council further calls upon the government to bring forward legislation as a matter of urgency to remove the need for central government to determine how local councils conduct their business at the level of meetings arrangements and allows us to find the most appropriate ways to both conduct essential business and engage with the communities that we represent.’

AMENDED MOTION WOULD READ:

‘This Council is astonished and disappointed that the Government could not find time to amend legislation allowing Councils to continue to carry out meetings using virtual technology where and when they see fit to do so.

It notes that the experience of holding meetings remotely has improved engagement with residents, improving inclusion, diversity and accountability as well as contributing to our response to the climate emergency and reducing the need for officers and members to travel to meetings.

It further notes the request by the Minister for evidence as to why remote or hybrid meeting should be permitted and instructs officers to respond to the government questionnaire, assembling evidence from our recent experience of the benefits of such meetings, including quantitative data relating to increased engagement and cost savings, within the requested timescale.

This council further calls upon the government to bring forward legislation as a matter of urgency to remove the need for central government to determine how local councils conduct their business at the level of meetings arrangements and allows us to find the most appropriate ways to both conduct essential business and engage with the communities that we represent.'

To be moved by Councillor Judi Billing
Seconded by Councillor Ian Albert