

NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: Wednesday 21 st May 2025
	Mover: Councillor Baum-Dixon
	Seconded: Councillor Z Collingham
	Title of Motion: Amendment of the Flag and Lighting Up Protocol

This Council notes:

The flying of flags on Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) buildings has, on several occasions, caused significant controversy.

Decisions around which flags to fly have often unintentionally upset residents and various community groups, leading to unnecessary division.

These decisions have also consumed considerable Council time, officer resources and public funds that could have been better spent on delivering key services.

This Council recognises:

The intention behind flying flags has often been to show solidarity with countries, peoples, and causes.

However, this practice has now gone too far. What was once a symbolic gesture has become a source of conflict, with inconsistent and politically charged decisions causing angst and upset.

A consistent and neutral approach is now needed to restore clarity and unity, ensuring public buildings reflect locational identity and civic unity, rather than political or subjective choices.

This Council therefore resolves:

To ask officers to provide Cabinet with an amended Council Flag and Lighting Up Protocol for approval that:

1. Restricts the flying of flags on all RMBC buildings and sites to the following:
 - a) The Union Flag
 - b) The Flag of England (St George's Cross)
 - c) The Yorkshire Rose
 - d) The official Coat of Arms of Rotherham

2. Withdraws from the current practice of flying any other flags, including in connection with specific events, causes, or international matters.
3. States that the Council acknowledges the importance of supporting causes and showing solidarity with global and local issues, but that it recognises this support and solidarity can be shown in other appropriate and inclusive ways that do not involve the use of flags on public buildings.

Final Statement:

This motion is not a rejection of any cause or group.

It is a measured response to reduce division, avoid unnecessary controversy, and return focus to core Council priorities.

A copy of the Council's current Flag and Lighting Up Protocol is attached.