

FULL COUNCIL, 23 JANUARY 2019

REPORT OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Governance Committee, at its meeting on 9 January 2019 considered a report reviewing the operation of meetings of Full Council. The report (attached) proposes a number of changes to the Council's Constitution in order to facilitate the efficient and effective conduct of business at meetings of Full Council.

A number of amendments were dismissed by the committee during its consideration of the report. These included:

- Meeting start times of 7:15pm;
- A question from each of the opposition groups to the Leader of the Council in response to his annual statement or announcements at ordinary meetings;
- Deletion of the comfort break;
- Revision of debate times for movers of a motion or amendment to a motion to 8 minutes instead of 5 minutes as proposed in the report;
- The Leader of the Opposition retaining a right of reply for consideration of motions.

The report as presented was agreed by Governance Committee and accordingly recommends to Full Council that:

1. (a) The number of ordinary meetings of Council be reduced from 7 to 6 so that the pattern of meetings be:

- a. January**
- b. February (Council Tax and budget)**
- c. March**
- d. May (the Annual Meeting)**
- e. July**
- f. September**
- g. November**

(b) The Leader's statement is to take place at the annual meeting (May), without any subsequent debate

(c) Consideration of Council questions (to remain at 15 allocated proportionately amongst opposition groups) will be limited to 45 minutes in duration.

(d) Consideration of motions will be limited to 75 minutes in duration (or such lesser time before the three hour meeting duration time permits).

(e) Any motions or amendments not finished in the time available, either for the duration of the meeting or in the time available for that item, will be dealt with by vote only.

(f) Rules of debate will be a single debate procedure in the following format (with the intermediate debate procedure being deleted):

- five minutes for a mover of a motion or an amendment or an amendment to a report**
- three minutes for other speeches in any debate**

Rights of reply (up to three minutes) may be exercised in the following order:

- The Leader of the Group by which any motion, recommendation or amendment was proposed or, if the mover is not a member of a Group, that Member.**
- Where more than one Group or individual Member has proposed a motion or amendment, each shall be entitled to exercise a right of reply, in the order in which the motion or amendment(s) appears on the agenda.**
- The Leader of the Council**

(g) Every ordinary or special meeting of Full Council shall terminate after 3 hours or no later than 10:30pm whichever is earlier) provided that Full Council may decide to adjourn the meeting to a specified date on a motion to this effect being proposed and put to the vote without debate.

(h) If there are motions or recommendations on the agenda that have not been dealt with (or withdrawn by the mover with the agreement of members) by 10.15 p.m. they are deemed formally moved and seconded (together with any amendments). No speeches will be allowed on these items and the vote will be taken in the usual way.

2 To RECOMMEND that any changes to the council procedure rules commence with the 2019 Annual Meeting of Full Council.

3. To RECOMMEND to Council that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution in accordance with Appendix C of the report.