

PROPOSED CHANGES TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

9.6 Presumption in favour of meetings ending by 6:30 pm

There is a presumption in favour of all meetings of the Council, Committees and Sub-Committees that start at 2:00 pm will finish by 6:30 pm. When a meeting reaches that time, any member of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee may move, without comment, that the meeting shall end. If the motion is accepted and seconded, it shall be put without comment and if passed, if there are any other motions or recommendations on the agenda that have not been dealt with, the Mayor or person presiding may determine either to deal with them in accordance with this Council Procedure Rule, or to defer remaining business to the next meeting, but in doing so shall take particular account of any advice from the Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and/or Monitoring Officer as to any business that, in their view, the Council or the meeting of the Council should determine at that meeting. In the event of a motion being put to the meeting under this Council Procedure Rule, it will be necessary for two thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting to support a proposal that the meeting should carry on for the meeting to proceed beyond 6:30 pm.

10.4 Debate on Petitions

A qualifying petition will require a debate at Full Council, if timescales permit, except where the petition is asking for a senior officer to give evidence. Where timescales do not allow a debate at Full Council, the matter will be referred to the first available meeting of the appropriate decision-maker or relevant committee. The length of debate shall be at the discretion of the Mayor and in accordance with the Council's procedure rules, after which a vote will be put.

10.7 Deputations

- a. Persons wishing to make a deputation to the Council shall give at least seven Clear Days notice in writing to the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services explaining the subject of the deputation, unless in the opinion of the Mayor the matter is one of significance and urgency, such that it would not have been possible for the above timetable to be complied with. In such circumstances the Mayor may, at his or her sole discretion, either permit the deputation to be heard or alternatively ask Council by vote without discussion to determine whether it wishes the deputation to be heard. All requests shall be referred to the Mayor for consideration. The Mayor shall have the discretion to reject or refuse any request, or may determine that such a request should be redirected to the Executive, a committee or sub-committee of the Council or, by agreement, a third party (eg a partner). *Petitions presented as part of or with a deputation will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution and Scheme for Handling Petitions.*
- b. A deputation to be received by the Council shall be read by the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services or other officer, and immediately after having done so, any proposal to receive the person or persons or the deputation shall be formally moved and seconded without discussion and shall be put to the vote. If the motion is carried, the person or persons shall be conducted into the meeting and shall present their deputation.

- c. A deputation may comprise between one and three persons all of whom may address the Council. The deputation shall not exceed seven minutes in duration, such time to include any time taken by the deputation to read any petition or other document.

If in the view of the Mayor the deputation is duplicatory or overlaps with other deputation(s) to be considered at the same meeting, the Mayor may move that the deputations be consolidated and the time limit for the deputation varied accordingly.

- d. Subject to this Council Procedure Rule, the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services shall deal with requests for deputations in accordance with the following:

- i. **Where the issue is the subject of a recommendation or notice of motion to the next meeting of the Council**

The request shall be placed on the agenda for that Council meeting and the Council shall be asked whether it is willing to receive the deputation.

When a deputation has been received by the Council, there shall be no discussion on the points raised and the matter shall stand deferred until the relevant recommendation or notice of motion is presented to the Council.

- ii. **Where the issue is the subject of a previous deputation ~~or a resolution~~ of the Council within the previous six months and is not covered by (a) above**

The deputation shall not be entertained by the Council, when the Council has ~~resolved upon the issue or~~ considered a previous deputation within the previous six months.

29. PERIODS BETWEEN ELECTIONS

29.1 If, following either annual elections or a by election, the political control of the authority changes, as a direct result no meetings of Council can be called, or the Urgent Business Sub Committee convened to enable significant decisions to be taken until the next meeting of Council.

Such changes will not affect the Council's ability to react to any time limited or emergency matters, in the rare event that they should they arise as there are existing powers under the Officer Scheme of Delegation to permit the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services or Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services to act.