

MOTIONS TO COUNCIL**29 November 2022**

Title of Motion	Voting on a Mayor referendum
Proposer	Cllr Tim Dwelly
Seconder	Cllr John Conway
Supporters (a minimum of three are required)	Cllrs Brian Clemens; Kate Ewert; John Fitter; Hilary Frank; Leigh Frost; Julian German; Edwina Hannaford; Andrew Mitchell; Robin Moorcroft; Adam Paynter; Loic Rich; Pat Rogerson; Mike Thomas and Paul Wills
Recommendation for Council to vote on	"Cornwall Council should hold a vote to decide if a referendum of all voters be held to determine whether Cornwall is in future governed by a Mayor. This vote of full council shall be held after consideration of any public consultation exercise undertaken by this Council."
Context for the motion (i.e. why is the motion being submitted – what is the proposer aiming to achieve)	<p>The Government has rejected Cornwall Council and Cornwall MPs' request for a full devolution deal without the need for a Mayor.</p> <p>It is clear that many people in Cornwall want to have a referendum before any mayoral system is introduced. The Let Cornwall Decide campaign has seen a petition signed by over 6,000 people (with numbers continue to rise). Also, over 62 town and parish councils have voted to call for a mayoral referendum, with none wanting a Mayor decided by a single meeting of Councillors. As Cornwall Council's own bulletin on 30 September stated: "It is clear from the views expressed by a number of town and parish councils that the change to the Council's governance model is of concern. Those views have been acknowledged."</p> <p>The Government's guidance clearly gives two options for a constitutional change to bring in a directly-elected Mayor. One is a simple majority vote of the full council. The other is a referendum of all voters. It should be noted that many existing mayoral systems were previously introduced by referendum. And in Bristol this year a referendum was held to abolish the post. Holding a referendum is the norm.</p> <p>This motion seeks to give the full council a vote to choose which option is the most suitable and democratic for a decision of this magnitude.</p> <p>This motion does not in any way preclude Cornwall</p>

	Council negotiating potential additional devolved powers. It purely enables councillors to vote on whether the decision to introduce a Mayor to gain such extra powers should be made by the people of Cornwall.
Does the motion*:-	
(i) have potential financial implications for the Council – if so advise what these might be	Yes. The cost of a referendum. The costs would relate to a simple yes/no option without multiple candidates and different posts. However, a decision to proceed with a Mayor would also have cost implications as Mayoral elections require an even greater level of spending.
(ii) have potential legal/constitutional implications for the Council – if so advise what these might be	Yes. But these implications already exist in the current proposal for a Mayor. So there are no additional implications. The proposal is simply to enable councillors to follow Government guidance and opt for all voters to make this decision, not 87 councillors, none of whom were elected on a pledge to introduce a Mayor.
(iii) require further background information to enable the Council to make a decision and/or require detailed consideration – if so advised what might be required	No. The motion is simply to give the voters of Cornwall the final decision on the creation of a Mayor. It does not in any way preclude lobbying for greater powers for Cornwall Council or for fairer funding settlements. The sharing of information and consultation planned already would go ahead unchanged. The only difference is who will make the final decision: voters rather than councillors

*Should any/all of (i)-(iii) apply it is likely that the constitutional provision of referring the motion to the relevant Committee will apply.