

To: **MEMBERS OF BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL**

ADDENDUM TO

The **ANNUAL MEETING** of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber on **MONDAY 13 MAY 2019** at **19.00 hours**

23. MOTION: AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS: OPEN GOVERNMENT

The following motion has been received from Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Henwood:

- A. That this Council accepts the principle of greater openness in its proceedings and commits to:
1. provide more opportunities for the public to contribute to its proceedings;
 2. increase transparency by reducing the scope of “confidentiality” to exclude the public and press from meetings; and
 3. increase formal engagement between councillors and the public.
- B. This Council resolves to:
1. Give residents the right to make contributions and ask questions on any agenda item as and when they arise during the course of a meeting;
 2. Create a “compelling reason” test to strengthen the principle of transparency and limit the right to exclude the public and press from meetings;
 3. Establish a “Residents Forum”, drawn from a cross section of the public, allowing them to raise issues of concern and contribute to the policy making process.
- C. Accordingly this Council instructs the Community Engagement Key Area Group to:
1. Prepare the necessary amendments to the Council’s Standing Orders to give effect to principle of greater openness;
 2. Prepare an annex to the Council’s Standing Orders setting out the the “compelling reason” test;
 3. Establish the terms of reference of the Residents Forum; and
 4. Submit these in time for the meeting of the Council due to be held on Monday 18th July 2019 to enable the Council to implement these changes immediately thereafter.

Steven Cridland
CEO
7 May 2019