

Motions to Council research

The question was circulated to the East Midlands Council Network (Democratic Service network group).

“Does anyone have a policy or customs and practice on covering communications on motions to Council. If they have a policy or custom and practice are they happy to share this with us.

How have they determined what is meant by communications for example is social media enough to say a motion has been supported or is a press release the preferred route”.

1. Motions to council are reported through the Full Council broadcasting that we provide on Facebook Live. We live report the commentary and the press are invited to attend. If it is deemed necessary we release a press statement afterwards through our usual PR protocol. The motions are also minuted and loaded to our website on the agenda and minutes sections.
XXXXXXX District Council.
2. At **XXXXXXX Borough Council** we do not actively promote Motions on Notice to Council as they tend to be politically motivated. For example our last one was about the re-settlement of Afghanistan refugees which came in from the XXXXX group. We simply publish them and the responses according to our procedures. We put the Motion topic on the published agenda and then the day before the meeting we publish as a supplementary the response to the Motion. We send out alerts to Cllrs and press etc.
3. there's a fair bit we could possibly add on this. We have some corporate comms which we often use press releases to cover motions, but quite often there's substantial group activity managed through our Political Assistant. I'm happy for you to pass my details over to the authority asking and I could pick up with them. **xxxxxx City Council. – NOTE WEST LINDSEY DO NOT HAVE POLITICAL ASSISTANTS**
4. We don't have a policy, it's basically at Communications Manager and the Leader's discretion. It happens perhaps once or twice a year at most and we usually do it as motions tend to be linked to our priorities easily enough. **City XXXXXXX Council**
5. Not as a rule. If there's a broader corporate aim / end / action to it – such as the climate emergency two years ago that came through a motion – then yes. But otherwise no, we'd do a retrospective statement / response afterward. It's a bit pucky and choose to be honest, judged on old fashioned news values and corporate alignment. **XXXXXXXXX District Council**