

Recommendations from Cabinet on 22 September and cabinet members decision of 27 October 2020 to Council.

CAB171 **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND ARTICLES**

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The Monitoring Officer presented a report on the draft amendments to the Standing Orders and Articles within the Borough Council's Constitution following on from the meetings with Group Leaders and the representative for the Independent Group.

The proposed changes were attached to the report with the amendments shown as 'tracked changes' in the documents.

In discussing the proposed amendments, Cabinet requested that the Monitoring Officer prepare some further amendments on the following matters:

- The setting of a time limit of questions at council of portfolio holders of 30 mins and the Leader of 15 mins. Those questions to be allocated in the order of largest opposition Group, smaller opposition group, then the Administration.
- That whilst the normal appointments to Chairs would remain with Annual Council, if there are vacancies during the course of the year, Council be able to appoint a replacement, nominated by the Leader as is the case for annual council.
- That once a decision is taken to continue to sit after 3hours of a meeting, a further vote is taken each hour thereafter.

It was proposed that the Leader be invited to agree the amended wording prior to the amended documents being submitted to Council.

RESOLVED: That Monitoring Officer be requested to draft further amendments and submit to the Leader for decision in time for submission to Council on the following areas:

- The setting of a time limit of questions at council of portfolio holders of 30 mins and the Leader of 15 mins. Those questions to be allocated in the order of largest opposition Group, smaller opposition group, then the Administration.
- That whilst the normal appointments to Chairs would remain with Annual Council, if there are vacancies during the course of the year, Council be able to appoint a replacement, nominated by the Leader as is the case for annual council.
- That once a decision is taken to continue to sit after 3hours of a meeting, a further vote is taken each hour thereafter.

RECOMMENDED: That the draft amendments to the Standing Orders and Articles attached to the report be recommended to Full Council for approval, subject to the further amendments as set out in the minute which will be submitted directly to Council.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council's Constitution remains fit for purpose, reflects existing legislation and best practice

To take into account the comments of Cabinet members at the meeting.

Further amendments

Further amendments were published by the Leader on 27 October 2020. These were considered at the Corporate Performance panel on 11 November 2020,

1) The Panel supported the draft amended revisions to Standing Orders 29 and 33.

2) The Panel recommended an amendment to Standing Order 11 as set out below:

That Cabinet defer the recommendation on Standing Order 11 until the three Group Leaders have had the opportunity to discuss the changes and an agreement reached.

Council is therefore invited to consider the amended Standing Orders and Articles as attached.