

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor J Kent

Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling for an independent inquiry into the financial collapse of Thurrock Council - along with similar collapses in Woking, Croydon, Slough and Northamptonshire. The inquiry should look at, amongst other things - the impact of austerity on council budgets, the impact of scrapping of independent oversight bodies such as the Audit Commission, the impact of government encouragement of councils to pursue a commercialisation agenda, the role of councils' external auditors, the role of council Monitoring Officers, Section 151 Officers and Chief Executives, and the apparent absence of central government oversight of local government.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Rule 15.2 of the Council Procedure and Rules states that a notice of motion must relate to a matter which affects the authority or the authority's area and must relate to a matter in respect of which the authority has a relevant function. The motion relates to the Council's financial affairs. Councillors are responsible for the financial control and decision making of the Council. Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 states that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. Public inquiries are initiated and funded by Government on matters of public concern about a particular event or set of events.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no specific financial implications arising from the request for an independent inquiry.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes