

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 27 March 2023

Title of Motion:

Preservation of Local Democracy and Maintaining the impartiality of the Lord Mayor

The right of all Members of the City Council to advocate for their respective residents and communities is enshrined in the City Council's Constitution in 5.2.2 as a fundamental principle of local democracy and states:

In chairing Council, the Lord Mayor will:

- promote the purpose of the Constitution
- interpret the Constitution
- get the business done efficiently but pay attention to the rights of all Councillors and the interests of local people
- make Council a place for discussing the concerns of local people
- encourage the public to take part in the council's activities

At the Budget Meeting on 27th February 2023, Conservative Councillors voted for the closure of the debate after having had the opportunity to propose the budget and after only one Labour Amendment had been voted on. Labour Members having been given their opportunity to speak both in response to the budget but also in favour of their amendment, abstained from voting.

The budget meeting is one of the most important meetings of the City Council, as it affects everyone in Plymouth, and the actions of Conservative and Labour Members denied Independent and Green Members from proposing important amendments to the budget and contradicting the Constitution.

The Lord Mayor in fulfilling their duties, is expected to adhere to the policy guidelines approved by the City Council, to have a good understanding of the Council's Constitution in order to chair Council meetings, in their year of office to exercise impartiality in their decision making and refrain from party political activity.

Council resolve:

- I. To record its disappointment at the suppression of local democracy at the Budget meeting on 27th February 2023 by voting to close down debate thereby preventing other City Councillors from speaking.

2. Reminds the Lord Mayor of the importance of maintaining the trust of Members of the City Council and the public by being seen to be impartial in her decision-making at meetings of Plymouth City Council.
Proposer Email: Cllr Kelly
Seconder Email: Cllr Nicholson