

Agenda Item 13f

Ordinary Council Meeting of: 19 March 2024
Cllr Wemyss/Cllr Boshier

AGENDA ITEM 13f - Notice of Motion - An end to Pointless Paper Usage

Amendment:

To replace paragraphs one, two and three with:

Portsmouth City Council recognises the significant environmental impact and financial costs associated with excessive paper consumption. In the last 12 months, each councillor has received an average of roughly 10,000 sheets of paper, equivalent to more than one tree per elected official. The cost of printing for council business is projected to rise to £400,315, with council meetings alone costing £5,400 per annum.

To replace paragraph four with:

In light of these findings and the urgent need to address environmental concerns and optimise financial resources, this council proposes the following measures:

1. Transitioning to a digital-first format for all council documents, communications, and meetings, including agendas, reports, and minutes.
2. Investing in specialised digital devices, such as tablets, that allow for immediate document upload, amendment, editing, note-taking, and signing. This technology is cost-neutral within two years and offers features like auto spell check, colour blind correctness, and screen reader capabilities.
3. Implementing measures to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for all members and stakeholders in the digital transition, including appropriate training and support.
4. Encouraging the use of digital and electronic documentation for correspondence, reducing reliance on printed materials.
5. Allowing flexibility for printed materials to be requested by members of staff and residents, ensuring accessibility is not impacted through a 'common sense' policy across Portsmouth City Council.
6. Conducting regular reviews and assessments to monitor the effectiveness of the digital transition, including its impact on paper consumption, costs, and operational efficiency.

To replace paragraph five with:

By adopting these measures, Portsmouth City Council aims to:

- Save over 50 trees per annum
- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Cut down on the environmental impact of ink.
- Promote and support learning disabilities through accessible technology.
- Save taxpayer money.

To amend paragraph six as below: (deleted content ~~struck out~~ and additional content in **bold**)

Full Council requests that the administration ~~takes a serious look into~~ **seriously considers** the viability and practicality of switching ~~us over~~ to these **digital** devices and ~~put an end to wasting paper needlessly~~ **practices**, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability, efficiency, and responsible stewardship of public funds.

The amended motion to therefore read:

Portsmouth City Council recognises the significant environmental impact and financial costs associated with excessive paper consumption. In the last 12 months, each councillor has received an average of roughly 10,000 sheets of paper, equivalent to more than one tree per elected official. The cost of printing for council business is projected to rise to £400,315, with council meetings alone costing £5,400 per annum.

In light of these findings and the urgent need to address environmental concerns and optimise financial resources, this council proposes the following measures:

1. Transitioning to a digital-first format for all council documents, communications, and meetings, including agendas, reports, and minutes.
2. Investing in specialised digital devices, such as tablets, that allow for immediate document upload, amendment, editing, note-taking, and signing. This technology is cost-neutral within two years and offers features like auto spell check, colour blind correctness, and screen reader capabilities.

3. Implementing measures to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for all members and stakeholders in the digital transition, including appropriate training and support.
4. Encouraging the use of digital and electronic documentation for correspondence, reducing reliance on printed materials.
5. Allowing flexibility for printed materials to be requested by members of staff and residents, ensuring accessibility is not impacted through a 'common sense' policy across Portsmouth City Council.
6. Conducting regular reviews and assessments to monitor the effectiveness of the digital transition, including its impact on paper consumption, costs, and operational efficiency.

By adopting these measures, Portsmouth City Council aims to:

- Save over 50 trees per annum
- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Cut down on the environmental impact of ink.
- Promote and support learning disabilities through accessible technology.
- Save taxpayer money.

Full Council requests that the administration seriously considers the viability and practicality of switching to these digital devices and practices, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability, efficiency, and responsible stewardship of public funds.

Proposed by Councillor Daniel Wemyss

Signed _____

Seconded by Councillor Simon Boshier

Signed _____

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