

**COUNCIL, 15 JULY 2015**

## **REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES FOR THE SCOPE OF MOTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL**

Governance Committee, at its meeting on 1 July considered a report (attached) concerning proposed amendments to the procedure rules for the scope of motions submitted for consideration at meetings of Full Council. In drafting the proposed revised wording, account had been taken of the existing provision within the Council's Constitution and that of all other London Boroughs (except for Enfield and the City which were not available at time of reporting).

This was brought about following events at a recent meeting of Full Council. It was therefore recommended that Council Procedure Rule 11.4 be amended to ensure that complaints which were made against a Councillor or a Council Officer and which were therefore subject to separate procedures were rejected as a matter of course. The revised wording recommended in the report sought to do that. In addition, it was proposed that the authority to reject such motions be delegated to the Council's Monitoring Officer.

#### **The Governance Committee accordingly recommends to Council that:**

1. Council Procedure Rule 11.4 of the Council's Constitution be revised to read the following:

##### **11.4 Scope**

*(a) Motions must be relevant to a matter in which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the borough.*

*(b) The Monitoring Officer may reject a Motion if it:*

*i. is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the borough;*

*ii. is defamatory, derogatory, vexatious, scurrilous, frivolous or offensive;*

*iii. is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of Full Council in the past six months;*

*iv. requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information;*

*v. seeks to pursue or further a complaint against a Councillor or an Officer of the Council, where other channels already exist for the determination of complaints.*

*c). Where it would assist the proper or efficient conduct of the Council's business, the Mayor may direct that two or more motions relating to the same matter shall be debated together, with a separate vote on each one at the conclusion of the debate.*

*(d) The Monitoring Officer shall be entitled to clarify the wording of motions and amendments with the proposer before committing the motion or amendment to the agenda and shall be entitled to amend the wording of a motion or amendment in consultation with the proposer prior to the meeting to clarify, correct, or make sense of the particular wording.*

*The Monitoring Officer shall consult the Mayor if agreement on such clarification cannot be reached and the Mayor may direct that the motion or amendment shall not be included in the summons.*

2. That the Council's Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary change to the Council's Constitution, should the proposal be agreed by Council.