

FULL COUNCIL, 20 March 2019

REPORT OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

At its previous meeting on 23 January 2019, Full Council resolved to refer back to Governance Committee for further consideration the report on proposed amendments to procedure rules for meetings of Full Council.

Governance Committee subsequently met on 7 March 2019 and resolved to re-submit the same amendments to the council procedure rules as proposed previously. The report (attached) proposes amendments which are intended to facilitate the efficient and effective conduct of business at meetings of Full Council.

The report as presented 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.