

Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Taylor

LABELLING MEAT TO PROMOTE CONSUMER CHOICE

Before I start, I want to reiterate that this motion is not about religion. It's about animal welfare and most importantly consumer choice and truths.

There is currently no requirement by government for meat products to be clearly labelled with information about the method of slaughter used to bring the products to the market. Every food outlet, supermarket, butchers etc have a legal right to know their supply source but presently there is no requirement for that information to be passed on to the consumer. That said, abattoir codes have to be on packaging but if you don't know the codes, you will not be able to identify the method of slaughter used.

If the meat products are more clearly labelled it would enable customers to make more informed choices to include people who do and do not wish to purchase e.g. kosher and halal products.

This would then allow full consumer choices with no misleading or difficult to understand labelling.

MY STATEMENTS

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Council notes:

- 1 that it is legal in the UK for animals to be slaughtered for food in accordance with Halal and Kosher religious practices.
- 2 that some people prefer not to purchase products that have been slaughtered in accordance with Halal and Kosher religious practices.
- 3 that meat produced in accordance with religious slaughter requirements is not necessarily so labelled through the meat trade and when sold to customers.
- 4 that abattoir codes on meat, required by law for traceability, mean that all involved in the meat trade (other than the consumer) know whether meat has, or has not, come from a source where animals are religiously slaughtered.
- 5 that consumers should be able to make an informed choice about what meat products they purchase and should be able to clearly identify the manner in which it has been slaughtered.

Council therefore resolves to support and promote the voluntary labelling of meat which has not been religiously slaughtered.

This motion to be sent to the Secretary of State for DEFRA, our MP, the NFU, the Countryside Alliance and Pro-Farmers United.