

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree to changes to the constitution in respect of the Standing Orders relating to Council meetings

Information and Advice

2. The Council adopted a committee form of governance in May 2012. Since adopting this form of governance, regular reviews have taken place to ensure that the system operates effectively and efficiently.
3. As members are aware there have been occasions when County Council meetings have continued well into the evening. It is proposed that all meetings of Full Council start at 10.30am and end by 5.30pm unless it appears to the Chairman that the meeting will finish shortly after that time. Any remaining business will be held over to the next meeting. The Annual budget meeting would be an exception and this meeting may continue beyond 5.30pm.
4. It is proposed that the current allocation of 60 minutes for questions to Committee Chairmen and 30 minutes for questions to the Chairman of the Fire Authority should be retained. However, it is recommended that these questions be taken after the reports to the meeting but before consideration of motions. This would not only help to ensure the business of the meeting is properly concluded but also a more seamless transition in the event of an Adjournment debate following on from questions.
5. Currently Members are able to speak for 20 minutes subject to the exceptions set out in the constitution. It is proposed that this is amended to 10 minutes per member subject to the current exceptions (except in respect of the Annual budget meeting where the current rules would continue to apply). The proposed amendments to the procedure rules for Full Council are set out in Appendix 1. To ensure consistency across the Council's meetings it is further recommended that Standing Orders for Committees and Sub-committees are amended accordingly and the proposed wording is set out in Appendix 2.

Other Options Considered

6. The Council could decide to make no amendments to the current Standing Orders.

Reason for Recommendations

7. To ensure more efficient governance arrangements.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

9. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) To agree the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution as set out in the report; and
- 2) To amend the procedure rules for Full Council as set out in Appendix 1;
- 3) To amend the procedure rules for Committees and Sub-Committees as set out in Appendix 2;
- 4) For the Monitoring Officer to make any other consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from the above decision

COUNCILLOR ALAN RHODES LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Jayne Francis-Ward Corporate Director for Policy, Planning & Corporate Services (0115 9773478)

Constitutional Comments (SLB 10/03/2015)

10. County Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it is responsible for any changes to the Constitution.

Financial Comments (SES 11/03/2015)

11. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All