

**GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT****PROPOSALS FOR TRANSFORMING MEETINGS OF FULL COUNCIL****Amendment 1.**

To remove the automatic closure of council meetings after 4 hours, ensuring matters of importance to the city are fully debated.

**DELETE 4.3**

~~It is proposed that:~~

- ~~(i) 4 hours after the beginning of the meeting (excluding any breaks/ adjournments) a closure motion is moved by the Mayor automatically if the meeting has not concluded by then.~~
- ~~(ii) the Mayor's closure motion be by way of termination of the meeting under Council Procedure Rule 17.~~

and REPLACE with

***"4.3 Members should note that a meeting can be closed by use of Council Procedure Rule 17."***

**Amendment 2.**

To remove arbitrary limits from member questions so that issues can be fully explored and administration Councillors can be properly held to account.

**DELETE 5.4 (a) and**

**DELETE** the final sentence of 5.4 (d) so that it reads:

***"5.4 (d) A Member asking a question (but not others) may ask one supplementary."***

5.4 It is therefore proposed that:

- ~~(a) A period of 30 minutes be set aside for Oral Member Question time.~~
- (b) That the order of questions be: Leader of the Official Opposition, Leader of the Green Group, Leader of the Lib Dems, then Members in the order of Conservative, Labour, Green and Lib Dem until the allocated 30 minutes is used at which time the meeting proceeds to the next business.

- (c) The groups will submit the order in which they want questions taken. The Mayor will have discretion and flexibility on how this operates in practice, including allowing the Independent Member to ask a question.
- (d) ***A Member asking a question (but not others) may ask one supplementary.*** ~~No Member may ask more than one question.~~
- (e) There be no requirement to give advance notice of the actual oral questions to be asked. However, a Member proposing to ask a question should give notice of intention to do so within current timescales for Member questions with an indication of the subject matter;
- (f) Oral questions be limited to general policy rather than technical matters. If technical questions are asked the Mayor may disallow the question or the Member who is asked the question may decline to answer or state that a written response will be sent.
- (g) The Monitoring Officer will develop guidance for Members on what is policy and what is a technical/operational matter which the Mayor and Members will have regard to in applying the criteria.
- (h) Members may submit written questions as now. These will receive written answers with the questions and replies circulated with the addendum at Council (as now) but no “supplementary” questions.
- (i) The current procedures continue to apply to Cabinet, Committees and CMMs.

**Amendment 3.**

To remove the proposed limit in the number of Notices of Motions that can be submitted, thus keeping freedom of expression for all Councillors.

DELETE 6.2 (i) and (ii) and

It is therefore proposed that:

- ~~(i) there be a limit on the number of Notices of Motion presented at Council so that there are no more than 2 Notices of Motion from the 3 largest Groups and no more than 1 from other Groups with any Member not belonging to a political group being able to table a motion at the Mayor’s discretion.~~
- ~~(ii) In the event that more than the specified number of Notices of Motion are presented from any group, the relevant Group shall decide which ones it wants tabled. In the absence of such a decision, Notices of Motion from Members of a Group will be taken in the order in which they are received.~~

REPLACE with

***“6.2 Members should keep in mind the length of Council meetings when submitting Notices of Motion.”***

#### **Amendment 4.**

To retain existing time limits for speakers at Council meetings to allow proper debate.

DELETE 8.2(i) and REPLACE with ***“8.2 (i) Speaking time limits will remain unchanged at 10 minutes for proposers and 5 minutes for other speakers.”***

8.2 It is therefore proposed that:

- ~~(i) speaking times be limited to 5 minutes for the proposer of a motion and 3 minutes for all other speakers.~~
- (i) Speaking time limits will remain unchanged at 10 minutes for proposers and 5 minutes for other speakers.”***
- (ii) Council retains the power to grant an extension of time on a majority vote as now.

#### **Amendment 5.**

To require cross-party support for second extensions for speakers so that the administration party cannot keep voting extensions for their speakers.

ADD 8.2

- (iii) “Second extensions of speaker time will only be granted with the agreement of the Council including at least one member of another political party or an independent member.”***

#### **Amendment 6.**

To split the mayor-making from the standard business of the annual Council meeting so that debate can be held on appointments and other business.

AMEND RECOMMENDATION 2.2 AND ADD a new recommendation ***(iv)***:

2.2 That full Council:

- (i) Approves the proposed amendments to Council Procedure Rules as set out in paragraphs 4.3, 5.4, 6.2 and 8.2 of the report ***as amended***;
- (ii) Authorises the Head of Law to amend the constitution to reflect the above, including making consequential drafting amendments.
- (iii) That the Changes come into force immediately after the Annual Council meeting in May 2010.

- (iv) ***“The annual Council meeting will be held in two parts. The ordinary business including agreement of leadership, committee and external appointments will be held first. After a 15 minute break during which guests can be seated, the Mayor-making will commence.”***

Proposed by: Cllr Jason Kitcat

Seconded by: Cllr Rachel Fryer