

COUNCIL MOTION

21 April 2022

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mike Prendergast

SECONDED BY: Councillor Tony Brough

LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY

This Council adheres to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (31st March 2011 edition) ('the Code'). The public have a legitimate expectation that public money will not be used for party political purposes.

It is therefore, highly regrettable that the Leader of the Council has chosen to disregard the Code and proceed to print and deliver thousands upon thousands of letters and send out many thousands of emails (at the expense of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council) of a clearly political nature which accompanied the recently issued Council Tax Bills.

These letters, a copy of which is attached, may well breach the Code.

Therefore, this council resolves:

- To instruct the Chief Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer to carry out an urgent investigation into whether the attached letter breaches the Code (instructing outside counsel if he feels it appropriate), and
- For the results of the investigation to be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee in the form of a report at the earliest opportunity for Members to consider.